

WELCOME & NOTICES

OPENING SENTENCES

For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God;

they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

(Rom 3:22b-24 NRSV)

THE INVOCATION

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

OPENING HYMN Come Spirit of God

1. Come, Spirit of God, holy Lord,
with all your graces now out-poured
on each believer's mind and heart;
your fervent love to them impart.
Lord, by the brightness of your light
in holy faith your church unite;
from every land and every tongue
This to your praise, O Lord, our God,
be sung: Alleluia, alleluia!

2. Come, Spirit of light, guide divine,
now cause the Word of life to shine.
Teach us to know our God aright
and call him Father with delight.
From every error keep us free;
let none but Christ our master be,
that we in living faith abide,
in him, our Lord, with all our might
confide. Alleluia, alleluia!

3. Come, Spirit of fire, comfort true,
grant us the will your work to do
and in your service to abide;
let trials turn us not aside.
Lord, by your power prepare each heart,
and to our weakness strength impart
that bravely here we may contend,
through life and death to you,
our Lord, ascend. Alleluia, alleluia!

Author: Martin Luther
Tr. Catherine Winkworth
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THE CONFESSION OF SINS

Children of God: Let us ask our Father to forgive us our sins, because
Jesus Christ is our Lord, who has died and risen again for us.

PLEASE BE SEATED

**Lord God, our heavenly Father,
we confess to you that we are sinful,
and we have sinned against you in many ways:
in our thoughts and in our words;
in what we have done,
and in what we have failed to do.
Have mercy and forgive us.
Fill us with your Holy Spirit,
help us to obey you,
keep us from all evil,
and bring us to eternal life.
We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

or **THE ABSOLUTION**

Hear the good news.

The truth about God's love is found in his Son Jesus,
and that truth sets us free.

Through Jesus' death on the cross, and his resurrection
we are declared sons and daughters of the living God,
and have a place in his household forever.

Therefore, 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

All Glory be to God on high (ELW)

1. All glory be to God on high
and peace to earth be given!
Let angels sing, let all reply;
goodwill breaks forth from heaven!
Lord God Almighty, heaven's king,
we worship you, our thanks we sing,
we praise you for your glory.

2. Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son
of God, creation's author,
O Lamb of God, your death alone
takes sin away forever.
Stretch out your arms to every land,
and, as you reign at God's right hand,
receive our prayer; have mercy.

3. To you alone, O God, we cry,
the Holy One we name you;
for you alone are God most high,
one living God we claim you:
we worship you, Lord Jesus Christ,
with God the Spirit ever blest,
in God the Father's glory.

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THE GREETING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

**Almighty God, gracious Lord,
we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age.
Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people.
Keep them steadfast in your word,
protect and comfort them in times of trial,
defend them against all enemies of the gospel,
and bestow on the church your saving peace.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

PLEASE BE SEATED

 **ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN**

Blessing for kids as they go out

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



THE FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:27-34 The Lord's new covenant

²⁷ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals. ²⁸ And just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the Lord. ²⁹ In those days they shall no longer say:

“The parents have eaten sour grapes,
and the children’s teeth are set on edge.”

³⁰ But all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of the one who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge.

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 93

Cantor: *The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.*

Response: *The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.*

*God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear,
though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake
in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.*

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

*There is a river whose streams
make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city;
it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice,
the earth melts.*

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

*Come, behold the works of the Lord: see
what desolations he has brought on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
"Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth."*

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Music:

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THE SECOND READING

Romans 3:19-28 Justification by faith

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia.

The one who sows the good seed
is the Son of Man.

Alleluia, alleluia.



THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 8:31-36 "In my word, you will know the truth"

³¹ Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³ They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.



THE GOSPEL PROCESSION

God's Word is our great heritage forever.

To spread its light shall be our chief endeavour.

Through life it guides our way;

In death it is our stay.

Lord, grant your Church may hold it fast, Throughout all generations.



THE ADDRESS



NICENE CREED

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell;
the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe that Jesus Christ,
true God, Son of the Father from eternity,
and true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.**

**At great cost he has saved and redeemed me,
a lost and condemned person.
He has freed me from sin, death and the power of the devil-
not with silver or gold,
but with his holy and precious blood
and his innocent suffering and death.**

**All this he has done that I may be his own,
live under Him in His kingdom,
and serve Him in everlasting righteousness,
innocence, and blessedness,
just as he is risen from the dead,
and lives and rules eternally.**

This is most certainly true.

