

Lessons in Lent – Works, Worship and Hypocrisy
Fifth Sunday in Lent
John 12:1-8
April 3rd, 2022

Welcome

Announcements

Bible Studies

Book of Hebrews on Mondays!
Revelation Starting on Wednesday May 4th, 2022

Sermons by Phone

A new way to connect with the weekly service.
Due some challenges we had to go with a toll-free number, hopefully that means we can share it even further with friends and family all over.
1-833-270-9944

Bake sale at Perth Maple festival

April 30th is the Perth Maple festival
We will be having a bake sale
Proceeds from the bake sale will go to support the Sermons by phone
If you can help out with sales or sale items let us know

Refreshing of Church Directory

I am still new and in need to an up-to-date Church Directory
We will be having families fill out a new Church Directory information sheet soon.

Call to Worship

God says to us: I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers flow in the desert.
The LORD does great things for us, and we rejoice.

God says to us: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.
The LORD does great things for us, and we rejoice.

God says to us: I am about to do a new thing.
The LORD does great things for us,

and so we worship God with songs of joy and prayers of thanksgiving.

Prayer of Adoration

O God,
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of all life,
we come to you today with grateful hearts,
cheered by the return of spring,
days lengthening, the sun's warmth growing stronger.
We praise you for your creation and its reliable rhythms.
We praise you, too,
for Christ and his ministry that we seek to continue;
we seek the light of the hope he offers.
Break into these days of turmoil and uncertainty
with the mercy and grace we meet in Jesus.
By the power of your Spirit, lighten our hearts in this time of worship,
and help us brighten the lives we touch this week in Jesus' name.
And so we praise you, O God,
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of all life,
and offer you all glory and honour,
this day and every day, now and evermore.

Opening Hymn

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**There are many times we think we love you well, O God.
But upon hearing your call to love you with all our heart,
and all our mind, and all our strength,
we confess that our love for you is a diluted love,
made insipid and flat by lesser loyalties and a divided heart.
Our love seems pure only for brief moments;
soon our affections are drawn away.
How easily our devotion dies.
Forgive us;
in deep mercy spare us,**

**despite our lost first love for you;
in grace rekindle our love for you
in seeing anew Jesus' love for us.
Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news:
This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.
He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,
that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good.
I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ,
you are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One.
For Thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen.**

Responsive Reading

Question 14. In calling God "Father" do we mean that God is male?

No. God is Spirit and is neither male nor female. Scripture speaks of God as Father but also represents God as saying, "As a mother comforts her child, I will comfort you" (Isaiah 66:13). God's fatherhood is the source and pattern for human fatherhood and motherhood.

Jn 4:24, Eph 3:14-15, Isa 49:15

Question 15. What does it mean to confess that God is "almighty"?

We affirm that God is mighty in all things. After speaking of God as great and powerful, Jeremiah exclaims, "Nothing is too hard for you" (Jeremiah 32:17). The prophet connects God's power with God's steadfast love. God is a God of love, and this love is powerful beyond measure. God's great love was revealed in Jesus' death on the cross and God's power was shown in raising him from the dead (Romans 4:24).

Jer 32:17-18, Jer 32:27, Ps 106:8, 1 Cor 1:18

Question 16. What do we affirm when we say that God is “creator of heaven and earth”?

We affirm that in the beginning, out of nothing, God created all that is. God spoke and all things came into being. Men and women were created in God’s image. Everything that God made was very good.

Gen 1:1, Gen 1:3-4, Gen 1:27, 31

Music Ministry

Prayer for illumination ()

Blessed you are, Lord, great God,
for the testimonies of the prophets, we bless you.
For the statutes of the law, we bless you.
For the gospel of Christ
and the witness of the apostles we bless you, O glorious God.
Grant to us the Spirit of your glory
and the brightness of your presence
that we might read your Word and understand.
Through Jesus Christ, our gracious Lord. Amen

Scripture

John 12:1-8

Mary Anoints Jesus at Bethany

12 Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. ³ Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” ⁶ He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it. ⁷ Jesus said, “Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me.”

