

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 • 594..... "God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It"

The Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 3, adapted; Luke 8:39

P Arise, O Lord!

C Save me, O my God!

P O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me;

C many are saying of my soul, there is no salvation for him in God.

P Arise, O Lord!

C Save me, O my God!

P But You, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head.

C I cried aloud to the Lord, and He answered me from His holy hill.

P Arise, O Lord!

C Save me, O my God!

P I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the Lord sustained me.

C I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around.

P Salvation belongs to the Lord; Your blessing be on Your people! Arise, O Lord!

C Save me, O my God!

P Return to your home,

C and declare how much God has done for you.

Confession and Absolution

Isaiah 65:8-9

P Dear friends in Christ, we come before our Lord in confession, no longer as slaves, but as God's own children and as heirs of all He graciously gives. At the same time,

C we confess that we often remain captive and enslaved to our sin and have neglected the name that God has given us as His children.

P Like those in Isaiah's day, we are a rebellious people who walk in a way that is neither good nor faithful, following our own devices and desires.

C We, on our own, have no right to be called God's heirs or to receive His blessings.

P We forget Christ's power and victory and all we ever need fear in this body and life.

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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.

The Introit *Psalm 71:20-24; antiphon: v. 3*

P Be to me a rock of refuge,

C to which I may continually come;

P You have given the command to save me,
C **for You are my rock and my fortress.**

P You who have made me see many troubles and calamities
C **will revive me again;**

P from the depths of the earth,
C **You will bring me up again.**

P You will increase my greatness
C **and comfort me again.**

P I will also praise You with the harp
C **for Your faithfulness, O my God;**

P I will sing praises to You with the lyre,
C **O Holy One of Israel.**

P My lips will shout for joy when I sing praises to You;
C **my soul also, which You have redeemed.**

P And my tongue will talk of Your righteous help all the day long,
C **for they have been put to shame and disappointed who sought to do me hurt.**

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 Be to me a rock of refuge,
C **to which I may continually come;**

P You have given the command to save me,
C **for You are my rock and my fortress.**

The Kyrie *✠ Lord, Have Mercy*

Mark 10:47

P O Lord, as salvation belongs to You,
C **have mercy upon us.**

P O Christ, as You drove out the legion of demons from the man,
C **have mercy upon us.**

P O Lord, as we are heirs according to Your promise,
C **have mercy upon us.**

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.

P O God, You have prepared for those who love You such good things as surpass our understanding.

C **Cast out all sins and evil desires from us, and pour into our hearts Your Holy Spirit to guide us into all blessedness;**

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

C Amen.

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 65:1-9

I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for me; I was ready to be found by those who did not seek me. I said, "Here I am, here I am," to a nation that was not called by my name. ²I spread out my hands all the day to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, following their own devices; ³a people who provoke me to my face continually, sacrificing in gardens and making offerings on bricks; ⁴who sit in tombs and spend the night in secret places; who eat pig's flesh, and broth of tainted meat is in their vessels; ⁵who say, "Keep to yourself, do not come near me, for I am too holy for you." These are a smoke in my nostrils, a fire that burns all the day.

⁶Behold, it is written before me: "I will not keep silent, but I will repay; I will indeed repay into their lap ⁷both your iniquities and your fathers' iniquities together, says the LORD; because they made offerings on the mountains and insulted me on the hills, I will measure into their lap payment for their former deeds."

⁸Thus says the LORD: "As the new wine is found in the cluster, and they say, 'Do not destroy it, for there is a blessing in it,' so I will do for my servants' sake and not destroy them all. ⁹I will bring forth offspring from Jacob and from Judah possessors of my mountains; my chosen shall possess it, and my servants shall dwell there."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

3:²³ Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. ²⁴ So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus, you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor free; there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

4 I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, ² but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. ³ In the same way, we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. ⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Children's Message

Verse

Luke 8:39a

C Alleluia. Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 8:26-39

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁶ Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷ When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time, he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not

torment me.”²⁹ For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time, it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.)³⁰ Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Legion,” for many demons had entered him.³¹ And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss.³² Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission.³³ Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned.

