

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN 543 **“What Wondrous Love Is This”**

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 22:22–24; 27-31*

P: I will tell of your name to my brothers;
C: in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

P: You who fear the LORD, praise him!
C: All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,
 and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

P: For he has not despised or abhorred
 the affliction of the afflicted,
C: and he has not hidden his face from him,
 but has heard, when he cried to him.

P: All the ends of the earth shall remember
 and turn to the LORD,
C: and all the families of the nations
 shall worship before you.

P: For kingship belongs to the LORD,
C: and he rules over the nations.

P: All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;
C: before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
 even the one who could not keep himself alive.

P: Posterity shall serve him;
C: it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;
 they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn,
 that he has done it.

P: I will tell of your name to my brothers;
C: in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *(Genesis 17:7; Psalm 22:27; Romans 5:6, 9–10)*

P: Because our God has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and because the Lord has not hidden His face from him, but has heard, when he cried to Him; let us search our hearts and from the depth of our souls cry out to Him those sins which are too shameful for us to speak, and of which He knows and now graciously offers to forgive.

(Moment of silence)

P: God established an everlasting covenant with Abraham,
C: but our faith continually wavers. O Lord, forgive our forgetfulness of Your unchanging grace.

P: David wrote, “All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,”
C: but we have failed to remind one another of God’s mercy and love. O Lord, forgive our hesitancy to share the news of Your gracious presence.

P: Paul wrote that because Christ died for the ungodly, we are justified by His blood,
C: but we have tried to hide our sinfulness. O Lord, forgive our blindness to the necessary sacrifice of our Savior.

P: God sent His Son into the world with one purpose: to save us from the wrath of God. “For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life.” As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. Thanks be to God.

SHARING THE PEACE

SONG OF PRAISE *“At the Cross”* Gaither Vocal Band

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O God, who sent Your Son into the flesh
so that He might pay for our sins and open eternal life to us,

C: grant us strong faith so that we may purposefully take up our crosses
and follow where He has led the way;

P: through the same 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 *Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16*

(God makes a covenant promise to Abram.)

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 5:1–11*

(Grace: Christ died for the ungodly.)

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Psalm 25:6*

P: Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love,

C: for they have been from of old.

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 8:27–38* (Truly knowing Christ means following Him.)

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

And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they told him, “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.” And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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

HYMN No. 425 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

SERMON “The Way of the Cross is the Way of Discipleship” Mark 8:27-38 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 “Create in Me” Acapella Video Presentation

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.

HYMN No. 784 “Take My Life and Let It Be”

SENDING

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!