Children's Hymn

Children's Lesson

Today's Scripture is great, its all about a time when Jesus got together with his friends to eat a meal. Martha is busy in the kitchen making a big meal and bringing lots of food out for people to eat. Jesus is sitting in the common room with his disciples and Lazarus his friend. They are probably talking about all the miracles that they have seen, or maybe Jesus is teaching all of them something new about the scripture.

Jesus is in fellowship with his followers. This is an important thing for all of us who are Christian. We need to spend time together with other Christians in fellowship. We also see in this story that Mary comes out and pours some perfume on the feet of Jesus and then wipes it off with her hair. This is an act of worship. She is showing how much she loves Jesus by cleaning his feet. When she does this, she uses some awfully expensive perfume, it costs a whole year's salary for some people. Why do you think she used something so expensive?

She is offering something valuable that is hers to Christ. This is something we are all called to do. To offer to Christ our gifts of treasure, like our money or other things that we value into help Jesus and his church here on earth, which is not something that is very easy for many young people to do. To offer out talents, God has given us all different gifts, like singing, or playing music, or even the ability to use technology, we can use these talents to serve the church in many ways. Then there is time, we can serve the church in many different ways. These are all examples of things we can do to do worship to God outside of regular attendance to Sunday service.

Then we have Judas, he is not a good man, we all know that. He is the one who sells Jesus to the authorities for just thirty silvers. He is the one who is in charge of Jesus's disciples' money, and we learn that he is stealing from it to make himself rich. There is an important lesson here for everyone, no one in the church is perfect. Jesus know that Judas was imperfect, and he still invited him into the disciples. No one in the church is without sin or without hypocrisy. So, when we see things wrong in the church we should not be surprised. We should understand that that also means we do not need to be perfect to be part of the church. The church is meant to be a group of people who are broken.

Jesus loves all people! He loves those who follow him, and he even loves those people who are not his followers. He wants everyone to come to him and follow him. In today scripture Jesus is telling us that we are called to worship him and love him. He knows we are not perfect. This scripture today is also a reminder that Jesus is one the way to the

cross to die for our sins so that we can be forgiven and brought back into a relationship with God. All we need to do is belief in Jesus and repent from our sins.

Let us Pray,

Loving Father,

Watch over us all as we are in the world. Help us to recognize those things that you have blessed us with, our treasures, our talents, and the gift of time in our life. Help us to see how we can use these things to serve you and your kingdom here on earth. Send the Holy Spirit to be at work in us as we learn more about you each day.

In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Sermon

As we enter the fifth Sunday of Lent, we are yet again asked to reflect upon ourselves and our relationship with God. The time of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ is quickly approaching.

However, in Jesus's day we would have been approaching the celebration of Passover, one of the most important celebrations in the Jewish religious calendar. In fact, Passover was such an important celebration that it was mandatory for all Jewish men to attend Passover celebrations. This is when people would gather up their families and set off to the bigger cities to celebrate Passover in the temples, like the temple in Jerusalem with their Jewish brothers and sisters. The road would be crowded with caravans of people headed to the city, with people who may only see each other once a year at the celebration of Passover, talking about their lives and the things that had changed over the past year, and of the celebration that they were looking forward to in Jerusalem.

It is in this context that our scripture begins today. It is just six days before the celebration of Passover. Jesus and his disciples themselves have started their journey towards Jerusalem to join in on the celebration that is to be held in the temple. While the disciples would likely be like many of the others on the road, looking forward to the worship, fellowship and celebration around Passover, Jesus knows that for him this will be a very different Passover. Jesus is fully aware that he will be shamed, tortured, and crucified this year, he does not share this with the disciples yet though. Instead, he continues towards Jerusalem very much in the same manner as he has been travelling during his ministry, teaching, and helping people all along the way. And when they are close to the house of his friend Lazarus and his sisters Martha and Mary, he decides to visit them for a shared meal.