³⁴ When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country.³⁵ Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid.³⁶ And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed.³⁷ Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned.³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying,³⁹ “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn **“By Faith”**

1. **By faith we see the hand of God
In the light of creation’s grand design,
In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness
Who walk by faith and not by sight.**
2. **By faith our fathers roamed the earth,
With the power of His promise in their hearts,
Of a holy city built by God’s own hand,
A place where peace and justice reign.**

Refrain: **We will stand as children of the promise.
We will fix our eyes on Him our soul’s reward
Till the race is finished and the work is done,
We’ll walk by faith and not by sight.**

3. By faith the prophets saw a day
When the longed-for Messiah would appear,
With the power to break the chains of sin and death
And rise triumphant from the grave.
4. By faith the church was called to go
In the power of the Spirit to the lost
To deliver captives and to preach good news
In every corner of the earth. *(Refrain)*
5. By faith this mountain shall be moved,
And the power of the gospel shall prevail.
For we know in Christ, all things are possible
For all who call upon His name. *(Refrain)*

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The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

☐ I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Catechism

P As we have prayed the prayer our Lord has taught us and being continually reminded of Christ's victory over Satan won for us, we reflect upon the petitions of the Lord's Prayer as we go about our days in His name. In the Sixth Petition, we pray,

C **And lead us not into temptation.**

P What does this mean?

C **God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us, so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.**

P In the Seventh Petition, we pray:

C **But deliver us from evil.**

P What does this mean?

C **We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.**

The Offering

Three ways to give: at church (the offering plate is at the entrance to the sanctuary);
online giving at www.holycrossstegen.org; **by mail**

Offertory Hymn • 846 "Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old"

The Prayer of the Church

P God the Father Almighty, You so loved the world that You gave Your only-begotten Son

C **to save us from our sin and to make us Your children and heirs of all Your blessings through faith in Him.**

P As You have destroyed the lasting penalties of our sin, eternal death, and the power of the devil,

C **help us to live each day knowing the victory has been won by and through Christ, our Lord.**

- P** We pray for our families: On this celebratory weekend, we pray for fathers,
- C** **that they faithfully lead their families and children in the way of Christ and peace;**
- P** for mothers,
- C** **that they have strength and grace to manage their many responsibilities and to give them joy and fulfillment in their work and duties;**
- P** and for children,
- C** **that they grow in the faith in which You have called them through Baptism, heirs of Your promises, and develop in all ways pleasing to You.**
- P** Lift up all those who are weighed down by the guilt and shame of sin. Release them from their bondage,
- C** **and point them to forgiveness at the feet of Jesus.**
- P** Lord, walk with all those who are grieving in the shadow of death, [*especially . . .*]. Look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [*especially . . .*]. Comfort them with the hope of the resurrection to eternal life.
- C** **Have mercy upon them, and heal them according to Your will.**
- P** Strengthen all those who are fighting against the power of Satan. Remind them of Your presence in Your Word and Sacraments. Give hope to all those who are isolated and lonely.
- C** **Bring them into the presence of the loving community of Your Church, that they find help and hope among Your people.**
- P** Embolden and enliven the faith You have given through Your Spirit as we are in the world but not of the world. Empower us to be Your witnesses in our relationships, our vocations, and among our neighbors, that all may know the power and the victory of Your Son's death and resurrection and rejoice in forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Additional petitions may follow.

- P** Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through 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 proper that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by His power, dominion, sacrificial death, and victorious resurrection has freed all people from the binding chains and darkness of sin, death, and Satan, opening to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

The Sanctus ∞ Holy, Holy, Holy

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, Lord, victor over Satan, destroyer of eternal death, and giver of eternal life through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Spirit, that we faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive as Your children and heirs the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood. To You alone 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, 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

