

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth
Sunday, September 14th, 2025
Rev. Gerry Gallant

Serving God and Man
Proper 19
John 13: 1-17

Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

O God, you summon the day to dawn,
you teach the morning to waken the earth.

**For you, the valleys shall sing for joy,
the trees of the field shall clap their hands.**

For you, the kings of the earth shall bow,
the poor and the persecuted shall shout for joy.

**Your love and mercy shall last forever,
fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise.**

Great is your name.

Great is your love. Amen.

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

With you, gracious God,
we move into this time of worship,
grateful that you are never farther
than the reach of our need and our prayer.
Father, You who tower over the universe
are yet intimately present,
always renewing the face of the earth,
always renewing the faith of your children.
Now, in your mercy, make your way past

all that worries us and distracts us this day
 and make Yourself in us anew through Your Holy Spirit
 and to center our small worship on your great glory.
 We pray this in the name of our Lord and Savior
 Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with
 You and the Holy Spirit as the
 One True Living God,
 Now and forevermore.
 Amen.

Children’s Video: “Good is Good (at all times)”

Call to Confession

Prepare the way of the Lord!
 Let us make our confession to God.

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty and merciful God,
 we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
 We have followed too much
 the devices and desires of our own hearts.
 We have offended against your holy laws.
 We have left undone those things which we ought to have done;
 and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.
 O Lord, have mercy upon us.
 Spare those who confess their faults.
 Restore those who are penitent,
 according to your promises declared to the world
 in Christ Jesus, our Lord.
 And grant, O merciful God, for his sake,
 that we may live a holy, just, and humble life
 to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
 Your sins are pardoned.
 The penalty is paid.
 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.**

Hymn #333: "I Sing the Almighty Power of God"

I sing the almighty power of God
that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad
and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day;
the moon shines full at Gods command,
and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord,
that filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with a word,
and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed,
where'er I turn my eyes,
if I survey the ground I tread,
or gaze upon the skies!

There's not a plant or flower below
but makes thy glories known,
and clouds arise and tempests blow
by order from thy throne,
while all that borrows life from thee
is ever in thy care,
and everywhere I could be,
thou, God, art present there.

Responsive Reading

Psalm 119: 1-8

¹¹⁹ Blessed are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the LORD!

**2 Blessed are those who keep his testimonies,
who seek him with their whole heart,**

3 who also do no wrong,
but walk in his ways!

**4 You have commanded your precepts
to be kept diligently.**

5 Oh that my ways may be steadfast
in keeping your statutes!

**6 Then I shall not be put to shame,
having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.**

7 I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your righteous rules.

**8 I will keep your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me!**

Anthem (Music Ministry): "Bread of the World"

Prayer for illumination
(Congregant Prepared)

Scripture

John 13:1-17

13 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴ rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord,

not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹² When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

Sermon

Today we start into chapter thirteen of the Book of John. Over the first twelve Chapters of John, we have learned all about the public ministry of Jesus Christ, that three years he spent teaching, healing and sharing the Word of God with the people and His disciples.

Twelve chapters cover three years of the life of Jesus Christ, and as we study John thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen and seventeen, we are going to be looking at just one night of Jesus's life. One conversation that is shared with the disciples, one meal that is shared among friends, before Jesus Christ goes to the cross to die for our sins.

The first verse of John chapter thirteen sets us up for this study.

John 13:1

13 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

In these next few chapters Jesus is preparing His disciples for what is to come, both in his death and in the years to come as they establish the church in a place where the church is not accepted. What is interesting is that John does not spend nearly as much time focusing on the meal that they shared, he instead focuses on the conversation.

But to understand the conversation we need to know a little more about the meal. As Jesus and His disciples celebrate the Passover meal, they were actual laying around the table, DaVinci's painting of the Last Supper is a beautiful painting, but the reality is that it would not have looked that way at all.

Jesus and his disciples were eating at a table called a triclinium,



It was a low table that was surrounded with couches that were more like single beds, and you would lie on the bed while you ate in comfort from the table.

They did not eat at a table like this every day, this was a table that was special to the Roman culture for celebrations, for special events, and Jesus and His disciples are having their Passover meal in a room they reserved that included one of these tables.

