

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth**  
**Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022**  
**Rev. Gerry Gallant**

**The Lion of the Tribe of Judah**  
**Third Sunday of Easter**  
**Rev 5:1-14**

**Welcome**

**Announcements**

**Bible Studies**

Hebrews on Mondays

Revelation on Wednesdays starting May 4th

**Elder's Disctricts**

Talk to an Elder if you are not aware of who is your group leader

**Meetings**

May 15th - informational meeting

May 22nd - Questions and Answers

May 29th - Vote on church position

**Call to Worship**

Sing praises to the Lord, you faithful;

**We will give thanks to God's holy name.**

Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

**We will give thanks to God's holy name.**

God has turned our mourning into dancing! Let us praise and not be silent!

**Lord our God, we will give thanks to your holy name, now and always!**

**Prayer of Adoration**

God of the Risen Christ and the rising earth,

we come before you this day

giving thanks for all the wonder in your creation:

for the tiny perfection revealed in a baby's fingers grasping ours,

in each daffodil unzipping its jacket to greet the spring,

and each rock face worn by wind and water,

bearing its rugged beauty with your praise.

These details lift our hearts to praise you, too.

So let the details of the story the Risen Christ lift our hearts this day,

that we may greet a new week

as an occasion to discover him in our midst,  
 making all things new with the springtime of your Spirit.  
 Receive our heartfelt worship, O God,  
 Creator, Christ and Spirit,  
 ever Three and ever One,  
 now and evermore. Amen.

**Opening Hymn # 512: “My Saviour’s Love” (V 1, 2)**

I stand amazed in the presence  
 Of Jesus the Nazarene,  
 And wonder how he could love me,  
 A sinner, condemned, unclean.

Refrain:  
 How marvelous! How wonderful!  
 And my song shall ever be;  
 How marvelous! How wonderful!  
 Is my Savior's love for me!

When with the ransomed in glory  
 His face I at last shall see,  
 'Twill be my joy through the ages  
 To sing of his love for me. [Refrain]

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession**

**God of each and every life,  
 week by week we lay our lives before you,  
 acknowledging ways in which we fall short of your hope for us.  
 Today we confess we sometimes find it hard to forgive ourselves.  
 Things done long ago still haunt us.  
 We hear your forgiveness proclaimed,  
 yet your promise of a fresh start can ring hollow.  
 Forgive us if we think we are the one sinner who cannot be forgiven.  
 Forgive us when we cannot find the peace you offer.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

Friends in Christ, while it is true we have all fallen short of God’s intentions,  
 it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God’s love in Jesus Christ.  
 To all who humbly seek the mercy of God, Jesus offers forgiveness and new life.  
 So be at peace with God, with yourself, and with one another.

**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 26. How did God respond to sin?**

God responded to sin in judgment by condemning it and in grace by establishing a covenant with humanity, promising after the flood never again to destroy all life. Then God chose the people of Israel to become partners in a covenant promising to Abraham and Sarah, our forebears in faith, to be Israel's God. In return, they promised to be God's people, to love, worship and serve God alone.

Gen 6:5-8, Gen 17:1-2, Jer 11:4

#### **Question 27. How did God keep the covenant with Israel?**

When the people of Israel became slaves in Egypt God heard their cry and freed them. Through Moses, God led the people through the wilderness, fed and cared for them and gave them the gift of the law to guide them. At last, God brought Israel to the promised land and raised up judges, kings and priests to be leaders among them so that they would live as faithful people.

Ex 2:23-24, Ex 3:8, Ps 105:40

#### **Question 28. Did Israel keep its covenant with God?**

Israel often broke the covenant with God. No sooner had the people been liberated from Egypt, than they fashioned a golden calf and worshipped it. In the promised land they often abandoned the worship of God for other gods and were led astray into sin. They also failed to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with their God.

Ex 32:1-4, Hos 11:1-2

### **Music Ministry: "Let Us Break Bread Together" by Choir**

#### **Prayer for illumination**

O God of sight and insight,  
 Send your Holy Spirit to remove the scales from our eyes,  
 so that we might see your truth and grasp your wisdom.  
 Grant us fresh understanding of your Word  
 and your will for our lives. Amen.

