

## A WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS A

**HYMN** "Thy Word" 973

### INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

### OPENING SENTENCES *John 1:10–12*

Pastor: Jesus Christ was in the world, and the world was made through Him,

**People: yet the world did not know Him.**

Pastor: He came to His own,

**People: and His own people did not receive Him.**

Pastor: But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name,

**People: He gave the right to become children of God.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *John 1:14*

Pastor: God has come to us to make us His own children. Let us confess our sins of unbelief that He may give us faith to receive Him and His love.

**People: O God, we confess that we have ignored Your voice and Spirit by choosing to go our own way. Without You, we are lost and confused and without hope. Without You, we do not know love. Come now to us and forgive our waywardness and weakness. Give us Your gifts of faith, hope, and love. Receive us again into the family of Your redeemed. Amen.**

Pastor: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

(Share the peace of Christ with those around you)

## **HYMN OF PRAISE** “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” 849

### **SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

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

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:**           **Amen.**

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**     *Jeremiah 1:4–10 (17–19)* (The call of Jeremiah)

Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
and before you were born I consecrated you;  
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth.”  
But the LORD said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a youth’;  
for to all to whom I send you, you shall go,  
and whatever I command you, you shall speak.  
Do not be afraid of them,  
for I am with you to deliver you,  
declares the LORD.”

Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me,

“Behold, I have put my words in your mouth.  
See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms,  
to pluck up and to break down,

to destroy and to overthrow,  
to build and to plant.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE**     *1 Corinthians 12:31b–13:13* (The more excellent way of love)

I will show you a still more excellent way.

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE**     *Luke 4:43b*

Pastor: Alleluia I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well;

**People: for I was sent for this purpose. Alleluia**

**HOLY GOSPEL**     *Luke 4:31–44* (Jesus heals many.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.

**People:**            **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus] went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority. And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, “Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.” But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent and come out of him!” And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm. And they were all amazed and said to one another, “What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!” And reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region.

And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon’s house. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them.

Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. And demons also came out of many, crying, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, but he said to them, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.” And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:**            **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**     “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” 700

**SERMON** “Love Shaped like a Cross” 1 Corinthians 12:31b–13:13

**CREED**      *Nicene Creed*

**People:**      **I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
                maker of heaven and earth  
                and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
                and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and  
the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and  
glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: O God of love, thanks and praise be to You for sending Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to open Your kingdom by means of His love and deliverance and glory on the cross. Greater love has no one than this. Work in us, Your children, the gift of Your love, that we be enabled to endure the struggles of faith and hope and to reflect Your true glory all our days. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Establish Your whole Church and this congregation to be walking and serving together in love for You and love toward one another and the world, that many come to the knowledge of Your truth and salvation. Grant Your strength and blessing to all who preach Your life-giving Word and those who serve as Your loving hands to all who are in any need. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Grant Your grace and wisdom to all who serve in the government of our country. Give strength and integrity to those in the armed forces and to all who serve and protect us in our communities. Give all agencies dedicated to the service of helping and healing people the freedom to do their good works for the support of all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Hear also now our prayers for all who are sick or hospitalized, the injured and the lonely. Grant that Your healing love be administered faithfully by the medical professionals and those who supply the needy in any way. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

(other prayers are offered here)

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## OFFERING

## A SACRAMENT A

### PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

You have shown us again what true love is, drawing us to Your love in giving us the body and blood of Your Son, which was given and shed for us on the cross

Hear us as we pray as You have taught us:

### LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People: 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.**

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**     *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24;  
Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My  $\times$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\times$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

**PAX DOMINI**

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

**People:**            **Amen.**

**AGNUS DEI**     “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” 702 vs 1,2

**DISTRIBUTION**

**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

Pastor: O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:**            **Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**     *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\times$  give you peace.

**People:**            **Amen.**

**HYMN**            “Lord Whose Love Through Humble Service” 848



