

Confession and Absolution

AGPS 78 Brothers and Sisters in Christ

- 1 Sing alleluia! Amen! Let your prayers and praises ascend.
Lift up your voices and sing To our Lord God, our Savior and King
Here brought together by grace We are gathered as friends in this place.

Refrain

And assembled as one, In the name of the Son,
Lifting hearts, lifting hands, Celebrating as friends,
And proclaiming the Lord, All our praises afford.
We are brothers and sisters in Christ.

- 2 Man walked alone and in need Without faith, hope or promise or creed;
Wandering, aimlessly lost, Unaware of the staggering cost:
That God in his mercy would save All his people from death and the grave. Refrain
- 3 Lord, teach us how to proclaim
All your goodness, your love and your name!
Lord, teach us how to forgive And in love, teach us, Lord, how to live.
Raising our voices in song, Help us tell all the world we belong. Refrain

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Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Exhortation

LSB 203

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**
- P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Kneel/Stand

Confession of Sins

LSB 203

- C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Prayer for Forgiveness

- P** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C Amen.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 22:27–31; antiphon: v. 22

- P** I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.
C **All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.**
- P** For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.
C **All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive.**
- P** Posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;
C **they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.**

C Glory be 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.

P I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

Kyrie

LSB 204

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

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 204

C 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.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:1–4

¹ There will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴ For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,

the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:10–18

¹⁰I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. ¹²What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." ¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

¹⁸For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

Alleluia

LSB 205

C Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Verse

LSB 205

C These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia

LSB 205

C Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 4:12–25

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹²When [Jesus] heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. ¹³And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵"The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
¹⁶the people dwelling in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death,
on them a light has dawned."

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

¹⁸While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. ²⁴So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. ²⁵And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

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 ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

AGPS 135 In Christ There is No East or West

- 1 In Christ there is no east or west,
 In Him no south or north,
 But one great fellowship of love
 Throughout the whole wide earth.
- 2 In Him shall true hearts everywhere
 Their high communion find;
 His service is the golden cord
 Close binding all mankind
- 3 Join hands, brothers of the faith,
 Whate'er your race may be;
 Who serves my Father as a son
 Is surely kin to me.
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west;
 In Him meet south and north.
 All Christly souls are one in Him
 Throughout the whole wide earth.

Text (sts. 1, 4-5): John Oxenham, 1852-1941, LSB Hymn License no. 110001274

Sermon

Grace, Mercy and Peace to you from God our Father and Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

My first preaching class emphasized that each student's definition of a sermon would be different based on the preaching they had heard before. And because each definition of a sermon was different, the process to generate a sermon would also vary slightly. Preparing a sermon is a mostly logical, step by step, process. But sermon preparation is also an art. The Holy Spirit works in both the logical and artistic.

I've heard a wide variety of preachers over the years. One who wanted to preach on every passage in the scriptures before preaching a text twice. There are some very obscure texts in the scriptures that are not included in the Lectionary for a reason. A vacancy Pastor who was a Historical Theology professor who couldn't get excited if his underwear was on fire. His dry personality and monotone voice didn't make it easy or exciting, but his distinction of Law and Gospel was rock solid. Then Pastor Moore who preached at my ordination, a very dynamic, without notes preacher. And Dr. Schmitt for homiletics, an extremely gifted and polished preacher, very talented, dramatic, and emphatic. God uses the various talents of those the Holy Spirit calls as Pastor to preach the Good News to His chosen people in a particular place.

There is trouble brewing in Corinth, a very cosmopolitan Greek sea port. Speakers would move through, entertaining and educating. And often, there would be competition between these speakers for patrons. The more eloquent, more polished speaker would draw more patrons, forcing the other to leave town in search of new patrons. After Paul plants the church at Corinth, Apollos arrives to continue building up the church. Apollos is the more dynamic and polished of the two. Both are equipped and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Both are proclaiming the Word of God, preaching Christ crucified for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. And people are naturally drawn to one or the other. And all is well until the claims of allegiance start. People begin to become more attached to the messenger than the message. Yet, unlike the speakers, the true value is not in the polish and professionalism of the presentation, but in the message itself, a message that both men proclaimed faithfully. The power is in the Word of God, the faithful proclamation of God's Plan of Salvation in which He sent Jesus, His only begotten Son, to take on Human Flesh, to live a perfect life to fulfill the Law, to take the sins of whole world upon himself, to die and accept the punishment our sins deserve, and to rise from the dead to confirm God's acceptance of His perfect sacrifice.

To the educated Greek mind, this makes no sense. It shatters the definition of worldly wisdom. As the reading ends, ¹⁸"For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

Today, the messenger or the polish of the messenger is seen as more important than the message. Celebrities use their celebrity, their fame, to advance their cause. Certainly, celebrities have been pitching everything from Life Insurance to cars and soliciting for charitable organizations across the board. The celebrity's ability to act or play a sport doesn't make their opinion more right or more valuable. And it doesn't necessarily change the validity of the cause.

For Paul and Apollos, the messenger was not important, the message was. Nothing was more important than the Good News that Jesus died for the sins of all. Paul wasn't about building a following for himself. Paul was about building a following for Jesus. Paul was called by God to serve as the apostle to the Gentiles. His call wasn't something he sought. It wasn't something he necessarily wanted. But God wanted Paul. God commissioned Paul to preach Jesus Christ. God didn't make Paul a great Orator. Paul didn't take preaching classes at the seminary. God used Paul, as he was, where he was and where God wanted Paul to go.

