

**WELCOME**

**INVOCATION**

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

**C: Amen.**

**OPENING SENTENCES**        *Psalm 143:1–2, 9*

**P: Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!**

**C: In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!**

**P: Enter not into judgment with your servant,**

**C: for no one living is righteous before you.**

**P: Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!**

**C: I have fled to you for refuge.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**P: Let us take a moment to silently reflect on the sins that harass and torment us laying them at the foot of the cross of Christ where God nailed them once and for all on the body of His beloved Son.**

*Silence for self-examination.*

**P: Let us now confess publicly our sins before God and one another, confident of His grace and forgiveness to all who are penitent.**

**C: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

**P: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. 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.**

**SHARING THE PEACE**        *We greet one another in peace.*

**P: The peace of the Lord be with you.**

**C: And also with you.**

**SONG OF PRAISE**

**“Come to the Altar” Elevation**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P: Let us pray.**

Gracious Lord, You have rescued us from our bondage to sin and given us a new life and identity in Baptism. Grant us Your grace that we live in peace with all people and show to those around us the same forgiveness that You have shown to us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Genesis 50:15–21* (At the death of their father, Jacob, Joseph reassured his brothers that he forgave them and recognized the hand of God at work in their lives.)

[15] When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him.” [16] So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this command before he died: [17] ‘Say to Joseph, “Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.”’ And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. [18] His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.” [19] But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? [20] As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. [21] So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

**L: This is the Word of the Lord.**

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** *Romans 14:1–12*

(If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord.)

[1] As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. [2] One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. [3] Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. [4] Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

[5] One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. [6] The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. [7] For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. [8] For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. [9] For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

[10] Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; [11] for it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall confess to God.”

[12] So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Matthew 6:14*

L: Alleluia. If you forgive others their trespasses,

C: your heavenly Father will also forgive you. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 18:21–35*

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

[21] Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” [22] Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

[23] “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. [24] When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. [25] And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. [26] So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ [27] And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

[28] But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ [29] So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ [30] He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.

[31] When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. [32] Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. [33] And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ [34] And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. [35] So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

**HYMN "Grace That Is Greater Than All Our Sin"**

**SERMON "No Empty Threat" Matthew 18:21-35 Pastor Vern**

**CONFESSION OF FAITH THE APOSTLES' CREED *stand***

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And 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.**

**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.**

**OFFERING (Bussi Village Water Treatment Project Video)**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**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.**

**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 look upon you with favor and + give you peace.**
- C:**     **Amen.**

**SENDING**

- P:** **Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.**
- C:** **Thanks be to God!**

**CLOSING SONG**     **“Thank You Lord” Words & Music by Dennis Jernigan**