

SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PREACHING

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 • 797 **“Praise the Almighty”**

△ *Please stand on the last verse.*

The Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Versicles

Psalm 118:24; Psalm 113:3; Psalm 84:10; 25:4; John 17:17

P This is the day which the Lord has made;

C let us rejoice and be glad in it.

P From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C the name of the Lord is to be praised.

P Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

C I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

P Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.

C Teach me Your paths.

P Sanctify us in Your truth.

C Your Word is truth.

P From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C the name of the Lord is to be praised.

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.

Confession and Absolution

1 John 1:8-9; John 20:19-23

- 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** 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.**

Service of the Word

The Introit **Psalm 146 (antiphon: vs. 2)**

- P** Praise the Lord!
- C** **Praise the Lord, O my soul!**
- P** I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
- C** **I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**
- P** Put not your trust in princes,
- C** **in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.**
- P** When his breath departs, he returns to the earth;
- C** **on that very day, his plans perish.**
- P** Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
- C** **whose hope is in the Lord his God,**

- P** who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,
- C** **who keeps faith forever;**
- P** who executes justice for the oppressed,
- C** **who gives food to the hungry.**
- P** The Lord sets the prisoners free;
- C** **the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.**
- P** The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
- C** **the Lord loves the righteous.**
- P** The Lord watches over the sojourners;
- C** **he upholds the widow and the fatherless,**
- P** but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
- C** **The Lord will reign forever,**
- P** your God, O Zion, to all generations.
- C** **Praise the Lord!**

- 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** I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
- C** **I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

Old Testament Canticle • 663 “Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray”

The Old Testament Reading

Amos 6:1-7

- ¹“Woe to those who are at ease in Zion
and to those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria,
the notable men of the first of the nations,
to whom the house of Israel comes!
- ²Pass over to Calneh, and see,
and from there, go to Hamath the great;
then go down to Gath of the Philistines.
Are you better than these kingdoms?
Or is their territory greater than your territory,
- ³O you who put far away the day of disaster
and bring near the seat of violence?

⁴“Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory
and stretch themselves out on their couches
and eat lambs from the flock
and calves from the midst of the stall,
⁵who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp
and, like David, invent for themselves instruments of music,
⁶who drink wine in bowls
and anoint themselves with the finest oils,
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!
⁷Therefore, they shall now be the first of those who go into exile,
and the revelry of those who stretch themselves out shall pass away.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

1 Timothy 4—6:2

4 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times, some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, ²through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, ³who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. ⁴For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, ⁵for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

⁶If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. ⁷Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; ⁸for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. ⁹The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. ¹⁰For to this end, we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

¹¹Command and teach these things. ¹²Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. ¹³Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. ¹⁴Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. ¹⁵Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. ¹⁶Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

5 Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, ²older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.

³Honor widows who are truly widows. ⁴But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God. ⁵She who is truly a widow, left all alone, has set her hope on God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day, ⁶but she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives. ⁷Command these things as well, so that they may be without reproach. ⁸But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

⁹Let a widow be enrolled if she is not less than sixty years of age, having been the wife of one husband, ¹⁰and having a reputation for good works: if she has brought up children, has shown hospitality, has washed the feet of the saints, has cared for the afflicted, and has devoted herself to every good work. ¹¹But refuse to enroll younger widows, for when their passions draw them away from Christ, they desire to marry ¹²and so incur condemnation for having abandoned their former faith. ¹³Besides that, they learn to be idlers, going about from house to house, and not only idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying what they should not. ¹⁴So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander. ¹⁵For some have already strayed after Satan. ¹⁶If any believing woman has relatives who are widows, let her care for them. Let the church not be burdened, so that it may care for those who are truly widows.

¹⁷Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. ¹⁸For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages." ¹⁹Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses. ²⁰As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear. ²¹In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels, I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality. ²²Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands nor take part in the sins of others; keep yourself pure. ²³(No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.) ²⁴The sins of some people are conspicuous, going before them to judgment, but the sins of others appear later. ²⁵So also good works are conspicuous, and even those that are not cannot remain hidden.

6 Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled. ²Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful on the ground that they are brothers; rather they must serve all the better since those who benefit by their good service are believers and beloved.

Teach and urge these things.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Children's Message

The Holy Gospel

Luke 16:19-31

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁹ [Jesus said:] “There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried, ²³ and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. ²⁴ And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ ²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you, a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ ²⁷ And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house—²⁸ for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹ But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ ³⁰ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ ³¹ He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Responsory

Psalms 119:89; 26:8; Luke 11:28

P Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

P Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

Catechism ~ The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20:2-17

- ☐ You shall have no other gods.
You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
Honor your father and your mother.
You shall not murder.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant,
his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Sermon Hymn • 708 **"Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart"**

The Sermon

Focus: 1 Timothy 4—6:2

The Apostles' Creed

- ☐ 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 Holy Cross!

