

Preparing for Worship Today

- Today's service is also being live-streamed for participation of those who can't join us physically today.
- Congregational responses are printed in ***bold italics***.
- Pray for those who will be leading us in our worship today!



A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Prelude

The Gathering of the People of God

Processional

Call to Worship

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,

God's mercy endures forever.

He sent forth his word and healed us,

and saved us from the grave.

Give thanks to the Lord for his mercy,

and the wonders he does for his children (Psalm 107.1, 20f)

Prayer of invocation

Hymn 437 Blessed Jesus, at your word

1. Blessèd Jesus, at your word
we are gathered all to hear you;
let our hearts and minds be stirred
now to seek and love and fear you;
by your gospel pure and holy,
teach us, Lord, to love you solely.

2. All our knowledge, sense and sight
lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
till your Spirit breaks our night
with your beams of truth unclouded;
you alone to God can win us,
only you work good within us.

3. Glorious Lord, yourself impart,
light of light from God proceeding;
open lips and ears and heart,
help us by your Spirit's leading;
hear the cry your church now raises;
Lord, accept our prayers and praises.

Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619-84

Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78 (alt.)

Public domain

Welcome in the name of Christ.

God's grace, mercy and peace be with you all.

And also with you.

With the Children

The Word Spoken: Scripture and Preaching

The Testimony of Scripture

The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Job 24.1-17 *Friends with the terrors of deep darkness*

Psalms 107 *O give thanks to the LORD*

REFRAIN: Organ, then cantor, then all together (sung also at the end).
The psalm text is then sung responsively to the TONE



- ¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for | he is good;
for his steadfast love en- | -dures forever.
- ² Let the redeemed of the | LORD say so,
those he re- | -deemed from trouble
- ³ and gathered in | from the lands,
***from the east and from the west,
from the north and | from the south.***
- ¹⁷ Some were sick through their | sinful ways,
and because of their iniquities en- | -dured affliction;
- ¹⁸ they loathed any | kind of food,
and they drew near to the | gates of death.

- ¹⁹ Then they cried to the LORD | in their trouble,
and he saved them from | their distress;
- ²⁰ he sent out his word | and healed them,
and delivered them | from destruction.
- ²¹ Let them thank the LORD for his | steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to | humankind.
- ²² And let them offer thanks- | -giving sacrifices,
and tell of his deeds with | songs of joy.

John 3.14-21 *The light has come into the world*

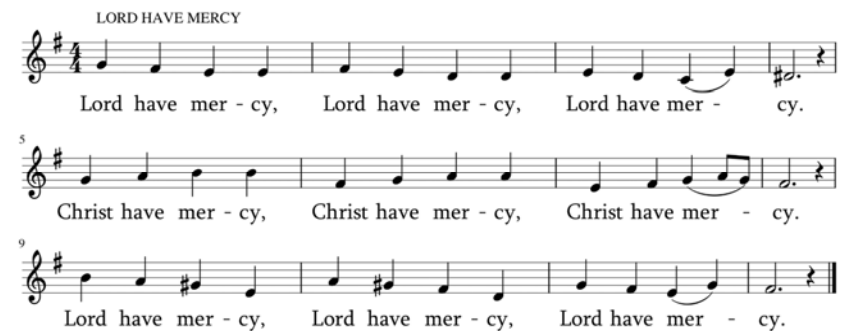
This is the gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Preaching of the Word

LITBIT: Whether it be the preaching of the gospel or “Hello”, a successful event of the word is an occasion on and in which a transforming vision of the future opens up, as the realistically entertainable future of the ones who are already there to be addressed, defined by all that has happened to them and to their world. Therefore for Christians “the word” is the word of forgiveness, which opens a future that is ours no matter what the past may have been.