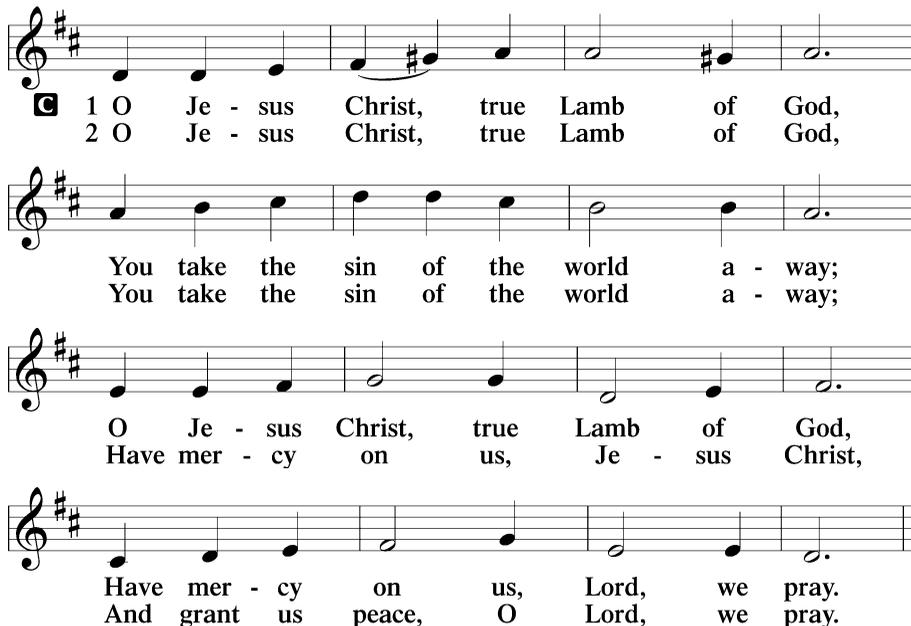
John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

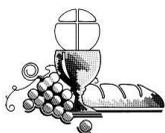
C Amen.

The Agnus Dei ∞ The Lamb of God

John 1:29



C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.



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 • 541 **"'Away from Us!' the Demon Cried"**

Communion Hymn • 656 **"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"**

Post-Communion Canticle The Nunc Dimittis

C 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You call us Your children, heirs of the blessings You bestow without any merit or worthiness in us. We thank You for the victory won for us out of Your mercy and for feeding us with this foretaste of the feast to come when all Your heirs will be free from sin and sorrow; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Closing Sentences

Psalm 3:7; Luke 8:39

- P** Arise, O Lord!
- C** Save me, O my God!
- P** Return to your home,
- C** and declare how much God has done for you.

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 • 744 **"Amazing Grace"**

Serving Today:

Pastor Craig Reiter

Organist: Michael Fitzsimmons

Keyboardist: Christa Reiter

Acknowledgements

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What He Said—He Did

Galatians 3:26-29 • For in Christ Jesus, you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor free; there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

The promise Paul talks about in our reading from Galatians is the promise God made to Abraham. This promise had three parts. You can read about it in Genesis 12. God promised Abraham land and descendants. That was music to the ears of a wandering and aging nomad who didn't have any children. But the third part of God's promise was the most intriguing—that through Abraham, all the nations of the earth would be blessed. Was this a riddle? How could the whole world be blessed through one man?

Riddle though it may seem, "with God, all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26b). Now in due time, the promise was fulfilled, in the birth of Jesus. "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the Law, to redeem those who were under the Law, so that we might receive adoption as sons" (Galatians 4:4-5).

While Jesus was God's Son, He was also Abraham's descendant (see Matthew 1:1), and Jesus had an intimate relationship with His Heavenly Father. In fact, He said, "I and the Father are One" (John 10:30). Jesus also had full knowledge of His human ancestry, going all the way back to Abraham.

How about you? Do you have an intimate relationship with your Heavenly Father, the God who gave you life and breath and sustains your life from day to day? Whether you know it or not, whether you believe it or not, at just the right moment, in the fullness of time, God sent His Son for you.

And why would He do that? Because we needed redeeming; we need a Redeemer.

A life had to be exchanged for your life. Somebody had to pay with their blood for your sins. Someone had to pay with their life for you to be set free, to be redeemed. Jesus was that Someone. He went to the cross voluntarily with you in mind. He died there, outside the walls of Jerusalem, so that you could be reunited with your Heavenly Father. You see, your relationship with God was broken by sin. With His death and resurrection, Jesus makes our adoption possible into God's family. Your adoption papers have been signed in blood, His blood.

Please know that God's promise is for you. The Father sent His Son to be your Redeemer. He is calling you to Himself. Do you know God's Son? Have you received Him as your Savior, your Redeemer?

Confess your sins to God and trust His love for you. Forgiveness of sins is now possible, in Jesus' name.

A devotion from Lutheran Hour Ministries.

