

**GATHERING**

*Prelude*

*Welcome and Announcements*

*Ringing of the Bell*

*(Please Stand)*

*Confession and Forgiveness*

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

**Amen.**

Let us pray. 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.

**Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

*(Silence)*

Most merciful God,

**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.**

God does not treat us as our sins deserve. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him. As far as east is from west, so far has he removed our sin from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on us. For the sake of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven, and in him your new life is found.

**Amen.**

*Hymn # 615*

*"In All Our Grief"*

1. In all our grief, and fear, we turn to you, O God, you know all that we think or do, you know the pain we put each other through. *(Refrain)*  
**Refrain:** *Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, grant us peace.*
2. Help us to put aside the angry word, the clenching fist, the wish and will to hurt. Teach us the way in which love best is served. *(Refrain)*
3. You did not even spare your only Son. He lived our griefs and bore all evil done, but through his cross, redemption has been won. *(Refrain)*



*(After the announcement of the Gospel, we sing.)*



*(After the reading of the Gospel, we sing.)*



*(Please be seated)*

*Sermon*

*(Please Stand)*

*Hymn # 606*

*“Our Father, We Have Wandered”*

1. Our Father, we have wandered and hidden from your face;  
in foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace.  
But now, in exile dwelling, we rise with fear and shame,  
as, distant but compelling, we hear you call our name.
2. And now at length discerning the evil that we do,  
behold us, Lord, returning with hope and trust to you.  
In haste you come to meet us and home rejoicing bring,  
in gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
3. O Lord of all the living, both banished and restored,  
compassionate, forgiving, and ever caring Lord,  
grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease.  
Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon, and in peace.

L: Together with the whole church, we confess our faith:

**All: 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.**

### *The Prayers*

L: . . . Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

### *Offering*

*Offering Hymn # 359*

*"Where Charity and Love Prevail" sts. 4—5*

4. Let strife among us be unknown; let all contentions cease.  
Be God's the glory that we seek; be his our only peace.
5. Let us forgive each other's faults as we our own confess,  
that we may love each other well in Christian gentleness.

### *Prayer*

L: O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### *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; 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*



### *Hymn # 665*

*"Rise, Shine, You People!" sts. 1--2*

1. Rise shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered our human story; God in him is centered, He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded, with grace unbounded.
2. See how he sends the powers of evil reeling; he brings us freedom, light and life and healing. All men and women, who by guilt are driven, now are forgiven.

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Postlude*

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