

"Knowing the Tree from the Forrest"

### As We Gather

After Jesus miraculously fed the multitudes of people, they struggled to see the forest for the trees. Jesus came to provide the greater things of forgiveness and eternal life. Through His teaching we now can see the forest from the trees – the cross to which He would go.

### Welcome

**Hymn of Invocation** "Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear"

LSB 908

**Lord, open now my heart to hear,  
And through Your Word to me draw near;  
Let me Your Word e'er pure retain;  
Let me Your child and heir remain.**

**Your Word inspires my heart within;  
Your Word grants healing from my sin;  
Your Word has pow'r to guide and bless;  
Your Word brings peace and happiness.**

**To God the Father, God the Son,  
And God the Spirit, Three in One,  
Shall glory, praise, and honor be  
Now and throughout eternity.**

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**P** In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Confession and Absolution

- A** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C** **who made heaven and earth.**
- A** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,  
**C** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**
- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,  
**C** **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**
- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

## Service of the Word

### Introit

With upright heart he shepherded them  
**and guided them with his skillful hand.**

He commanded the skies above  
**and opened the doors of heaven,**  
and he rained down on them manna to eat  
**and gave them the grain of heaven.**  
Man ate of the bread of the angels;  
**he sent them food in abundance.**

**☐** *(sing)* **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world  
without end. Amen.**

**Kyrie** *(sing)*

**☐** **Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Gloria in Excelsis** *(sing)*

**☐** **Glory be to God on high:  
and on earth peace,  
goodwill toward men.  
We praise Thee, we bless Thee,  
we worship Thee,  
we glorify Thee, we give thanks  
to Thee, for Thy great glory.  
O Lord God, heav'nly King,  
God the Father Almighty.  
O Lord, the only-begotten Son,  
Jesus Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God,  
Son of the Father,  
that takest away  
the sin of the world,  
have mercy upon us.**

**Thou that takest away  
the sin of the world,  
receive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand  
of God the Father,  
have mercy upon us.  
For Thou only art holy;  
Thou only art the Lord.  
Thou only, O Christ,  
with the Holy Ghost,  
art most high  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

**Salutation and Collect of the Day** (*sing responses*)

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And with thy spirit.**

**P** Let us pray.

Merciful Father, You gave Your Son Jesus as the heavenly bread of life. Grant us faith to feast on Him in Your Word and Sacraments that we may be nourished unto life everlasting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**Old Testament**

Exodus 16: 2-15

*(Bread from heaven)*

<sup>2</sup>The whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, <sup>3</sup>and the people of Israel said to them, "Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt,

when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

<sup>4</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not. <sup>5</sup>On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.” <sup>6</sup>So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, “At evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, <sup>7</sup>and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against the LORD. For what are we, that you grumble against us?” <sup>8</sup>And Moses said, “When the LORD gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the LORD has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him—what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the LORD.”

<sup>9</sup>Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, ‘Come near before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.’” <sup>10</sup>And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. <sup>11</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, <sup>12</sup>“I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’”

<sup>13</sup>In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp. <sup>14</sup>And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground. <sup>15</sup>When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

**How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!**

For from him and through him and to him are all things.

**To him be glory forever. Amen.**

## Epistle

Ephesians 4: 1-16

*(Unity in the Body of Christ)*

<sup>1</sup>I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup>with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. <sup>7</sup>But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup>Therefore it says,

“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,  
and he gave gifts to men.”

<sup>9</sup>(In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup>He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) <sup>11</sup>And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup>until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup>so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. <sup>15</sup>Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, joined and

held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia** (*stand to sing*)

**C** **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**Gospel**

John 6: 22-35

*(Jesus is the bread of life.)*

**A** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.

**C** (*sing*) **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

<sup>22</sup>On the next day the crowd that remained on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. <sup>23</sup>Other boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. <sup>24</sup>So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.

