

# The Word of God

## Announcements

*The following hymn is sung, all standing.*

### **Come, Christians, Join to sing**

*Words: Christian Henry Bateman, Music: Traditional Melody*

Come, Christians, join to sing Alleluia! Amen!  
Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!  
Let all, with heart and voice, before His throne rejoice;  
Praise is His gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your heart on high; Alleluia! Amen!  
Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!  
He is our Guide and Friend; to us He'll condescend;  
His love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again; Alleluia! Amen!  
Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!  
On heaven's blissful shore His goodness we'll adore,  
singing forevermore, "Alleluia! Amen!"

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*The people standing, the Celebrant says:*

*Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

**People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.**

*Celebrant: There is one Body and one Spirit*

**People: There is one hope in God's call to us:**

*Celebrant: One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism*

**People: One God and Father of all. Amen.**

*The following songs are sung, all standing.*

*The Celebrant says to the people*

*The Lord be with you.*

**People: And also with you.**

*Celebrant: Let us pray.*

Almighty God, by our baptism into the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, you turn us from the old life of sin: Grant that we, being reborn to new life in him, may live in the power of the Holy Spirit and grow in holiness all the days of our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **The Lesson**

*The lesson is a reading from the Book of Ezekiel, chapter 36 beginning with verse 24 (Ezekiel 36: 24 - 28):*

[24]”For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. [25] I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. [26] I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. [27] And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. [28] You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be my people, and I will be your God.

The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

The following Psalm is read responsively by whole verse (Psalm 84):

For the director of music. According to gittith. Of the Sons of Korah. A psalm.

- [1] How lovely is your dwelling place,  
O Lord Almighty!
- [2] My soul yearns, even faints,  
for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and my flesh cry out  
for the living God.
- [3] Even the sparrow has found a home,  
and the swallow a nest for herself,  
where she may have her young--  
a place near your altar,  
O Lord Almighty, my King and my God.
- [4] Blessed are those who dwell in your house;

they are ever praising you.  
[5] Blessed are those whose strength is in you,  
who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.  
[6] As they pass through the Valley of Baca,  
they make it a place of springs;  
the autumn rains also cover it with pools.  
[7] They go from strength to strength,  
till each appears before God in Zion.  
[8] Hear my prayer, O Lord God Almighty;  
listen to me, O God of Jacob.  
[9] Look upon our shield, O God;  
look with favor on your anointed one.  
[10] Better is one day in your courts  
than a thousand elsewhere;  
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God  
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.  
[11] For the Lord God is a sun and shield;  
the Lord bestows favor and honor;  
no good thing does he withhold  
from those whose walk is blameless.  
[12] O Lord Almighty,  
blessed is the man who trusts in you.

*Standing, the following hymn is sung.*

*Remain standing, the Gospel is read, first saying*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John chapter 3 beginning with  
verse 1  
(John 3: 1 - 8).

**People:            Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

[1] After dark one evening, a Jewish religious leader named Nicodemus, a Pharisee, [2]  
came to speak with Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach  
us. Your miraculous signs are proof enough that God is with you."

[3] Jesus replied, "I assure you, unless you are born again, you can never see the  
Kingdom of God."

[4] "What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into  
his mother's womb and be born again?"

[5] Jesus replied, "The truth is, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being  
born of water and the Spirit. [6] Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy

Spirit gives new life from heaven. [7] So don't be surprised at my statement that you must be born again. [8] Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit."

**People:** The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon**                    **Bishop Tommy Johnston**

**The Peace**

*The Celebrant says to the people*

*The peace of the Lord be always with you.*

**People**                    **And also with you.**

*Then the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

**Offertory:**

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. For everything in heaven and on earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom, and you are exalted as head over all.

*1 Chronicles 29:11*

**Anthem: The Robe**

*Words by Wes King; Music by Phil Naish*

Anyone whose heart is cold and lonely, anyone who can't believe,  
Anyone whose hands are worn and empty, come as you are.

Anyone whose feet are tired of walking and even lost their will to run,  
There is a place of rest for your aching soul, come as you are.

For the robe is of God that will clothe your nakedness,  
And the robe is His grace: It's all you need; come as you are.

Anyone who feels that they're unworthy, anyone who's just afraid,  
Come sinner, come and receive His mercy, come as you are.

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## **The Holy Communion**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

*All stand. The Celebrant says*

The Lord is here.  
**People: His Spirit is with us.**  
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.  
**People: We lift them to the Lord.**  
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is indeed right, it is our duty and joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ you only Son our Lord.

For he is your living Word: through him you have created all things from the beginning, and formed us in your own image.

Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin, giving him to be born as man and to die upon the cross; you raised him from the dead and exalted him to your right hand on high.

Through him you have sent upon us your holy and life-giving Spirit, and made us a people for your own possession.

And now we give you thanks because you call those within your Church to proclaim your Word and to care for your people.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, forever praising you and saying:

*The Celebrant and People say together*

**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 in the highest.**

*Then the Celebrant continues*

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and blood.

Who in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross, and proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension.

And we look for his coming in glory, we celebrate with this bread and this cup his one perfect sacrifice. Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love, and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, by the power of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise.

*The Celebrant and people together say*

**Blessing and honor and glory and power be yours forever and ever. Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray, **(In unison)**

**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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**People** **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*The Bread and the Cup are now given to the communicants. You may eat the bread and drink from the cup or you may take the bread and dip it into the cup of wine.*

*All Baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion.*

### **Songs During Communion**

After Communion, the Celebrant says  
*Let us pray.*

**Celebrant and People**

**Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **The Blessing**