Lazarus is the man whom Jesus raised from the dead, one of His acts that the chief priests and pharisees will use to justify the killing of Jesus in their own minds. When

Jesus had arrived four days after Lazarus's death, his sisters had very different reactions. Martha and Jesus discussed the truth of raising Lazarus from the dead and eternal life, while Jesus wept with Mary. I have no doubt that Jesus made the decision to stop here on His way to Jerusalem so that he could enjoy fellowship with his friends once again in a more pleasant manner.

I am sure that as Jesus walked through the community towards the house of Lazarus and his sisters that people gathered around him to listen to his words, to ask for his blessings or to seek healing. The whole community would have known that he was Jesus of Nazareth, the man who had raised Lazarus from the dead. As he approached the home of Lazarus he would have had to stoop to enter through the doorway and step into the humble home of his friend. He would be fully aware of everything going on in the home of Lazarus, the scent of food being prepared, and the noises made by a busy Martha in the kitchen area preparing everything she could for the honored guest and his disciples.

Jesus would have greeted Martha, Mary and Lazarus and then moved into the communal area of the house where everyone would have reclined around the central table looking forward to the opportunity to relax and chat while food was being readied in the kitchen.

Martha was busy in the kitchen doing what she knew she could do for her guests. She was preparing food and drink, looking to show honor and respect to Jesus, the man who had given her brother back to them. Martha's faith and love of Jesus was strong.

John 11:24

²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."

When Jesus had come to see her after her brother's death, she had told him with confidence that her brother would rise again with Jesus on the last of days. She was confident that Jesus was the Messiah who was spoken of in the Old Testament. When Jesus pushed her and asked if she had faith, if she believed he was the resurrection and the life, she responded by saying:

John 11:27

²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

Martha knew and understood who Jesus was even before he performed the miracle of raising Lazarus. So, she was doing what she could do to prove her love and devotion to him as her Lord and Savior. She was serving Him to the best of her ability, by preparing a feast for Him and His disciples and thinking about how to best look after and entertain Her guests.

Martha was very comfortable in serving, this is not the first time she has served the Lord. When Jesus visits the home of Lazarus in the book of Luke, we see that she values the act of serving more than most other things. Martha become frustrated by her sister who is busy sitting at the feet of Jesus listening to him teach, instead of being in the kitchen helping prepare and serve with her, which is where she believes Mary should be. Martha tells Jesus in that instance:

Luke 10:40

⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me."

Mary had become so focused on the act of serving the Lord that she had not realized the bigger picture. She was missing an opportunity to worship and praise and learn from Him. Jesus does not chastise her for this, instead he simply reminds her

Luke 10:41-42

⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, ^{forty-two} but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

What he is saying to her is that service of the physical needs is not the only way to show service to Him, service to the Lord also requires worship and learning about him.

Martha serves as a reminder for all Christians that we are required to be of service to the Lord. We are meant to go out and take care of the physical and emotional needs of fellow Christians and of others in the world. However, we should be cautious of that becoming such a focus that we begin to miss out on other important aspects of our faith. We can get caught up in food preparation, schedule organization, mission planning and training and short- and long-term outreach that we begin to criticize and judge those others in our congregation who do not have the same level of desire to serve in those areas. We may even become like Martha and become so focused on those areas that we begin to miss opportunities to gather and to worship, praise and learn from God.

And here in the scripture today we are told that Martha is serving. I am sure that the house would be filled with the wonderful smells of roasting meats, cooked vegetables, and fresh baked breads, after all she knows full well who she is serving. Martha is busy serving and Jesus and his disciples have gathered around the table with Lazarus. Enjoying their time together and sharing in food and fellowship with Martha keeps the table full of food and drink.

This is when Mary arrives, she enters the room quietly carrying a small blue ceramic jar. It is a beautiful jar that is dainty and exquisite in its appearance. Mary slides through the room gracefully and makes her way over to the foot of Jesus where she chooses to sit, much in the same manner as she had in the previous visit of Jesus. Then with a gentle twist she removes the seal from the jar she carries and slowly begins to pour the contents of the bottle over the feet of Jesus as he reclines at the table with Lazarus and the disciples. Mary does this in a loving manner, she knows that this is the man who wept with her to comfort her when her brother had died, the man who brought Lazarus back to life and returned him to their family. She knew that she was at the feet of the one true God, and she had been given this opportunity to praise and worship him personally and directly as she sat at his feet.