Just so you are aware this is actually the table that they are depicted at eating in the majority of early church art, both in writing and on the walls of catacombs. So, we need to shake off that image of DaVinci's Last Supper and instead focus on the meal at the triclinium to better understand what is about to take place.

The second thing we need to understand is that Jesus knew his hour had come. He knew it was time for him to depart from this world and return to heaven, and he spent his time with those he loved in this world.

Jesus loves all the people of this world.

John 3:16

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

God loves the people of this world, and he died for every person in this world.

Someone explained it this way. 'God has done some things for all of mankind and done everything for those he calls his own.'

This is important for us to understand, Jesus has a different relationship with those who come to him, those who listen to his voice, those who obey his words, those who place their faith and trust in him.

And that is what we are seeing here in this upper room conversation that Jesus is going to have with his disciples. He loved them until the end, as he is preparing to go to the cross and die for the sins of this world, he loved his own, with the ultimate form of God's love.

Love is a critical aspect of our faith; in fact, we had a full service where we talked about love just a few weeks ago. And to summarize it quickly for you, the world's understanding of love and God's understanding of love are very different.

When the world talks about love in most cases it is simple talking about eros' or sexual love. Ironically, love and sex do not necessarily go together in this world, the current culture is a wonderful example of that. Real love is caring about someone's eternal life that you are willing to say and do whatever is needed to get them to understand their own sin. Real love is being willing to sacrifice here and now, for an eternity in heaven.

And when Jesus Christ went to the cross, he displayed His ultimate love, dying to pay the debt of our sins while we were still sinners. He loved us before we ever loved Him, and here at the Last Supper he is loving those twelve who had spent the last three years walking alongside him to the very end, knowing what is to come.

John 13:2-5

² During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴ rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

Notice through the Scripture tells us that Jesus knew the Father had given all things into His hands.

Jesus understood what was going to happen and he had the power over all things. He had his divinity, and he knew when he went to the cross that he was not going as just a man, he was going to the cross as the Son of God, not as a victim of the times, but for victory over all time.

At anytime along the path to the cross Jesus could have changed the course of his life. He could have said a word, thought a thought and an army of angels would have been at his side. He had

authority over all things, he had all the power of God and instead of using it to save himself, he laid it down at the cross to save you and I and anyone who is willing to humble themselves at the foot of the cross.

Jesus knew who he was and what was about to come, and he went willingly.

Now, in the midst of the meal, Jesus will humble himself get up and wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel he had wrapped around his waist.

Picture this in your mind, Jesus gets up in the middle of the meal, walks over to the side of the room and grabs an apron. He sets aside his outer clothing, takes a towel and wraps it around his waist and then he goes to the basin where the water for washing the feet of people was, and he grabs some water. Then he starts to wash the feet of the people he loved., feet that were covered in the dirt of this world, Jesus washes it away.

John describes this event as if it were fresh in his mind, he could have just said, Jesus washed the feet of the disciples, but instead he describes the event, ensuring that we understand what is happening in that room.

Jesus took on the role of the servant, he embraced it, he could have asked someone else to do the foot washing, they could have had a servant do the foot washing, but instead Jesus, the teacher, the Rabbi, the Master, took on the role of the servant and washed the feet of the men he loved.

Jesus washed the feet of the disciples, removing the dust, the dirt the grime that was there on the feet of the disciples. Imagine that scene in your head, if you have ever walked outside in sandals for a significant amount of time you know how dirty our feet get, now imagine it before there were roads made of asphalt and concrete, everything was dirt and animals shared those roads which meant that their bodily functions were often shared along the road and made its way onto the feet of travelers.

Jesus washed their feet; this was the job of the lowest servant in the household. Washing the feet was the worst possible job you could be given, and Jesus took on the job of the lowest of the slaves as he washed the feet of His disciples, and he did it with joy.

Jesus loved his own unto the end, this is the servant heart of God that all Christians are called to have.

John 13:6-8

⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, do you wash my feet?” ⁷ Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.” ⁸ Peter said to him, “You shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.”

