

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 • 604.....“I Bind unto Myself Today”

Note that Stanza 1 concludes at the bottom of the first page. Stanzas 2-5 begin on the first page and conclude on the second page.

△ *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 Sentences

1 Peter 3:13-17

P Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?

C But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them nor be troubled,

P but in your hearts, honor Christ the Lord as holy,

C always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

P having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

C For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

P We were buried with Christ and raised with Him in baptism through faith. We rejoice in the Triune name of God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, that was placed upon us in baptism, claiming us as His dearly loved children. However, we still struggle with sin in our lives. Trusting that our God is gracious and merciful, we come before Him humbly and honestly, declaring:

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.**

The Introit

Psalms 92:1-4; antiphon: v. 5

P How great are Your works, O Lord!

C **Your thoughts are very deep!**

P It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

C **to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;**

P to declare Your steadfast love in the morning

C **and Your faithfulness by night,**

- P** to the music of the lute and the harp,
- C** to the melody of the lyre.
- P** For You, O Lord, have made me glad by Your work;
- C** at the works of Your hands, I sing for joy.
- 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** How great are Your works, O Lord!
- C** Your thoughts are very deep!

The Kyrie *☞ Lord, Have Mercy*

- P** O Lord, as You call all people to repent and be baptized,
- C** have mercy upon us.
- P** O Christ, as You gave the command to make disciples of all nations, baptizing and teaching in Your name,
- C** have mercy upon us.
- C** O Lord, as we are buried and raised with You in our baptism,
- C** have mercy upon us.

Hymn of Praise • 809 **“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”**

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.
O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; 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 Lesson

Acts 2:29-41

²⁹ “Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Being therefore a prophet and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹ he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³ Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. ³⁴ For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

“The Lord said to my Lord,

“Sit at my right hand,

³⁵ until I make your enemies your footstool.”

³⁶ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus, whom you crucified.”

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” ⁴⁰ And with many other words, he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

Colossians 2:6-15

⁶ Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him, the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also

raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual and Verse

Psalm 34:9, 19 alt., Matthew 5:3

P Fear the Lord, you His saints,

C for those who fear Him lack nothing!

P Many are the afflictions of the righteous,

C but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

P Alleluia. Blessed are the poor in spirit,

C for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 3:13-17 and 28:16-20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third and twenty-eighth chapters.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

3¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

28¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him, they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

The Children's Message

Sermon Hymn • 404.....“Jesus, Once with Sinners Numbered”

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 Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Parts I and II

P What is Baptism?

C Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's Word.

P Which is that Word of God?

C Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: “Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

P What benefits does Baptism give?

C It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

P Which are these words and promises of God?

C Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”

The Offering

Thank you for your support of Holy Cross!

The Offertory

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

The Prayer of the Church

After each petition of the prayer:

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

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 give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake, He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. 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 pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -

san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

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 ✝ 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 Agnus Dei *∞* The Lamb of God

John 1:29



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



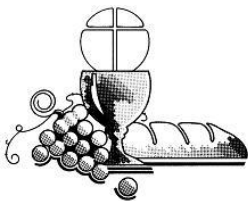
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.



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 • 605.....“Father Welcomes”

Communion Hymn • 623.....“Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray”

The Post-Communion Canticle

“Thank the Lord”



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re - calls His prom - is - es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Post-Communion Thanksgiving

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

Pastor Craig Reiter

Organist: Michael Fitzsimmons

Ushers: Wayne Schremp, Rick Hutson

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 4.

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