Martha is an example of the importance of service and Mary is an example of the importance of worship. The first time that Jesus had visited she had sat at his feet to listen to him teach. She knew and understood that Jesus was God and she placed him at the center of her life, she places worshipping and praising him ahead of other things in her life. When Jesus visited, she took the opportunity to spend time on him and be focused on him alone when he was in her home. This perfume which she had just lovingly poured over the feet of Jesus she then starts to wipe clean with her own hair. Showing that she was willing to do anything to ensure that the needs of Jesus were placed above her own personal needs.

Mary is an example of how we are all called to worship with all of who we are. We are called to give to him every aspect of our lives, holding back nothing of value from our service or worship to our God. We are called to give freely of our time, talents, and treasures, to give fully of our hearts, minds, bodies, and souls. Mary shows us what it means to be Gods,' what it means to Love God first with all our hearts in a genuine and humble way.

We are called to praise and worship our God and place our love for him first. Mary understands this and we can see this in her actions here. Mary took that small jar of perfume and poured it slowly and lovingly over the feet of Jesus spreading a smell of sweetness and earthliness from the nard, and then she lovingly wiped the feet of Jesus with her hair, removing the dirt and grime of the road from his feet as she cleaned them with perfume and her own hair.

The little jar of perfume that Mary had poured over the feet of Jesus was worth more than a year's wages for the average worker. With what she had poured out on His feet she could have feed the family for a year, she could have fed the poor in the community, she could have clothed those in need, she could have paid for herbs and healing of the sick, or maybe she could have done all these things and more. However, she instead chose to take this valuable jar of perfume and pour it over the feet of Jesus and a form of worship and offering.

After she poured that perfume and began to wipe the feet of Jesus that sweet, earth fragrance would slowly begin to move around the room. It would be one that everyone would notice because the smell of nard was not a common smell. It would catch the attention of everyone gathered and they would turn and see the tiny jar from which Mary had poured the perfume and Mary wiping her hair across the feet of Jesus making them clean. They were all witnesses to this incredible act of love and of worship, however not everyone that was gathered there would see it as this.

Judas saw something quite different. Judas saw a waste of resources. He cannot fathom what it is that he sees Mary doing, instead all Judas sees is the monetary value of the small jar of nard that he saw her pour out. Judas saw a year's salary wasted; a year's salary thrown away in washing feet. Judas's mind just sees the possibilities of what could be done with that much money. Without a moment of hesitation, he speaks out.

John 12:5

⁵ “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?”

I am sure that after Judas spoke out there were a few people in the room who nodded in agreement with him, after all Jesus had been teaching and preaching about the importance of looking after those in need throughout his whole ministry. Jesus has told them to help others, to heal the sick, to care for the widow and the orphan. Judas had every right to question why Mary was using the valuable nard to wash the feet of Jesus instead of selling it in the market and giving the money to support the work and ministry of Jesus.

However, Judas had his own ulterior motive as well. Judas had a passion for money, it was his personal 'little 'g' god.' He was a thief and wealth was what he chased, even while he followed Christ on earth. The scripture tells us:

John 12:6

⁶ He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it.

He was the one who looked after the ministry finances, and his mind was reeling with how much he could have stolen from the purse if Mary had donated the nard's value to the ministry.

Judas was a hypocrite, plain and simple. He called out Mary's use of the nard in cleaning the feet of Jesus, not because he wanted the value of the nard to be spent on helping those in need, but because he missed his cut of the value.

He might even have thought at the moment he spoke that he was earnest in what he said, he might have believed that the ointment could have been sold and used to help the poor. But the hypocrisy of his words holds true, the money he had been constantly gleaning off the ministry purse should also have been used to serve the poor and not his own desires.