<sup>25</sup>When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" <sup>26</sup>Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. <sup>27</sup>Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal." <sup>28</sup>Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" <sup>29</sup>Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." <sup>30</sup>So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform?" <sup>31</sup>Our fathers ate the manna in

the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" <sup>32</sup>Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup>For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." <sup>34</sup>They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

<sup>35</sup>Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

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

**C** *(sing)* **Praise be to Thee, 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.**

## **Children's Message**

**Hymn of the Day** "The Gifts Christ Freely Gives"

LSB 602

**The gifts Christ freely gives  
He gives to you and me  
To be His Church, His bride,  
His chosen, saved and free!  
Saints blest with these rich gifts  
Are children who proclaim  
That they were won by Christ  
And cling to His strong name.**

**The gifts flow from the font  
Where He calls us His own;  
New life He gives that makes  
Us His and His alone.  
Here He forgives our sins  
With water and His Word;  
The triune God Himself  
Gives pow'r to call Him Lord.**

**The gifts of grace and peace  
From absolution flow;  
The pastor's words are Christ's  
For us to trust and know.  
Forgiveness that we need  
Is granted to us there;  
The Lord of mercy sends  
Us forth in His blest care.**

**The gifts are there each day  
The holy Word is read;  
God's children listen, hear,  
Receive, and they are fed.  
Christ fills them with Himself,  
Blest words that give them life,  
Restoring and refreshing  
Them for this world's strife.**

**The gifts are in the feast,  
Gifts far more than we see;  
Beneath the bread and wine  
Is food from Calvary.  
The body and the blood  
Remove our ev'ry sin;  
We leave His presence in  
His peace, renewed again.**

**All glory to the One  
Who lavishes such love;  
The triune God in love  
Assures our life above.  
His means of grace for us  
Are gifts He loves to give;  
All thanks and praise for His  
Great love by which we live!**

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**Sermon** "Knowing the Tree From the Forrest"

John 6: 22-35

## Offertory *(sing)*

**C** Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
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 with Thy free spirit. Amen.

## Prayer of the Church

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Ever-present Lord, in this world, a place of sin and wilderness, You give us what we need to sustain our bodies and lives. Greater than anything, You sent Your Son from heaven to be the bread of life that we never hunger for grace and forgiveness. We humbly ask You to be with us, sustain us, lead us, and guide us through this land all our days.

**P** Lord of all comfort and peace, hear the cries of all who bear burdens emotionally, spiritually, and physically. We especially lay before You those who desire our prayers, Jane Donnica, Layla Clark, Betty Hatfield, Erik Peterson, Gus Hoff, Kathy Gillis, Linda Frank (Melissa's Mom) Katie Curtis Carlson, Henry Helmke, Delpha Kessler, Michael Rasch, Denny Emerson, Jeremy Richard, Betty Williams, Steve Tieken, Bill Mischen, Barbara Kerber, Paul Bruns, Betty Tucker, Jan Meskill, Lillian Taron, Debbie Taboada, Gernot Arbruster, Donna Krueger, Dan Benson, Tammy Tolbert, Tisha Robinson, Henry Bader, Benny Broadway, Liz Glass, Brian Krueger, Bruce Zehms. Give hope to those who mourn and grieve. Let Your presence be known and heal according to Your will. Point us to the greater healing of eternal life in the resurrection.

**P** Lord of all provision, we thank You for the daily bread You give to us. As You provide for all Your creatures, give us grateful hearts to live in continual

thanks to You. Work Your justice and mercy through our leaders and those throughout the world. Enliven our faith that fruits be had in loving service to our neighbors. Feed us with Your Word and Spirit, and as we receive Your body and blood in this Sacrament, satisfy our hunger and thirst for forgiveness and grant nourishment of faith.

**P** Our Father in heaven, uphold and strengthen all families on the earth. Guide parents to teach their children all that You have done and promised. Be with each member of St. Paul, especially those we lift to You this day, Bruce, Lori, Emily, Joseph Davis, Lisa De Los Santos, Bill & Margie Dellaughter, Dylan, Julie, Alex, Beth, Charlotte Dellaughter. Bless the children of our CLC, Mathew, Odell, Grae, Brooklynn, along with their parents and our staff. Unite the members of all families in a spirit of affection and service that they may show Your praise in our land and in all the world. Grant Your blessing wherever Your people gather around Word and Sacrament. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** Extend Your kingdom, O Lord, through mission efforts around the world. Open voices to speak Your word of law and grace, and open ears to hear Your invitation to turn and be saved. Continue to bless and keep Jerry Lawson in the mission ministry You have called him to in St. Petersburg, Russia. Encourage and strengthen for service Heather and Nathan in their final preparations as they move to Jos, Nigeria. Bless with Your Spirit's presence the ingathering of our international ministries. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**A** **AMEN.**

**Time of Reflection** "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"

Beverly DuPree

## Prepare our Hearts for Communion

1. Do I believe that I am sinful without hope of eternal life except for God's mercy in Christ Jesus?
2. Do I believe that Jesus is God's Son and my personal Savior?
3. Do I believe that He is personally present with His Body and Blood?
4. Do I desire by the Holy Spirit's power to live a Godly life?