OFFERING HYMN

LHS 804 The Church of Christ

**1. The Church of Christ, in every age,
Beset by change, but Spirit-led,
Must claim and test its heritage
And keep on rising from the dead.**

**2. Across the world, across the street,
The victims of injustice cry
For shelter and for bread to eat,
And never live until they die.**

**3. Then let the servant Church arise,
A caring Church that longs to be
A partner in Christ's sacrifice,
And clothed in Christ's humility.**

**4. For he alone, whose blood was shed,
Can cure the fever in our blood,
And teach us how to share our bread
And feed the starving multitude.**

**5. We have no mission but to serve
In full obedience to our Lord;
To care for all, without reserve,
And spread his liberating Word.**

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THE OFFERTORY

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and 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 a willing spirit.**



OFFERING PRAYER

**Heavenly Father,
there is nothing that we could offer to you
as a sacrifice for our sin.
Yet in your great love,
you have offered up your own Son,
so that through him we may be put right with you.**

**Accept the gifts we offer here today,
as mere tokens of our gratitude
for the great gift of salvation
which you have given to us.
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 him 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 hosts;
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
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

1. Our Father, you from heaven above
have turned toward us the face of love;
Bless us, your children, with your name;
its holy wonders now proclaim;
your kingdom and your will alone
through us and in us here make known.

2. Give us this day our daily bread
as every life by you is fed;
forgive our sins' enormities;
as we forgive our enemies;
let no temptation us betray
no evil threaten us, we pray.

3. Yours is the kingdom, yours alone
the constant praise before your throne;
all powers and all dominions, Lord,
are subject to your mighty word;
all glory yours, by every tongue
for ever let your praise be sung.

Based on the Lord's Prayer
Contributors: Henry L. Lettermann
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THE PEACE

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

LAMB OF GOD

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

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Distribution Hymn Now thank we all our God

1. Now thank we all our God
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom the world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

2. O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us.
And nourish us in grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm
in this world and the next.

3. All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son and spirit blest,
enthroned in highest heaven:
The one eternal God,
whom earth and heav'n adore,
For thus it was, is now,
and shall be ever more.

Authors: Sebastian Bach
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Distribution Hymn Dear Christians one and all rejoice

1. Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,
let's celebrate together;
let's sing with joy and confidence
about our loving Saviour:
proclaim the great things God has done,
the battle fought, the victory won,
and how much it has cost him.

2. Once Satan held me in his chains,
I suffered night and morning,
for I was lost in death through sin,
the sin that I was born in.
My heart was filled with deep despair;
I feared that only death was there,
and I'd be lost for ever.

3. But long ago God saw my need;
his mercy would not leave me,
and he remembered his great love,
determined now to save me.
He turned a father's heart to me,
and, knowing what the cost would be,
gave up his dearest treasure.

4. God said to his beloved Son:
'It's time to show compassion.
Then go, my heart's most precious crown,
and bring the poor salvation.
Release them from their sin's distress,
kill death, with all its bitterness,
that they may live for ever.'

5. To me Christ said: 'Hold on to me,
and I will go before you;
I wholly give myself to you,
and I will struggle for you.
My life will swallow death, and win;
my innocence bears all your sin,
and you are blest for ever.'

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! 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

1. O Lord, now let your servant
depart in heavenly peace,
for I have seen the glory
of your redeeming grace:
a light to lead the gentiles
unto your holy hill,
the glory of your people,
your chosen Israel.

2. Then grant that I may follow
your gleam, O glorious light,
till earthly shadows scatter,
and faith is changed to sight,
till raptured saints shall gather
upon that shining shore,
where Christ, the blessed day-star,
shall light them evermore.

Contributors: Ernest E. Ryden

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THE THANKSGIVING PRAYER

**Holy and compassionate God,
in bread and wine you give us gifts
that form us to be humble and courageous.
May your words come to life
in our serving and in our witness,
that we might speak a living voice
of healing and justice to all the world,
through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.
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

Continue in God's word.

Know the truth in Jesus.

Live in the freedom of the Father.

In the name of Christ. Amen.



CLOSING HYMN

A mighty fortress

1. A mighty fortress is our God,
a trusty shield and weapon,
our faithful helper in all need,
no matter what may happen.

The old evil foe
now means deadly woe;
deep guile and great might
are his dread arms in fight;
on earth he has no equal.

2. With our own might is nothing done;
we'd soon be lost, rejected.

But for us fights the very one
whom God himself elected.

And who may this be?

Christ Jesus is he. ...

He is our great Lord,
there is no other God;
and he has won the battle.

3. Though hordes of devils gather here,
all eager to devour us,
we tremble not, we do not fear,
they cannot overpower us.
This world's prince may still
scowl fierce as he will,
he does us no harm,
he's judged, he's overcome;
one little word can fell him.

4. Despite all foes, the Word shall stand
against all their endeavour;
God's gifts and Spirit, close at hand,
shall be with us for ever.
Though they cause distress,
take all we possess,
though they hurt and kill,
we are victorious still;
the Kingdom's ours for ever.

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