The hypocrisy of Judas is still one that plagues the church today. One of the main complaints about Christianity voiced by non-Christians in that we are a church full of hypocrites, and as much as it pains me to say it, I must agree.

Each one of us is like Judas in some way, we are hypocrites about something, because we are all sinners. There is not a single person in this room that lives a sin free life. So, while it is easy for us to point our finger here and to shake our heads at Judas's behavior, we should be cautious because we are probably doing something or at least tempted to do something we should not on a daily basis.

We all point fingers at the world and call out sins of others as we see them, often without recognizing the sin in our own lives. Matthews Gospel makes this evident:

Matthew 7:3-5

³Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? ⁵You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

We are all sinners. We are all like Judas was, hiding our sins away from one another, believing that if we hide them from others, they are somehow hidden from God. Well, I have some news to share with you, God knows all our sins, even the hidden ones. God knows all, and Jesus knew that Judas had an affection for money. Jesus knew that Judas would be the one to betray him for money and yet he still placed the ministry's money purse in the hands of Judas.

This is why we need fellowship in the church. We need brothers and sisters who can help us see the logs in our own eyes. Brothers and sisters who can offer us support and unconditional love as we try to overcome those things in our lives that draw us away from God. This is why all those out in the world who say they are Christians, but they do not need a church are being fooled by the log in their own eye, they are like Judas, busy pointing out the faults of others and ignoring their own failings to obey the Word of God.

It is after this momentary outburst from Judas that Jesus finally speaks up. He probably shocked the whole room as he looked up from Mary who was still lovingly using her hair to clean his feet to Judas. Jesus would look Judas in the eye and tell him:

James 12:7-8

⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial.

⁸ For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

This is not the response that any in the room would have likely anticipated. I am sure it even caught Mary by surprise. I would bet that when Judas spoke out against what she was doing a doubt flickered through her mind about how she had chosen to use the nard. However, Jesus shames them all with his words.

Jesus is fully aware he is on his way to Jerusalem to die upon the cross. He knows that his is only left with a limited time to teach his disciples everything that they will need to know to carry on his ministry after he is gone.

Jesus saw a loving act of worship in what it was that Mary did. He saw Judas's true mind, not one of concern for the needy but one of greed and self-service. Judas's rebuking of Mary was not done with the intent of furthering the kingdom of heaven, but instead done out of a desire to serve self, to obtain worldly treasures. This is why Jesus rebukes him, he only cared about the value of the ointment because of what he could gain from using it in another way.

Jesus also tells them that they will not always have him and that the ointment that Marty had used to wash his feet was meant to be used on his day of burial, he is foreshadowing what is just a few days off for any of the disciples who had been paying attention.

He then quotes Deuteronomy 15:11

Deuteronomy 15:11

¹¹ For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'

The poor will always be part of human society, until people are no longer driven by self-desire to seek power and money by taking it from others, meaning we will have the poor as part of our society until the return of Christ and his eternal kingdom. For this reason, Jesus is telling those gathered that the poor and needy will always be part of their world, their lives, and that they should not become the sole purpose of their lives.

Works, worship and Hypocrisy are the three things that are common in the church. Each person is made up of all three in different amounts. Some have lots of worship and a little but of works and a little but of hypocrisy. Others might be a lot of works, some worship and very little hypocrisy, and we all know there are some people who profess Christianity who are a little bit of works and worship and a whole lot of hypocrisy.

What is important to understand is that all three of these things will always exist in us to some extent. Christians will always desire to worship God. Desire to do services in His name, and because of our sinful nature we will all wander away from his word and at times be hypocrites. So, while these are all aspects of our lives we should constantly be striving through prayer, praise, study, and fellowship to move towards God and become stronger in our works and worship and away from our hypocrisy.

Lent is a season of self-reflection and study, a season for us to truly remember the incredible cost associated with Jesus's crucifixion. We need to acknowledge we are all sinners; we are all a little bit like Judas and yet Jesus has still invited us to follow him. We can all get caught up like Martha in doing works and missing out on worship or be like Mary and be so focused on worship that we are not helping our brothers or sisters in need. Yet here in lent, Mary's example of washing the feet of Jesus is something we should all learn from, this is a season to be grateful for the sacrifice that he made to help us overcome our sinful nature.

