

This is my commandment,
that you love one another
as I have loved you.



John 15:12, NRSV

The Order of Worship

*(We will follow the Service of Word and Sacrament
as it is printed on page 26 in the front section of the Hymnal)*

Pre-Service Music and Welcome

Opening Hymn

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”
Christian Worship 157

Jesus Christ is ris’n today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ our heav’nly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured, Alleluia!
Now above the sky he’s King, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as his love, Alleluia!
Praise him, all you heav’nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

The Invocation

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

The Confession of Sins

P: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with
humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our
sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

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.

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 the 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: Amen!

Lord have Mercy

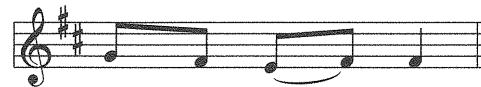
P: God so loved the world that he sent his one and only Son, Jesus Christ. He has lived for us. He has died for us. Through his intercession, he has assured us he will hear and answer all our prayers for our good. With this confidence, we pray:

P: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer — cy.

P: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love, and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



C: Christ, have mer — cy.

P: For the well-being of your holy church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise; hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer — cy.

P: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care.



C: A — — men!

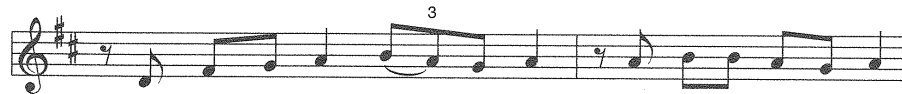
P: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise;



C: O Lord, our Lord, how glor-ious is your name in



all the earth. Al—might—y God, mer- ci- ful Fa—ther,



you crown our life with your love. You take a- way our sin;



you com — fort our spir—it; you make us pure and



Ho—ly in your sight. You did not spare your on—ly Son,



but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,



how glor—ious is your name in all the earth.



O Son of God, e—ter—nal Word of the Fa—ther,



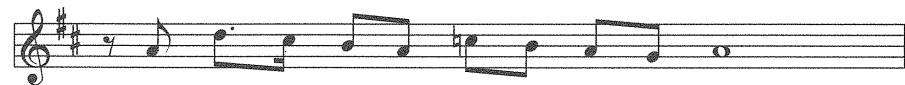
you came to live with us; you made your Fa—ther known;



you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the



King of glo—ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,



how glor—ious is your name in all the earth.

Prayer of the Day

P: Dearest Jesus, you are love, and everything you do reflects that love for us. Your coming into this world reveals your great love. Your willingness to live under the obligations of the Law further proclaims your love. Your obedience to suffer and die in our place exclaims how great your love is. Give us faith to receive and rejoice in your love. Give us also the ability to love in return. As you taught, people will know we are your disciples by the way we love. Let there be no doubt or confusion that we are yours. Help us live in your love throughout this life. Then give us the privilege to live in your love in heaven. There we will praise you as our loving Savior—together with the Father and the Spirit—throughout endless ages.



C: A — — men!

The Lessons from God's Word *"Love Divine, Is Strong and Living"*

The Power of the Resurrection

Acts 9:36-42

³⁶In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was always doing good deeds and acts of charity.

³⁷At that time she became sick and died. After they had washed her, they laid her in an upstairs room. ³⁸Since Lydda is near Joppa, when the disciples heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, who urged him, "Come to us without delay!"

³⁹Peter got up and went with them. When he arrived, they led him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing him the robes and clothing that Dorcas made while she was still with them.

⁴⁰After Peter sent them all outside, he got down on his knees and prayed. Then he turned toward the body and said, "Tabitha, get up!" She opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

⁴¹He gave her his hand and helped her stand up. After he called

the saints and the widows, he presented her to them alive.

⁴²This became known all over Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

Response to the Lesson

P: The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in mercy. He will not always accuse. He will not keep his anger forever. He does not treat us as our sins deserve. He does not repay us according to our guilty deeds. Yes, as high as the heavens are above the earth, so powerful is his mercy toward those who fear him.

Psalm for the Day

Psalm 89

Refrain

At the works of your hands, O Lord, I
lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.

