

Opening Hymn 405

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Only the humble prayer, O God, pierces the heavens and comes into your presence. Silence our prayer when our words praise ourselves. Turn your ears from our cry when our hearts judge our neighbor. Place always on our lips the prayer of the publican as we humbly confess our sins against You and our neighbor. **Amen.**

Lord, open our lips

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: **O come, let us adore him.**

Psalm 67:1-5 Deus misereatur

O God, be merciful to us and bless us, * show us the light of your countenance and come to us. Let your ways be known upon earth, * your saving health among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, O God; * let all the peoples praise you. Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, * for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations upon earth. Let the peoples praise you, O God; * let all the peoples praise you.

Psalm 65

1 You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; * to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.

2 To you that hear prayers shall all flesh come, * because of their transgressions.

3 Our sins are stronger than we are, * but you will blot them out.

4 Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there! * they will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.

5 Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness. O God of our salvation, * O Hope of all the ends of the earth and of the seas that are far away.

6 You make fast the mountains by your power; * they are girded about with might.

7 You still the roaring of the seas, * the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

8 Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs; * you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.

9 You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; * the river of God is full of water.

10 You prepare the grain, *for so you provide for the earth.

11 You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; * with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.

12 You crown the year with your goodness, * and your paths overflow with plenty.

13 May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, * and the hills be clothed with joy.
14 May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain * let them shout for joy and sing.

First Lesson Joel (2:23-32)

O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the LORD your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame. Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on he male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit. I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes. Then everyone who calls on the name of the LORD

shall be saved; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle D: A Song of the Wilderness

- The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, * the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
- It shall blossom abundantly, * and rejoice with joy and singing.
- They shall see the glory of the Lord, * the majesty of our God.
- Strengthen the weary hands, * and make firm the feeble knees.
- Say to the anxious, "Be strong, do not fear! * Here is your God, coming with judgment to save you."
- Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, * and the ears of the deaf be unstopped.
- Then shall the lame leap like a deer, * and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
- For waters shall break forth in the wilderness * and streams in the desert;
- The burning sand shall become a pool * and the thirsty ground, springs of water.
- The ransomed of God shall return with singing, * with everlasting joy upon their heads.
- Joy and gladness shall be theirs, * and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Second Lesson / Epistle Timothy (4:6-8,16-18)

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. **Amen.**

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Thanks be to God.

A reading from the **Gospel** according to **Luke (18:9-14)**

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted." Here ends the Gospel reading.

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Brother Dennis Gibbs

Sermon Music

The Sermon

Here follows the Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us pray.

The Prayers of the People

Grateful for our blessings, determined in our mission, expectant for fulfillment, let the church cry out to God, saying: Lord, have mercy.

(As the Spirit moves you, please take turns reading one or more of the petitions. Please observe a short silence at the indicated times.)

For faithfulness, that we trust in God's promise and live in confident obedience, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For openness in reaching out to all the people of the world, that together we may walk out of darkness into God's light, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For humility, that we glory only in God's forgiving, generous love, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For perseverance, that we daily seek out all who are hurt and cry, and are in need, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For comfort for all those in any need; for health for the sick and food for the hungry; that touched by God they may shine with the brilliance of God's light, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For safety on the field of conflict and safe return to their families for all those who serve their nation in foreign lands, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

Blessed are all those who have fought the good fight and now share in the wondrous vision God promised from the beginning. That we may keep them always in our sight, eager for the day of our joyous reunion, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

O God, you make glad the hearts of all who dwell in your house. Accept our gratitude, enjoy our praise, and save us. Grant the fulfillment of our prayers through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We offer prayers for, Ed V and Jennifer D, we pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

Hear these words, O Lord, as you hear and understand the unspoken thoughts of our hearts and minds, and grant their fulfillment through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Exchange of Peace

(please stand)

Officiant - Jesus is our Peace. Let us do all we can to be Peace in our world. The peace of the Lord be always with you

People - And also with you.

The Community greets one another in the peace of Christ

Offertory: Walk in love as Christ loved us and offered himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. (*Ephesians 5:2*)

Offertory Hymn 325

Prayer over the gifts

God of constant love, you have guided your people in all times and ages. May we who offer you our praise today always be ready to follow where you lead; we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving (EP A)

The Lord be with you. Lift up your hearts. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might (*Repeat*) Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest (*Repeat*) Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest (*Repeat*).

Officiant

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, Creator of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, the perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

Silence is held, then...

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we receive these gifts. We know them to be sanctified by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body of your Son, the Holy food of new and never ending life in him.

+Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this Holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. Amen.

Officiant And now, we pray...

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Bread is broken.

Officiant

Alleluia, Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

People

Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia

The Officiant presents the bread with the following or similar words.

These are the holy gifts of God for us, the holy people of God.

So come, those who have been here often and those who have not been for not been here long: those who have much faith, and those who wish to have more: those who have tried to follow Christ, who, like me, have failed. Come, for it is Jesus who is inviting you.

Communion of the People

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Faithful God, in baptism and eucharist we are made one with you. May we who have shared in holy things always bear witness to your covenant. Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

Knowing that all of our community cannot share the Eucharist in person, we affirm that the true mystical communion of Christ and His Church is a bond of spirit and heart, grounded in faith. Therefore, we commit ourselves to this deep bond of the Spirit in union with Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

(The Officiant asks for God's blessing saying this or something similar.)

May God give us Grace never to sell ourselves short; grace to risk something big for something good; and Grace to remember that the world is too dangerous for anything but truth, and too small for anything love.

- William Sloane Coffin

Announcements

Thanksgiving Prayer: We give you thanks, O God, for your many blessings: for our days of celebration, for the love that surrounds us, for your healing presence in our lives. Keep us in your care, we pray, and help us to live as truly thankful people. Amen.

Closing Hymn 812 WLP

Dismissal:

Seeking to follow the Teacher who came not to be served but to serve, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God**.