

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**VOTERS' MEETING TODAY** - Immediately following the service.

**INVOCATION**

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

**C:** Amen.

**OPENING SENTENCES**      *Isaiah 51:4, 6; Psalm 39:7; 93:2, 5; Mark 13:33*

**L:** Give attention to Me, My people, and give ear to Me, My nation; for a law will go out from Me, and I will set My justice for a light to the peoples.

**C:** And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in You.

**L:** Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but My salvation will be forever, and My righteousness will never be dismayed.

**C:** Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting.

**L:** Your decrees are very trustworthy; holiness befits Your house, O LORD, forevermore.

**C:** Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come.

**CONFESSION**      *Luke 23:42; Philippians 1:6*

**L:** As we live in the last days, waiting for Jesus to return, we are called to remember His promises and that we are His people. Yet, sometimes we forget what He has asked us to do. Let us take a moment of silence to reflect on our failure to wait for Your appearing in the way You have commanded us.

**(Moment of silent meditation and repentance)**

**L:** As God's beloved, we are called to build ourselves up in our most holy faith.  
**C:** Lord Jesus, we confess that we neglect being built up by Your Word and Spirit. Forgive us and remember us.

**L:** As God's beloved, we are urged to pray in the Holy Spirit.  
**C:** Lord Jesus, we confess that we neglect to converse with You in prayer and to guide our prayer life according to Your Word and Your will. Forgive us and remember us.

**L:** As God's beloved, we are urged to keep ourselves in the love of God.  
**C:** Lord Jesus, we confess that we neglect to remember our Baptism. Forgive us and remember us.

**L:** As God's beloved, we are urged to wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
**C:** Lord Jesus, we confess that we neglect to embrace the mercy that is ours in You as we look forward to Your return. Forgive us and remember us.

**L:** As God's beloved, we are urged to have mercy on those who doubt.  
**C:** Lord Jesus, we confess that we fail to love others as You have first loved us. Forgive us and remember us.

**L:** As God's beloved, we are urged to share our faith with others.  
**C:** Lord Jesus, we confess that we neglect opportunities to share Your saving grace with others. Forgive us and remember us.

#### **DECLARATION OF GRACE**

**L:** As Jesus was on the cross, the thief next to Him asked, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." As Jesus remembered the thief, He remembers you are His beloved child, and He remembers your sin no more. Let us constantly recall the grace of our Lord who said through Isaiah: "...My salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed." So let us forever rejoice in the forgiveness God has given us through Jesus death and resurrection; in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C:** Amen.

#### **SHARING THE PEACE**

**SONG OF PRAISE**                      "Jude Doxology"

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray.

Lord God, You reign, robed in majesty over all that was, is, and will be. You are the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. As we wait for Your triumphant return, keep us steadfast in the one true faith and lead us to live lives that reflect Your presence so that You may work through us as You save others by snatching them from the fire; 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      *Isaiah 51:4–6*

“Give attention to me, my people,  
and give ear to me, my nation;  
for a law will go out from me,  
and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.  
My righteousness draws near,  
my salvation has gone out,  
and my arms will judge the peoples;  
the coastlands hope for me,  
and for my arm they wait.  
Lift up your eyes to the heavens,  
and look at the earth beneath;  
for the heavens vanish like smoke,  
the earth will wear out like a garment,  
and they who dwell in it will die in like manner;  
but my salvation will be forever,  
and my righteousness will never be dismayed.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

## EPISTLE      *Jude 20–25* (Remember your identity in Christ.)

But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. And have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Revelation 22:13*

L: Alleluia! I am the Alpha and the Omega,

C: the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Alleluia!

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 13:24–37* (The end is near.)

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

“But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

**HYMN No. 801      "How Great Thou Art"**

**O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed; Refrain**

**Refrain:**

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!**

**When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
And hear the brook and feel the gently breeze; Refrain**

**But when I think that God, His Son not sparing,  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in  
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing  
He bled and died to take away my sin; Refrain**

**When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration  
And there proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!" Refrain**

**SERMON      "What Waiting Feels Like" Mark 13:24-37    Pastor Vern**

**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**

#### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

As we wait patiently for the Lord's return, let us pray to our gracious God on behalf of the  
whole Church and for all people according to their needs.

