

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth**  
**Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
**Rev. Gerry Gallant**

**From Amazement to Repentance: Don't Miss the Savior**  
**Proper 5**  
**Acts 3:11-26**

**Welcome**

**Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

Lift up your hearts, O people of God. The Lord calls us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

**We come to behold His glory, to declare His praise, and to worship Him in spirit and truth.**

From every burden and distraction, the Lord summons us now into His presence.

**We come not trusting in ourselves, but resting in the mercy and grace of our God.**

The Lord is near to all who call upon Him.

**We call upon Him now with joy and reverence. Let us worship the Lord.**

**Prayer of Adoration and Invocation**

O Lord our God,

You are high and lifted up, yet near to the humble and lowly. You are the Creator of all things, the Sustainer of every breath, the Sovereign who rules over all with perfect wisdom and power.

You are holy beyond all comprehension, pure in all Your ways, and righteous in every judgment. Your glory fills heaven and earth, and yet You invite Your people to draw near. You are rich in mercy, abundant in steadfast love, slow to anger, and faithful in all You have promised.

We praise You because You alone are worthy of all honor, all glory, and all worship. There is none like You.

And now, gracious Father, we ask that by Your Spirit You would come and meet with us. Quiet our restless hearts. Lift our wandering minds. Remove every distraction. Give us eyes to see Your beauty, ears to hear Your truth, and hearts that are ready to respond in faith and obedience.

Be exalted among us. Be honored in our worship. Be near to Your people. We ask this in humble dependence. **Amen.**

### **Call to Confession**

The Scriptures remind us that if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. God is holy and righteous, and He calls His people to walk in His ways. Yet we have often fallen short in thought, word, and deed.

Let us therefore come humbly before the Lord, confessing our sins and seeking His mercy.

### **Prayer of Confession**

Merciful Father, we confess that we have often looked to ourselves and to human instruments rather than to You. We have marveled at Your works while remaining distant from Your heart. We have chosen lesser things over Christ, excused our sin instead of turning from it, and trusted in our own strength rather than Your sovereign grace.

Forgive us, Lord. Cleanse us from our pride, our self-reliance, and our wandering hearts. Turn us back to You, blot out our transgressions, and renew our souls with the refreshing grace that only You can give. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Hear the good news of the gospel:

To all who sincerely repent and trust in Christ alone, God promises full forgiveness, complete cleansing, and reconciliation with Himself. In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven and we are accepted as God's beloved children.

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 #592: "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky"**

I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
 I have heard My people cry.  
 All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save.  
 I, who made the stars of night,  
 I will make their darkness bright.  
 Who will bear My light to them – whom shall I send?

Chorus

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
 I have heard You calling in the night.  
 I will go, Lord, if You lead me;  
 I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
 I have borne My people's pain.  
 I have wept for love of them; they turn away.  
 I will break their hearts of stone,  
 Give them hearts for love alone.  
 I will speak My Word to them – whom shall I send? (Chorus)

I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
 I will tend the poor and lame.  
 I will set a feast for them; My hand will save.  
 Finest bread I will provide,  
 Till their hearts be satisfied.  
 I will give My life to them – whom shall I send? (Chorus)

**Responsive Reading****Psalm 145:1-9**

<sup>1</sup> I will extol you, my God and King,  
and bless your name forever and ever.

<sup>2</sup> **Every day I will bless you  
and praise your name forever and ever.**

<sup>3</sup> Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,  
and his greatness is unsearchable.

<sup>4</sup> **One generation shall commend your works to another,  
and shall declare your mighty acts.**

<sup>5</sup> On the glorious splendor of your majesty,  
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

<sup>6</sup> **They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,  
and I will declare your greatness.**

<sup>7</sup> They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness  
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

<sup>8</sup> **The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

<sup>9</sup> **The LORD is good to all,  
and his mercy is over all that he has made.**

**Anthem (Music Ministry): “Come to the Table”**

**Prayer for illumination**  
**(Congregant Prepared)**

**Scripture****Acts 3:11-26**

<sup>11</sup> While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon’s. <sup>12</sup> And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: “Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? <sup>13</sup> The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup> But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a

murderer to be granted to you, <sup>15</sup> and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup> And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

<sup>17</sup> “And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers.

<sup>18</sup> But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. <sup>19</sup> Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, <sup>20</sup> that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, <sup>21</sup> whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago. <sup>22</sup> Moses said, ‘The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. <sup>23</sup> And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.’ <sup>24</sup> And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. <sup>25</sup> You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.’ <sup>26</sup> God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness.”

### Sermon

For over forty years, a lame man sat at the Beautiful Gate; a place of grandeur for everyone except him.

To the crowds it was magnificent; to him it was merely the boundary of a small, painful world. He knew every stone, every prayer, every footstep that passed him by. His life was defined by what he could not do and the constant dependence on others just to survive. He was close enough to see the worship of God, yet forever on the outside looking in.

Then, in a moment, everything changed. He was no longer carried, he was walking. No longer silent, he was leaping and praising God.