### **Scripture**

#### **Revelation 5:1-14**

#### **The Scroll and the Lamb**

**5** Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. **2** And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" **3** And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, **4** and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. **5** And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

**6** And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. **7** And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. **8** And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. **9** And they sang a new song, saying,

"Worthy are you to take the scroll  
and to open its seals,  
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God  
from every tribe and language and people and nation,  
**10** and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,  
and they shall reign on the earth."

**11** Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, **12** saying with a loud voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might  
and honor and glory and blessing!"

**13** And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb  
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

**14** And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

### **Children's Hymn # 55: "Day By Day"**

Day by day, day by day,  
O, dear Lord, three things I pray:  
to see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly,  
follow thee more nearly, day by day.  
Day by day, day by day,  
O, dear Lord, three things I pray:  
To see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly,  
follow thee more nearly, day by day,  
by day, by day, by day.

### **Children's Lesson**

## Sermon

Just a few weeks ago we were in the midst of lent. A season of reflection, of sacrifice and of sorrow. We felt all these emotions because it is clear to us throughout this whole season of lent that Jesus went to the cross for us, for me and for you. He suffered the humiliation, the beatings, the torture, and his painful death upon the cross for each of us. We are the ones who have received God's grace so that we may be forgiven of our sins. It is the reality of understanding the value of his sacrifice that weighs so heavy upon our hearts all throughout the season of lent.

However, Christ is Risen!

And it is that glorious moment that we need to focus on during the Easter season, after Easter Sunday and leading up to the Ascension. There is a fact, an absolute truth, that Jesus rose from the dead and then ascended into heaven to be seated at the right hand of his father.

It is easy for all of us to understand the importance of his death, the sacrifice he made for our sins, the atonement for our trespasses and transgressions. We have heard thousands upon thousands of sermons based upon these truths.

But how easy is it for us to understand the importance of him rising from the dead? We all understand that it fulfilled some of the prophecies foretold of the Messiah in the Old Testament and therefore his rising from the grave proved he was in fact the Messiah to the people of that time, and to all Christians throughout all time.

However, there is much more to the phrase Christ is Risen than it just being proof of him being the Messiah, of Him being God. In today's scripture from the book of Revelation we will see why we should be celebrating the truth of the fact that Christ is Risen every day of our lives. The book of Revelation is a book that is filled with visions and prophecy, as I have shared before it is the book that is most requested by congregations as a book they want to learn from, and probably the least read and least commonly preached from book in the bible. It is full of confusing imagery and language. It is the place where the idea of the apocalypse comes from. The idea of the end of times. The destruction of the world, the end of humanity, the final battle between good and evil. The irony is that it is not what the Greek word apocalypse actually means. In Greek ἀποκάλυψις (apo-kal-yup-sees) has a very different meaning, it means "an unveiling or unfolding of things not previously known and which could not be known apart from the unveiling" or in simple language it means to reveal something that could only be seen after it is revealed, like unwrapping a gift.

This is what John calls a Revelation. And it is in chapter 5 of the book of Revelation we begin to see the importance of Jesus's death, resurrection, and ascension through John who is having this apocalyptic vision and is recording all he sees.

### Revelation 5:1-4

**5 Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. <sup>2</sup> And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" <sup>3</sup> And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, <sup>4</sup> and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.**

In revelation 5:1-4 we see Him who sat on the throne is God, the father. In his hand is a scroll that is sealed with seven seals. An angel is shouting out, seeking for someone who can open the scroll, and John is weeping in despair because no one in heaven or upon the earth had come forward who could open this scroll. For many of us it might seem kind of silly for him to weep over not being able to read a scroll.

So, we need to ask ourselves why is it that John is weeping over this scroll? What is weighing on his heart so heavily that he weeps even though he is in the presence of God? The scroll must have some great significance, and if you had been alive at the time of Jesus walking the earth you would know that it does. A scroll that was sealed with a king's seal could only be opened by someone who had the matching seal. Therefore, this scroll in the hand of God that was sealed with seven seals needed to be opened by someone, or a group of people that had the matching seven seals. Most times scroll was sealed with a single seal, was meant to be opened by a single person and contained information that was important to that person or that Kingdom. A scroll that was sealed with seven seals was special, really special. In fact, it was really only used in the culture of the time when someone was writing their last will and testament. So, when their will was opened and read, everyone who was important, or included in the will, would have to be present and have their seal shown before the scroll could be opened and the will proclaimed for all to hear?