We need to be focused on the message of the cross during lent and what it means to be Christian. Non-Christians will judge us, ridicule us, and persecute us because they think we are fools for believing in God, living a way of life that does not serve ourselves and believing that Jesus Christ's death upon the cross has some meaning. They find it easy to do this because they believe that the world is meant to be enjoyed that they should be free to live in this world any way they wish.

Christians see the cross differently, it has tremendous value and meaning. It means that even though we are all sinners, we are all hypocrites in some way, that Jesus Christ's crucifixion paid the debt we owed to God for our sinful nature. Those who have received the grace of God walk the narrow road, one where we are called to be aware of our sin and our hypocrisy. One where when we learn to see the log in our own eye, we are capable of helping one another remove the specks we see in each other's eye without judgement or anger, we will begin to act with grace, love, and mercy. One where we recognize that all sin is sin, there is no different levels of sin, no greater sin or lesser sin, simple sin which exists in us all, a broken people brought together by God.

We are a broken people, sinners who will constantly stumble and fall, people who will be seen as hypocrites at times, but we are God's children. We need to know that once we place our full trust and faith in God no amount of sin can keep us away from God, Jesus paid the price, and we are forgiven. In the same sense no amount of works we do in God's name have any meaning without faith and trust in Christ. The only thing required of us is to love the One True God with all our heart, mind, body, and spirit. A

love we show by living our lives in obedience to his word and honestly repent from our sinful actions. recognize that it was his sacrifice upon the cross that has bought our redemption, justification, and salvation. That it is only through God's grace, love, and mercy for us we have been granted eternal life in his kingdom.

Let us pray,

Give Us Comfort that We Will Never See Death

Lord God, heavenly Father,
your dear Son, our Redeemer Christ Jesus said,
'Whoever remains in my word will never see death.'
Pour out your Holy Spirit into our hearts
that your Son's Word may come to us
and that we may hear it, hold it,
and commit ourselves to it with our whole heart,
and in the midst of death find comfort
that we will never see eternal death,
for the sake of your Son,
our Redeemer Christ Jesus.

Source: Veit Dietrich, d. 1549, Lent 5

Communion Hymn

Communion

Declaration of God's Invitation and Promises

*Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!
People will come from east and west,
from north and south,
and sit at table in the kingdom of God.
When our risen Lord was at table with his disciples,
he took the bread, and blessed and broke it,
and gave it to them.
Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.
This is the Lord's table.
Our Savior invites those who trust him
to share the feast that he has prepared.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Opening

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

Thanksgiving to God

With joy we praise you, gracious God,
for you have created heaven and earth,
made us in your image, and kept covenant with us—
even when we fell into sin.

We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord,
by whose grace we may triumph over temptation,
be more fervent in prayer and be more generous in love.
Therefore, we join our voices
with all the saints and angels and the whole creation
to proclaim the glory of your name. Amen

Acclimation of Praise

**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.**

Thanksgiving to Christ

*With joy we praise you, gracious God,
for you have created heaven and earth,
made us in your image, and kept covenant with us—
even when we fell into sin.
We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord,
by whose grace we may triumph over temptation,
be more fervent in prayer, and be more generous in love.
Therefore we join our voices
with all the saints and angels and the whole creation
to proclaim the glory of your name.*

We shall do as our Lord commands.

We proclaim that our Lord Jesus

**was sent by the Father into the world,
that he took upon himself our flesh and blood,
and bore the wrath of God against our sin.
We confess that he was condemned
to die that we might be pardoned,
and suffered death that we might live.
We proclaim that he is risen to make us right with God
and that he shall come again in the glory of his new creation.
This we do now and until he comes again.**

*God of all power, send your Holy Spirit upon us,
that in sharing the bread we may share in the body of Christ,
that in sharing the cup we may share in his blood.
Grant that, being joined together in Christ Jesus,
we may become united in faith
and in all things become mature in the one who is our head*

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

The Apostles Creed (Affirmation of Faith)

**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 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.**

The Passing of the Peace

Thanks be to God: Christ makes us one.

