

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 • 515..... "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

The Invocation

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

Opening Sentences

Amos 5:18, 20; 1 Thessalonians 4:13; Matthew 25:6, 10

- P** Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why would you have the day of the Lord?
C Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?
P But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.
C For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the sound of the trumpet of God.
P At midnight, there was a cry, "Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!"
C The bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut.

Confession and Absolution

Amos 5:24; 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18; Matthew 25:13

- P** As we await the day to come when Christ returns, we grow impatient as we wait. We become distracted by the things of this world that do not last and have given our attention and even devotion to things not beneficial to our faith. We grow impatient with others. And we grow impatient with God Himself. We come to think the day will never come when Christ will make all things new and have let our earthly circumstances cause faith to waiver, despair to increase, and doubts to arise. For this, we say:

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 Introit **Psalm 70**

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me!

C **O Lord, make haste to help me!**

P Let them be put to shame and confusion who seek my life!

C **Let them be turned back and brought to dishonor who delight in my hurt!**

P Let them turn back because of their shame who say, "Aha, Aha!"

C **May all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You!**

P May those who love Your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"

C **But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God!**

P You are my help and my deliverer;

C **O Lord, do not delay!**

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.**

The Kyrie *Lord, Have Mercy*

Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Hymn of Praise • 802“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

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.

Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His Bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed, we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

The Old Testament Reading

Amos 5:18-24

The Day of the Lord and Justice

¹⁸ Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why would you have the day of the LORD? It is darkness, and not light, ¹⁹as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him. ²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹“I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. ²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them. ²³Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps, I will not listen. ²⁴But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

The Coming of the Lord

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore, encourage one another with these words.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Verse**Matthew 25:13**

C Alleluia. Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel**Matthew 25:1-13**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

The Parable of the Ten Virgins

[Jesus said:] “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴ but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵ As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. ⁶ But at midnight, there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷ Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹ But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ ¹⁰ And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. ¹¹ Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹² But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ ¹³ Watch, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

The Children's Message

Sermon Hymn • 663 **"Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray"**

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

C 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.

The Offering

Thank you for your support of Holy Cross!

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

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

The Prayer of the Church

Revelation 22:20

P As the Lord invites us to come to Him with petitions and supplications, we commonly close our prayers with “Amen.” Derived from a Hebrew verb, *amen* means “certainty” or “to confirm.” As Martin Luther put it, *amen* means, “Yes, yes, it shall be so.” As we await the day of the Lord, we pray in confidence as Scripture closes with the words: “He who testifies to these things says, ‘Surely I am coming soon.’ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!” We, in our wait, come to our Lord in prayer, proclaim our “amens,” and confidently invite Him to come.

Let us pray for the people of God in the Bridegroom, Christ Jesus; His Bride, the Church; and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, grant to us all things needful, and dissuade us from all things harmful. Fill the oil in our lamps, strengthen and nourish our faith, that united, together we as Your Church and as Your people confidently and courageously shine Your light to our neighbors, our community, and the world. Amen.

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Heavenly Father, keep us ready in our waiting for the promised day to come when the door is opened and we are welcomed to the wedding feast. In our wait, keep us from earthly distractions that would lead us away from You. By Your Holy Spirit, keep us prepared to welcome Jesus when He comes in all His glory at the hour and the day You have set, as we remain trusting in Your promises made, promises fulfilled, and promises to come. Amen.

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Heavenly Father, You have already called faithful servants from this life as they are in Your glorious care and await the resurrection. For we who remain on this earth, give comfort and hope to those who grieve, [*especially* . . .]. For those who struggle with health of mind or sickness of body, grant healing according to Your will and lasting peace in light of affliction, [*especially* . . .]. For all those whose needs are known only to You and for all who face the afflictions of this life while awaiting the Last Day at Your time, grant patience. Amen.

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Heavenly Father, as we pray, “Come, Lord Jesus,” awaiting His return, we know that in the meantime, He even comes to us now through Your Word and Means of Grace. In the body and blood given and shed for us in, with, and under the bread and wine given and received, forgive us our sins, and nourish our faith in our waiting, that our hearts and lives be reflective of the grace You freely give. Amen.

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Additional petitions may be added, which conclude with:

P Amen.

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

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 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 ✠ 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 the Bridegroom 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,

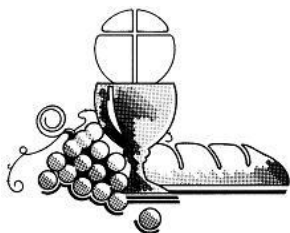


You take the sin of the world a - way;
 You take the sin of the world a - way;

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.

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 • (insert)..... "The Bridegroom Is Coming"

Communion Hymn • 729..... "I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus"

Communion Hymn • 514..... "The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us"

The Nunc Dimittis *∞ The Song of Simeon*

Luke 2:29-32

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.

The Post-Communion Thanksgiving

- P** Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.
- C** for His steadfast love endures forever.
- P** We give thanks to You, gracious Father, that in our waiting upon You, we have been gathered together in fellowship at Your Table with sins forgiven and faith nourished.

We thank You for the foretaste of the wedding feast to come when the Son of Man comes and we will live with You, who lives and reigns Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Closing Response

Amos 5:24; 1 Thess. 4:17-18; Matthew 25:13; Rev. 22:20-21

P But let justice roll down like waters

C and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

P And so we will always be with the Lord.

C Therefore, encourage one another with these words.

P Watch therefore,

C for you know neither the day nor the hour.

P He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.”

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

P The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all.

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 • 673 “Jerusalem, My Happy Home”

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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