

Call to Confession

Who is worthy to stand before God? None but Christ alone. The Son of God came in the flesh of a human body to live among us. It is Christ who redeems us, gathering our tears and our fears, redeeming each and every one.

With this confidence let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Gather us, your children who run and hide, ashamed, afraid, apathetic. We trade your goodness for ashes. We trade your peace for control. We trade your promise for certainty. Gather us to you and return us to your abundant mercy; may it flow over us, renewing our weary souls. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

The light of all life and the breath of all creation claims you, calling you “good” from the very beginning, very good. Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you**

Passing the Peace of Christ

Glory to God #113 “Gloria” refrain from *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Special Music

Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list.

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

O Christ, our light. **Hear our prayer.**

Offertory Hymn #697:

Take My Life vs. 1, 4

(seated)

Prayer of Dedication and Illumination:

God Most High, receive the gifts of our lives as an offering of gratitude for your grace. Overshadow us with your Holy Spirit and let it be with us according to your word, for nothing is impossible with you. O God, through your mighty acts we receive grace upon grace. From your fullness, feed us with your life-giving Word, that our lives, like bread, may feed a hungry world. Amen.

Scriptures for the Day:

Old Testament Lesson: Jeremiah 31:7-14.

Epistle Lesson: Ephesians 1:3 - 14.

Gospel Lesson: John 1:1 – 18

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Thanks be to God. *John 1:14*

Sermon:

Gifts

Susan Murray

Communion Hymn #510: *We Gather Here in Jesus' Name* vs. 1, 2

Invitation to the Table and Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

... Therefore we praise you, joining the song of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
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!**

... Together we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

According to Christ's commandment:

**We remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory.**

... Now pray the words Jesus our Savior taught us to pray:

**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 debts, as
we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory, forever. Amen**

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

... Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God. *(take the communion)*

... Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God. *(take the communion)*

Prayer After Communion

We sing a new song to you, Lord. Through this bread and wine we receive your joy. All of creation praises you, joining with glad voices to share the good news of Christ's saving birth. We give thanks for the Word you first sang, Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

Sending Hymn #20: *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

Benediction:

May the God of glory, the Word of life,
and the Spirit of truth bless you all,
now and forever. **Alleluia!**

John 1:14

Whatever you do, in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God. **Amen.**

Colossians 3:17

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord!**

Postlude:

Amen

Mark Hayes

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