Peter, ahh Peter, Peter is always a good representation of mankind. Peter thinks he knows best, and he tells Jesus not to wash his feet, that he is not worthy of having his feet washed by his Master.

However, Jesus says something that is meant to be understood not only in the foot washing but also in salvation.

‘If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.’

If you do not let Jesus wash you, then you are not part of his own. You have to accept what Jesus did for us to cleanse us from our sin, or you cannot be a part of his flock.

To be a part of God’s kingdom you need to accept that you are a sinner, and that Jesus died for your sins.

It does not matter if you go to church every Sunday, it does not matter if you read your Bible faithfully, it does not matter if you pray hourly, or if you do good things in his name. It all begins with you knowing and understanding that you are a sinner in need of salvation and then accepting what Jesus Christ has done for you.

Peter in three years of service with Jesus had help Jesus teach, heal, cast out demons and share the truth of God with the multitudes. Peter had seen Jesus at the mount of transfiguration with Moses and Elijah. Peter was part of the inner circle of disciples, one who was always at Jesus’s side. Peter had even walked on water and here Jesus is telling him, I need to wash you clean, or you will have no share with me.

If Peter needed to be washed clean, what about you and I?

We need to come to Jesus and be washed clean.

Think how easy that is, accept you are a sinner, admit your sin to God, accept what he did for you, and be washed clean.

Aren’t you glad Jesus did not say: live a life of holiness or you shall have no share with me.

Or pass this comprehensive exam on the Scriptures or you will have no share with me.

All you need to have a share of God's kingdom, is to have dirty feet and let Jesus wash them for you. And I can guarantee we all have our feet dirtied by this world.

Salvation is that simple.

Admit you are a sinner and be washed clean by the blood of Jesus Christ!

However, most people refuse to admit that they need to be washed. We do not like to admit our faults, our sins, instead we like to point at the sins of others, people who we consider worse than ourselves, their feet are dirtier than mine after all.

However, unless we admit our own feet are dirty, unless we acknowledge the sins in our life fully and truthfully, and allow Jesus to wash us clean, we shall have no share in him.

John 13: 9-11

⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"

¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

So, Peter being Peter then swings to the other extreme. Jesus do not wash just my feet but instead wash all of me.

Peter is always telling Jesus what to do, and in doing so he is once again a great example of mankind.

How many of us want to tell Jesus what he can and cannot do in our lives instead of accepting what he is going to do. We want to be the ones in control.

The reality is that in your life either you are in control and on your way to condemnation, or Jesus is in control, and you are on your way to salvation.

There is also another teaching here that is important for Christians. There is a difference between bathing and washing.

When you first come to Jesus Christ and are baptized by the Holy Spirit you are bathed. From that instant on, you are justified in the eyes of God and worthy to enter his kingdom of heaven.

That first time you come before God and truthfully admit all your sins, the Holy Spirit washes away all your debt with the blood of Jesus Christ, and we never sin again, or do we?

Of course we do, we still walk in this world, and the dirt from the road, the animal dropping from the road, the sins of this world still get on our feet, and we need to have our feet washed, over and over and over.

This is the process of Sanctification. We sin and we need to be washed clean over and over by the water of the Word of God.

And hopefully as we have our feet washed over and over by Jesus, we learn to walk down different roads, ones that are better kept, less covered in sin.

John 13:12-14

¹²When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.

Jesus tells his disciples; you know that I am teacher and Lord. This is the right mindset for us to have. God is our teacher, we follow in the way that he instructs us, because he is our Master.

God is looking for people who will stand up in this culture and say that Jesus is my Lord and Master even if it causes difficulties or persecution in their lives.

In the first century, early Christians knew and understood this.

In almost every town there was a statue that represented Caesar. There would be a fire underneath it, and a Roman official seated at a table beside it with a few Roman soldiers standing guard.

And everyone was expected to go up to the statue, take a pinch of incense, sprinkle it into the fire as a sacrifice and say, ‘Caesar is Lord.’

Such a simple task, the administrator did not care if you believed it or not, it was a ritualistic act that everyone took part in. Take a pinch of incense, sprinkle it in the fire, Caesar is lord.’

