

## Prelude

### Opening Hymn

#### 686 Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

- 1 Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,  
    Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
    Call for songs of loudest praise.  
While the hope of endless glory  
    Fills my heart with joy and love,  
Teach me ever to adore Thee;  
    May I still Thy goodness prove.
  
- 2 Here I raise my Ebenezer,  
    Hither by Thy help I've come;  
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,  
    Safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
    Wand'ring from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
    Interposed His precious blood.
  
- 3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
    Daily I'm constrained to be;  
Let that grace now like a fetter  
    Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;  
    Prone to leave the God I love.  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
    Seal it for Thy courts above.
  
- 4 Oh, that day when freed from sinning,  
    I shall see Thy lovely face;  
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen,  
    How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!  
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry;  
    Take my ransom'd soul away;  
Send Thine angels soon to carry  
    Me to realms of endless day.

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## Invocation

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

- ¶ In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C Amen.

## Confession and Absolution

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

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

- ¶ Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.  
C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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 God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C Amen.

# Service of the Word

## Introit

*Psalm 66:1–2, 8–9, 20; antiphon: v. 16*

- ¶ Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for my soul.  
¶ **C Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise!**  
¶ Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard,  
¶ **C who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.**  
¶ Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me!  
¶ **C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**  
¶ Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for my soul.

## Easter Hymn

### 490 Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won

- 1 Jesus lives! The vict'ry's won!  
Death no longer can appall me;  
Jesus lives! Death's reign is done!  
From the grave will Christ recall me.  
Brighter scenes will then commence;  
This shall be my confidence.
- 2 Jesus lives! To Him the throne  
High above all things is given.  
I shall go where He is gone,  
Live and reign with Him in heaven.  
God is faithful; doubtings, hence!  
This shall be my confidence.
- 3 Jesus lives! For me He died,  
Hence will I, to Jesus living,  
Pure in heart and act abide,  
Praise to Him and glory giving.  
All I need God will dispense;  
This shall be my confidence.
- 4 Jesus lives! I know full well  
Nothing me from Him shall sever.  
Neither death nor pow'rs of hell  
Part me now from Christ forever.  
God will be my sure defense;  
This shall be my confidence.
- 5 Jesus lives! And now is death  
But the gate of life immortal;  
This shall calm my trembling breath  
When I pass its gloomy portal.  
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense:  
Jesus is my confidence!

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## Salutation and Prayer of the Day

- ¶ The Lord be with you.  
¶ **C And also with you.**

- ¶ We pray.  
O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- ¶ **C Amen.**

## First Reading

*Acts 10:34–48*

<sup>34</sup>Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), <sup>37</sup>you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was

with him.<sup>39</sup> And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree,<sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear,<sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.<sup>42</sup> And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead.<sup>43</sup> To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

<sup>44</sup> While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word.<sup>45</sup> And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles.<sup>46</sup> For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared,<sup>47</sup> “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?”<sup>48</sup> And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 98

*Psalm 98; antiphon: v. 2*

<sup>1</sup> Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.

<sup>3</sup> He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

<sup>4</sup> Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

<sup>5</sup> Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody!

<sup>6</sup> With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!

<sup>7</sup> Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it!

<sup>8</sup> Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together

<sup>9</sup> before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

## Hymn

### 796 When in Our Music God Is Glorified

- 1 When in our music God is glorified  
And adoration leaves no room for pride,  
It is as though the whole creation cried:  
Alleluia!
- 2 How often, making music, we have found  
A new dimension in the world of sound  
As worship moved us to a more profound  
Alleluia!
- 3 So has the Church, in liturgy and song,  
In faith and love, through centuries of wrong,  
Borne witness to the truth in ev'ry tongue:  
Alleluia!
- 4 And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night  
When utmost evil strove against the light?  
Then let us sing, for whom He won the fight:  
Alleluia!
- 5 Let ev'ry instrument be tuned for praise!  
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!  
And may God give us faith to sing always:  
Alleluia!

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## Epistle

*1 John 5:1–8*

<sup>1</sup> Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.<sup>2</sup> By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.<sup>3</sup> For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.<sup>4</sup> For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.<sup>5</sup> Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup> This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.<sup>7</sup> For there are three that testify: <sup>8</sup>the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Holy Gospel

John 15:9–17

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

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

<sup>9</sup>[Jesus said:] “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

<sup>12</sup>This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. <sup>17</sup>These things I command you, so that you will love one another.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Apostles’ Creed

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

## Hymn of the Day

### 770 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

- 1 What a friend we have in Jesus,  
    All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
    Ev’rything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;  
    Oh, what needless pain we bear—  
All because we do not carry  
    Ev’rything to God in prayer!
  
- 2 Have we trials and temptations?  
    Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged—  
    Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
    Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our ev’ry weakness—  
    Take it to the Lord in prayer.
  
- 3 Are we weak and heavy laden,  
    Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge—  
    Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
    Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In His arms He’ll take and shield thee;  
    Thou wilt find a solace there.

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## Sermon

### “Friends”

John 15:9–17

## Hymn of Response

### 543 What Wondrous Love is This

- 1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!  
    What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
        What wondrous love is this  
            That caused the Lord of bliss

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

- 2 When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down, sinking down,  
    When I was sinking down  
    Beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.
- 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;  
To God and to the Lamb I will sing;  
    To God and to the Lamb,  
    Who is the great I AM,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing.
- 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.  
    And when from death I'm free,  
    I'll sing His love for me,  
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
    And through eternity I'll sing on.

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## Prayer of the Church

### 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. Amen.

## Offering and Voluntary

### Benediction

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**C** Amen.

## Closing Hymn

### 660 Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

- 1 Stand up, stand up for Jesus,  
    Ye soldiers of the cross.  
Lift high His royal banner;  
    It must not suffer loss.  
From vict'ry unto vict'ry  
    His army He shall lead  
Till ev'ry foe is vanquished,  
    And Christ is Lord indeed.
- 2 Stand up, stand up for Jesus;  
    The trumpet call obey;  
Stand forth in mighty conflict  
    In this His glorious day.  
Let all His faithful serve Him  
    Against unnumbered foes;  
Let courage rise with danger  
    And strength to strength oppose.
- 3 Stand up, stand up for Jesus;  
    Stand in His strength alone.  
The arm of flesh will fail you,  
    Ye dare not trust your own.  
Put on the Gospel armor;

Each piece put on with prayer.  
Where duty calls or danger,  
Be never wanting there.

- 4 Stand up, stand up for Jesus;  
The strife will not be long;  
This day the din of battle,  
The next the victor's song.  
The soldiers, overcoming,  
Their crown of life shall see  
And with the King of Glory  
Shall reign eternally.

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## Postlude

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