



We are a Christian community called to **worship** and sent to **serve**,  
welcoming all to **walk** with Christ and **grow** in faith.

**AS WE GATHER**

Living in the ups and downs of this mortal life, in a world opposed to Christ and His purposes, it may seem like peace is a secret that must be found to be enjoyed. There is no secret, as it were, but the peace that passes understanding is hidden—hidden in Christ. This peace is not some relative calm against the upset of the world but knowing Christ and living in His strength, comfort, forgiveness, joy, and peace amid every circumstance of life. This is not to be confused with happiness, which is hard to find and ever harder to define. No, this gift of peace means knowing with contentment the steadfast love and mercy of God given to us in Christ Jesus, His Son.

**WELCOME & INVOCATION**

*Matthew 28:19b; 18:20*

- P** We gather in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

**OPENING SENTENCES**

*Psalm 146:2; Isaiah 61:10*

- P** I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
- C** my soul shall exult in my God,
  
- P** for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
- C** He has covered me with the robe of righteousness.

**HYMN: “WE PRAISE YOU, O GOD”**

*LSB 785*



- 1 We praise You, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
- 2 We wor - ship You, God of our fa - thers, we bless You;
- 3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



In grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.  
Through tri - al and tem - pest our guide You have been.  
And glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore You, we kneel and a - dore You;  
When per - ils o'er - take us, You will not for - sake us,  
With You, Lord, be - side us, Your strong arm will guide us.



We bless Your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.  
And with Your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.  
To You, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

Text: Julia B. Cory, 1882–1963, alt.  
Tune: Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck, 1626, Haarlem  
Text and tune: Public domain

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*1 John 1:8-9; John 20:19-23*

**P** God's Word tells us, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."**

*Silence for reflection.*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and 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.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray:

**C** **Merciful Father, in Your mercy You have visited us with Your Son that we might know the joy of His salvation. Grant that this joy we know in Christ may be with us in every circumstance and be fulfilled in us when we are delivered through death into everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Psalms 24:7-10*

<sup>7</sup>Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

<sup>8</sup>Who is this King of glory?  
The LORD, strong and mighty,  
the LORD, mighty in battle!

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

<sup>9</sup>Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And lift them up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

<sup>10</sup>Who is this King of glory?  
The LORD of hosts,  
he is the King of glory!

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

*1 Peter 2:4-10*

<sup>4</sup>As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, <sup>5</sup>you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

<sup>7</sup>So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,”

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

<sup>8</sup>and

“A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:25–30

<sup>25</sup>At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; <sup>26</sup>yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup>All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the

Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. <sup>28</sup>Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

**P** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## NICENE CREED

Nicene Creed

**C** 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 He 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.

And 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  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

## HYMN: “HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION”

LSB 728



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,  
2 “Fear not! I am with you, O be not dis - mayed,  
3 “The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose  
4 “When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way will lie,  
5 “Through - out all their life - time My peo - ple will prove



Is laid for your faith in His ex - cel - lent Word!  
For I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I will not, I will not, de - sert to his foes;  
My grace, all - suf - fi - cient, will be your sup - ply.  
My sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can He say than to you He has said  
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,  
The flames will not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign  
And then, when gray hairs will their tem - ples a - dorn,



Who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?  
Up - held by My righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.  
I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er, for - sake!  
Your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.  
Like lambs they will still in My bos - om be borne.”

Text: A Selection of Hymns,  
1787, London, alt.  
Tune: Genuine Church Music,  
1832, Winchester  
Text and tune: Public domain

## SERMON

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** For . . . *[additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]* . . . let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen.**

## OFFERING

### THE LORD'S SUPPER

#### 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.**
- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**To our visitors:** The **Lord's Supper** is celebrated at St. John in the confession that not only bread and wine, but Jesus Christ's very body and blood are given to us to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of our sins and to strengthen our faith in Him and our union (*communion*) with one another. Our Lord invites to His table all those who believe His words, repent of all sin, and set aside all refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. *If this is your first time at St. John or if you have not been instructed about the Lord's Supper, we ask that you speak to the Pastor before participating in the Lord's Supper*

**For those who wish to take communion in their seat, please notify an usher or elder, and be seated near the center aisle. We offer either individual or common cup for the wine.**

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY - SANCTUS

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

- P** Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:  
heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
- C** **Hosanna in the highest.**
- P** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
- C** **Hosanna in the highest.**

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

**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  $\text{†}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

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  $\text{†}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**C** 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.

