

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 • 589: vs. 1-3“**Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens**”

The Invocation

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

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

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

P The Lord calls His people and sends them to proclaim His Word, even amid the scorn and contempt of the world. He sent Ezekiel, along with a promise, foreshadowing the religious leaders who were against the early church.

C “Whether they hear or refuse to hear, . . . they will know that a prophet has been among them.”

P He sent the apostle Paul, along with a promise:

C “My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.”

P He sent His own Son into the world, into our flesh, on our behalf. Though stricken, smitten, afflicted, and even rejected in His own hometown, the message of the Word made flesh continued to be proclaimed by the disciples:

C “So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent.”

P The Lord calls us to be witnesses. While our lives may not turn out as Stephen’s, we confess that we are often reluctant to speak the truth of God’s Word to others. We view faith as something personal that only applies to ourselves. We fail to share it in our words and actions. For this we come before our God and say:

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Hymn of Praise • 589: vs. 4“Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens”

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, Your almighty power is made known chiefly in showing mercy. Grant us the fullness of Your grace, that we may be called to repentance and made partakers of Your heavenly treasures; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The First Reading

Acts 7:54-8:3

The Stoning of Stephen

7 ⁵⁴Now when they heard these things, they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” ⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸Then they cast him out of the

city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰And falling to his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

8 And Saul approved of his execution.

And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ²Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. ³But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Paul’s Vision and His Thorn

I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. ²I know a man in Christ who, fourteen years ago, was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body, I do not know; God knows. ³And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body, I do not know; God knows—⁴and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. ⁵On behalf of this man, I will boast, but on my own behalf, I will not boast, except of my weaknesses—⁶though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. ⁷So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse

Mark 6:13

- P** Alleluia. They cast out many demons
C and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel

Mark 6:1-13

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

Jesus Rejected at Nazareth

[Jesus] went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ² And on the Sabbath, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, “Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? ³ Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. ⁴ And Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household.” ⁵ And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. ⁶ And he marveled because of their unbelief.

And he went about among the villages teaching.

⁷ And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸ He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—⁹ but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. ¹⁰ And he said to them, “Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. ¹¹ And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” ¹² So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. ¹³ And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

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

The Children's Message

Sermon Hymn • 839 “O Christ, Our True and Only Light”

The Sermon

Catechism *The Third Article and Explanation: Luther's Small Catechism Questions 212–215*

C 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.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way, He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church, He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day, He will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

P What are the identifying characteristics of the Church?

C The identifying marks that guarantee the presence of the Church are the pure proclamation of the Gospel and the right administration of the Sacraments. Where these are, the Spirit creates faith. God's Word of promise is sure and does what it says.

P What are some other outward indications that the Church is present?

C Such things as gatherings for prayer and worship, the fruits of faith, and suffering for Christ also serve as good outward indications that the Church is present without guaranteeing it. The Church also uses the Office of the Keys to rebuke and to forgive sins, as well as to consecrate ministers to preach and teach on behalf of all.

P What is the mission of the Church on earth?

C The Church's mission is to confess and proclaim the forgiveness of sins for Jesus' sake by preaching the Word, administering the Sacraments, sending missionaries, and establishing new congregations and by the daily witness of the baptized children of God, His royal priesthood.

- P** What are some of the privileges and responsibilities of members of the Church?
- C** We should regularly receive the Word and Sacraments within the community of believers.
- P** We should belong to congregations that confess and teach the pure Word of God.
- C** We should beware of and avoid false teachings, false teachers, and organizations that promote false teaching.
- P** We should tell others about Jesus, participate in works of mercy and service, and support the ministry of the church with prayer and financial gifts.

The Offering

Offertory Hymn • 770“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

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

The Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray for the people of God in Christ Jesus, for His church, and for all people according to their needs.

God of continued mercy, Your power is made perfect in weakness, and Your grace is sufficient for us. As You called people of the past to proclaim the way of salvation, so also use us as Your instruments to proclaim the Gospel and to live as lights even among scorn and despising from a sinful world. Sustain Your church to remain strong in faith until the day You make all things new. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

- P** Sending Father, when Your Son was in this world, He was rejected in His hometown. Though despised, He continued on in the mission for our salvation and forgiveness of sins all the way to the cross. As disciples continued to proclaim a message of repentance, build us up as Your disciples within Your church to proclaim and receive the forgiveness of sins won for us through His death and resurrection. Raise up pastors, missionaries, teachers, and others in a churchly vocation to be sent by You to proclaim Your message of Law and Gospel. Strengthen laity to live as Your church each day among our neighbors, pointing to Your light and Your love. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

P Compassionate Father, we face daily the trials of this world, the devil, and our own sinful flesh. Often a “thorn in the flesh” is a barrier to our faith and trust in You. Remind us Your grace is sufficient and Your power is made perfect in weakness. For those who are weak in body, mind, and spirit, grant Your continued presence. Heal according to Your will, and use us as Your church to encourage, support, and reflect Your grace to all who are in need, [*especially . . .*]. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Sustaining Father, You gather us together as Your people to hear Your Word and to receive Your means of grace. As Your church, strengthen our fellowship as we receive the true body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Fed, nourished, and strengthened in faith, enable us to faithfully uphold Your calling to us as we are sent by You. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

Additional petitions may be added.

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 al - so 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 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 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



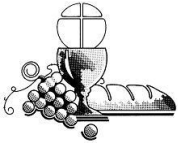
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the



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 • 637 **"Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord"**

Communion Hymn • 718..... **"Jesus, Lead Thou On"**

Communion Hymn • 856..... **"O Christ, Who Called the Twelve"**

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 - jice 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 • 644 **“The Church’s One Foundation”**

Announcements

Serving Today

Pastor Craig Reiter

Organist: Michael Fitzsimmons

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 3.

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