

## Service of the Word

*Please feel free to adapt this service as needed to fit your setting (e.g., move the placement of hymns, add announcements, etc.). Assigned texts for the Revised Common Lectionary as well as the Narrative Lectionary can be found on [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com) or by searching for “Revised Common Lectionary” or “Narrative Lectionary” online.*

### Welcome

#### Confession and Forgiveness

L: Siblings in faith, God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Trusting in this grace and mercy, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

*Silence for reflection*

L: Loving God,

**C: we confess that we have not always lived up to your claim upon our lives. We fail to see your image in the faces of our neighbors and in ourselves. We turn away from your call to care for the vulnerable people in our community and in our world. We hide away from you and forget that you love us wholeheartedly, no matter what. Forgive us, God. Open our eyes to the love you have for us and those we meet. Inspire us to share that love with others. Remind us that we can never stray so far that you won't call us back. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

L: Beloved in Christ, hear the good news. God loves you more than you will ever know. In the name of Christ, your sins are forgiven. Rejoice, take heart, and move forward in faith, trusting that God in Christ Jesus is with you always.

**C: Thanks be to God! Amen**

### Gathering Song

#### Greeting

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

**C: And also with you.**

**Hymn of Praise** (you may use the Hymn of Praise from any setting in the ELW, or a hymn/song of your choosing)

#### Prayer of the Day

*(use the following, or, if you have access to Sundays and Seasons, other online or the book, use the Prayer of the Day for the Sunday for which you are preparing this service)*

L: Holy God, you gather your people from places far and wide to join together in worship, word, and song. Inspire us in these holy moments today to hear and see where you are leading us. Give rest to our weary souls, enlighten our minds, and fill our hearts with your love. We ask all of this in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

### First Reading

### Psalm

## **Second Reading**

### **Gospel acclamation (optional)**

#### **Gospel**

L: The holy gospel according to...

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*(After the reading)*

L: The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Sermon/Reflection/Sharing of Faith Stories**

#### **Hymn of the Day**

#### **Creed**

L: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*(You may use the following prayers, the prayers from Sundays and Seasons, or write your own.)*

L: Let us pray for all in need of God's care this day.

L: God, we praise you for the people you have called the Church. Bless the ministry and worship of all who gather this day around your holy Word. Breathe your Spirit into all those you have called and claimed as your own. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: God, we are often awe-struck by the beauty, wonder, and terror of creation. Move us to tend to this created world, to preserve its resources, and to honor the dignity of every living creature. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: God, you are able to work through all human-made systems to bring about your will of justice, peace, and mercy for all. Guide our elected leaders at all level of government so that they will find ways to work together for the common good. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: God, you are the Great Physician, and the healer of our every ill. Hold close to your heart all who suffer in any way this day, whether in mind, body, or spirit. We lift before you especially (list names here). Help them to feel your loving and healing presence through the care and concern of those around them. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: God, we thank you for this community of faith. Bless our ministry efforts as we seek to proclaim the good news about Jesus with each other, our community, and the world. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Now into your loving hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your great mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

## **Peace**

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

**C: And also with you.**

## **Offering**

### **Offering Prayer**

L: Loving God, accept the gifts we bring before you now. Use them to your good purposes here in this place and in the world beyond our walls. Thank you for giving us all that we have, and receiving what we offer in return. In Jesus' name we pray.

**C: Amen**

### **Thanksgiving for the Word**

L: Lord, in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you spoke and brought life and meaning out of the chaos. We give thanks to you this day for the gift of your holy Word. Let it inspire us as we go our separate ways, to love our neighbors as you have first loved us, to love you with all of our heart, mind, strength, and spirit. Let this Word, etched upon our hearts, be the compass that points us always toward you. In the name of Jesus, the Word made flesh, we pray.

**C: Amen**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

Or

**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.**

### **Blessing**

L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor, and give you peace.

**C: Amen**

### **Sending Hymn**

**Sending**

L: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God!**