



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

The Last Day may come soon, but in the meantime, many people are neglecting to use their abilities and opportunities for God’s purposes. Zephaniah writes that it will be a day of wrath and mourning. But for those who have realized God’s blessings over the years, as Psalm 90 recalls, though the times are mean, each day is an opportunity to “encourage one another and build one another up” (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Today is an opportunity to hear God’s very gracious Word, “well done!” and be strengthened to respond by using the talents He has loaned to us.

WELCOME & INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

- P** We gather in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Zephaniah 1:7b; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Matthew 25:29a

- P** The LORD has prepared a sacrifice
- P** Encourage one another
- P** To everyone who has will more be given,
- C** and consecrated His guests.
- C** and build one another up.
- C** and he will have an abundance.

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

LSB 338

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

1 John 1:8–9; Psalm 90:17

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, imploring Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- C** who made heaven and earth.
- C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
- C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

KYRIE

Mark 10:47; LSB 204; sung

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Luke 2:14; John 1:29; LSB 204; sung

- 1** To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus’ birth!
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav’nly King.
- 2** To You, O sole-begotten, The Father’s Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow’r are seated At God’s right hand on high—
- 3** For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever, Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father’s glory. “Amen!” our glad reply.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

C Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Zephaniah 1:7–16

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is near;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice
and consecrated his guests.

⁸And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice—

"I will punish the officials and the king's sons
and all who array themselves in foreign attire.

⁹On that day I will punish
everyone who leaps over the threshold,
and those who fill their master's house
with violence and fraud.

¹⁰"On that day," declares the LORD,
"a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate,
a wail from the Second Quarter,
a loud crash from the hills.

¹¹Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar!

For all the traders are no more;
all who weigh out silver are cut off.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the men
who are complacent,

those who say in their hearts,
'The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do ill.'

¹³Their goods shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them."

¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;
the mighty man cries aloud there.

¹⁵A day of wrath is that day,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you.

²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:14–30

¹⁴[Jesus said:] "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.'

²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

P This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

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 ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN

LSB 781

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

After each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy, **C** hear our prayer.

Final petition:

P Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C** 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 on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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; LSB 208; sung

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

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 WORDS OF OUR LORD

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

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." 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."

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.

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; LSB 210; sung

1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray. Text: Stephen P. Starke

DISTRIBUTION

YOUR TABLE I APPROACH

LSB 628

JESUS, THY BLOOD AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

LSB 563

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray. We give thanks to You, heavenly Father, that You have assured us of sins forgiven, so that with joy we may share Your love each day until Your Son returns to usher us into Your eternal presence; 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

STAND UP, STAND UP FOR JESUS

LSB 660

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