God is seated here and has his will in his right hand ready to be opened and read for the whole world and John is weeping because there is no one in the heavens or on earth or even under the earth who is capable of opening the scrolls seven seals and proclaiming the will of God for his people.

It is then that one of the elders says to him;

**Revelation 5:5**

**<sup>5</sup> And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."**

You see this, this is an incredibly important fact around Jesus's Crucifixion and resurrection we often fail to recognize. Jesus's death has always been a part of God's design. Jesus's death allowed God to not only forgive us of our sins through his son's payment in blood for our sins, it also allowed God to have his Son be the one and only being capable of reading God's will and ensuring that everything written in it will come to pass. The truth is that Jesus is the Lion of the tribe of Judah and the Root of David and through his resurrection he has triumphed over the devil, sin and death itself.

The prophecy of the The Lion of the Tribble of Judah comes from the book of Genesis;

**Genesis 49:9-10**

**<sup>9</sup> Judah is a lion's cub;  
from the prey, my son, you have gone up.  
He stooped down; he crouched as a lion  
and as a lioness; who dares rouse him?  
<sup>10</sup> The scepter shall not depart from Judah,  
nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,  
until tribute comes to him;  
and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.**

Remember when we spoke of Jesus riding into Jerusalem, people had so many different expectations of him as the Messiah. In the Old Testament the Jews were taught that the messiah would arise from the masses and lead them to salvation. Many believed that the messiah would be a great warrior who would conquer all the enemies of the Jews in glorious battles. He would be a Lion, a warrior king who would establish his kingdom for all time slaying all who stood against him, even when odds were against him, just as David had defeated Goliath.

The Idea of root of David comes from the book of Isaiah:

**Isaiah 11:1-5**

**11 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.**

**2 And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.**

**3 And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,**

**4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.**

**5 Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.**

This is another expectation that the Jews had of the Messiah. He would be a wise and righteous ruler who would be able to not only lead his people to military victories but to great successes economically and socially. He would re-establish bonds of trust and fellowship and deliver his people from their evil ways. He would slay those who remained wicked and did not repent their evil ways. This Messiah was not the warrior but a priest, one who leads his people through his righteousness and holiness.

The elder tells John that 'has conquered. Jesus has already won the battle against evil; he has paid the debt for sin and defeated death itself. All of it was predetermined, there is no need for us to concern ourselves with the outcome of the war because we know in the end - Jesus Wins!

So, the elder is explaining to John he does not need to weep because Jesus is the one who is capable of opening the scroll and it is seven seals and in the next few lines we learn of the reasons he is capable and begin to understand the importance of both his death for our sins and his resurrection for our eternal life.

**Revelation 5:6-7**

**6 And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing,  
as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God  
sent out into all the earth. 7 And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was  
seated on the throne.**

The image of Jesus now changes to that of the lamb, the sacrificial lamb of the Passover which had been slain yet was here standing with them. Upon its head were seven horns, and it had seven eyes. Here again we see the importance of the number seven being played out in scripture, representing fullness, perfection, and completion. Here it speaks directly to the seven churches which appear earlier in Revelation, as well as the perfection of the lamb as a sacrifice. But it also alludes to the Old Testament in its symbolism. The horn is a common symbol of power in the Old Testament and appears first in Deuteronomy and then in many of the psalms. The seven eyes speak to God's perfect vision and his omniscience, his ability to know what is going on everywhere at once. This sacrificed and risen lamb of God is the only one who is capable of opening the scroll which contains the will of God. The One who understands fully and has been part of God's divine providence since the beginning in the book of Genesis, the One who is completely aware of each of the churches mentioned in the book of revelation and the Holy Catholic Church throughout all time, the One that knows everyone of the prophecies and how they will occur, the One who shares in His perfection with God.

This is where the beauty of Christ's death upon the cross and his resurrection should be recognized by all of us, if he had not been slain, if he had not died and risen there would be no one capable of opening this scroll, no one who could open the will of God and ensure that it is carried out upon the Earth. This is why we must learn to rejoice more through the seasons of Lent and Easter. Jesus's death upon the cross was the providence of God, it was all part of His plan to pay the debt of our sins and reconcile us with him in his coming Kingdom.

