

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

A: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God,
by whose hand we are given new birth,
by whose speaking we are given new life.

C: Amen.

A: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are welcomed, restored, and supported
as citizens of the new creation.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

**C: Holy God,
holy and merciful,
holy and mighty,
you are the river of life,
you are the everlasting wellspring.**

A: In mercy and might you have freed us from death
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,
and in them we are born anew.

The worship leader stands by the baptismal font. Water may be poured into it.

A: Glory to you for oceans and lakes,
for rivers and streams.

Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.

Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

**C: Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.
Empower our witness to your resurrection.
Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

A: Satisfy the world's needs through this living water.

Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.

Where despair prevails, grant hope.

Where chaos reigns, bring peace.

We ask this through Christ,
who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn Open Your Ears, O Faithful People
(For music see Hymn 519 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. Open your ears, O faithful people,
open your ears to hear God's word.
Open your hearts, O royal priesthood,
God has come to you.**

Refrain **God has spoken to the people hallelujah!
God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!
God has spoken to the people hallelujah!
God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!**

**2. They who have ears to hear the message,
they who have ears, now let them hear;
they who would learn the way of wisdom,
let them hear God's word. Refrain**

Text: Hasidic traditional; Williard F. Jabusch, b. 2930, English version. Text copyright 1966, 1982 Williard F. Jabusch s.d.m. OCP Publications. Music: Hasidic tune.

Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13, Romans 10)

B: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

B: The word is near you,

C: on your lips and in your heart.

B: If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

C: and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

B: Faith comes from what is heard,

C: and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

Prayer of the Day

B: Let us pray...

Holy God, you confounded the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Micah 6:1-8

D: Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³“O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

⁶“With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you

but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 15 (*read responsively*)

E: Lord, who is welcome in your house?

Who can rest on your holy mountain?

**C: Those who walk with integrity
and do only what is right,
speaking the truth with courage.**

E: They never spread slander
or abuse their friends

or condemn their neighbors.

**C: They disdain the godless,
but honor those who believe.
Before God, they give their word
and keep it at any cost.**

E: They neither lend for gain
nor take bribes against the guiltless.

**C: These are the just:
they stand forever unshaken.**

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

F: [Paul writes] ⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength. ²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Matthew 5:12)

**C: Alleluia. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.
Alleluia**

Gospel Reading Matthew 5:1-16

The gospel is announced:

G: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 5th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

¹³“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

After the reading:

G: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day **Blest Are They**
(for music, please turn to Hymn 728 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. Blest are they, the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow;
they shall be consoled.**

Refrain

**Rejoice and be glad!
Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God!**

**2. Blest are they, the lowly ones;
they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they, who hunger and thirst
they shall have their fill. *Refrain***

**3. Blest are they who show mercy;
mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart:
they shall see God. *Refrain***

**4. Blest are they who seek peace;
they are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith;
the glory of God is theirs. *Refrain***

**5. Blest are you who suffer hate
all because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom;
shine for all to see. *Refrain***

Text: David Hass, b. 1957. Music: David Haas. ©1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

Apostles' Creed

B: We confirm our faith with the Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

B: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

B: You are the shepherd who gathers us in your mighty and loving arms. Help your church to listen for your voice, especially when the voices of sin, idolatry, and oppression threaten to overpower us. Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

D: The green pastures, still waters, and dark valleys of this earth all belong to you, O Lord. Sustain your creation with a love that is both mighty and just. Where there is destruction, bring healing. Where there is desolation, bring abundance. Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

E: You proclaim shepherding love, comfort, and protection for all people and all of creation. Direct leaders in our own time to learn from your example and instruction. Give them servant hearts, that they generously seek the good of all. Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

F: You journey with us wherever our paths may lead. We pray for those feeling overwhelmed by anxiety or depression or suffering in any way. Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

F: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Peace

F: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

F: Let us share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

† THANKSGIVING †

Special Music

Hymn of Thanksgiving

Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil

For music turn to Hymn 713 in the Blue Hymnal

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your Word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.
When my heart is hard,
break the stone away.
When my heart is cold,
warm it with the day.
When my heart is lost,
lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart be good soil.**

Text and music: Handt Hanson, b. 1950, Copyright 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing/Changing Church, Inc.

Offering Prayer

B: Let us pray:

C: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen

Lord's Prayer

B: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

† SENDING †

Blessing

B: Almighty God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C: Amen

Sending Hymn Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness
(For music see Hymn 843 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. Praise the One who breaks the darkness
with a liberating light;
praise the One who frees the pris'ners,
turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the gospel,
healing ev'ry dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands
with the very bread of peace.**
- 2. Praise the One who blessed the children
with a strong yet gentle word;
praise the One who drove out demons
with a piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water
to the desert's burning sand;**

from the well comes living water
quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

3. **Praise the one true love incarnate:**
Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose for many
that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory;
praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955. Text copyright 1987 Hope Publishing Company. Music: J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

Dismissal

B: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **God's Work. Our Hands.**



Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers John and Linda Thompson
Acolyte Creed White
Counters Michele Myers and Helen Crown
Coffee Hour Sue Kaufmann

Worship assistants for next Sunday, May 7, 2023

Greeters and Ushers Tom and Carol Urbanic
Acolyte Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care Gary Boisseau
Communion Assistant Linda Flood
Counters Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Coffee Hour

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