

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

The Greeting

P This is the day that the Lord has made.
C Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

P We are transformed in Christ
C to share the hope of eternal life.

Welcome and Announcements

The Sharing of the Peace

Opening Hymn • 513 vs. 1-2 “The Clouds of Judgment Gather”

The Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Zephaniah 1:7b; 1 Thess. 5:11; Matthew 25:29a

P The Lord has prepared a sacrifice
C and consecrated His guests.

P Encourage one another,
C and build one another up.

P To everyone who has will more be given,
C and he will have an abundance.

Confession and Absolution

1 John 1:8-9; Psalm 90:17

P The Lord has consecrated His guests, but we have been more attentive to the things of this world. The Apostle Paul encourages us to build one another up, but we are used to the darkness of this world and fear His coming like a thief in the night. Jesus says to everyone who has will more be given, but we seldom recognize the abilities and opportunities He has given. For all this, we confess and ask that the Lord would show us favor as we proclaim:

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father:

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P The favor of the Lord is on you! Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Hymn of Response • 513 vs. 3-4 "The Clouds of Judgment Gather"

The Introit

Psalm 90:1-12 (antiphon: v. 17)

P Lord, You have been our dwelling place

C **in all generations.**

P Before the mountains were brought forth or ever, You had formed the earth and the world,

C **from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.**

P You return man to dust and say,

C **"Return, O children of man!"**

P For a thousand years in Your sight are but as yesterday when it is past

C **or as a watch in the night.**

P You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream,

C **like grass that is renewed in the morning:**

P in the morning, it flourishes and is renewed;

C **in the evening, it fades and withers.**

P For we are brought to an end by Your anger;

C **by Your wrath, we are dismayed.**

P You have set our iniquities before You,

C **our secret sins in the light of Your presence.**

P For all our days pass away under Your wrath;

C **we bring our years to an end like a sigh.**

P The years of our life are seventy,

C **or even by reason of strength eighty;**

P yet their span is but toil and trouble;

C **they are soon gone, and we fly away.**

P Who considers the power of Your anger

C **and Your wrath according to the fear of You?**

P So teach us to number our days,

C **that we may get a heart of wisdom.**

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us and establish the work of our hands upon us;

C **yes, establish the work of our hands!**

The Kyrie ∞ *Lord, Have Mercy*

P O Lord, as Your great day is near and hastening fast,

C **have mercy upon us.**

P O Christ, as You call us to faithful service in Your name as we await Your return,

C **have mercy upon us.**

P O Lord, as Your great day will come like a thief in the night,

C **have mercy upon us.**

Hymn of Praise • 512 **“At the Name of Jesus”**

△ *Please stand on the last verse.*

The Salutation

2 Timothy 4:22

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

The Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You.

C **Dispel from us the works of darkness, and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting. Embolden us to share His love with everyone we meet until the day we hear His gracious blessing, “Well done, good and faithful servant”;**

P through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Old Testament Reading

Zephaniah 1:7-16

A Day of Wrath Is Coming

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. ⁸And on the day of the LORD’s sacrifice—“I will punish the officials and the king’s sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire. ⁹On that day, I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold and those who fill their master’s house with violence and fraud.

¹⁰“On that day,” declares the LORD, “a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. ¹¹Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. ¹²At that time, I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, ‘The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.’ ¹³Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.”

¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. ¹⁵A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of

clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶ a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Encourage one another to live in God's light.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has not destined us for wrath but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we might live with him. ¹¹Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Verse

Matthew 25:29a

P Alleluia. For to everyone who has will more be given,

C and he will have an abundance. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

God gives talents, expecting them to be used for His purposes.

P [Jesus said:] “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. Now after a long time, the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying,

C ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.’

P His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying,

C ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.’

P His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying,

C ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’

P But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming, I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place, there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

The Children’s Message

Sermon Hymn • 853..... “How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord”

The Sermon

The Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Offering

Thank you for your support of the Lord's work through Holy Cross!

Offertory Hymn • 781 "We Give Thee But Thine Own"

Please stand on the last verse as the offering is brought forward.

The Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the Church around the world, for ourselves in this place, for people in positions of authority, for families, and for all in need.

Guide and protect Your Church, Lord Jesus, as it endeavors to share the Gospel in the many circumstances of this sin-ridden world. Embolden leaders to speak Your Word with conviction, open the ears of those who hear the Good News in all circumstances, and grant increase of faith and numbers wherever people gather around Word and Sacrament. Hear our prayer, O Lord;

C let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we pray.

P O Holy Spirit, strengthen this congregation, so that we are a beacon of Your gracious love, calling one and all to join us to celebrate the Good News shining in this darkened world. Hear our prayer, O Lord;

C and let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we pray.

P Lord over all, guide and protect the officers of nations; armed forces deployed and police at home; leaders of large corporations; those who work in the media; those who

grow, tend, and distribute food; and all who respond in emergencies, that together they work for the common good. Hear our prayer, O Lord;

C let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we pray.

P Heavenly Father, grant peace and love in families, give wisdom to parents and willingness to learn to children, and provide faithful congregations, caring friends, and extended relatives to support them through all the changes in life. Hear our prayer, O Lord;

C let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we pray.

P Lord our God, hear the prayers of Your people near and dear to us, [*including . . .*], as well as those known only to You. As fits Your gracious plans for them, give healing, relief, and comfort, so that they may live out each day in peace and joy. Hear our prayer, O Lord;

C let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we pray.

P These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

The Preface

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

Colossians 3:1

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Psalms 136

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

The Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to You, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose obedient death and glorious resurrection have opened eternal life to us and who is with us, that we may share His love until His second coming. Therefore, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

The Sanctus • (insert) "Sing We Holy, Holy, Holy"

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy and sent Your only-begotten Son to be our Savior.

Gathered in His name, we ask You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood in these last days. Gather us together, we pray, with all who have heard the Gospel and have come to faith, who with us shall receive Your "well done" commendation. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

Matthew 26:26-28

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The Proclamation of Christ

1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

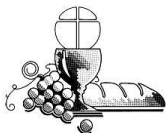
- C** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Pax Domini ∞ The Peace of the Lord

John 20:19

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

The Angus Dei • (insert) "Lamb of God, You Show Us Mercy"



The Distribution of Holy Communion • The Bible teaches that Jesus gives us His very body and blood along with bread and wine. We believe the Lord's Supper is a means of grace in that it provides forgiveness of sins and strengthening of our faith. The Bible also teaches us to examine ourselves prior to receiving the meal. Participants are encouraged to ask these questions: Do I believe that I am a sinner and am truly sorry for my sins? Do I believe Jesus Christ is my Savior and that it is His true body and blood given to me along with the bread and wine? Do I intend with the help of God to repent of sin as I seek to follow Him? If you have not been instructed in this teaching on Holy Communion, are in doubt, or hold to a different confession of faith, please come forward and cross your arms to indicate that you would like a blessing.

Communion Hymn • 621 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Communion Hymn • 563 "Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness"

Communion Hymn • 508 "The Day Is Surely Drawing Near"

Post-Communion Hymn • (insert) "We Depart, Lord"

The Post-Communion Thanksgiving

- P** Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, heavenly Father, that You have assured us of sins forgiven,
C so that with joy, we may share Your love each day until Your Son returns to usher us into Your eternal presence;

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn • 660 “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”

Pastor Craig Reiter

Organist: Michael Fitzsimmons

Ushers: Wayne Schremp, Rick Hutson

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The Call to Faithfulness

“You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness.” — **Matthew 25:23**

Christians are called to be “imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children” (Ephesians 5:1). We are to let the family resemblance show and be like our heavenly Father. Of course, some of God’s attributes are beyond our attainment. We can never be like God in faithfulness. God is faithful; He keeps His Word and covenant. Saint Paul writes, “God who has called you into fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, is faithful” (1 Corinthians 1:9).

Like the Father, so also the Son is faithful and therefore is called as Saint John writes, “the Amen, the faithful and true witness” (Revelation 3:14).

Like the Father, so also His sons and daughters are called to be faithful in the discharge of their stewardship, faithful in all of life. “Faithful” is the key word in Jesus’ parable of the talents. The “man going on a journey” (Matthew 25:14) did not demand of his servants that they be business geniuses or be given to high intellectual attainment. What he did require was that they be faithful in managing the property he entrusted to them. The servants who gained five talents and two talents were commended alike: “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness” (Matthew 25:21, 23).

“It is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful,” (1 Corinthians 4:2) writes Saint Paul. Whatever it is that God has given us—our moments and days, our hands and feet, our voice and lips, our silver and gold, our intellect and all our powers, our will and heart, above all, our life and love—He calls us to administer faithfully every entrusted talent. That’s all He asks.