The reaction of the crowd was immediate. People poured into Solomon’s Portico, faces filled with shock and frantic curiosity. They knew this man. They had stepped around him for decades.

Now they wanted to know: How did this happen?

And here lies a subtle but deadly danger; one as real today as it was then.

The temptation to stop at the surface of the miracle and miss the deeper reality. The crowd was marveling at a physical healing, but they were in danger of missing the Savior to whom the sign pointed.

We are not so different. We can be fascinated by the works of God while remaining untouched by the Word of God. We can photograph the mountain of God's glory and never truly behold His Majesty.

Peter refuses to let the crowd settle for amazement. He forces them to look past the miracle to the Miracle-Worker. Today we face the same question those people faced: What will you do with Jesus Christ?

Peter's response in Solomon's Portico shows us exactly how we should answer that question.

**Acts 3:11-12**

**<sup>11</sup>While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. <sup>12</sup>And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk?"**

Luke tells us that while the healed man clung tightly to Peter and John, the people ran together to them in Solomon's Portico. The healed man clings to the apostles not because he still needs physical support; he can walk perfectly well now; but out of gratitude, amazement, and awe at the men through whom Christ had worked.

Solomon's Portico was a great covered colonnade that stretched along the eastern side of the Jerusalem Temple complex. It was a place of teaching, discussion, commerce, and gathering. Our Lord Himself had walked and taught there, and now it becomes the setting for one of the clearest, most profound proclamations of the gospel in the entire book of Acts.

The crowd's attention is completely fixed upon the apostles. They stare at these men who appear to have done the impossible.

And Peter immediately redirects that attention. **'Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk?'**

Notice the remarkable humility of the apostle.

He refuses the spotlight. He refuses the applause. He refuses the temptation to make it about himself, something that has ruined countless ministries throughout history and still does today

He does not start a testimony service or build a platform to promote his healing ability based on the miracle. He does not advertise himself or invite the crowd to admire his spirituality.

Instead, in Peter's address, we see a crucial pastoral model.

We see a balance of truth without compromise, grace without softness, conviction without cruelty.

Peter does not pull punches in what he says because he is afraid to offend, instead he speaks with the authority of one who has been restored by the very Savior he proclaims.

This stands in stark contrast to much of what passes for religion in the world today.

Fallen humanity loves heroes. We are always tempted to look at instruments instead of the One who uses them. We admire gifted leaders; we trust personalities; we elevate preachers; we measure by visible results. As Calvin wisely observed, the human heart is an idol factory, and one of its favorite idols is religious celebrity.

This is why we must be careful never to build our church around gifted personalities, even faithful ones. The moment the spotlight shifts from Christ, the foundation begins to crack.

Peter crushes this tendency instantly. This healing was not the result of his personal holiness, nor his spiritual achievements, nor some hidden power within himself.

Peter shows us that the greatest servants of God are those who persistently point away from themselves.

This is deeply reformed truth: salvation and every blessing come from God's sovereign grace, not human merit. As Martin Luther would remind us, even a simple fisherman can knock over the pillars of human religion when he preaches Christ alone. The power of God is never the possession of man; the glory of God is never shared with man. It is always —only— about Christ.

That becomes unmistakably clear in verse 16: **'And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all'**.

The word translated “name” is the Greek word ‘*onoma*’.

In Semitic and Biblical thought, a name represents far more than a label; it represents a person's character, authority, presence, and power. Peter is not invoking a magical formula. He is proclaiming the authority of the living, risen Christ. The healing occurred because Jesus Himself acted.

He is telling those gathered there and us today that Jesus is not an absentee King. He is not a distant Savior. He is not merely a historical figure to be remembered. He is alive. He reigns. He rules. He acts.

The same Christ who was crucified is now alive and acting in power. He continues to build His church, save sinners, answer prayers, sustain His people, and accomplish His purposes.

The same sovereign God who governed Calvary governs your life today. Your suffering is not random. Your hardship is not meaningless. He is working all things for the good of those who love Him. When we serve one another, we must do it through faith in His name, not trusting our good intentions, talents, resources, or past successes, but Christ alone.

**Acts 3:13-16**

**<sup>13</sup>The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup>But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, <sup>15</sup>and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup>And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.**

Having deflected all human praise from himself and pointed it towards Christ, Peter immediately begins to unfold exactly who this Jesus is.

He grounds everything in the covenant God of Israel: ‘**The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus**’.

Four thousand years before Peter stood in Solomon's Portico, God promised Abraham that through his offspring all the families of the earth would be blessed. Peter is saying that promise has now arrived in Jesus Christ.

He is not introducing a new God; this is the same covenant God who made promises to the patriarchs. Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of those promises.