## PEACE OF THE LORD - PAX DOMINI

*John 20:19*

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## LAMB OF GOD - AGNUS DEI

*John 1:29*

**P** Behold, the Lamb of God,

**C** who takes away the sin of the world.

**P** Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

**C** Have mercy on us and grant us Your peace. Amen.

## DISTRIBUTION

HYMN: "SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US"

LSB 711



1 Sav - ior, like a shep - herd lead us; Much we  
 2 We are Yours; in love be - friend us, Be the  
 3 You have prom - ised to re - ceive us, Poor and  
 4 Ear - ly let us seek Your fa - vor, Ear - ly



need Your ten - der care. In Your pleas - ant pas - tures  
 guard - ian of our way; Keep Your flock, from sin de -  
 sin - ful though we be; You have mer - cy to re -  
 let us do Your will; Bless - ed Lord and on - ly



feed us, For our use Your fold pre - pare.  
 fend us, Seek us when we go a - stray.  
 lieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
 Sav - ior, With Your love our spir - its fill.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, You have  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Hear us  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, You have



bought us; we are Yours. Bless - ed Je - sus,  
 chil - dren when we pray. Bless - ed Je - sus,  
 let us turn to You. Bless - ed Je - sus,  
 loved us, love us still. Bless - ed Je - sus,



bless - ed Je - sus, You have bought us; we are Yours.  
 bless - ed Je - sus, Hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
 bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly let us turn to You.  
 bless - ed Je - sus, You have loved us, love us still.

Text: Hymns for the Young, 1836, 4th ed., London, alt.

Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816-68

Text and tune: Public domain

**HYMN: "THINE THE AMEN, THINE THE PRAISE"**

LSB 680



1 Thine the a - men Thine the praise Al - le -  
 2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly Thine the  
 3 Thine the tru - ly Thine the yes Thine the  
 4 Thine the king - dom Thine the prize Thine the  
 5 Thine the glo - ry in the night No more



lu - ias an - gels raise Thine the ev - er - last - ing head  
 prom - ise let there be Thine the vi - sion Thine the tree  
 ta - ble we the guest Thine the mer - cy all from Thee  
 won - der full sur - prise Thine the ban - quet then the praise  
 dy - ing on - ly light Thine the riv - er Thine the tree



Thine the break - ing of the bread Thine the glo - ry Thine the  
 All the earth on bend - ed knee Gone the nail - ing gone the  
 Thine the glo - ry yet to be Then the ring - ing and the  
 Then the jus - tice of Thy ways Thine the glo - ry Thine the  
 Then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly Then the ho - ly ho - ly



sto - ry Thine the har - vest then the cup Thine the  
 rail - ing Gone the plead - ing gone the cry Gone the  
 sing - ing Then the end of all the war Thine the  
 sto - ry Then the wel - come to the least Then the  
 ho - ly Cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee Thine the



vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.  
 sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.  
 liv - ing Thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.  
 won - der all in - creas - ing at Thy feast at Thy feast.  
 splen - dor Thine the bright - ness on - ly Thee on - ly Thee.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, 1926–2009

Tune: Carl F. Schalk, 1929

Text and tune: © 1983 Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004146

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

*Psalm 107:1*

**P** Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**BENEDICTION**

**P** 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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### HYMN: "MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS"

LSB 575



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus'  
2 When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on  
3 His oath, His cov - e - nant and blood Sup - port me  
4 When He shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh, may I



blood and righ - teous - ness; No mer - it of my  
His un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and  
in the rag - ing flood; When ev - 'ry earth - ly  
then in Him be found, Clothed in His righ - teous -



own I claim But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
storm - y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.  
prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.  
ness a - lone, Re - deemed to stand be - fore His throne!

*Refrain*



On Christ, the sol-id rock, I stand; All oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.

Tune: John Stainer, 1840–1901

Text and tune: Public domain

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 4.

Copyright © 2023 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by

Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.