

WELCOME & NOTICES

OPENING SENTENCES

Rejoice in the Lord always;

again I will say, Rejoice.

Let your gentleness be known to everyone.

The Lord is near. (Phil 4:4,5 NRSV)

THE INVOCATION

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and † of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

OPENING SONG - Ancient words

Holy words long preserved

For our walk in this world

They resound with God's own heart

Oh, let the ancient words impart

Words of Life, words of Hope

Give us strength, help us cope

In this world, where e'er we roam

Ancient words will guide us home

Ancient words ever true

Changing me and changing you

We have come with open hearts

Oh, let the ancient words impart

Holy words of our Faith

Handed down to this age

Came to us through sacrifice

Oh heed the faithful words of Christ

Holy words long preserved

For our walk in this world

They resound with God's own heart

Oh let the ancient words impart

Ancient words ever true
Changing me and changing you
We have come with open hearts
Oh, let the ancient words impart

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THE CONFESSION OF SINS

Friends in Christ: knowing that our God is a God of grace and mercy,
let us confess our sins to God our Father and ask him
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**We confess that we are born 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 failed to do.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart,
and we have not loved our neighbour as ourselves.**

We deserve your eternal punishment.

**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.**

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

THE ABSOLUTION

God, our loving shepherd, meets us with mercy and grace.

Through Christ, our sins are forgiven, our burdens are lifted, and our
souls are restored.

As a called and ordained servant of the word, I announce the grace of
God to all of you.

On behalf of my Lord Jesus Christ, and by his command,
I forgive the sins of all of you who repent and believe,
in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.
Peace be with you. **Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

! **Song of Praise** - **10,000 Reasons**

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before O my soul,
I'll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before O my soul,
I'll worship Your holy name

You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger
Your name is great, and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before O my soul,
I'll worship Your holy name

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come

Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore
Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before, O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before, O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name
I'll worship Your holy name
I'll worship Your holy name

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THE GREETING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray that we rejoice in the Lord.

God of joy, keep us

from being weighed down by worry.

Encourage us instead to lay our burdens on you.

Make us cheerful and glad

because your Son Jesus is always with us.

For he lives and reigns

with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

Amen.

ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN

Blessings:

May God go with you, fill your hearts with joy, and help you grow in His love today. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 25:1-9 God swallows up death in the feast of victory.

O Lord, you are my God;

I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

² For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of foreigners is a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.

³ Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

⁴ For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,

⁵ the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶ On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;

⁸ he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day,
“See, this is our God; we have waited for him,
so that he might save us.

This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd there is nothing I shall want
The Lord is my shepherd there is nothing I shall want

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want, he makes me to lie
down in green pastures, he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul, and guides me in paths
of righteousness for his name's sake.

The Lord is my shepherd there is nothing I shall want

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
For you are with me,
Your rod and your staff they comfort me.

The Lord is my shepherd there is nothing I shall want

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies you
anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows, surely goodness and mercy
shall always follow me, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

The Lord is my shepherd there is nothing I shall want.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the
beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

The Lord is my shepherd there is nothing I shall want.

THE SECOND READING

Philippians 4:1-9 Rejoice in the Lord always

¹Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.

³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 22:1-14 The parable of the wedding feast

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them.

⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen."

THE ADDRESS

Theme: The Shepherd who walks with us.

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,
Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with
the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has
spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic† and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

OFFERING SONG - My heart will trust

I'll walk closer now on the higher way
Through the darkest night will you hold my hand
Jesus guide my way
O you mourn with me and you dance with me
For my heart of hearts is bound to you

Though I walk through valleys low I'll fear no evil
By the waters still my soul, my heart will trust in you

O you counsel me and you comfort me
When I cannot see, you light my path

Though I walk through valleys low I'll fear no evil
By the waters still my soul, my heart will trust in you

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THE OFFERTORY

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free spirit.**

OFFERING PRAYER

Thank you, Lord, for inviting us to your feast,
and showering on us so many good things.