**L: Most merciful God and Father, give Your Holy Church throughout the world Your grace  
to serve You with reverence and awe, granting us faith to endure to the end. Lord, in  
Your mercy,**

**C: hear our prayer.**

**L: Open the mouths of the pastors in our circuit, district and Synod, and give them the  
words to testify to Your love in Christ Jesus and the hope that is in them. Lord, in  
Your mercy,**

**C: hear our prayer.**

**L: Heavenly Father, You know all our anxieties and fears. Grant to those troubled in mind  
and spirit the strength to cast every care on You. According to Your will, give them  
quietness of heart and a firm trust in the mercy You have shown us in Christ Jesus.  
Lord, in Your mercy,**

**C: hear our prayer.**

**L: Place the lonely in the family of Your Holy Church, O Lord, that they may find peace in  
Christ and fulfillment in loving service to their neighbor. Lord, in Your mercy,**

**C: hear our prayer.**

**L: Make the leaders of our nation to walk in the way of justice and truth, that they may use the power vested in them to protect the weak and innocent. Lord, in Your mercy,**

**C: hear our prayer.**

**L: In the face of natural disasters, wars, famines and troubles of all kinds, fill our hearts with repentance and humility, that in every circumstance we may trust in You. Lord, in Your mercy,**

**C: hear our prayer.**

**L: Look with favor on all who are in need. Fill the hungry with good things. Give the poor and unemployed gainful employment. Show Your great mercy to those on our prayer list and bring healing according to Your loving will. This morning we add the Morton family friend, Dan Ratliff and Curtis Kuppler's friend Lenny Voekler in their great time of need. Comfort those who mourn and watch over all who travel. Be near the dying. Give courage to those who suffer oppression and want. Defend all orphans and widows, and protect the weak, the unborn and the aged. Lord, in Your mercy,**

**C: hear our prayer.**

**L: Generous Host of the Sacrament of the Altar, grant repentant hearts and faith to those who seek to receive Your body and blood this day. Make us worthy to receive this gift so as not to eat and drink to judgment upon ourselves, but for our salvation. Lord, in Your mercy, C: hear our prayer.**

**L: As we see the signs of our Lord's second coming, grant that we would not lose heart, but be faithful unto death and receive the crown of life. Lord, in Your mercy,**

**C: hear our prayer.**

**Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

**✠ SACRAMENT ✠**

## **PREFACE**

**P: The Lord be with you.**

**C: And also with you.**

**P: Lift up your hearts.**

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

- P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C:** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

- P:** Blessed are You, the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end, for You have had mercy on us and given Yourself so that whoever believes in You will not perish but have life everlasting with You in Your kingdom.

Thank You for the Table You have set for us with the very body and blood of Jesus, the Christ. Give us Your Holy Spirit, that we may faithfully enjoy the fruits of His labors and be presented blameless before the presence of Your glory with great joy. To the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever.

- C:** Amen.

### **SELF-REFLECTION**

- P:** What makes us worthy and prepared to receive this life-giving meal from our Lord? If you can answer the 5 following questions affirmatively, be assured that you are truly worthy and prepared.

1. Are you baptized in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
2. Do you know you are a sinner in need of God's grace?
3. Do you believe Jesus died to atone for your sins?
4. Do you believe that God offers His forgiveness through the "real" presence of Jesus, in, with, and under the elements of bread and wine?
5. Do you seek to amend your sinful life?

- P:** Come to the table of the Lord,  
you who have much faith and you who would like to have more;  
you who have been to this sacrament often  
and you who have not been for a long time;  
you who have tried to follow Jesus and you who have failed.  
Come, it is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

Jesus says to one and all,  
'I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never be hungry,  
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.' (*John 6:35*)



**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.**

#### **THE PEACE OF THE LORD**

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

**C: And also with you.**

#### **WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**P: Let us now approach the table of the Lord with sincere hearts, joyfully receiving His promised presence. With the very words of Christ we consecrate and partake of this sacred meal.**

**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: Let us pray.

O Lord, our righteousness and our salvation, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood.

C: Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end;

P: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

#### BLESSING OF THE LORD *2 Corinthians 13:14; Jude 24–25*

P: The grace of our Lord ✕ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

P: Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time now and forever.

C: Amen.

#### HYMN No 525 "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Crown him with many crowns, The Lamb upon his throne;  
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns All music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee,  
And hail Him as thy matchless king Through all eternity.

Crown Him the virgin's Son, The God incarnate born,  
Whose arm those crimson trophies won Which now His brow adorn;  
Fruit of the mystic rose, Yet of that rose the stem,  
The root whence mercy ever flows, The babe of Bethlehem.

Crown Him the Lord of love. Behold His hands and side,  
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.  
No angels in the sky Can fully bear that sight,  
But downward bend their burning eyes At mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o'er the grave  
And rose victorious in the strife For those He came to save.  
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,  
Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, Enthroned in worlds above,  
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n The wondrous name of Love.  
Crown Him with many crowns As thrones before Him fall;  
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, For He is king of all.

**SENDING**

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**"Home" CityAlight mp3**