

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

The Sharing of the Peace

Opening Hymn • 700 **“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”**

The Invocation

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

Opening Sentences

Psalm 66:1-4, 8-9; 40:5

P Jesus said, “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away,
C and every branch that does bear fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.
P Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.
C Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

Confession and Absolution

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

P Jesus calls us to a life that abides in Him, yet so often we listen to the lies of the world, lies that tell us we need to be independent, self-sufficient, and autonomous. But the truth is we are completely dependent upon Him, and we need true community with each other. For this reason, we again acknowledge our sins and our need for forgiveness.

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 145:1-2, 8, 10, 21; antiphon: John 16:16

P A little while, and you will see Me no longer;

C **and again a little while, and you will see Me.**

P I will extol You, my God and King,

C **and bless Your name forever and ever.**

P Every day I will bless You and praise Your name forever and ever.

C **The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

P All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD, and all Your saints shall bless You!

C **My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless His holy name forever and ever.**

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 A little while, and you will see Me no longer;

C **and again a little while, and you will see Me.**

The Kyrie

- P** O Lord, as You led Philip to share the Good News,
C have mercy upon us.
- P** O Christ, as You are the Vine and we are the branches,
C have mercy upon us.
- P** O Lord, as You abide in us and Your love is perfected in us,
C have mercy upon us.

Hymn of Praise • 474 "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen"

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.

Risen and ascended Lord, You are the vine, and we are the branches. Apart from You, there is no life. By Baptism, You have grafted us into Your gracious life. Cause Your Word to abide in us and make us fruitful to the glory of Your Father, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

The First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

(Philip witnesses about Jesus to the Ethiopian official.)

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. ²⁷ And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰ So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep, he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. ³³In his humiliation, justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture, he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶And as they were going along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through, he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

1 John 4:1-11

(An exhortation to lives of Christian love)

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore, they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse

Romans 6:9; John 14:23

- P** Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.
- C** Alleluia. **If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and we will come to Him and make our home with Him. Alleluia.**

The Holy Gospel

John 15:1-8

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me, you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

The Children’s Message

Sermon Hymn • 392 “God Loves Me Dearly”

The Sermon

The Creed

The Second Article

- P** As we celebrate the risen Christ in this season of Easter, let us speak together the words of the Apostles’ Creed regarding our Savior, who is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity.



C I believe 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.

P What does this mean?

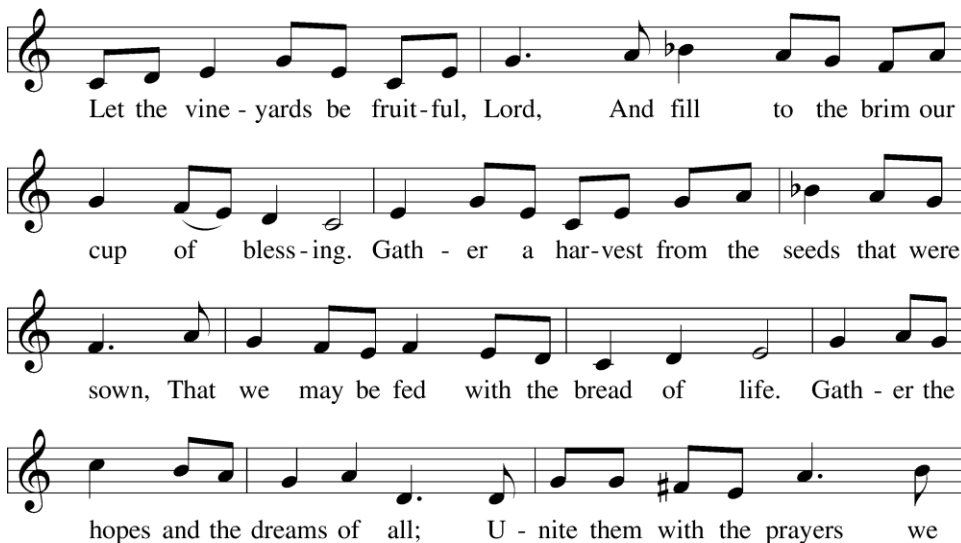
C I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

The Offering

Please stand as the offering is brought forward.

Offertory Hymn • 955 “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, And fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, That we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the
hopes and the dreams of all; U - nite them with the prayers we

of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with Your pres - ence, and
give us A fore-taste of the feast to come.

