

Cross of Grace and St. Andrew Combined Christmas Worship

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God

Congregation: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

P: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners, this proves God's love for us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. **Glory to God. Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN **Joy to the World UMH 246**

*GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

*KYRIE

P: Lord have mercy.

C: Lord have mercy.

P: Christ have mercy.

C: Christ have mercy.

P: Lord have mercy.

C: Lord have mercy.

*HYMN OF PRAISE **Angels We Have Heard on High UMH 238**

LESSONS

First Lesson: Isaiah 63:7-9

Psalm: Psalm 148

Second Lesson: Hebrews 2:10-18

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Innocents Lost

*HYMN OF THE DAY **Hark the Herald Angels Sing UMH 240**

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe 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 to hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS

At the end of each petition will be said "Lord, in your mercy"

C: Hear our prayer.

PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

Doxology

P: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power of and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory! Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: 'Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.' Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Remembering these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

C: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

P: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here and on these gifts of bread and juice, make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, so that we may be the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. We pray all this through the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Who is welcome at the Lord's Table?

C: EVERYONE!

Congregational Hymns during Holy Communion:

O Come All Ye Faithful UMH 234

Away in a Manger UMH 217

The First Noel UMH 245

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray

C: Through the miracle of the incarnation you came into this world, and through the miracle of this holy meal, you have made yourself known to us. Carry us forth from here like the shepherds and magi, excited to share your good news. Amen

CLOSING BLESSING

P: May God who comes among us, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **Amen**

CLOSING HYMN The Friendly Beasts UMH 227