

*The greatest of these*  
*is*  
ἀγάπη

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☧ WELCOME ☧

Welcome to all in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit!  
If you are a guest today, we welcome you and invite you to worship with us again.  
Please sign our guest register.

☧ ORDER OF WORSHIP ☧

OPENING PRAYER

P: O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in Your presence to hear Your holy Word. We pray You to open our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of Your Word we may be taught to repent of our sins, to believe on Jesus in life and death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ's sake. Amen.

HYMN 236

*Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus*

CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

THE KYRIE ELEISON (*Lord, have mercy*)

C: [sing, p. 42] **O God the Father in heaven, have mercy upon us.  
O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O God the Holy Ghost, true Comforter, have mercy upon us.**

THE ABSOLUTION

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. Amen.

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO (*Glory to God in the Highest*)

P: Glory be to God in the highest.

C: [sing p. 44] **And on earth peace, good will toward men.  
All glory be to God on high Who hath our race befriended!  
To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended;  
God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall dwell on earth again;  
O thank Him for His Goodness!**

THE SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: [sing, p. 45] **And with your spirit.**

THE COLLECT (*Prayer of the Day*)

C: **O Lord, we beseech You, mercifully hear our prayers, and having set us free  
from the bonds of sin, defend us from all evil; through Jesus Christ, Your  
Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true  
God, now and forever.**

[sing, p. 45] **Amen.**

READINGS

HISTORIC LECTONARY

**OLD TESTAMENT — Isaiah 35:3-7**

*The Joy Brought by the Messiah*

Strengthen the weak hands,  
And make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who are fearful-hearted,  
"Be strong, do not fear!  
Behold, your God will come with vengeance,  
With the recompense of God;  
He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.  
Then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
And the tongue of the dumb sing.  
For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness,  
And streams in the desert.  
The parched ground shall become a pool,  
And the thirsty land springs of water;  
In the habitation of jackals, where each lay,  
There shall be grass with reeds and rushes. <sup>(NKJV)</sup>

## GRADUAL

P: You are the God who does wonders,

**C: You have declared Your strength among the peoples.**

P: You have with Your arm redeemed Your people,

**C: The sons of Jacob and Joseph.**

P: Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all You lands!

**C: Serve the LORD with gladness, come before His presence with thanksgiving.**

P: Christ has humbled Himself and become obedient unto death,

**C: Even the death of the Cross.**

## EPISTLE — 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

*The Greatness of Christian Love*

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love. <sup>NKJV</sup>

## HOLY GOSPEL — Luke 18:31-43

*Christ Prepares to Enter Jerusalem*

Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished. For He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. They will scourge Him and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again." But they understood none of these things; this saying was hidden from them, and they did not know the things which were spoken. Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind

man sat by the road begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight." Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God. <sup>(NKJV)</sup>

## RESPONSE

P: Here end the Scripture readings.

C: [sing, p. 46] **God be prais-éd for His glad tidings.**

## THE CREED

P: Having heard God's Word, we confess our Christian faith using the words of the 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 is seated at the right hand of the Father;**

**And He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead;**

**Whose kingdom shall 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 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.**

C: [sing, p. 47] **Amen.**

**HYMN 303**

*My Song Is Love Unknown*

**THE SERMON**

*"The Greatest of These is Love"*

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**THE APOSTOLIC BENEDICTION**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit ✠ be with you all. Amen.

**OFFERING**

**HYMN VERSE**

C: [sing] **We give Thee but Thine own, Whate're the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.**

**✠ THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION ✠**

*Guests and visitors, please read the important information about our  
communion practice on the bulletin insert.*

**THE PREFACE**

P: The LORD be with you.

C: [sing, p. 50] **And with your spirit.**

P: Lift up your hearts unto the LORD.

C: [sing, p. 50] **We lift up our hearts unto the LORD.**

P: Let us give thanks unto the LORD our God.

C: [sing, p. 50] **It is good and right so to do.**

**THE GENERAL PREFACE**

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, Who with Your only-begotten Son and the Holy Spirit are one God, one Lord. In

the confession of the only true God we worship the Trinity in person and the Unity in substance, of majesty co-equal. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

#### THE SANCTUS (*Holy, Holy, Holy*)

**C: [sing, pp. 51, 52] Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; 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.**

#### THE EXHORTATION

P: Dear friends in Christ! In order that you may receive this holy Sacrament worthily, it is good that you consider what you must now believe and do. From the words of Christ: "This is My body, which is given for you; this is My Blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins," you should believe that Jesus Christ is Himself present with His body and blood, as the words declare.

From Christ's words "For the remission of sins," you should believe that Jesus Christ bestows upon you His body and blood to confirm unto you the forgiveness of all of your sins.

And finally, you should do as Christ commands you when He says "Take, eat; drink of it, all of you," and "This do in remembrance of Me."

If you believe these words of Christ, and do as He therein has commanded, then you have rightly examined yourselves and may worthily eat Christ's body and drink His blood for the forgiveness of all your sins.

You should also unite in giving thanks to Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for so great a gift, and should love one another with a pure heart, and thus with the whole Christian Church have comfort and joy in Christ our Lord. To this end may God the Father grant you His grace; through the same, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### 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.**

**C: [sing, p. 53] Amen.**

#### THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples

saying: "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, gave thanks, and 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 and for many, for the remission of sins. This do as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

#### THE AGNUS DEI (*Lamb of God*)

C: [sing p. 55] **O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, grant us Your peace. Amen**

#### THE DISTRIBUTION

**HYMN OF THANKSGIVING: 325**

*O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee*

#### THE COLLECT OF THANKSGIVING

P: We thank You, Lord God Almighty, that You have refreshed us with our Savior's Body and Blood in, with and under the bread and wine. We pray that You would strengthen us through this Sacrament in faith toward You, and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C: [sing p. 56] **Amen.**

#### THE 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 on you with favor and give ✠ you His peace.

C: [sing p. 57] **Amen, amen, amen.**

**HYMN 287, vv. 1-5**

*Jesus, I Will Ponder Now*

#### THE CLOSING PRAYER

P: O Lord, we render unto You our heartfelt thanks that You have taught us what You would have us believe and do. Help us, O God, by Your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ, to keep Your Word in pure hearts, that we thereby may be strengthened in faith, perfected in holiness, and comforted in life and death. Amen.