

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**INVOCATION**

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

**C: Amen.**

**EASTER ACCLAMATION**

**L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!**

**C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *John 16:20; Revelation 21:6***

**L: Our help is in the name of the Lord,**

**C: who made heaven and earth.**

**L: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?**

**C: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

**L: God's grace knows no bounds! Through the sacrifice of His Son, the Bridegroom of the Church, He makes us His holy bride. Anticipating the heavenly wedding feast, let us seek God's grace now and call on Him for forgiveness and mercy.**

**C: Almighty God, have mercy on us, for we cannot help ourselves. Forgive us all that we have done in the past, give us grace in this present time, and lead us to serve You and love one another in the future and on into the eternity You have promised.**

**L: The good news in Christ is that when we face ourselves and God with the awareness of our need, we are given grace to grow and joy for our journey toward our eternal home. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.**

**C: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.**

**SONG OF PRAISE**

**"How He Loves"**

**Maranatha Singers**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**L: Let us pray.**

**O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will.**

**C: Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found;**

**L: 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 FIRST READING for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter is from the Book of Acts, chapter 11.  
(Acts 11:1–18)**

**Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, “You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.” But Peter began and explained it to them in order: “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. And I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter; kill and eat.’ But I said, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ But the voice answered a second time from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, do not call common.’ This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.’ As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God’s way?” When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.”**

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

The EPISTLE is from the *Revelation of St John, the 21<sup>st</sup> Chapter. (21:1–7)*

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6*

L: Christ has risen from the dead.

C: God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor,

L: He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

C: He has put all things under His feet.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 13:31–35*

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

**HYMN No. 706      “Love in Christ is Strong and Living”**

**SERMON      “A Disciple is Revealed by His Love” John 13:31-35 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    A Litany of Love**

**L: Lord, Make me an instrument of your love.**

**C: May we see each circumstance as an opportunity to grow in your love.**

**L: May we see in our circle of influence, a place to reflect Your love.**

**C: Then expand our circle to include others dwelling outside the scope of Your love.**

**L: When I am tempted to become impatient,  
C: help me to be patient.**

**L: When we are tempted to become unkind,  
C: help me to be kind.**

**L: When I am tempted to become jealous,  
C: help me to be tolerant.**

**L: When I am tempted to become boastful or proud,  
C: help me give you the glory.**

**L: When I am tempted to be rude or selfish,  
C: give me the gift of gentleness.**

**L: When I am tempted to take offense,  
C: help me to let go.**

**L: When I am tempted to become angry with someone,  
C: give me the gift of forgiveness.**

**L: When I am tempted to become resentful,  
C: give me your power to love.**

**L: Lord, grant that I may take no pleasure in criticizing others,  
C: but that I may see good in them, as you do.**

**L: When I begin to concentrate on the faults and failures of others,  
C: give me courage to praise their accomplishments.**

**L: Help me be loyal to those you give me to love;  
C: to pray for the injured and suffering, especially to those in our church family;**

**L: to encourage the downhearted and discontented with Your words of comfort;  
C: to support the weak and disadvantaged with the blessing of our abundance;**

**L: to be understanding with those whose marriages and families may be troubled,  
C: and to show them by our presence, Christ's compassionate grace and care.**

**L: Let the Love of God in Christ overshadow every occasion of celebration this week;  
especially the birthdays of Steve Foster, Bob Strohm, Donna Jackson, Tate Husemann,  
Ava & Cohen Morton, and the anniversary of Roger and Phillis Miesner (MEES-NER) today!  
Lord, in Your mercy, C: hear our prayer.**

**L: Gracious and loving God, we thank You that You do not change, You remain the same from before the beginning of time into eternity. Your Word says that You are good to all; You have compassion on all You have made. Abide with us in love that we may be strengthened to endure all the hardships of this life and live in joy in spite of them, until You bring us into the eternal joy of Your eternal kingdom, where You live in glory with Your Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**C: Amen.**

**✘ 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.**

**HYMN No. 790 "Praise to the Lord" (vss. 1 & 5)**

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!  
Let all who hear Now to His temple draw near,  
Joining in glad adoration!**

**Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that has life and breath, Come now with praise before Him!  
Let the Amen Sound from His people again;  
Gladly forever adore Him!**

**PRAYER**

**P: Praise to You, Lord of heaven and earth. You have revealed Your mercy to us in granting us Your only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks for the redemption prepared for us through Jesus Christ and pray You to grant us Your Holy Spirit, that enlightened with a living faith, we might be worthy to receive Him who comes to us in His body and blood.**

**C: Amen.**

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

**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.

#### **PREPARATION FOR RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT**

**P:** St Paul urges us to examine ourselves before receiving the Sacrament lest we eat and drink judgment upon ourselves. Let us prepare so that we truly recognize our sinful state, and have confident faith in His promise to forgive us in this meal.

**P:** We confess together:

- I am baptized in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- I am truly aware of my condition as a sinner and need God's grace!
- I believe Jesus died to atone for all my sins, past, present and future!
- I believe that in eating and drinking this consecrated meal of bread and wine, God assures me of His forgiveness and feeds me mysteriously with the "real" presence of Jesus, in, with, and under the elements of bread and wine?
- I desire to amend my sinful ways and seek God's help so that I may grow into the full stature of Jesus Christ, my Savior!

**P:** Our sins have drawn us into this fellowship. In true faith let us receive this gift of grace. With this affirmation of faith you are well prepared to receive this Sacrament.

**LAMB OF GOD**      (Agnus Dei)      **LSB 163**

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
Have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
Have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
Grant us peace.

**WORDS OF OUR LORD**      *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24;  
Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

**P: Now with the very words of Christ we consecrate and partake of this sacred meal together.**

**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.”**

**(For those communing from the pew;  
“Take, and eat the body of Jesus given for you.”)**

**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.”**

**(For those communing from the pew,  
“Drink of it, all of you, for the forgiveness of sins.)**

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

**C: And also with you.**

**DISTRIBUTION “Come to Jesus” (video) LSB 547 “The Lamb”**

**POST-COMMUNION “At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing” (LSB 633 vs. 2)**

**Praise we Him, whose love divine  
Gives His sacred blood for wine,  
Gives His body for the feast  
Christ the victim, Christ the priest.  
Alleluia!**

**BLESSING OF THE LORD *Numbers 6:24–26***

**L: 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 No. 917      “Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name” (vss. 1 & 4)**

**Savior, again to Thy dear name we raise  
With one accord our parting hymn of praise;  
Once more we bless Thee ere our worship cease,  
Then, lowly bending, wait Thy word of peace.**

**Grant us Thy peace through-out our earthly life,  
Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife;  
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,  
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.**

**SENDING**

**L:      Go in peace to love and serve the Lord**

**C:      Thanks be to God!**

**Exit music: “God so Loved” We the Kingdom**