

# The Order of Service

## The Greeting

- P** This is the day that the Lord has made. | **P** We are transformed in Christ  
**C** Let us rejoice and be glad in it. | **C** to share the hope of eternal life.

## Welcome and the Sharing of the Peace

**Opening Hymn • 524 ..... “How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds”**

## The Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## Opening Sentences

*Isaiah 35:4-7a*

- P** Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
“Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance,  
with the recompense of God.  
**C** He will come and save you.”
- P** Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
**C** and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
**P** then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
**C** and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.
- P** For waters break forth in the wilderness  
**C** and streams in the desert;  
**P** the burning sand shall become a pool,  
**C** and the thirsty ground springs of water.

## Confession and Absolution

*Psalms 124:8; Psalm 130:3-4*

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C** who made heaven and earth.
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?  
**C** But with You, there is forgiveness; therefore, You are feared.

**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 Kyrie** ✠ *Lord, Have Mercy*

*based on Isaiah 35, Mark 7, James 2*

**P** O Lord as you cause waters to break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

**C** **have mercy upon us.**

**P** O Christ, as you opened the ears and loosed the tongue of the deaf man,

**C** **have mercy upon us.**

**P** O Lord, as you call us to show our faith by our works,

**C** **have mercy upon us.**

### **Hymn of Praise • 849 .....“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”**

#### **The Salutation**

*2 Timothy 4:22*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

#### **The Collect of the Day**

**P** Let us pray.

**P** Grant us strength that comes from vibrant faith, O Lord.

**C** **By Your power and guidance, move us to show forth our faith with words and deeds of loving service;**

**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 First Reading**

**Acts 17:16-34**

### ***Paul in Athens***

<sup>16</sup> Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup> So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup> Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. <sup>19</sup> And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? <sup>20</sup> For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” <sup>21</sup> Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

<sup>22</sup> So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way, you are very religious. <sup>23</sup> For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. <sup>26</sup> And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, <sup>27</sup> that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, <sup>28</sup> for ‘In him, we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are indeed his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup> Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. <sup>30</sup> The times of ignorance, God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this, he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

<sup>32</sup> Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, “We will hear you again about this.” <sup>33</sup> So Paul went out from their midst. <sup>34</sup> But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **The Epistle**

**James 2:1-10, 14-18**

***Love your neighbor as yourself. Faith without works is dead.***

My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. <sup>2</sup>For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, <sup>3</sup>and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “You sit here in a good place,” while you say to the poor man, “You stand over there,” or, “Sit down at my feet,” <sup>4</sup>have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup>Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup>But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

<sup>8</sup>If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? <sup>17</sup>So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

<sup>18</sup>But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **Verse**

***Psalm 147:2-3***

**P** Alleluia. The Lord builds up Jerusalem; He gathers the outcasts of Israel.

**C** He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Alleluia.

## **The Holy Gospel**

**Mark 7:31-37**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the seventh chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

## ***Jesus heals a deaf man.***

<sup>31</sup> Then [Jesus] returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup> And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup> And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and, after spitting, touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup> And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” <sup>35</sup> And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup> And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup> And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, “He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

**Baptismal Hymn • 594.....“God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It”**

**The Sacrament of Holy Baptism ..... page 268, *Lutheran Service Book***

**Sermon Hymn • 645.....“Built on the Rock, the Church Shall Stand”**

## **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**

***Three ways to give:***

**1) offering plate—cash or check.**

**2) online at [holycrossstegen.org](http://holycrossstegen.org) • Click the “Give” icon.**

**3) by mail.**

**Offertory Hymn • 842 ..... "Son of God, Eternal Savior"**

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

**The Prayer of the Church**

*After each petition of the prayers:*

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.

**Service of the Sacrament**

**The Preface**

- P** The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:2*
- 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. *Psalm 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 give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. 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 of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy, we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg 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 as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. 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  $\text{✠}$  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  $\text{✠}$  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 Agnus Dei ∞ The Lamb of God

*John 1:29*



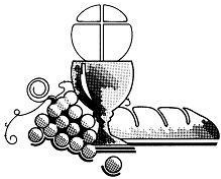
**C** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



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.



**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 • 631 ..... “Here, O My Lord, I See Thee”**

**Communion Hymn • 846 .... “Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old”**

**The Nunc Dimittis** ∞ *The Song of Simeon*

*Luke 2:29-32*

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.

## The Post-Communion Collect

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; 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 • 832.....“Jesus Shall Reign”**

## **The Dismissal**

- P** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God!

## **Announcements**

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**Serving Today:**  
**Pastor Craig Reiter**  
**Organist: Michael Fitzsimmons**  
**Ushers: Wayne Schremp & Rick Hutson**

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## **Living, Mighty, Active Faith** *A devotion from Lutheran Hour Ministries*

Fairbanks, Alaska, is home to the largest dog mushing museum in the world. The term “mush” supposedly comes from the French word for “march” or “go.” Back in the day, locals heard the French-Canadian fur trappers holler at their restless sled dogs, “*Marche!*” to give them permission to “Go!” To the locals, it sounded like “mush”—and the rest is history. The dogs featured at the Fairbanks mushing museum are the Olympic athletes of the canine world. In a race like the thousand-mile Iditarod, the dogs will run as much as a hundred miles in a day, with each animal consuming the caloric equivalent of twelve T-bone steaks.

As with our Olympians, sled dogs come in a variety of shapes and sizes. But they hold one attribute in common: *restlessness*—an insatiable desire to “Go!” Martin Luther once described the faith that resides in a follower of Jesus in similar terms: “When it comes to faith, what a living, creative, active, mighty thing it is. It cannot do other than good at all times” (*Preface to Romans*). Luther was echoing what Saint James said: faith is working together through works (James 2:22); and what St. Paul said—that faith *works* through love (Galatians 5:6). Like an Alaskan Husky, faith doesn’t sit still.

The thing about faith is that it’s not about us. We’re involved. We exercise faith and live by faith. But faith is the power out in front. We are along for the ride. Sled dogs do not make good household pets. Quite often the dog doesn’t get enough exercise; the owner is frustrated; the dog’s hyperactive; and in the backyard—holes half-way to China. Sled dogs don’t domesticate. They are born and bred to work. The same can be said of faith.

Faith—it’s a power outside of us; faith is out in front of us. Faith is what happens when we are exposed to the Word of God—in the church, when we confess our sins and hear forgiveness in the name of Jesus; in the church’s songs, Scriptures, sermons, Sacraments, and social interaction. This faith pulls you forward out of yourself, into the world, in service to your neighbors.

***Dear Father, by Your Personal Word, Jesus Christ, You have created faith in our hearts. By Your Spirit, help us hold on for the ride. In Jesus’ name. Amen.***