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you

Preparation of the Bread and Cup

We celebrate this feast in obedience to Christ's example and mandate.

(Bread Breaking)

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread,

and after giving thanks to God,

he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

"Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

(Cup Lifting)

In the same way he took the cup, saying,

"This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,

shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it,

do this in remembrance of me."

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup,

you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord

until he comes.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, grant us your peace.

Amen

Invitation

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.

Taking of the Elements

The body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

Thanks be to God.

The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

Thanks be to God

Response of Praise and Prayer

*To Jesus Christ, who loves us
and freed us from our sins by his blood,
and made us to be a kingdom,
priests serving his God and Father,
to him be glory and dominion forever and ever*

*Loving God,
you graciously feed us
with the bread of life and the cup of eternal salvation.
May we who have received this sacrament
be strengthened in your service;
we who have sung your praises
tell of your glory and truth;
we who have seen the greatness of your love
see you face to face in your kingdom.
For you have made us your own people
by the death and resurrection of your Son, our Lord,
and by the life-giving power of your Spirit. Amen.*

Invitation to Offering

Offering

Presenting our tithes and offerings is an act of worship. I want to encourage you to write a cheque and drop it in the mail to the church using your envelope if you have one. (St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, PO Box 161, 1 Drummond St W, Perth, ON K7H 3E3) We also have another option for you for giving and that is you can make an e-Transfer.

This note from our treasurer. E-transfers are now accepted. Please note the new email address for this purpose only. standrewsperthoffering@gmail.com Please include your Offering Envelope # in the message section of the INTERAC transfer page you fill in. If you wish any part of your donation to go to a specific fund (e.g., Presbyterian Sharing) please mention this in your message.

Offertory Prayer ()

Gracious God, even as Mary poured out her love for Jesus,
he was preparing to pour out his life on the cross for her and for us all.
We are grateful for such love, given and received, then given again.
Accept the gifts we bring and anoint them with your Spirit
so that they will flow into the world, refreshing others with your mercy and love.

Closing Hymn

Prayers for the People & Pastoral Prayer

O God in whom we live and move and have our being,
We come to you in prayer,
trusting that you are with us in the ups and downs,
the joys and sorrows of these challenging days.
We give you thanks for every sign of your presence with us,
for every unexpected kindness,
every word of comfort or encouragement,
every sign of courage in the face of injustice,
every hopeful step towards reconciliation amid conflict,
and healing in the face of disease or danger.
Thank you for your presence with us in all things.

Lord, in this unpredictable world,
we pray for those whose lives are caught up in reckless terror or planned oppression,
and for those living in places where they are afraid to walk freely;
we remember all who find the uncertainty of our times overwhelming and discouraging
May those living in fear courage to go on in your company.

As the stories of Jesus turn us toward the cross, O God,
we pray for those who also walk the road of suffering.
We remember before you
those whose lives have been plunged into sorrow or despair
through tragic death,
through critical illness or chronic pain.
and through complicated problems that seem to have no end
May all these know your comfort and compassion.

O God, the stories of Jesus show us
that he faced the clamour of many demands
and the pressure of many critics.
We pray for all those who are exhausted these days,
juggling more demands and fewer resources in their work or at home,

for those who cannot seem to get it right, whatever they do,
and for all those facing unfair criticism and expectations
in the responsibilities they bear on behalf of others.
May all these be strengthened by your Spirit of justice and mercy.

O God, we need the embrace of your presence, each in our own way.
Anoint us with your Spirit of healing and hope,
and bring peace to our lives and this world you love
In the name of he who died upon the cross for us, Jesus Christ we pray. Amen

Benediction

Sisters and brothers,
let us claim the freedom Christ gives us
by his self-giving on the cross.
May he enable us to serve together
in faith, hope, and love.
Go in peace and serve the Lord.
Amen.