#### **Revelation 5:8–10**

**<sup>8</sup> And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. <sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song, saying,**

**“Worthy are you to take the scroll  
and to open its seals,  
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God  
from every tribe and language and people and nation,  
<sup>10</sup> and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,  
and they shall reign on the earth.”**

Those who were fortunate enough to be present when the lamb takes the scroll begin to worship him. ‘You are worthy to take the scroll and open its seals, because you were slain’ and this is the part I we all need to pay particular attention to ‘and with your blood you purchased for God, persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God and they will reign on earth.’

It was through his death on the crucifix, his blood that was shed, that Jesus was ordained to be capable of opening the scroll of God's will and paying the cost of our salvation. It is for these two reasons that all those who are present in Heaven worship Jesus, the lamb of God.

They sang a new song, a song designated specifically to celebrate this event. To celebrate that God's people would be saved, that they would reign over the earth in their kingdom and God's will upon the earth would be realized because the lamb was capable of opening the will of God.

However, it does not end there. It is not enough that just those within the heavens worship the lamb who was slain.

**Revelation 5:11**

**Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands,**

Every being in heaven joins in on the celebration. Myriads of myriads, thousands upon thousands. In Greek when large numbers are multiplied like this it means they are referring to a number that is beyond comprehension or understanding. And it is every single member of this uncountable hoard that join their voices together in praise surrounding those who were already encircling Jesus Christ, the lamb which had been slain and had risen.

**Revelation 5:12**

<sup>12</sup> saying with a loud voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might  
and honor and glory and blessing!”

Here we see the lamb worshiped as worship is meant to be. He receives the sevenfold adulation; God is worshiped for power, wealth, wisdom, and might; all attributes of great kings and for Honor and glory and blessing the attributes of a great spiritual leader; those of a priest. The multitudes of angels are gathered here in heaven around the throne of God and worshipping Jesus as both King and Priest. The Lion and the Lamb of God.

**Revelation 5:13**

<sup>13</sup> **And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,**

**“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb  
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”**

Finally, we have all of creation joining in to praise and worship. All of creation understands the glory of what is about to occur. The Lord our God is about to have his will proclaimed for all to hear, we will all be made aware of God’s plans for humanity. So, all of creation will gather together to rejoice in the lamb who was slain for it is his death, his blood, his sacrifice and his resurrection from the grave, his victory over death, which enabled Him to be the one and only being who is capable of opening the scroll and being witness to God’s will.

This clearly shows us that all of creation is willed by God, made by God, ruled by God, and is meant to be praising and worshipping its God. The redundancy of John describing that ‘every creature in heaven, and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them,’ shows us that every living thing, every living thing owes its worship to God.

And what do all of these living things do? Once again, they join voices in singing praise with the multitudes already gathered. They sing; ‘be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever’

All of creation offers its praise to him who sits upon the throne and to the lamb. Equally, not as two separate entities but as one. Praising them with honor, glory, and might forever and ever.

### **Revelation 5:14**

**<sup>14</sup> And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.**

This is the importance of the lamb who was slain and resurrected. The sacrifice of the Son of God and his blood that has paid the debt of our sin and his resurrection which enabled God's will to be open and proclaimed in the heavens.

The worship that is offered here in the book of Revelation to Jesus and to God the father is equal and is meant to be so. The four living creatures offer an 'Amen' . Declaring, 'So be it' further clarifying that all of creation is meant to worship and praise our God, we are meant to offer honor, and glory and might to our God for all eternity. The twenty-four elders once again fall down in worship as an example for all of creation. Worship of our God, worship of Jesus is meant to be a central part of our lives.

This is why the death of the Jesus was so much more than a sacrifice for our sins. His death and resurrection were critical in him becoming the Messiah of the Old Testament, The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the warrior who would lead God's people into becoming a great nation and at the same time; his being the lamb of God, the only one in all of creation being able to open the scrolls seven seals and proclaim God's will for all of the heavens to hear.