The early Christians refused to do this, they refused to say, 'Caesar is lord.', they refused to take part in the rituals of the time and culture, because they only had one Lord, Jesus.

This is why so many Christians were sent to the gladiatorial games to fight lions, this is why so many Christians were burned to death, boiled in hot oil, imprisoned, lost their homes, jobs and families, because they refused to accept the practices of the culture and take a pinch of incense, sprinkle it in the fire, Caesar is lord.'

If you think that the culture we are in today is hostile to Christianity, you are mistaken, the first century Christians were persecuted and they were willing to stand up for their faith, because they accepted their sinful nature and accepted what Jesus had done for them as Lord and Savior.

So, if Jesus is your Lord and Savior, you need to be willing to stand up against the culture, but you also need to be willing to do what Jesus tells the disciples here, to wash the feet of one another.

To be honest with one another about the sinfulness of our lives and help one another in our walk of Sanctification, lovingly, humbly serving one another and others in the name of Jesus Christ.

Showing the world what it means to be a Christian, what it means to walk with Jesus as Lord and Master. Loving God first with all our heart, soul, body and mind and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

John 13:15-17

¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.

¹⁶ Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

Jesus gave us the example of how we are to live. Right here Jesus makes it clear, he says it is an example.

If you are one of his own, if you are one of his sheep, if you are one of his disciples, live a life of service to God and to fellow man.

Do it.

Jesus does not say, if you know who I am, then read about service, if you know who I am think about service. He says If you know who I am, do these things and be blessed in doing them.

If you want to find peace and joy in this world.

Admit your feet are dirty, stop trying to pretend that you are clean, humble yourself and let Jesus wash you.

Then live a life of service, have an attitude and take action to show your love of God in this world. You cannot have one without the other, James spent a lot of time teaching us that the love of God and service to God go hand in hand, they cannot be separated.

If you love God, serve God. Be humble servant and you will find peace and joy in this world.

You can serve in many ways and for many of you it is challenging. How do you serve God?

Do you serve in the children's ministry, on a board committee at the church? Do you serve in the community at a homeless shelter or food bank?

Do you give of time, talent and treasure freely?

The simplest way to is just do what you are already doing, live your life as you are, but start putting God first in all of your interactions.

In your job, social circles, and in public, share the truth of God's Word even if it costs you a little pride.

In your talents, find ways to promote the kingdom of God.

And in your treasure, this is the hardest one for most, perhaps give up a few luxuries so that you can give a little more to help the church do the work it is doing in your life and in the lives of this community as we all learn to walk as the Salt and Light of God's Word.

Let us pray,

Neighborly Love, Service and Helpfulness

Almighty and eternal God,
we are poor sinners
and stand under your righteous judgment.

With all our hearts
 we thank you for taking all our guilt from us
 and laying it on your dear Son Christ Jesus.
 Graciously sustain us in faith
 and govern us by your Holy Spirit,
 that we may live according to your will,
 in neighborly love, service, and helpfulness,
 and not give way to wrath or revenge,
 that we may not incur your wrath
 but always find in you a gracious Father;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one true God, now and forever.

Source: Veit Dietrich, d. 1549, Trinity 22

Hymn: "In Christ Alone"

In Christ alone, my hope is found
 He is my light, my strength, my song
 This Cornerstone, this solid ground
 Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
 What heights of love, what depths of peace
 When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
 My Comforter, my All in All
 Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh
 Fullness of God in helpless babe
 This gift of love and righteousness
 Scorned by the ones He came to save
 'Til on that cross as Jesus died
 The wrath of God was satisfied
 For every sin on Him was laid
 Here in the death of Christ I live, I live.

No guilt in life, no fear in death
 This is the power of Christ in me
 From life's first cry to final breath
 Jesus commands my destiny
 No power of hell, no scheme of man

Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Communion

Invitation to the Table

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.

Let us Pray,

All-powerful God, I am sinful. Nothing I can do can save me. I turn away from my sin, and I flee to you. I need you. I need the life-giving death and resurrection of Jesus. Send me your Spirit so that I can be made new. Thank you for offering me

forgiveness. Thank you for taking the punishment I deserved. Thank you for loving me more than I could possibly imagine. **Amen.**

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

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 to give God thanks and praise.