Help us to value the privilege
of being your people and serving you.

Lead us gladly to accept your call,
and use us to bring others to your banquet.
Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PREFACE

It is indeed right and good,
Lord God, holy Father,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks to you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

On this day
he overcame death by his resurrection
and opened up for us
the way to eternal life with you.
And so, with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we adore and praise your glorious name:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 his disciples, and said:

Take and eat; this is † my body, which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, after the supper,

and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said,

Drink of it, all of you; this is † my blood of the new covenant,

which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done,

on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy, have mercy on us.** *(repeat)*

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

O Come to the altar

Are you hurting and broken within?
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin?
Jesus is calling
Have you come to the end of yourself
Do you thirst for a drink from the well?
Jesus is calling

O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today there's no reason to wait
Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
From the ashes a new life is born
Jesus is calling

O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

(repeat)

Oh what a saviour
Isn't He wonderful?
Sing hallelujah, Christ is risen
Bow down before Him
For He is Lord of all
Sing Hallelujah, Christ is risen (repeat)

...

O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ
(repeat)

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world of the treasure you found

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He will hold me fast

1. When I fear my faith will fail
Christ will hold me fast
When the tempter would prevail
He will hold me fast
I could never keep my hold
Through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold
He must hold me fast

He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so
He will hold me fast

2. Those He saves are His delight
Christ will hold me fast
Precious in His holy sight
He will hold me fast
He'll not let my soul be lost
His promises shall last
Bought by Him at such a cost
He will hold me fast

He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so
He will hold me fast

3. For my life He bled and died
Christ will hold me fast
Justice has been satisfied
He will hold me fast
Raised with Him to endless life
He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight
When he comes at last"

He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so
He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so
He will hold me fast.

THE DISMISSAL

The body of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ,
and his precious blood strengthen and preserve you
in body and soul to life eternal.

Go in peace †. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION SONG

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace,
your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation
you have prepared in the sight of every people:
a light to reveal you to the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.
Amen.

THE THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Gracious God,
you have fed us at your table
and reminded us that we belong to you.
Strengthen us with the gift of Christ's presence,
restore our weary hearts,
and send us into the world
to share your goodness, mercy and love.
May we walk with those who are weary
and make room for all at your table.
Amen.

THE BLESSING

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 favour and give you † peace
Amen.

THE COMMISSION

Go now in peace, trusting the shepherd who walks with you.
Rest when you are weary, receive when you are hungry,
and walk beside those who are travelling through dark valleys.
May goodness and mercy follow you, and may your life become a place
of welcome and grace for others.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

In your hand my Saviour

1. In your hand, my Saviour,
there's a home for me.
It's the safest place on earth to be.
There you make me welcome, give me a new start,
for your peace has healed my wounded heart.

When I'm near my Saviour,
he gives joy to me.
God alone, he is my sword and shield.
When I'm near my Saviour, he gives peace to me.
God shines on each flower in his field.

2. In your hand, my Saviour,
joyful I can be,
for you offer precious gifts to me:
Mercy and forgiveness, even though I stray.
Life is now worth living, come what may.

When I'm near my Saviour,
he gives joy to me.
God alone, he is my sword and shield.
When I'm near my Saviour, he gives peace to me.
God shines on each flower in his field.

3. In your hand, my Saviour,
I can freely cry,
speak my fears and ask my questions why.
Viciousness and evil, nailed you to a tree.
'Pardon' cries your cross and sets me free.

When I'm near my Saviour,
he gives joy to me.
God alone, he is my sword and shield.
When I'm near my Saviour, he gives peace to me.
God shines on each flower in his field.

4. In your hand, my Saviour,
finally I rest,
where my life has been so richly blessed.
By your hand you bring me to a future bright,
filled with endless peace and joy and light.

When I'm near my Saviour,
he gives joy to me.
God alone, he is my sword and shield.
When I'm near my Saviour, he gives peace to me.
God shines on each flower in his field.

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