INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY
Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord’s table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

SILENT PRAYER

PRELUDE:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING (ENTRANCE RITE)

Stand

HYMN: *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*  # 392

*Printed on the next page.*
1 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter,
2 Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in
sorrow now; Alleluia! he is near us; faith be
food, our stay; Alleluia! here the sinful flee to
tent we own; Alleluia! born of Mary, earth your
his the throne; Alleluia! his the triumph, his the
victory alone. Hark! The songs of peaceful
lieves, nor questions how. Though the cloud from sight re-
you from day to day. Intercessor, friend of
footstool, heav’n your throne. As within the veil you
victory alone. Hark! The songs of peaceful
zie on thunder like a mighty flood: “Jesus
ceived him when the forty days were o’er, shall our
sinners, earth’s redeemer, hear our plea where the
entered, robed in flesh, our great high priest, here on
zie on thunder like a mighty flood: “Jesus
out of ev’ry nation has redeemed us by his blood.”
hearts forget his promise: “I am with you ev’ry more”? songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.
earth both priest and victim in the eucharistic feast.
out of ev’ry nation has redeemed us by his blood.”
CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ABSOLUTION)

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

P  In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C  Amen.

P  Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C  Amen.

P  Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Kneel/Stand

P  Most merciful God,
C  we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.
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.
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.
As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,
and by his authority,
I therefore declare to you
the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Stand
GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.
KYRIE

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mercy.

A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

☐ Lord, have mercy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

☐ Lord, have mercy.

A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mercy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. ☩ Amen
CANTICLE OF Praise

A This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.
PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, from whom all good things come: Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to think those things which are right, and by your goodness help us to do them; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Sit

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Acts 17:22-31

Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God’s word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.

A reading from Acts.

22 Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. 23 For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24 The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. 26 From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, 27 so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. 28 For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

For we too are his offspring.’

29 Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. 30 While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31 because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.
SECOND READING

The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.

A reading from First Peter.

13 Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? 14 But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, 15 but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; 16 yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. 17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. 18 For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, 19 in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, 20 who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. 21 And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The congregation sings the Acclamation.

The choir sings the First Verse.

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

The congregation repeats the Acclamation.

The choir sings the Second Verse.

On this day the LORD has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

The congregation repeats the Acclamation.
GOSPEL
In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.

P The holy gospel according to John.
C Glory to you, O Lord.
[Jesus said to the disciples:] 15”If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. 17 This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.
18 ”I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. 19 In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

P The gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit
SERMON
Pastor Weleck

Stand
The Nicene Creed is appropriate during Advent, Christmas, Easter, and on festival days; the Apostles’ Creed during Lent and at other times.
NICENE CREED

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic 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.
PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation.

A Almighty and everlasting God, gracious Father, in Jesus Christ you have burst open the tomb and triumphed over all sin and death forever in order that we might be raised up out of sin and death to live a new life. We pray that this resurrected life may come to our homes, our churches, and our world, and that we may worship the risen Christ not only with liturgy and song on Easter Sunday, but with hearts, hands, and voices all our days. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A We pray for the church, for its pastors and bishops, for the newly baptized, for all the faithful, for this congregation here gathered, and for our growth in grace. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A We pray for all nations, for all rulers, legislators, and judges, for an increase of justice in our lands, and for all who work for peace among nations and among peoples. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A We pray for all in any need, for the hungry and the homeless, for victims of war and injustice, for prisoners, for all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, for the sick and infirm, for all with incurable illness, and for all who this day will die. We pray especially for those we name in the silence of our hearts... Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A We pray for the members of our armed forces wherever they serve, and especially when they serve in harm’s way, that they might speedily complete their mission and be safely reunited with their loved ones. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

**LORD’S PRAYER**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.  
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.

**SENDING**

**BLESSING (BENEDICTION)**

P God the Father, who raised Christ from the dead,  
    open to you the gate of everlasting life.  
C Amen.

P God the Son, who burst forth from the grave,  
    give you joy as you celebrate his resurrection.  
C Amen.

P God the Holy Spirit, who brought you to birth in baptism,  
    fill you with strength and peace.  
C Amen.

P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,  
    bless you now and forever.  
C Amen.
DISMISSAL
A  Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C  Thanks be to God.

HYMN: Go, My Children with My Blessing

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.

In my love’s baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Here you heard my dear Son’s story, here you touched him, saw his glory.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you, here my tender comfort stilled you.

Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”

POSTLUDE:
The Easter Cycle celebrates the events surrounding our Lord’s passion, death, and resurrection. Beginning with Ash Wednesday, the Easter Cycle includes the Lenten season, Holy Week, and the Easter Season. This cycle concludes with the Day of Pentecost, as the culmination of the resurrection through the coming of the Holy Spirit to Christ’s followers.

The Paschal Candle, symbolic of our Lord’s resurrection, is positioned on the Gospel side of the altar and is lighted at all services during the Easter season (up to and including the Day of Pentecost).

The liturgical color white, symbolic of purity, joy, and the light of Christ, is used on the festivals of Christ. Gold is a more festive version of white.