



*"I AM the
Vine."*

*"You are the
Branches."*

The Order of Worship

Pre-service Music and Welcome

Opening Hymn: “Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense”
Christian Worship 167

Jesus Christ, my sure defense and my Savior, now is living!
Knowing this, my confidence rests upon the hope he’s giving,
Though the night of death be fraught
Still with many an anxious thought.

Jesus, my Redeemer, lives; I, too, unto life shall waken.
Endless joy my Savior gives; shall my courage then be shaken?
Shall I fear, or could the head
Rise and leave his members dead?

No, too closely am I bound unto him by hope forever;
Faith’s strong hand the rock has found,
Grasped it, and will leave it never.
Even death now cannot part from its Lord the trusting heart.

I am flesh and must return unto dust, whence I am taken;
But by faith I now discern that from death I shall awaken
With my Savior to abide in his glory, at his side.

Glorified, I shall anew with this flesh then be enshrouded;
In this body I shall view God, my Lord, with eyes unclouded;
In this flesh I then shall see Jesus Christ eternally.

The Invocation

P: In the name of our merciful and compassionate God—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.



C: A — men!

The Confession of Sins

P: Dearly loved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.



C: Lord, have mer— cy on us. Christ, have mer— cy



on us. Lord, have mer — cy on us.

Absolution

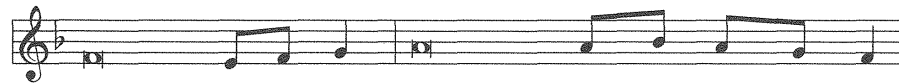
God's Forgiveness Proclaimed

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



C: A — men!

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



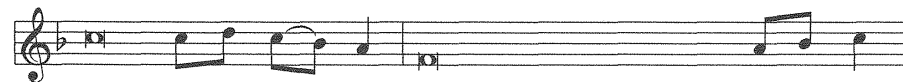
C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor- ship you, we glorify you,



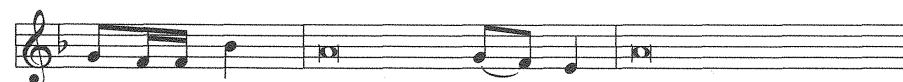
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'nly King,



God the Fa- ther Al- mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je- sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the



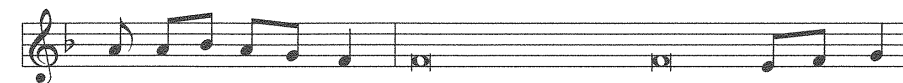
sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the



sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of



God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;



you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Spirit,



are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Prayer for the Day

P: The Lord be with you.



C: And al— so with you.

P: O gracious Lord and Redeemer, our risen, living, and triumphant Savior, you have brought us new life, new strength, and new hope. No longer are we dead and ready to be cut off and cast away from you. Instead we are connected to you in a most precious way. Continue to keep the graft you have made growing and more secure. Keep your love ever coursing through us so we can produce a rich harvest of good works done to your glory. As we live in you and serve you, keep us faithful. Strengthen us to resist temptations, deceptions, and distractions which could make us unfruitful. Bless us always by your grace, and at the end of this life, receive us into your heavenly vineyard where we will continue to live in you and love you—together with your Father and the Spirit—throughout endless ages.



C: A — men!

The Lessons from God's Word

"Be Fruitful, Just as the Lord has Made You!"

Power of the Resurrection

Acts 4:32–37

³²The whole group of believers was one in heart and soul. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they held everything in common. ³³The apostles continued to testify about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ with great power, and abundant grace was on all of them. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them. For from time to time those who were

owners of lands or houses sold them, brought the proceeds received from what was sold,³⁵ and laid it at the apostles' feet. It was distributed to each one according to what anyone needed.

³⁶Joseph, who was called Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated "son of encouragement"), a Levite, a native of Cyprus,³⁷ sold a field that belonged to him. He brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Psalm Verse

Psalm 1:1-3

P: How blessed is the man who does not walk in the advice of the wicked, who does not stand on the path with sinners, and who does not sit in a meeting with mockers. But his delight is in the teaching of the LORD, and on his teaching he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted beside streams of water, which yields it fruit in season, and its leaves do not wither. Everything he does prospers.

Sung Response

"Renew Me, O Eternal Light"

Christian Worship 471 st. 1, 3 & 4

Renew me, O eternal Light
And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace
That issues from your holy face.

Create in me a new heart, Lord,
That gladly I obey your Word.
Oh, let your will be my desire
And with new life my soul inspire.

Grant that I only you may love
And seek those things we are above
Till I behold you face to face,
O Light eternal, through your grace.

Epistle

1 John 3:18-24

¹⁸Dear children, let us love not only with word or with our

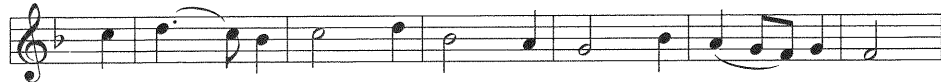
tongue, but also in action and truth.

¹⁹This is how we know that we are of the truth and how we will set our hearts at rest in his presence: ²⁰If our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God. ²²We also receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commands and do what is pleasing in his sight. ²³This then is his command: that we believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and that we love one another just as he commanded us. ²⁴The one who keeps his commands remains in God and God in him. This is how we know that he remains in us: We know it from the Spirit, whom he has given to us.

Verse of the Day

P: As the Father has loved me, so also I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you hold on to my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have held on to my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you these things so that my joy would continue to be in you and that your joy would be complete.

Alleluia



C: Al - le — lu — ia! Al - le — lu — ia! Al - le — lu — ia!

The Gospel

P: The Holy Gospel is recorded in the fifteenth chapter of John, reading from the first verse.



C: Glo-ry be to you, O Lord!

¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit, he is going to cut off. And

he prunes every branch that does bear fruit, so that it will bear more fruit.

³“You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, and I am going to remain in you. A branch cannot bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Likewise, you cannot bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵“I am the Vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him is the one who bears much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers. Such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this: that you continue to bear much fruit and prove to be my disciples.”

P: This is the Word of our God; our source of life, our source of strength, and our source of joy to produce good fruit.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

The Confession of Faith

(we will unite in the words of the Apostles Creed)

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

**I believe 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 is seated
at the right hand of God the Father almighty;**

**from there 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 “Though Thoughtless Thousands Choose”
Christian Worship 466

Though thoughtless thousands choose the road
That leads the soul away from God,
This happiness, dear Lord, be mine
To live and die entirely thine.

In Christ, by faith, I wish to live,
From him my life, my all, receive,
To him devote my fleeting hours,
Serve him alone with all my pow'rs.

Christ is my everlasting all.
To him I look; on him I call.
He will my ev'ry want supply
In time and through eternity.

Soon will the Lord, my life, appear;
Soon shall I end my trials here,
Leave sin and sorrow, death and pain.
To live is Christ; to die is gain.

Soon will the saints in glory meet,
Soon walk through ev'ry golden street
And sing on ev'ry blissful plain.
“To live is Christ; to die is gain.”

“Jesus, the True Vine, Gives Life!”
As he grafts branches to himself
So the branches can produce good fruit

“Create in Me”

Psalm 51



C: Cre- ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-



new a right spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-



way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho-ly Spir - it



from me. Re-store un-to me the joy of your sal-va -



tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it. A-men.

Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks

Prayer for the Day

Special Prayers and Requests

The Lord's Prayer

(spoken by the congregation and pastor)

**C: 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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory
are yours now and forever. Amen!**

Hymn

“Chief of Sinners Though I Be”
Christian Worship 385

Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed his blood for me,
Died that I might live on high, lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine, I am his and he is mine!

Oh, the height of Jesus’ love, higher than the heav’ns above,
Deeper than the depths of seas, lasting as eternity,
Love that found me—wondrous thought!—
found me when I sought him not.

Only Jesus came impart comfort to a wounded heart;
Peace that flows from sin forgiv’n,
joy that lifts the soul to heav’n,
Faith and hope to walk with God in the way that Enoch trod.

Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me.
All my wants to him are know; all my sorrows are his own.
Safe with him in earthly strife, I await the heav’nly life.

Strengthen me, O gracious Lord, by your Spirit and your word.
When my wayward heart would stray,
keep me in the narrow way.
Grace in time of need supply while I live and when I die.

Closing Prayer

P: O dearest Jesus, as the resurrected Savior you give life. That life becomes ours as you graft us to yourself the True Vine. We rejoice because through you we now live in your love. Forgiveness is ours. Hope is ours. Eternal joy is ours. As branches grafted to you, we also pray keep us closely connected to you. Never let anything cause that graft to fail or decay. Daily strengthen it and make it flourish, so we produce the good and abundant fruit of good works. Keep us ever close to you. Then, at the end of this time of your undeserved love, bring us to eternal life in heaven. There we will praise you, our Lord and Savior, together with your Father and the Spirit.



C: A — men!

The Benediction

P: Brothers and sisters, aim for perfection, listen to God's Word, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and compassion will be with you.

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
The Lord look on you with favor, and give you peace.



C: A— men. A— men. A — men.

Closing Hymn

“Let Me Be Yours Forever”
Christian Worship 596

Let me be yours forever, my faithful God and Lord;

Let me forsake you never nor wander from your Word.
Lord, do not let me waver but give me steadfastness,
And for such grace and favor, your holy name I'll bless.

Lord Jesus, my salvation, my light, my life divine,
My only consolation, to you I all resign.
For you have dearly bought me with blood and bitter pain.
Let me, since you have sought me, eternal life obtain.

O gracious Holy Spirit, my comforter and guide,
Grant that in Jesus' merit I always may confide,
Him to the end confessing whom I have known by faith.
Give me your constant blessing and grant a Christian death.

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Today—*Welcome in Name of our gracious Savior, Jesus Christ!*
May the grace given by the True Vine well up within you
bringing you joy for life and joy in service. If you are visiting this
morning, please sign the guest book or a visitor card. Come back
and worship with us again, soon.

- Following the worship service there will be time for a cup of coffee and the gift of fellowship in the Lord.
- Christian Education will follow the service. We will do a character study on Barnabas, and the gift the Lord gave him for service in his Church.

Monday—Handbell practice begins at 7:00 pm. Preparations will be made for Ascension, Pentecost, and Trinity.

Wednesday—Bible Class at 7:00 pm.

Friday—Office Hours from 10:30 am—2:30 pm.

Saturday—Spring Fling under Oaks. Everything begins at 4:00 pm. Please see the insert in the service folder, the help needed sheets on the table, or speak with Emily Schroeder.

- Church Cleaning—Favuzzi.
- Mowing beginning April 27th—Everson

Sunday, May 5th—In Person Worship and Live-Streaming at

9:30 am. We know and rejoice in the love that Jesus has showered on us through his life, death, and resurrection, now we need to live in that love. This is not always the easiest thing to do. This is why Jesus' exhortation is needed, "Remain in my love."

- The Lord's Supper will be offered in this service. You may register to receive the Sacrament today.
- Christian Education will follow the service and will focus on the evidence of the resurrection and its power when Peter brought Tabitha back to life.

Thank You

To Al Todd, our Hymnsoft operator; to Josh Schueler and Jim Everson for controlling the audio and video portions of the streaming; to Sue Proeber for placing flowers on the altar—to the glory of God and in grateful thanks for all of his blessings.

Acknowledgements

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