ROBERT JENSON

Prayer of Confession



Lord, have mercy; (3x)
Christ, have mercy; (3x)
Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Declaration of Forgiveness

...hear, then, Christ's word of grace to us:
Your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The Apostles' Creed

*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 arose 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.*

The Visible Word: Eucharist

LITBIT: The Eucharist is a mystery not because it is mysterious, but because it is a sign of God's secret purpose, which is to unite all things in Christ. In the Eucharist we celebrate that the mess of human history, with its violence and sin, its wars and genocides, is somehow, in ways that we cannot now understand, on its way to the kingdom. It is God's will that we be gathered into unity, reconciled with each other. And so we begin the Eucharist asking the forgiveness of our brothers and sisters, the angels and the saints, the whole vast community of the kingdom. It is a sign that we are willing to be gathered into God's peace with the rest of creation.

TIMOTHY RADCLIFFE

Hymn 522 Christ is the heavenly food

1. Christ is the heavenly food that gives
to every famished soul
new life and strength, new joy and hope,
and faith to make them whole.
We all are made for God alone,
without him we are dead;
no food suffices for the soul
but Christ, the living bread.
2. Christ is the unity that binds
in one the near and far;
for we who share his life divine,
his living body are:
on earth, and in the realms beyond,
one fellow ship are we;
and at his table we are knit
in mystic unity.

*Timothy Rees, 1874-1939
Public Domain*

The Great 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.

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,

5



hea-ven and earth are full of your glor-y, ho - san - na in the high-est!

BENEDICTUS



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Ho -

4



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

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, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

CHRIST HAS DIED




Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

BLESSING AND HONOUR



Bless-ing and hon - our, glo-ry and power are yours for e - ver - more

Blessing and honour, glory and power

are yours forever more.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

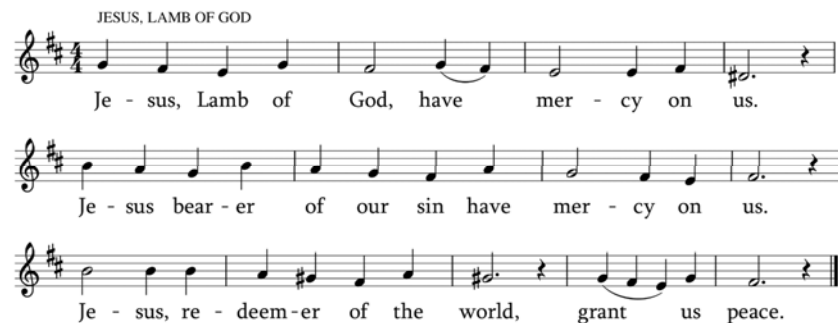
Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours

now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread



Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sin, have mercy on us.

*Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.*

The Communion

The United Church recognises this Table as the Lord's and, so, open to all who would normally commune in their home congregations.

After the invitation, and commencing from the front rows, please come forward two rows at a time, and stand in a line before the Table. Please leave a gap at the centre aisle to enable ease of access for all. Communion is presently only being distributed under the 'kind' of the bread, to minimise any potential for COVID-19 infection.

Prayers of the People

[Offering]

For the time-being, financial offerings will not be collected from the pews but should be made in the designated offering box as you enter the church. If you miss the opportunity, you can put it in the box after the service!

Notices

The Sending Forth of the People of God

Hymn 107 Sing praise and thanksgiving

1. Sing praise and thanksgiving, let all creatures living
now worship their maker with gladness and song;
all glory and honour we come to him bringing:
O praise to the Almighty, sing praise to our God!
2. Our lives of his making he brings to their waking;
in darkness he held us in his gracious care,
now into the light we are called from our sleeping:
O praise to the Almighty, sing praise to our God!
3. Lord, frame our desiring to do your requiring,
that unto your glory be all that we do;
and where we have faltered, give strength and give healing:
O praise to the Almighty, sing praise to our God!

*Paul Gerhardt 1607–76; tr. Margaret Barclay (1951);
adapted by Colin Alexander Gibson 1933–
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Word of Mission and Blessing

Postlude

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