

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 92:1–4; antiphon: v. 5*

P: How great are Your works, O LORD! Your thoughts are very deep!

C: It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;

P: to declare Your steadfast love in the morning, and Your faithfulness by night,

C: to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.

P: For You, O LORD, have made me glad by Your work;
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.

How great are Your works, O LORD! Your thoughts are very deep!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 32:1*

P: Lord God, You promise grace and every blessing to all who come before You and repent of their sins. Look upon us now with Your mercy as we lay our hearts open before you.

In silent prayer, we confess our sins to the Lord, seeking His cleansing forgiveness.

P: Most merciful Father,

C: we come before You and admit our sinfulness. In our thoughts, words, and actions, we have failed to do what Your Word demands. We have not honored You fully with our lives, nor have we loved one another as You have first loved us. In the name of our loving Savior Jesus Christ, we ask for Your forgiveness. Because our Savior humbled Himself for our sake upon the cross, enable us in true humility to receive the remission You promise to Your repentant children. Amen.

P: “Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.” God the Father has taken our sins and laid them upon our humble Savior Jesus Christ. Because of Christ’s sacrifice, God does not count our sins against us. He has taken them away! He remembers them no more! He preserves and delivers us as His children forever!

Upon this your confession and faith, I, a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, declare the fullness of His forgiveness upon us all: in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

SONG OF PRAISE “O Praise the Name” (Anastasis) - Hillsong

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O God, from whom all goodness and love proceeds, grant to us the posture of true humility and repentance, that turning from our sins, we receive the remission You promise to all who trust in 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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Ezekiel 33:7–9*

(The watchman warns the wicked to turn from his way.)

“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 13:1–10* (Love is the fulfilling of the law.)

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Matthew 5:3*

L: Alleluia. Blessed are the poor in spirit,

C: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 18:1–20*

(Jesus calls the children of God to humility and repentance.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

"Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church.

And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN No. 948 "All Glory Be to God Alone"

All glory be to God alone,
Forevermore the highest one,
Who did our sinful race befriend
And grace and peace to us extend.
Among us may His gracious will
All hearts with deep thanksgiving fill.

We praise You, God;
Your name we bless
And worship You in humbleness;
From day to day we glorify
The everlasting God on high.
Of Your great glory do we sing,
And to Your throne our thanks we bring.

Lord God, our King on heaven's throne,
Our Father, the Almighty One.
O Lord, the sole begotten One,
Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's Son,
True God from all eternity,
O Lamb of God, to You we flee.

You take the whole world's sin away;
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
You take the whole world's sin away;
O Lord, receive our prayer this day.
From God's right hand Your mercy send,
To all the world Your grace extend.

You only are the Holy One
And over all are Lord alone.
O Jesus Christ, we glorify
You and the Spirit, Lord Most High;
With Him You evermore shall be
One in the Father's majesty.

SERMON "Who is the Greatest" Matthew 18:1-20 Pastor Matt

CONFESSION OF FAITH THE NICENE CREED *Please stand*

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 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.

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.

OFFERING

A LABOR DAY PRAYER (Video)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

+ SACRAMENT +

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. *[Psalm 136]*
C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

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 to be our Savior. With humble and repentant hearts, we lift our hands to receive the salvation accomplished for us by the sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we ask You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. As we humbly bow before You and receive the benefits of Christ's cross, we join in praising You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Knowing that we stand in the midst of a cloud of witnesses,
we share the cry of ages:

C: Hosanna! Hosanna!
Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!

AS WE APPROACH THE TABLE OF THE LORD

P: Merciful Lord,

C: we do not presume to come to this Your table, trusting in our own righteousness, but in Your manifold and great mercies.

We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under Your table.

But You are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy.

Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink His blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed, through His most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in Him, and He in us. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *(Matthew 6:9-13)*

P: Remember us in Your kingdom, Lord, and teach us to pray:

All: 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.

WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

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.”

Let us eat together the body of Christ.

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.”

Let us drink together from the cup of salvation, the blood of Christ shed for our sins.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P: 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.

BLESSING OF THE LORD

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 smile upon you and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING VIDEO

“Take My Life and Let it Be”

Kari Jobe