

## PRELUDE

## GREETING

### BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

**HYMN**           LBW#499    “Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing”  
*Verses 1 & 3*



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";  
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,  
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;  
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.  
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.  
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### First Reading: Ezekiel 17:22-24

Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will take a sprig  
from the lofty top of a cedar;  
I will set it out.  
I will break off a tender one  
from the topmost of its young twigs;  
I myself will plant it  
on a high and lofty mountain.

On the mountain height of Israel  
I will plant it,  
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,  
and become a noble cedar.  
Under it every kind of bird will live;  
in the shade of its branches will nest  
winged creatures of every kind.  
All the trees of the field shall know  
that I am the LORD.  
I bring low the high tree,  
I make high the low tree;  
I dry up the green tree  
and make the dry tree flourish.  
I the LORD have spoken;  
I will accomplish it.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17**

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

[Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ] For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 4th Chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: Mark 4:26-34**

[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

## LBW #155 "Praise the Savior, Now and Ever"

### Verses 1 & 4



1 Praise the Sav - ior, now and ev - er; praise him, all be -  
2 Day of glad - ness! Gone is sad - ness; Christ has bruised the  
3 An - thems glo - rious, hymns vic - to - rious, raise we to our  
4 Earth re - joic - es; all its voic - es glo - ry to the



neath the skies; come be - fore him and a - dore him,  
ser - pent's head; death no long - er is the strong - er;  
pas - chal King. Bonds are bro - ken, heav'n is o - pen;  
Fa - ther sing! Praise the Sav - ior, laud him ev - er,



God's own per - fect sac - ri - fice; vic - t'ry gain - ing,  
hell it - self is cap - tive led. Christ our Sav - ior  
sing, O ran - somed mor - tals, sing! Christ is ris - en  
Son of God, our Lord and King! Praise the Spir - it,



life ob - tain - ing, now in glo - ry see him rise!  
lives for - ev - er; o'er the tomb his light is shed.  
from death's pris - on, heal - ing in his wings to bring.  
through Christ's mer - it life e - ter - nal see him bring!

## APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

## **THE PRAYERS**

A Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

Holy God, you plant the seeds of faith in every nation. Enliven your church, so that the good news of your grace may root and grow throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Creator, even the trees, shrubs, and flowers delight in your goodness. From the depths of the soil to the highest mountain, bring forth new plants. Restore growth to places suffering drought. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Judge of nations, we pray for our leaders and those in power. Grant them the ability to regard those under their charge with humility, dedicating their lives in service to others. Protect those serving in the military especially... Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Divine comforter, you show compassion to those in need and provide relief to those who call on you. Bless all who suffer, especially people trapped in cycles of poverty and homelessness. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, this house of worship belongs to you. We give thanks and pray for our church musician(s) (*especially*). We dedicate to you the joyful noise that comes from this place; the cries of children, the melody of voice and instruments, and the songs from our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, we give thanks for our ancestors in the faith who are now at home with you (*especially*). We look forward to that day when we are reunited in your new creation. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

P We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.  
**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

### **BLESSING**

The blessing of God,  
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,  
✠ be upon you now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **HYMN**

LBW#379 "Spread, Oh, Spread Almighty Word"  
*Verses 1 & 4*



1 Spread, oh, spread, al - might - y Word, spread the reign of God the Lord;  
2 Tell of our Re - deem - er's grace, who, to save our hu - man race  
3 Tell of God the Spir - it giv'n now to guide us on to heav'n,  
4 Lord of har - vest, great and kind, rouse to ac - tion heart and mind;



tell how his own Son he gave, all from sin and death to save.  
and to pay re - bel - lion's price, gave him - self as sac - ri - fice.  
strong and ho - ly, just and true, work - ing both to will and do.  
let the gath - 'ring na - tions all see your light and heed your call.

### **DISMISSAL**

**A** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### **POSTLUDE**