

**GREETING**

Gathered in Christ. **We serve with grace.**

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.**

**CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage. **Amen.**

Holy One, **we confess that we have wandered far from you: we have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in our midst. Have mercy on us! Forgive us and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor.** Amen.

Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In ✠ Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.

**Amen.**

GATHERING SONG "SOFTLY AND TENDERLY JESUS IS CALLING" ..... #608

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**FIRST READING:** Deuteronomy 26:1-11

'When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, <sup>2</sup>you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. <sup>3</sup>You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." <sup>4</sup>When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, <sup>5</sup>you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. <sup>6</sup>When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, <sup>7</sup>we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. <sup>8</sup>The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; <sup>9</sup>and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>10</sup>So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. <sup>11</sup>Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 91:1-2, 9-16

<sup>1</sup>You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,  
    who abide in the shadow of the Almighty—  
<sup>2</sup>**you will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my stronghold,  
    my God in whom I put my trust.”**

<sup>9</sup>Because you have made the LORD your refuge, and the Most High your habitation,  
<sup>10</sup>**no evil will befall you, nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.**

<sup>11</sup>For God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways.

<sup>12</sup>**Upon their hands they will bear you up,  
    lest you strike your foot against a stone.**

<sup>13</sup>You will tread upon the lion cub and viper;  
    you will trample down the lion and the serpent.

<sup>14</sup>**I will deliver those who cling to me;  
I will uphold them, because they know my name.**

<sup>15</sup>They will call me, and I will answer them;

I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.

<sup>16</sup>**With long life will I satisfy them, and show them my salvation.**

SECOND READING: Romans 10:8b-13

<sup>8b</sup>“The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); <sup>9</sup>because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. <sup>11</sup>The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup>For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. <sup>13</sup>For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE 4:1-13

**Glory to you, O Lord.** <sup>1</sup>Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup>where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’” <sup>5</sup>Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup>And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup>If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” <sup>8</sup>Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” <sup>9</sup>Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup>for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ <sup>11</sup>and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” <sup>12</sup>Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” <sup>13</sup>When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time. The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY “BE THOU MY VISION”.....#793

APOSTLES CREED

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need. (A *brief silence.*) We pray for the church. Sharpen its proclamation of the word so that your people learn to reject voices of deception and distraction. Strengthen all who are tempted to believe lies about themselves or others. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the earth and all its creatures. Protect wilderness places and all plant and animal species that call them home. Sustain farmers and all laborers who work the land and harvest the fruits of its abundance. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the nations of the world. Awaken elected leaders and government officials to the needs of those who are oppressed and grant them compassion to deal mercifully with immigrants and refugees who reside among us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in need. Rescue those experiencing mental illness or contending with addiction. Ease the anxiety of those who live with dementia. Command your angels concerning all who are sick (*especially*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly. Bless those who bake bread and prepare the table for our communion celebration. Accompany those who share the bounty of this meal with those who are homebound or hospitalized. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for those who have died. Gather them with all the saints into your heavenly dwelling place. Encourage us with the promise that all who call upon your name are saved. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY SONG "GIVE THANKS"

## OFFERING PRAYER

Extravagant God, you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

## BLESSING

You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey. Almighty God, motherly, majestic, and mighty,  $\pm$  bless you this day and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG "A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD" ..... #504

## RINGING OF THE BELLS

## SONG OF PEACE

**My peace I give unto you. It's a peace that the world cannot give. It's a peace that the world cannot understand; peace to know; peace to live. My peace I give unto you.**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way. **Thanks be to God.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **The Glory of These Forty Days**

The glory of these forty days we celebrate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all things were made, himself has fasted and has prayed.

Alone and fasting Moses saw the loving God who gave the law; and to Elijah, fasting, came the steeds and chariots of flame.

So Daniel trained his mystic sight, delivered from the lions' might; and John, the Bridegroom's friend, became the herald of Messiah's name.

Then grant, O God, that we may, too, return in fast and prayer to you. Our spirits strengthen with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

## **O Lord, throughout These Forty Days**

O Lord, throughout these forty days you prayed and kept the fast; inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past.

You strove with Satan, and you won; your faithfulness endured; lend us your nerve, your skill, and trust in God's eternal word.

Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed and fixed your mind above; so teach us to deny ourselves that we may know God's love.

Be with us through this season, Lord, and all our earthly days, that when the final Easter dawns, we join in heaven's praise.

## **A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**

A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;  
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious.

The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dreadful might he arms himself to fight. On earth he has no equal.

No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected. But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected. You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he!      Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son, adored. He holds the field victorious.

Though hordes of devils fill the land all threat'ning to devour us, we tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot overpow'r us. Let this world's tyrant rage; in battle we'll engage! His might is doomed to fail; God's judgment must prevail! One little word subdues him.

God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it; for God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit. Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day. The kingdom's ours forever!