Psalm tone

*

I will sing of the LORD'S great love for- | ever; *
I will make your faithfulness known through
all gener- | ations

I will declare that your love stands firm for- | ever, *
that you established your faithfulness in heav- | en itself.

The heavens praise your won- | ders, O LORD; *
your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the | holy ones.

Refrain

O LORD God Almighty, who | is like you? *
You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness
sur- | rounds you.

Blessed are those who learned to ac- | claim you, *
who walk in the light of your pre- | sence, O LORD.

They rejoice in your name | all day long; *
they exult in your | righteousness.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son, *
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning, *
is now, and will be forever. | Amen

Refrain

Epistle

1 John 4:7–11, 19–21

⁷Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸The one who does not love has not known God, because God is love. ⁹This is how God’s love for us was revealed: God has sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we may live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Dear friends, if God loved us so much, we also should love one another.

¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰If anyone says, “I love God,” but hates his brother, he is a liar. For how can anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, love God, whom he has not seen? ²¹This then is the command we have from him: The one who loves God should also love his brother.

Children’s Message

“I am Loved!”

Verse of the Day

P: See the kind of love the Father has given us that we should be

called the children of God, and that is what we are! The world does not know us, because it did not know him. Dear friends, we are children of God now, but what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when he is revealed we will be like him, and we will see him as he really is. Everyone who has this hope purifies himself just as Jesus is pure.

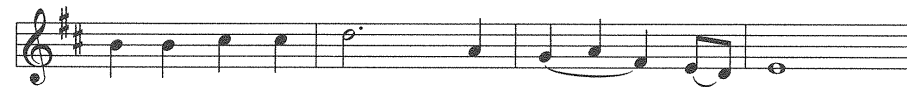
Alleluia!



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



These words are writ—ten that we may be—lieve that



Je—sus is the Christ, the Son — of God.



Al—le—lu—ia! Al—le—lu—ia! Al—le—lu—ia!

Gospel

John 15:9–17

⁹As the Father has loved me, so also I have loved you. Remain in my love. ¹⁰If 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. ¹¹I have told you these things so that my joy would continue to be in you and that your joy would be complete.

¹²“This is my command: Love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this: that someone lays down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you continue to do

the things I instruct you. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, because everything that I heard from my Father, I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will endure, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ¹⁷These things I am instructing you, so that you love one another.”

P: This is the Word of our God!



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

“This Is My Will”

Christian Worship 497

We will use the melody of the Tallis’ Canon

“This is my will, my one command,
That love should dwell among you all.
This is my will, that you should love
As I have shown that I love you.

“No greater love can any have
Than that one die to save his friends.
You are my friends if you obey
What I command that you should do.

“I call you now no longer slaves;
No slave knows all the master does.
I call you friends, for all I hear
My Father say, you hear from me.

“You chose me not, but I chose you,
That you should go and bear much fruit.
I chose you out that you in me
Should bear much fruit that will abide.

“All that you ask my Father dear
For my name’s sake you shall receive.
This is my will, my one command,
That love should dwell in each, in all.”

Sermon

John 15:9-14

“Remain in My Love!”
Following my commands
Living in complete joy

The Confession of Faith

(We join in the words of the Nicene Creed)

**C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

**On the third day he rose again in accordance
with the Scriptures;**

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is
worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen!**

Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks

Prayers for the Day

*Special Prayers and requests
Prayer for the Communicants*

The Lord's Prayer

(spoken with the 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 of Preparation

*"I Come, O Savior, to Your Table"
Christian Worship 310 st. 1-2*

I come, O Savior to your table, for weak and weary is my soul;
O Jesus, you alone are able to satisfy and make me whole.
Lord, may your body and your blood
Be for my soul the highest good!

Oh, grant that I in manner worthy
may now trust solely in your Word,
And, conscious of the sins before me,
look only unto you, O Lord.
Lord, may your body and your blood
Be for my soul the highest good!

*Prayers of Personal Preparation may be found on page 10
in the front of Christian Worship.*

The Sacrament

P: The Lord be with you.



C: **And al—so with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.



C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: Give praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He sent his one and only Son into the world to show us his love, and through faith save us by that love. Through him has come salvation, power, the kingdom of our God, and the authority to rule over all things. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb, be praise and

thanks, honor and glory—for ever and ever.