## Communion Instructions

*For those who are intolerant to alcohol, grape juice is available in the center of each communion tray marked by purple cups. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.*

## Preface *(sing responses)*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And with thy spirit.**

**A** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

**C** **It is meet and right so to do.**

**A** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people.

**P** Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## **Sanctus** *(sing)*

- C** Holy, holy,  
holy Lord God of Sabaoth;  
heav'n and earth are full  
of Thy glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna,  
hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He,  
blessed is He,  
blessed is He that cometh  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna,  
hosanna in the highest.

## **Lord's Prayer** *(sing response)*

- A** 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.
- C** **For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever  
and ever. Amen.**

## **The Words of Our Lord**

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**Pax Domini** (*sing response*)

**A** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

**Agnus Dei** (*sing*)

**C** **O Christ, Thou Lamb of God,  
that takest away the sin of the world,  
have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God,  
that takest away the sin of the world,  
have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God,  
that takest away the sin of the world,  
grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

**Distribution Hymn** "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

LSB 821

**Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;  
His the scepter, His the throne;  
Alleluia! His the triumph,  
His the victory alone.  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion  
Thunder like a mighty flood:  
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation  
Has redeemed us by His blood."**

**Alleluia! Not as orphans  
Are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluia! He is near us;  
Faith believes, nor questions how.  
Though the cloud from sight received Him  
When the forty days were o'er,  
Shall our hearts forget His promise:  
"I am with you evermore"?**

**Alleluia! Bread of heaven,  
Here on earth our food, our stay;  
Alleluia! Here the sinful  
Flee to You from day to day.  
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,  
Earth's Redeemer, hear our plea  
Where the songs of all the sinless  
Sweep across the crystal sea.**

**Alleluia! King eternal,  
Lord omnipotent we own;  
Alleluia! Born of Mary,  
Earth Your footstool, heav'n Your throne.  
As within the veil You entered,  
Robed in flesh, our great High Priest,  
Here on earth both priest and victim  
In the eucharistic feast.**

**Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;  
His the scepter, His the throne;  
Alleluia! His the triumph,  
His the victory alone.  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion  
Thunder like a mighty flood:**

**"Jesus out of ev'ry nation  
Has redeemed us by His blood."**

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**Distribution Hymn "O Living Bread from Heaven"**

LSB 642

**O living Bread from heaven,  
How well You feed your guest!  
The gifts that You have given  
Have filled my heart with rest.  
Oh, wondrous food of blessing,  
Oh, cup that heals our woes!  
My heart, this gift possessing,  
With praises overflows.**

**My Lord, You here have led me  
To this most holy place  
And with Yourself have fed me  
The treasures of Your grace;  
For You have freely given  
What earth could never buy,  
The bread of life from heaven,  
That now I shall not die.**

**You gave me all I wanted;  
This food can death destroy.  
And You have freely granted  
The cup of endless joy.  
My Lord, I do not merit  
The favor You have shown,  
And all my soul and spirit  
Bow down before Your throne.**

**Lord, grant me then, thus strengthened  
With heav'nly food, while here  
My course on earth is lengthened,  
To serve with holy fear.  
And when You call my spirit  
To leave this world below,  
I enter, through Your merit,  
Where joys unmingled flow.**

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**Nunc Dimittis** (*sing*)

**☩ Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant  
depart in peace according to Thy word,  
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
which Thou hast prepared before  
the face of all people,**

**a light to lighten the Gentiles  
and the glory of Thy people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father  
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

**Thanksgiving** (*sing responses*)

**☩ O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
☩ and His mercy endureth forever.**

**☩** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in

fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C And with thy spirit.**

**Benedicamus** (*sing response*)

**A** Bless we the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**Benediction** (*sing response*)

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

**C Amen, amen, amen.**

**Hymn to Depart** "Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer"

LSB 918

**Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer,**

**Pilgrim through this barren land.**

**I am weak, but Thou art mighty;**

**Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.**

**Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,**

**Feed me till I want no more;**

**Feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain**

**Whence the healing stream doth flow;**

**Let the fiery, cloudy pillar**

**Lead me all my journey through.**

**Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,**

**Be Thou still my strength and shield;  
Be Thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death and hell's destruction,  
Land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever give to Thee;  
I will ever give to Thee.**

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## **Postlude**

### **Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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