

Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. "Who, for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

"And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father [and the Son]; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen."

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Let us pray:

O Almighty and most merciful God, of Your bountiful goodness keep us, we pray, from all things that may hurt us that we, being ready in both body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish whatever things you want done; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Deut. 7:6-9 NKJV

"For you *are* a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt."

"Therefore know that the LORD your God, He *is* God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments.

PSALM: Psalm 125 ESV *with Doxology*

The Lord Surrounds His People
Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

**As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the LORD surrounds His people, from this time forth and forevermore.**

For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous, lest the righteous stretch out their hands to do wrong.

**Do good, O LORD, to those who are good,
and to those who are upright in their hearts!**

But those who turn aside to their crooked ways
the LORD will lead away with evildoers!
Peace be upon Israel!

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it
was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.**

EPISTLE LESSON: Romans 8:28-39 ESV

And we know that for those who love God, that all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom He predestined He also called, and those whom He called He also justified, and those whom He justified He also glorified.

God's Everlasting Love

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?

Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, Who was raised—Who is at the right hand of God, Who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

THE GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 13:44-52 NKJV (please rise)

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away.

So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of fire.

There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth." Jesus said to them, "Have you understood all these things?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He said to them, "Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old."

GOSPEL HYMN: R 414 TIS SO SWEET TO TRUST IN JESUS
MUSIC FOR FOR MEDITATION:

Here I am Lord – Dean Carson

It is Well With My Soul – George Stern, Pr. Steve, Alto Saxophones

SERMON: 'Love and Forgiveness' Rev. Steve Dygert + STS

Forgiveness! Drama: Erica Dunn, and Pr. Steve Dygert

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father, and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Ephesians 1:2*

C: Amen

SERMON HYMN: R 441 STAND UP, STAND UP FOR JESUS

OFFERING: Psalm 51

Create in me, a clean heart, Oh Lord
And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not, away from thy presence
And take not thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me, the joy of thy salvation,
And uphold me in thy free Spirit. Amen

Rite of Friendship:

P. The Peace of the Lord Be With You Always.

C. **And Also With You.**

P. We now have the opportunity to share back with the Lord a little of the bounty He has shared with us.

As the offering is brought forward, we will sing the Doxology.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him all peoples here below.

Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts.

Praise father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

Doxology, written in England for Protestant Churches in 1674.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Merciful Father,

C: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what You have first given us-our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of Your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of Him who offered Himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

THE PRAYERS: Let us Pray: *(Prayer Response)* Lord in your Mercy: Hear our prayer

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

**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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and forever. Amen**

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE:

WORDS OF INSTITUTION: *Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1st Corinthians 11:23-25*

On the night He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ, took bread, and after giving thanks, He broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said; "Take and eat; this is My body, given for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same manner, after supper He took the cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to the them saying, "Drink ye all of it; this cup is the new testament in My blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of of Me."

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. *1st Corinthians 11:26*

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again!

THE DISTRIBUTION, THE COMMUNION BLESSING

SENDING HYMN: R3 Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

THE AARONIC BENEDICTION: Numbers 6: 24-26

LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH:

**Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be
With God as our father
Brothers all are we
Let me walk with my brother
In perfect harmony**

**Let this be the moment now
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow
To take each moment
And live each moment
In peace eternally
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me!!**

THE DISMISSAL P. Go in peace! Serve the Lord! C. **Thanks be to God!!**