This book of Revelation shows us that Jesus is our God, and we are to worship him just as he was worshiped in the heavens. He is the slain lamb standing by the throne of God and meant to be adored, meant to be worshiped as both our King and our Priest. The one whom we owe our salvation to not just because of the atonement for our sins but for his ability to proclaim God's will and ensure that all of the prophecies will take place as they are prescribed in the book of Revelation. That evil will be defeated, and we will have eternal life in God's Kingdom.

This is the beauty of the book of Revelation. In all of its chaos contained within its visions and prophecies there is one truth that is clear; God is the only true path to eternal life. God is the only being worthy of our praise, God deserves our adoration and worship for all of eternity and it is our duty to do so.

So, my brothers and sisters, it is my hope and prayer that you see Jesus, our lord and Savior, did so much for each of us on that day he died upon the crucifix. His death was more than just atonement for our sinful nature, more that symbolic fulfillment of the prophecies of the Old Testament. Through his resurrection it was the continuation of God's will being proclaimed and God's providence being enacted here upon earth and throughout all of creation. And for this reason, we are called to worship the Son as we do the Father and the Holy Spirit; as One God for all of eternity.

Let us Pray,

### **Praise, Thanks, Confession of Faith**

*Glory be to you, almighty Father,  
you have given to those who fear you*

*the heavenly bread of life,  
 that we may be mindful of the marvels  
 which you have done on the earth,  
 by sending us your only Son,  
 fully human,  
 born of a pure virgin.  
 We give you thanks, holy Father,  
 for you created us before we were,  
 and while we were still sinners you made us partakers of your heavenly grace;  
 through your Son, our Lord and God,  
 who with you and the Holy Spirit  
 makes, orders, and rules all things, now and forever. Amen.*  
**Source: Dunstan of Canterbury**

**Music Ministry: “Steady My Heart” by Harmony Viau**

### **Communion**

#### **Declaration of God’s Invitation and Promises**

*Beloved in the Lord Jesus Christ,  
 the Holy Supper that we are about to celebrate  
 is a feast of remembrance, of communion, and of hope.  
 We come in remembrance  
 that our Lord Jesus Christ was sent of the Father into the world  
 to assume our flesh and blood  
 and to fulfill for us all obedience to the divine law,  
 even to the bitter and shameful death of the cross.  
 By his death, resurrection, and ascension  
 he established a new and eternal covenant of grace and reconciliation,  
 that we might be accepted of God and never be forsaken by him.  
 We come to have communion with this same Christ,  
 who has promised to be with us always, even to the end of the world.  
 In the breaking of the bread he makes himself known to us  
 as the true heavenly bread that strengthens us unto life eternal.  
 In the cup of blessing he comes to us as the vine,  
 in whom we must abide if we are to bear fruit.  
 We come in hope,  
 believing that this bread and this cup  
 are a pledge and foretaste of the feast of love  
 of which we shall partake when his kingdom has fully come,  
 when with unveiled face we shall behold him,  
 made like unto him in his glory*

#### **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**

*It is truly right to glorify you, Father,  
and to give you thanks,  
for you alone are God, living and true,  
dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and forever.  
Fountain of all life and source of all goodness,  
you made all things and fill them with your blessing;  
you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.  
Countless throngs of angels stand before you  
to serve you night and day,  
and, beholding the glory of your presence,  
they offer you unceasing praise.  
Joining with them,  
and giving voice to every creature under heaven,  
we glorify your name  
and lift our voices in joyful praise:*

### **Acclimation of Praise**

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!**  
**All thy works shall praise thy name**  
**in earth and sky and sea.**  
**Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!**  
**God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

### **Thanksgiving to Christ**

*Holy God, you are mighty in power yet abounding in mercy.  
While our world was marred with sin,  
so much so that we had no hope of redemption,  
you made a covenant with your people.  
You promised to renew your creation.  
You promised to give hope amid the sorrow,  
healing in place of sickness, wholeness in place of emptiness.  
You stepped into our darkness in the person of Jesus Christ.  
Our Lord and Savior lived among us.  
He, God before the beginning of time,  
willingly came to live at a specific place in a specific time.*

