

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A TIME TO PRAISE

P: The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul.

C: The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

P: The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart.

C: The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

P: The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever.

C: The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous.

P: They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold;

C: They are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb.

P: By them is your servant warned;

C: In keeping them there is great reward. (*Psalm 19:7-11*)

P: Lord, we thank You for Your commandments which not only tell us how You want us to live, but which also point out to us in a very clear and unmistakable way how far short we have fallen of keeping them. Please use our time together today to draw us closer to You and to teach us how we can better reflect our love for You in our daily lives. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit and let our lives be genuinely changed by what we do here today. In Jesus' name. Amen.

OPENING HYMN No. 806

"Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart"

**Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.**

**Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.**

**And now let the weak say "I am strong," Let the poor say "I am rich,"
Because of what the Lord has done for us.**

**And now let the weak say "I am strong," Let the poor say "I am rich,"
Because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks, Give thanks.**

A TIME TO CONFESS

- P: The Bible tells us: *"He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy."* (Proverbs 28:13) Let us therefore confess our sins before God and one another and seek His mercy and forgiveness.
- C: God of infinite compassion, we confess with deepest regret that we do not always embody the love of Christ or display the power of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives. We admit that we put up many barriers that prevent You from coming into our hearts and recreating us. Please forgive us. And destroy every resistance in us that would hinder us from becoming all that You desire us to be. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who loved us all the way to the cross. Amen.

Pastor pronounces the Forgiveness of sins.

- P: God has heard your plea for forgiveness. He is faithful even when you are not. Therefore, as a called servant of the Word, I can assure you that what you seek is now yours: the forgiveness of all your sins; new life; new sight; and a new heart. May you now live in the glorious light of God's amazing grace.

A TIME TO SHARE GOD'S PEACE

The OLD TESTAMENT Lesson for the 15th Sunday after Pentecost is recorded by the Prophet Amos, chapter 8.

Amos 8:4-7

Hear this, you who trample on the needy
and bring the poor of the land to an end,
saying, "When will the new moon be over,
that we may sell grain?
And the Sabbath,
that we may offer wheat for sale,
that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great
and deal deceitfully with false balances,
that we may buy the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals
and sell the chaff of the wheat?"

The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
"Surely I will never forget any of their deeds."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL Luke 16:1-15 (The Parable of the Dishonest Manager)

P: The Gospel according to St. Luke, the 16th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

[1] He also said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. [2] And he called him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.' [3] And the manager said to himself, 'What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. [4] I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.' [5] So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' [6] He said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' [7] Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' He said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.' [8] The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. [9] And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

[10] "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. [11] If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? [12] And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own?

[13] No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

[14] The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him.

[15] And he said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God. (ESV)

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN “In Christ Alone” W&M by Keith Getty & Stuart Townsend

**In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My Comforter, my All in all,
Here in the love of Christ I stand**

**In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless Babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
‘Till on the cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied.
For ev’ry sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin’s curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine,
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

SERMON "What's the Truth?" 1 Timothy 2:3b-4,7 Pastor Perry Schefelker

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.

A TIME TO GIVE (OFFERINGS)

(as the offerings are brought forward, we rise and sing)

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

A TIME TO PRAY

Response to individual petitions:

P: Jesus, the Way and the Truth,

C: Hear our prayer.

Concluding Prayer Response:

P: Preserve us, O Lord, from all temptation and give us faith, that we may rest all the prayers and desires of our hearts in Your merciful arms, for the sake of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen

A TIME TO RECEIVE

P: The Lord be with you as you receive His Holy Supper.

C: And also with you, His servant.

P: Let us rejoice and give thanks to Christ, for in this Meal He gives us Himself and all the blessings that He earned for us.

C: To Him be the glory forever and ever! Amen.

P: Lord, You are the Vine and we are the branches. We come to Your Table at this time in order to receive from You the spiritual nourishment and sustenance that You alone can give. Come to each of us in a personal way and impart to us Your forgiveness, strength, and peace. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit and help us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world that You've called us to be. Remember us in Your kingdom, Lord, and teach us to pray saying;

LORD'S PRAYER

**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: Now 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."

(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.")

L: Let those who are receiving Holy Communion from the altar
come forward to receive God's gift of love,
His sacred presence hidden in bread and wine.

P: The meal has been prepared and the invitation has been extended. Come, then, and receive the goodness of the Lord.

THE DISTRIBUTION "Lamb of God" Maranatha Singers (video)

“Let is Be Said of Us” W&M by Steve Fry (MP3)

Let it be said of us That the Lord was our passion
That with gladness we bore Ev'ry cross we were given
That we fought the good fight That we finished the course
Knowing within us The pow'r of the risen Lord

Chorus:

Let the cross be our glory And the Lord be our song
By mercy made holy By the Spirit made strong
Let the cross be our glory And the Lord be our song
'Til the likeness of Jesus Be through us made known
Let the cross be our glory And the Lord be our song

Let it be said of us We were marked by forgiveness
We were known by our love And delighted in meekness
We were ruled by His peace Heeding unity's call
Joined as one body That Christ would be seen by all (Chorus)

CLOSING PRAYER

P: Let us pray together:

C: We praise You, O God, for the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation which You have provided us through this very special and sacred meal. And we pray that through this blessed means of grace You would strengthen our faith that we may praise You with our lips, honor You with our thoughts, and glorify You in all that we do; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING OF THE LORD

CLOSING HYMN No. 643 “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

Sent forth by God’s blessing, Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.
The Supper is ended. Oh, now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of His teaching, Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
His grace did invite us, His love shall unite us
To work for God’s kingdom and answer His call.

With praise and thanksgiving, To God ever living,
The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, In love ever caring,
Embracing His children of each tribe and race.
With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living With praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

SENDING

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

C: Thanks be to God.