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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 4:22*
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 give thanks to You, Lord our God, for You have shown mercy to all in Christ the Vine. Receive our thanks that as branches of the Vine, we are created to bear fruit. Unite our praises with those of all the faithful who are connected to Christ and join them with the unending praise of the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven as we join together and sing:

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, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and have showed Your gracious power to us through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. We give You thanks that in His most Holy Supper, You nourish us that, firmly connected to Christ the Vine, we may grow in grace. Grant that we may receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood as we gather at His command.

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 A - men.

The Agnus Dei ∞ The Lamb of God

John 1:29

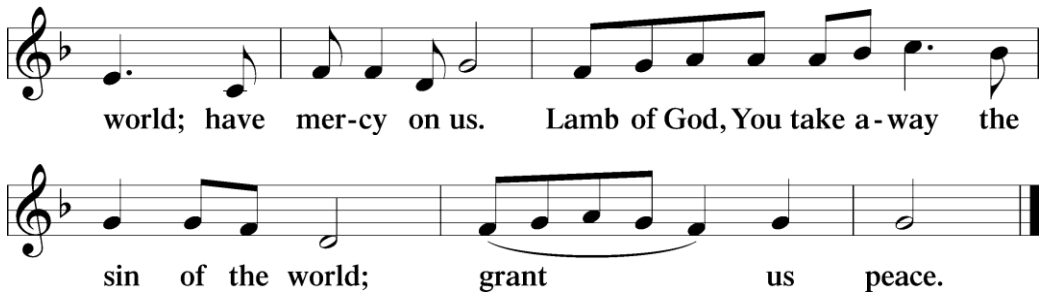


C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have

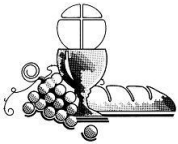


mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the





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.*

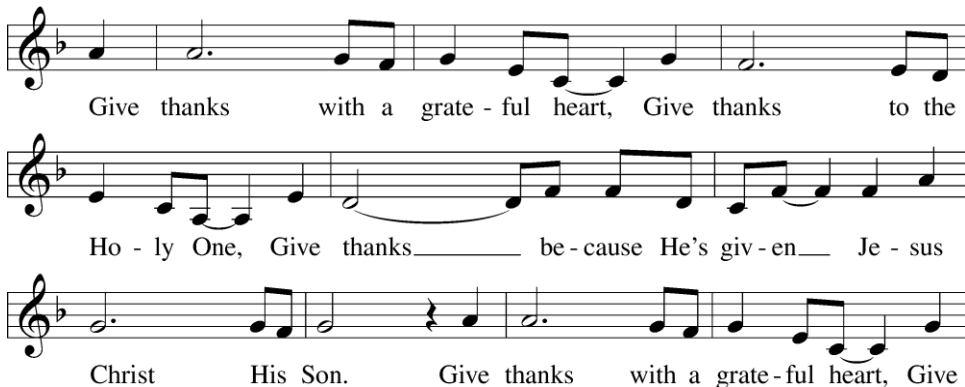
Participants are encouraged to ask these questions: Do I believe that I am a sinner and am truly sorry for my sins? Do I believe Jesus Christ is my Savior and that it is His true body and blood given to me along with the bread and wine? Do I intend with the help of God to repent of sin as I seek to follow 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 • 845..... "Where Charity and Love Prevail"

Communion Hymn • 691..... "Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing"

Post-Communion Hymn • 806..... "Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart"



Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, Give thanks to the
Ho-ly One, Give thanks be-cause He's giv-en Je-sus
Christ His Son. Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, Give

thanks to the Ho - ly One, Give thanks _____ be-cause He's giv-en__
 Je-sus Christ His Son. And now let the weak say "I am
 strong," Let the poor say "I am rich," _____ Be-cause of
 what the Lord has done for us. And now let the
 weak say "I am strong," Let the poor say "I am
 rich," _____ Be-cause of what the Lord has done for us.
 Give thanks, _____ give thanks. _____

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The Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we bless You for having fed us with Your life-giving food. Strengthen us through the same, help us to rejoice in Your mercies, that we may grow daily and reach out with Your love in every situation. Finally, in Your mercy, grant us a portion with the saints in light eternal. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God, world without end.

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 • 919 **“Abide, O Dearest Jesus”**

Announcements



SERVING TODAY

Pastor Craig Reiter

Ushers:
**Wayne Schremp &
Rick Hutson**

Organist:
Michael Fitzsimmons

Acknowledgments

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