

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Gracious God, we open our hearts to you, you know each of us inside and out, we cannot hide anything from you. Create in us hearts of love and humble us to serve you by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit. Renew our relationship with you and restore our joy as we worship you and magnify your holy name. **Amen**

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

**God of Grace, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We humbly repent and we want to be close to you again. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Restore our relationship with you. Uphold us and strengthen us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may live and serve you once again through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace you have been saved through faith. In the name of † Jesus Christ, all of your sins are forgiven. May God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that you may know Jesus' great mercy and love for you. **Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray....**All-powerful God, in Jesus Christ you turned death into life and defeat into victory. Increase our faith and trust in him, that we may triumph over all evil in the strength of the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Genesis 3:8-15

*Immediately after Adam and Eve eat the forbidden fruit, they hide from God. Neither takes responsibility for their sin, instead blaming each other, the snake, and even God. The curse on the snake was understood as a messianic prophecy by the early church, who associated Eve's "offspring" with Christ.*

<sup>8</sup>[Adam and Eve] heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.<sup>9</sup>But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"<sup>10</sup>He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself."<sup>11</sup>He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"<sup>12</sup>The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate."<sup>13</sup>Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate."<sup>14</sup>The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.<sup>15</sup>I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 130

<sup>1</sup>Out | of the depths / I cry to | you, O Lord;

<sup>2</sup>**O Lord, | hear my voice! / Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my | supplication.**

<sup>3</sup>If you were to keep watch | over sins, / O Lord, | who could stand?

<sup>4</sup>**Yet with you | is forgiveness, / in order that you | may be feared.**

<sup>5</sup>I wait for you, O Lord; | my soul waits; / in your word | is my hope.

<sup>6</sup>**My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch | for the morning,  
more than those who keep watch | for the morning.**

<sup>7</sup>O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is | steadfast love;  
with the Lord there is plen- | teous redemption.

<sup>8</sup>**For the Lord shall | redeem Israel / from | all their sins.**

## SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4:13--5:1

*Life in the present is transitory and cannot compare with the eternal home God has prepared for us. So we do not despair no matter what life might bring because we know that as God raised Jesus from the dead, God promises to bring us into eternal life.*

<sup>13</sup>Just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—"I believed, and so I spoke"—we also believe, and so we speak, <sup>14</sup>because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. <sup>15</sup>Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

<sup>16</sup>So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup>For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, <sup>18</sup>because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

<sup>5:1</sup>For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL READING: Mark 3:20-35

The holy gospel according to St Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*In response to charges that he is possessed, Jesus wonders aloud how anyone who is demon-possessed can cast out demons. Those who do the will of God are possessed by the Holy Spirit, siblings of Christ.*

[Jesus went home;] <sup>20</sup>and the crowd came together again, so that [Jesus and the disciples] could not even eat. <sup>21</sup>When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." <sup>22</sup>And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." <sup>23</sup>And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? <sup>24</sup>If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup>And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. <sup>26</sup>And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. <sup>27</sup>But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

<sup>28</sup>“Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; <sup>29</sup>but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”—<sup>30</sup>for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

<sup>31</sup>Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. <sup>32</sup>A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.” <sup>33</sup>And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” <sup>34</sup>And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! <sup>35</sup>Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

*We pray together for however we have made offerings to God in our lives.*

Let us pray. **We praise you, God, Creator of the universe. We thank you for all of the blessings in our lives and in the lives of those around us. Take these gifts and use them for your holy work. Grant us opportunities to serve those in need. Send your Spirit to watch over us and guide us in all that we do through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Pastor:* Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

*A brief silence.*

*Leader:* God of wholeness, we pray for believers all over the globe. Unify us in service of the gospel, that we may work together as beloved siblings to share your love with all.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* God of the cosmos, we pray for creation; the gardens, waterways and creatures near to us and diverse forms of life that remain unseen. Teach us to treat the natural world with reverence, seeking restoration when human divisions have caused harm to your beloved creation. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* God of all people, we pray for harmony among the nations. Cast out from us unclean spirits of greed and fear, that we may work in solidarity with one another for the common good. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* God of abundance, we pray for those who are oppressed or in any need.  
Encourage those who have begun to lose heart. Strengthen and renew us with  
your Spirit. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* God of righteousness, we pray for this holy house of worship. Set our gaze upon  
things eternal, that in thanksgiving for your mercy, we may extend grace to more  
and more people. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Pastor:* God of the ages, in your goodness you have sent us faithful witnesses for every  
time and place. We give you thanks for those saints who now rest in your eternal  
mercy (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Pastor:* We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace. **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by Christ, let us pray.

**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**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

**Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.  
Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses,  
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

Beloved children of God, as we are sent from this place, know that God loves you.

Christ's presence is with you wherever you go.

Finally, know that the Spirit is with you whenever you call on the Lord. **Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go and serve others with the love of Christ! **Thanks be to God!**

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