*He came quietly to a young unwed mother  
 through the power of your Holy Spirit.  
 He experienced our human joys and sorrows.  
 The Lord of the universe became a helpless boy.  
 He ate, he drank, he grew.  
 He was like us but without sin.  
 Then the King of kings showed us how to live.  
 He healed the sick, cared for the least of society, and took time for children.  
 He forgave sins and performed miracles.  
 He loved, and he served.  
 He gave up his very life for his friends.  
 He died the excruciating, disgraceful death of a criminal for us.  
 Yet you raised him out of the tomb.  
 He triumphed over death so that we too may live.  
 On the night before our Lord died, he ate with his disciples.  
 As we so often do, Jesus began with prayer.  
 He took the bread and the cup, and he shared them with his friends,  
 saying, "This is my body given for you. This cup is poured out for you.  
 My body and my blood are given for the forgiveness of your sins.  
 Do this in remembrance of me."  
 So, loving God, we do, in obedience to your command,  
 eat the bread and drink from the cup.  
 As we do, we remember with awe and gratitude  
 the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
 King of all, Savior, Anointed One.  
 We rejoice that your great love through our Redeemer's sacrifice has set us free  
 and given us hope for a future with you.  
 Until our Lord Jesus returns to establish his kingdom without end,  
 we will joyfully proclaim his death and resurrection.  
**Christ has died,  
 Christ is risen,  
 Christ will come again.***

*Lord, our God, send your Holy Spirit  
 so that this bread and cup may be for us  
 the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
 May we and all your saints be united with Christ  
 and remain faithful in hope and love.  
 Gather your whole church, O Lord,  
 into the glory of your kingdom.*

**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.**

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**

*Come to this table:  
you who have much faith,  
and you who would like to have more;  
you who have been to this sacrament often,  
and you who have not been for a long time;  
you who have tried to follow Jesus,  
and you who have failed.  
Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.*

### **Taking of the Elements**

*Take, eat, remember, and believe  
that the body of our Lord Jesus Christ was given  
for the complete forgiveness of all our sins*

*Take, drink, remember, and believe  
that the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ was shed  
for the complete forgiveness of all our sins.*

### **Response of Praise and Prayer**

*O Lord, our God, we give you thanks  
for uniting us by baptism in the body of Christ  
and for filling us with joy in the eucharist.  
Lead us toward the full visible unity of your church,  
and help us to treasure all the signs of reconciliation you have granted us.  
Now that we have tasted the banquet  
you have prepared for us in the world to come,  
may we all one day share together  
the inheritance of the saints in the life of the heavenly city.  
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, You have given us life and furnished it with much beauty and blessing. In Christ you have given yourself to us. So we offer to you a portion of what we have received to share in the work of your kingdom. Use our energy and ability for your purposes for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen.

### **Closing Hymn # 496: "He Hideth My Soul" (V 1, 3)**

A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord,  
a wonderful Savior to me.  
He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock,  
where rivers of pleasure I see.

Refrain:

He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock  
that shadows a dry, thirsty land.  
He hideth my life in the depths of his love,  
and covers me there with his hand,  
and covers me there with his hand.

With numberless blessings each moment he crowns,  
and filled with his fullness divine,  
I sing in my rapture, "Oh, glory to God  
for such a Redeemer as mine!" [Refrain]

### **Pastoral Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
We draw near to you in prayer this day,  
trusting that your love does change lives  
and your resurrection brings renewal and redemption into the world God loves.  
As we lay before you the concerns on our hearts today,  
we pray that you will draw near to the people and situations we name  
and bring each one the gift that is needed:

We lay before you, Lord, the concerns we share from the news headlines  
and the many world situations where hope and change are desperately needed.

We lay before you, Lord, those who are in hospital or care  
and all those who struggle with illness, pain or health burdens of any sort;  
and we remember those facing grief and loss, bearing burdens of sorrow and worry.

We lay before you, Lord, families under stress, relationships that are strained,  
friends and neighbours in need of reconciliation,  
and we pray for the healing of divisions in our country.

Lord Jesus,  
we believe that you hear our prayers and will be faithful to our requests and concerns.  
Use us in every opportunity that presents itself to serve you  
by serving our neighbours near and far.  
We pray in the name of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **Benediction**

Go out into the world in peace;  
have courage;  
hold on to what is good;  
return no one evil for evil;  
strengthen the fainthearted;  
support the weak, and help the suffering;  
honor all people;  
love and serve the Lord,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit