

A Gathering for Worship in the Liturgical Tradition  
The Third Weekend After Pentecost, Saturday, June 13, 2015 / 6:00 p.m.

## Liturgy of The Word of God

**Opening Song**      *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

*Celebrant*      Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People*      **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known,  
and from you 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 Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
and with all your soul, and with all your mind.

This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it:  
You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Holy Father, keep your household, the Church, in your steadfast faith and love,  
that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness,  
and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Lessons

*Reader*    *The Old Testament reading for today is taken from the prophecy of  
Ezekiel, chapter 17.*

17:22 Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a  
cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its  
young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain.

17:23 On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may  
produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind  
of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of  
every kind.

17:24 All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it.

*Reader* *The Word of the Lord.*

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*Reader* *That portion of the Psalter appointed for today is from Psalm 92.  
We will read it responsively by half verse.*

92:1 It is good to give thanks to the LORD, **to sing praises to your name, O Most High;**

92:2 to declare your steadfast love in the morning, **and your faithfulness by night,**

92:3 to the music of the lute and the harp, **to the melody of the lyre.**

92:4 For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; **at the works of your hands I sing for joy.**

92:12 The righteous flourish like the palm tree, **and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.**

92:13 They are planted in the house of the LORD; **they flourish in the courts of our God.**

92:14 In old age they still produce fruit; **they are always green and full of sap,**

92:15 showing that the LORD is upright; **he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.**

*Reader* *The Epistle reading for today is from the Second letter by Paul to the Corinthians, chapter 5.*

5:6 So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord -

5:7 for we walk by faith, not by sight.

5:8 Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

5:9 So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

5:10 For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

5:11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences.

5:12 We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart.

5:13 For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.

5:14 For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died.

5:15 And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

5:16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way.

5:17 So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

*Reader*      *The Word of the Lord.*

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

### **Preparation for the Gospel Reading**      *In Christ Alone*      Instrumental Arr.

*Reader*      *The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.*

*People*      **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

4:1 Again he began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. <sup>2</sup> He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: <sup>3</sup> “Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup> And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup> Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup> And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. <sup>8</sup> Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.” <sup>9</sup> And he said, “Let anyone with ears to hear listen!”

<sup>10</sup> When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. <sup>11</sup> And he said to them, “To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; <sup>12</sup> in order that they may indeed look, but not perceive, and may indeed listen, but not understand; so that they may not turn again and be forgiven.”

<sup>13</sup> And he said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand all the parables? <sup>14</sup> The sower sows the word. <sup>15</sup> These are the ones on the path where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. <sup>16</sup> And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy. <sup>17</sup> But they have no root, and endure only for a while; then, when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. <sup>18</sup> And others are those sown among the thorns: these are the ones who hear the word, <sup>19</sup> but the cares of the world, and the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>20</sup> And these are the ones sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.”

<sup>21</sup> He said to them, “Is a lamp brought in to be put under the bushel basket, or under the bed, and not on the lampstand? <sup>22</sup> For there is nothing hidden, except to be disclosed; nor is anything secret, except to come to light. <sup>23</sup> Let anyone with ears to hear listen!” <sup>24</sup> And he said to them, “Pay attention to what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you. <sup>25</sup> For to those who have, more will be given; and from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.”

<sup>26</sup> He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup> and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup> The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup> But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

<sup>30</sup> He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup> It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup> yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

<sup>33</sup> With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup> he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

*Reader*    *The Gospel of the Lord.*  
*People*    **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **The Sermon**

*After the Sermon, the Celebrant says*

Let us stand and confess our common faith, using the words of the historic Nicene Creed.

**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:**

**by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**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.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He 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.**

## **The Prayers of the People**

*Leader* Let us pray.

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;  
**For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

For this community, the nation, and the world;  
**For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation;  
**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
**For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

For all pastors, elders, deacons, and other ministers;  
**For all who serve God in his Church.**

For the special needs and concerns of this community of faith.

*The People may add their own petitions, either aloud or in silence.*

Hear us, Lord;  
**For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*The People may add their own thanksgivings.*

We will exalt you, O God our King;  
**And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence.*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;  
**Who put their trust in you.**

*Then the leader closes with this collect*

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth:  
Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Then the Celebrant says*

And now let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor,  
devoutly kneeling, if possible.

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that 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.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*The Celebrant stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you,  
forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
strengthen you in all goodness,  
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*All greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## **Liturgy of The Holy Communion**

*Celebrant* Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us,  
an offering and sacrifice to God.

*Offertory music is played or sung. A representative of the congregation will bring the people's offerings of bread and wine to the celebrant who then prepares the table for the Eucharist. After it is prepared, the people stand and sing The Doxology.*

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant then says*

The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**  
*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere,  
to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image,  
and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and  
Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever  
sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

***Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.***

*The people kneel, if possible.*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself,  
and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death,  
you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son,  
to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us,  
to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself,  
in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant will hold it or place a hand upon it.  
At the words concerning the cup, he will hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel  
containing wine to be consecrated.*

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death,  
our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you,  
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said,  
"Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me."

*Celebrant bows low over the bread.*

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks,  
he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you:  
This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many

for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it,  
do this for the remembrance of me."

*Celebrant bows low over the cup.*

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father,  
in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death,  
resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your  
Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament,  
and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace;  
and at the last day bring us with all your saints  
into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ:

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit  
all honor and glory are yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread, then is said*

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*The Celebrant and those assisting receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people. The Bread is given to the communicants with these words*

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

*Communicant receives the bread in cupped hands, right on top of left, and responds, Amen.*

*Bread should be eaten immediately. If communicant prefers to dip the bread in the cup (called intinction) he or she hands the bread to the chaliceist who will dip the bread and then place it on the communicant's tongue.*

*The Cup is given to the communicant with these words*

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

*Communicant responds, **Amen**, then takes a sip of wine from the common cup. If the communicant prefers an individual cup, and if that option is offered, communicant removes cup from tray and responds, **Amen**. In that case, the communicant will drink the contents of the cup and replace the empty cup in the tray.*

**Communion Song: *I Am the Bread of Life*** (Recording by John Michael Talbot)  
*Song will play during the distribution of the Eucharist. After the song, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us  
as living members of your Son,  
our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Celebrant gives the final blessing.*

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Closing Song**            *Be Thou My Vision*

*The Celebrant dismisses the people with these words*

*Deacon*    Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People*     **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**