You and I may not be the most articulate, most polished speakers. We're probably not called to go out to all the nations personally. We're probably not called to preach Jesus on street corners. But we are called to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit uses our God given talents and developed skills to speak to people where they are and when He gives us opportunity. For example, I wasn't looking to ministry to Curtis's family the night that Linda died. But the Holy Spirit led me to pray, minister and comfort his family as he lay dying.

In Isaiah 55:10-11, God says ¹⁰"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

So, why did Jesus humble Himself to live among us and to die for us? Because we are sinners who cannot save ourselves from their sins. Conceived and born enemies of God, we would be content to live in our sins as enemies of God, and thus be eternally condemned. But God loves you and me so much that God sent Jesus to take away our sins and the sins of the world. To take away our sins of placing other gods on the thrones of our hearts. To take away our sins of not using God's name to pray, praise and give thanks. To take away our sins of not being in God's Word as much as we should. To take away our sins of division. To take away our sins of not loving our neighbor as ourselves, doing harm to our neighbor in his or her body, possessions, or reputation. To take away our sins of coveting, not being satisfied with things that we have been given by God. To take away our sins of fear, our sins of failing to faithfully witness God in our lives.

But instead of leaving us in our sins, God sent Jesus to live among us, to be our Prophet, Priest and King. As our prophet, Jesus spoke the words of God to us and guided the Holy Spirit to record God's proclamations in the Bible, God's Written Word. Jesus is our Priest who offers himself as the great sacrifice that atones for all sins and intercedes for us before God's throne of Grace. And finally, Jesus is our King who ushered in the Kingdom of Heaven and ascended into heaven to rule and reign over all things for all eternity. We live in God's Kingdom, both now and not yet. We are forgiven sinners, God's Children, heirs of His eternal kingdom, called to the waters of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. But our sinful nature still clings to us, tempting us to sin until we are called to be with our Lord. When we are called home to our Lord, our souls will go to be with the Lord until Jesus comes again on the Last Day. Then, our bodies will rise from the dead, be made perfect, immortal, and imperishable. Then, we will take our place in the restored, perfect, new heavens and earth. God himself will wipe every tear from our eyes as

we join the heavenly choir, praising and worshiping God for all eternity in complete unity with all others who have come to faith in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Amen.

And now, may the peace of God which surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus to life everlasting. Amen.

Installation of Officers

Stand

Prayer of the Church

In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the gifts of life and salvation, that the Lord would make our way glorious with the forgiveness of sins and the hope of heaven, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the continued proclamation of the cross's power, that from this life-giving tree we would receive the gifts that preserve faith, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the Church's unity in the mind and judgment of Christ, that almighty God would preserve us from division and fix our eyes on the Word of the cross, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For families, that our Father in heaven would bless our households with grace and protection; and that we might remember Him in both joy and trouble and worship before Him forever, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That the Lord, to whom all kingship belongs, would rule over the nations for the good of His people, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those oppressed by demons, illness or any other affliction, [*especially _____,*] that the Lord Jesus would heal them in body, mind and soul, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For penitent and joyful hearts, that those who partake of the Sacrament this day would rejoice that the kingdom of heaven is at hand in the body and blood of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For bold witness before the world, that God would open our mouths to speak of the wonders of life and salvation that His Son has worked for us, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together 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, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sit

Service of the Sacrament

Stand

Preface

LSB 208

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, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new 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:

Sanctus

LSB 208

C **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

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.
As the glory of Your presence once filled Your ancient temple, so in the incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You manifested the fullness of Your glory in human flesh.
We give You thanks that in His most Holy Supper You reveal Your glory to us. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood so that we may one day behold Your glory face to face.
Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

- 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.**

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 ✠ 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."

Pax Domini

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

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

- C** **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

*Sit***Distribution****AGPS 252 We are the Church**

Refrain:

I am the church!
You are the church!
We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus,
all around the world!
Yes, we're the church together!

- 1 The church is not a building,
the church is not a steeple,
the church is not a resting place,
the church is a people.

Refrain

2 We're many kinds of people,
with many kinds of faces,
all colors and all ages, too,
from all times and places.

Refrain

3 And when the people gather,
there's singing and there's praying,
there's laughing and there's crying sometimes,
all of it saying:

Refrain

4 At Pentecost some people
received the Holy Spirit
and told the Good News through the world
to all who would hear it.

Refrain

5 I count if I am ninety
Or nine or just a baby;
There's one thing I am sure about
And I don't mean maybe

Refrain

AGPS 237 They will know we are Christians by our Love

1 We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.

Chorus: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

2 We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.
3 We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride.
4 All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one.

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Text: Peter Sholtes, Tune Peter Sholtes

Stand

The Dismissal

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting.
Depart ✠ in peace.

C Amen.

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

C 1 O Lord, now let Your servant
Depart in heav'nly 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 All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding

Through all eternity.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

LSB 212

A Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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.

AGPS 257 We Praise You, O God

- 1 We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before You, we kneel and adore You;
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.
- 2 We worship You, God of our fathers, we bless You;
Through trial and tempest our guide You have been.
When perils o'ertake us, You will not forsake us,
And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.
- 3 With voices united our praises we offer
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us.
To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

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