

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 Sharing of the Peace

Opening Hymn • 545 “Word of God, Come Down on Earth”

The Invocation

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

Opening Sentences

Psalm 116:1-9

- P** I love the Lord, because He has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.
C Because He inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.
P The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.
C Then I called on the name of the Lord: “O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!”
P Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.
C The Lord preserves the simple; when I was brought low, He saved me.
P Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.
C For You have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling;
P I will walk before the Lord
C in the land of the living.

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 Kyrie

P O Lord, as You have brought many people into Your Church,

C **have mercy upon us.**

P O Christ, as You call us to believe despite our unbelief,

C **have mercy upon us.**

P O Lord, as You warn us against evil speech,

C **have mercy upon us.**

Hymn of Praise • "This Is the Feast"

Revelation 5:12-13; 19:5-9

Refrain

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 — Wor- thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb ——— who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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.
- Lord Jesus Christ, our support and defense in every need,
- C** continue to preserve Your church in safety, govern her by Your goodness, and bless her with Your peace;

P for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

The First Reading

Acts 18:1-11

Paul in Corinth

After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. ² And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, ³ and because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. ⁴ And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks. ⁵ When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. ⁶ And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on, I will go to the Gentiles.” ⁷ And he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. His house was next door to the synagogue. ⁸ Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized. ⁹ And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, “Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, ¹⁰ for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.” ¹¹ And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

James 3:1-12

James warns against an uncontrolled tongue.

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ² For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. ³ If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. ⁴ Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵ So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! ⁶ And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every kind of beast and bird,

of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it, we bless our Lord and Father, and with it, we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰ From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹ Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse

Mark 9:23b

P Alleluia. All things are possible

C for one who believes. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel

Mark 9:14-29

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus drives out a spirit after the disciples are not able.

¹⁴ And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. ¹⁵ And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. ¹⁶ And he asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” ¹⁷ And someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. ¹⁸ And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.” ¹⁹ And he answered them, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me.” ²⁰ And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. ²¹ And Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. ²² And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” ²³ And Jesus said to him, “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.” ²⁴ Immediately, the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!” ²⁵ And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” ²⁶ And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up,

and he arose. ²⁸ And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” ²⁹ And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

The Children’s Message

Sermon Hymn • 846“Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old”

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

Three ways to give:

- 1) offering plate—cash or check.**
- 2) online at holycrossstegen.org • Click the “Give” icon.**
- 3) by mail.**

Offertory Hymn • 650 "Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling"

Please stand on the final 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 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 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.

P Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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 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 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



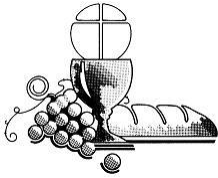
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the



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 • 619 "Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior"

Communion Hymn • 533 "Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure"

Communion Hymn • 541 "Away from Us! the Demon Cried"

The Post-Communion Canticle

"Thank the Lord"



G 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.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; 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 • 729.....“I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus”

Announcements

Serving Today

Pastor Craig Reiter

Organist: Michael Fitzsimmons

Ushers: Wayne Schremp & Rick Hutson

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JESUS' TONGUE

James 3:1-12



Dear Lord, make my tongue like Yours—full of grace and love. Amen.

There are some conversations you walk away from feeling flayed. Someone has used the sharp edge of their tongue on you, deserved or not, and the pain is awful. And it doesn't help when they tell you they're "saying it for your own good." They may truly believe that, but the real-life result is not helpful.

When we think about conversations like that, we want to run and hide. And we may feel the same about those conversations that go on behind our backs—the gossip that spreads through a church or workplace, sometimes camouflaged as a "prayer request"—but it really serves as a chance for people to share hurtful, juicy details about someone else. Ouch! How can such a tiny part of the body do so much harm?

The odd thing is, we don't get that sort of pain from Jesus. Oh, He can say painful things when necessary, but never with the goal of causing pain or doing harm. His goal is always to heal and help. Even if He has to rebuke someone or judge them, it is clear that He is doing it with their best interests in mind—and that He never goes an inch past what is absolutely necessary to say. And if the person repents, He forgives immediately. The conversation is over. Jesus' tongue heals instead of harming.

This is why we feel safe with Jesus. We know that He knows us through and through. We know that He loves us. When He has to correct us, we listen, because we know the heart that speaks through the words. It is the heart of a God who loved us enough to lay down His life to rescue us, to draw us close to Him and make us His beloved people forever. This is the heart and tongue of the God who put our welfare before His own and would do it again a thousand times if necessary. "For He does not willingly bring affliction or grief to anyone" (Lamentations 3:33 NIV).