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:

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!

We acclaim you, holy God, glorious in power;
 your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love.
 You formed us in your own image,
 giving the whole world into our care
 so that, in obedience to you, our creator,

we might rule and serve all your creatures.
When our disobedience took us far from you,
you did not abandon us to the power of death.
In your mercy you came to our help,
so that in seeking you we might find you.
Again and again you called us into covenant with you,
and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.
Almighty God, you loved the world so much
that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior.
Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
he lived as one of us, yet was without sin.
To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation;
to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy.
To fulfill your purpose, he gave himself up to death
and, rising from the grave, destroyed death
and made the whole creation new.
And that we might live no longer for ourselves
but for him who died and rose for us,
God sent the Holy Spirit,
God's first gift for all who believe,
to complete God's work in the world,
and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.
When the hour had come for him to be glorified
by you, his heavenly Father,
having loved his own who were in the world,
he loved them to the end:
at supper with them he took bread,
and after giving thanks to you,
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying,
"Take, eat. This is my body, which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."
After supper he took the cup, saying,
"This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,
shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do it for the remembrance of me."
Holy God, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead,
proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand,
awaiting his coming in glory,

and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us,
 this bread and this cup,
 we praise you and we bless you.

**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.**

Living God,
 send your Holy Spirit upon us
 as we share your heavenly meal;
 nourish us with your grace
 so that we are strengthened
 to do your work in this world;
 unite us with you so that we are renewed;
 and join us with your covenant people
 throughout time and space
 so that all divisions will be healed.
 May we gratefully and joyfully remember that Jesus, our Savior,
 lived, died, and rose to give us new life
 and make us new creations in him.
 May we live in the hope
 we discover through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Let us together confess the faith of the church at all times and in
 all places:

The Apostles Creed

**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.**

Communion

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

[as the minister breaks the bread]

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."

[as the minister lifts or pours the cup]

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.

Congregation of Jesus Christ,
the Lord has prepared his table for all who love him

and trust in him alone for their salvation.
 All who are truly sorry for their sins,
 who sincerely believe in the Lord Jesus
 as their Savior,
 and who desire to live in obedience to him as Lord
 are now invited to take part in
 the table of the Lord.

Taking of the bread

Take and eat.
 This is the body of Christ, which is [given] for you.
 Do this, remembering him.

Drinking of the cup

This cup is the new covenant
 sealed by Christ's blood,
 which was shed that the sins of many
 might be forgiven.
 Drink from it, all of you

Prayer after Communion

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

Offertory Prayer

(Congregant Prepared)

Closing Hymn #367: “Jesus, The Very Thought of Thee”

Jesus, the very thought of thee
with sweetness fills my breast,
but sweeter far thy face to see,
and in thy presence rest.

Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame,
nor can the memory find
a sweeter sound than thy blest name,
O Saviour dear and kind.

Jesus, our only joy be thou,
as thou our prize wilt be;
Jesus, be thou our glory now
and through eternity.

Pastoral Prayer

With you, wondrous God, we now move from this time of worship.
We thank you for calling us to worship you and for accepting
our praises as a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to you.
Thank you, O God, that your Word came to us in power,
inspired by your Holy Spirit.
Thank you for nourishing us with your Word and Spirit
and strengthening us with your grace for the days ahead.
Thank you for listening to prayers that rose to you from humble hearts.
Thank you for surrounding us with brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ
who love us, share our triumphs and disappointments,
and support us in times of need.
Thank you that our offering may provide relief
for those who suffer in poverty of body or spirit.
In the week ahead, O God, may we turn each moment of joy into praise,
and may we cling to your promise in times of suffering.
Guide us, O God, so that we can obey you.
Make your light shine through us
so that others will see our good deeds and glorify you.

Fill our lives with love for you, O God,
and for the world that so desperately needs its Savior, in whom we pray. **Amen.**

Benediction

As you leave this place this day,
may God's love sustain you,
and may you love those who surround you.
May God's Spirit empower you,
and may you empower all those you meet.
May God's joy fill your hearts,
and may this joy overflow
to the ends of the earth for God's glory,
now and forever. **Amen.**