Three ways to give:

- 1) **at church** (the offering plate is at the entrance to the sanctuary)
- 2) **online giving** at www.holycrossstegen.org
- 3) **by mail**

Offertory Hymn • 783 **"Take My Life and Let It Be"**

New Testament Canticle • 549“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

The Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For . . . *[additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]* . . . let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold 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.

Collect of the Day

P O God, You are the strength to all who trust in You, and without Your aid, we can do no good thing. Grant us the help of Your grace, that we may please You in both will and deed; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Collect for the Word

P Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Luther's Morning Prayer

Luther's Small Catechism

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Blessing

Psalm 103:1

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The almighty and merciful Lord—the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless and preserve you.

C Amen.

SERVING TODAY

Guest Pastor Kyle Castens

Organist: Michael Fitzsimmons

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The Days of Youth

A devotion from Lutheran Hour Ministries.

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. —1 Timothy 4:12

The days of youth are a great time to be alive. They are a time for growing, for developing, for learning, for planning, and for action. The vigor and enthusiasm of youth, if harnessed for a worthy cause, lend themselves to accomplishing much.

Saint Paul wrote two letters to young Pastor Timothy that contained wise words of guidance and instruction for his ministry. Paul said in effect, "Timothy, remember that the grace of God has made you who you are today—a redeemed child of God in Jesus Christ. God has given you gifts of wisdom and leadership, and He expects you to exercise those gifts. You are trained and called to be in God's service. So, Timothy, if someone belittles you because you are young, put them to shame by your mature words of faith and loving conduct in life."

Young Pastor Timothy was an inspiration for many others—young and old alike—as he read the Scriptures and proclaimed the Good News of forgiveness through faith in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ Jesus. What an encouragement for each of us!

God Uses Sinners

A devotion from Lutheran Hour Ministries.

Psalm 146:4-10 • (God) who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous. The LORD watches over the sojourners; He upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked He brings to ruin. The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!

*Have you ever received a compliment sandwich? Sounds fantastic doesn't it? Those getting one want to be smothered in sweetness and told good and true things about themselves! The formula is easy: compliment number one, then another statement followed by compliment number two. Problem is, the compliment sandwich is usually the delivery method for some **meatier** issues that are more difficult to digest.*

For example,

** Compliment one: "(Insert your name here), your writing is wonderful and helps me think about my faith in deeper ways."*

** (Insert underlying comment here such as): "Sometimes I have to read it five or six times just to understand what you're saying."*

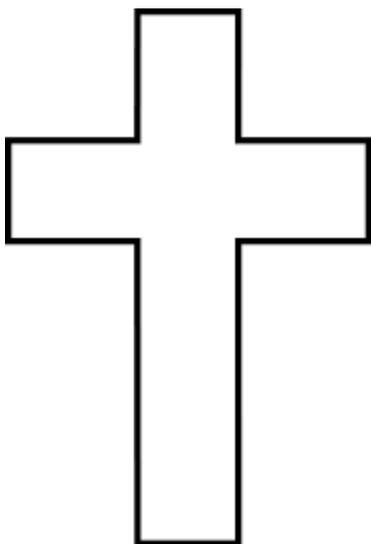
** Compliment two: "But I love the poetic cadence to your style."*

*Now sometimes it's a bit difficult to pick up the message in the middle. Sometimes we don't hear it at all. And sometimes we're not even sure what to make of what's being said, so we just skip over it in our minds. And let's not forget those times when we actually **do hear** what's being said ... but aren't overly motivated to work on that issue being presented.*

Thankfully, there are those rare occasions when a "spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down." And it's then when we're most likely open to growth. Often, when these moments arrive, we can look back and realize we've heard this same thing from several different people throughout our lives.

Something like this can happen when we read Scripture with the same desire only to hear those parts that make us feel good, the parts with which we think we know what to do. "God is the Maker of heaven and earth. God remains faithful forever." "Our God reigns for all generations!" Those statements we can affirm. They even comfort us—as they should.

But the middle section of this Psalm is harder to digest. Sometimes we don't even see oppression or the abuses taking place around us. It's then we can think of the downtrodden, those beaten back by life and circumstances, and we remember Jesus who came to set the prisoner free (see Luke 4:18). Thanks be to God for sending His Son and winning our freedom on the cross!



Dear God, thank You for Your kindness to a thousand generations of those who love You. Please open our hearts through Your Holy Spirit, so we may digest the full message You have for us. In Jesus' name. Amen.