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus



C: Ho—ly, ho—ly, ho—ly, is the Lord of hosts;



The whole earth is full of your glo—ry.



You are my God, and I will ex—alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be—come my sal-



va—tion. Ho—ly, ho—ly, ho—ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo—ry.

The Words of Institution

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying: “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The Blessing of Peace

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



C: A ——— men.

O Christ, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a—way the sin of the



world; have mer—cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



take a—way the sin of the world; have mer—cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a—way the sin of the



world; grant us your peace. A ——— men.

The Congregation may be seated for the Distribution

The Lord's Supper is a Sacrament through which Jesus Christ our Savior strengthens our faith and forgives our sins. In it we receive His actual body and blood, as we receive the bread and the wine. If you have not communed with us before, or if you are not familiar with our procedure, please do not come to the Lord's Table today. We also encourage you to speak with our pastor following the service. He will be happy to share with you the necessary preparations to receive our Savior's body and blood in a future service.

Our request comes out of love for you and concern for your spiritual well-being, so that you can receive the blessing our Lord wants you to receive.

Thanksgiving

Song of Thanksgiving

(Congregation rises and sings)



Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu — ia!

Closing Prayer

P: O gracious Lord and Savior, you have blessed us with your undeserved love and your never-failing assurance to help us in every time of need. Through your Word of Truth you have revived our fearful hearts and strengthened us to meet every challenge. With your blessed Supper you have refreshed our burdened consciences and restored us through your forgiveness. With your precious promises you have renewed our strength and empowered us to live in love. Continue to pour out your blessings. Keep us strong and in your protection until we enter the place you have prepared for us. Throughout this life, as well as throughout all eternity, make it our sole desire to love, serve, and praise you—together with your Father and the Spirit.



C: A ——— men.

The Benediction:

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you,

The Lord make his face shine on 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

“Love Divine, All Love Excelling”

Christian Worship 365

Love divine, all love excelling,
Joy of heav’n to earth come down,
Fix in us your humble dwelling,
All your faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, you are all compassion,
Boundless mercy from above.
Visit us with benediction;
Come us with heav'nly love.

Take away our love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be.
End of faith as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.
We would ever seek your blessing,
Serve you as your hosts above,
Pray and praise you without ceasing,
Glory in your perfect love.

Sanctify your new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be.
Let us trust your great salvation,
Won for us on Calvary,
Till we lay our crowns before you,
Till in heav'n we take our place,
Till in glory we adore you,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Today—*Welcome in Name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.* How blessed we are to have the testimony of the Scriptures to reveal who Jesus is and how great the love he has for us, and into which he calls us to live.

- If you are visiting this morning, please sign our guest book, and visit us again—soon!
- Following the worship service there will be time for fellowship, snacks, and a cup of coffee.
- Around 11:00 am there will be Bible Class. The lesson will consider is the account of Tabitha from the Book of Acts.

Monday—Handbell choir practice at 7:00 pm.

Announcements continued on page 21

Tuesday—Church Council Meeting at 7:00 pm. The Committees will meet at 8:00 pm if needed.

Wednesday—Bible Class at 7:00 pm. We will start with the first section of the Table of Duties—the Qualifications of a Pastor and What a Congregation owes its Pastor.

Friday—Office hours from 10:30—2:30 pm.

Saturday—Cleaning—Favuzzi

- Lawn beginning May 12th—Schroeder

Sunday, May 12th—In Person Worship and Live-Streaming at 9:30 am. When Jesus ascended into heaven it was to signal his work to secure forgiveness and eternal life was complete and accepted by his Father. What it didn't mean was that the work of proclaiming this message of good news to the world was done. Through Paul we learn that the work committed to Christ's Church at his Ascension continues.

- Christian Education will follow the service and will review Luke's account of the Ascension in the Book of Acts.

Thank You

To Al Todd, our Hymnsoft operator; to Jim Everson and Josh Schueler for controlling the audio and video for the streaming of the service; to Sue Proeber for placing flowers on the altar—to the glory of God; and to Caroline Pettus and Karolyn Hanna for serving snacks after the service.

Acknowledgements

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