Peter uses four powerful titles, each rich with Old Testament meaning:

- God's Servant — He is the Servant Isaiah wrote about 700 years earlier — the One who would be “pierced for our transgressions” and “crushed for our iniquities.” He didn't come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.
- The Holy One — the same title used for God Himself in the Old Testament. Jesus is not just a holy man. He is the Holy One in human flesh — perfectly pure, perfectly sinless.
- The Righteous One — the only truly Righteous One who has ever lived. Every other person has failed God's perfect standard. But Jesus fulfilled it completely.
- The Author of Life — This may be the most stunning title of all. Jesus is not merely a giver of life — He is the Author of life. He spoke the universe into existence. Every heartbeat, every breath, every living thing finds its source in Him.

Then comes the bold, courageous confrontation. Peter does not soften his words. He highlights the terrible irony of their choices: **'You denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and you killed the Author of Life...'**

They chose Barabbas over Jesus. They chose death over life. And if we're honest, we have done the same thing many times — choosing sin, comfort, or self over Christ.

Before we judge them too quickly, we must remember: their sin is our sin. Our rebellion. Our pride. If we had been there, we would have been in that crowd. The cross exposes the depth of human rebellion — yet it also reveals the greatness of divine grace.

For Peter immediately declares: **'Whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses'**.

**Acts 3:17-18**

<sup>17</sup> **“And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup> But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled.**

Now Peter shifts his tone. He has confronted them boldly; now he speaks graciously and tenderly. He calls them brothers. Not enemies. Not hopeless lost souls. Not people who are beyond grace.

Peter then makes one of the most profound statements of divine sovereignty in all of Scripture: **'But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled'**.

As Jesus explained on the road to Emmaus:

**Luke 24:25-26**

**<sup>25</sup> And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?"**

Necessary. That is the key word.

It was necessary — not because God was cruel, but because sin is that serious and grace is that costly.

Necessary because sin is real. Necessary because God's justice is holy. Necessary because salvation requires atonement.

Do you see the massive paradox here?

Human beings committed a terrible crime, yet God was accomplishing His eternal purpose.

They acted freely; God acted sovereignly.

The crucifixion was not an accident. It was not a failure. It was the eternal plan of God.

The cross was necessary because humanity owed a debt it could never pay, and only the God-man could provide satisfaction for divine justice. Christ suffered not merely on our behalf but in our place. At Calvary, justice and mercy perfectly meet.

As Joseph said to his brothers in:

**Genesis 50:20**

**<sup>20</sup> As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.**

So it is here. The worst crime in human history became the very means of our salvation.

Having explained the miracle, exposed their sin, and revealed God's sovereign purpose, Peter presses urgently for a response.

**Acts 3:19-21**

**<sup>19</sup> Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, <sup>20</sup> that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, <sup>21</sup> whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.**

Repent therefore, and turn back!

The two words define the required response: Repent and turn.

The Greek word here '*metanoēō*' literally means a change of mind that results in a complete change of direction. Repentance is the complete turning from sin and turning toward God. It is leaving one path and walking another. It is not justifying and excusing our sin, so that we can believe we walk with God and can live how we wish.

Peter then describes the extraordinary blessings that accompany true repentance. First, our sins are blotted out.

In the ancient world, ink could be wiped away from a papyrus document with a damp sponge, this is what he means by 'blotted out'. The picture is that of a debt completely erased.

Second, times of refreshing. The Greek word '*anapsyxis*' speaks of renewal, relief, and deep restoration. Every believer has experienced something of this grace. Like water to a thirsty traveller. Like rain to parched ground. Like rest after a long journey. Christ refreshes the soul.

Third, the restoration of all things. Peter speaks of '**the time for restoring all the things.**' We live between the resurrection and the restoration. The world remains broken, but a day is coming when Christ will return. Sin will be utterly defeated and death will be permanently destroyed.

Think of what that means. No more funerals. No more cancer wards. No more wheelchairs. No more Alzheimer's. No more broken relationships. No more temptation. No more graves. The restoration Peter speaks about is nothing less than the renewal of the entire created order under the reign of Christ.

Peter then anchors everything in Scripture, appealing to Moses

**Acts 3:22-26**

**<sup>22</sup> Moses said, ‘The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. <sup>23</sup> And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.’ <sup>24</sup> And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. <sup>25</sup> You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.’ <sup>26</sup> God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness.”**

Israel had been waiting for a greater prophet, a final revealer who would speak God’s Word decisively. Jesus is that prophet. Moses delivered God’s law; Jesus perfectly fulfills it. At the Transfiguration, the Father Himself declared:

**Luke 9:35**

**<sup>35</sup> And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!”**

And then Peter gives a solemn, unbreakable warning. Our Modern culture deeply dislikes warnings because they make people uncomfortable, or they might offend.

Yet faithful preaching of God’s Word must include them because God included them in His Word.

We must not soften where Scripture does not soften.

The same Christ who saves also judges.

To reject Christ is not a minor mistake; it is eternal rebellion. There is absolutely no neutral ground.

Finally, Peter ends with a statement that beautifully redefines what true blessing really is. He says: **‘God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness’**

Notice carefully what blessing actually means here.

True Biblical blessings are not health, wealth, or success.

The greatest blessing a faithful follower receives is deliverance from sin. Christ blesses us by rescuing us from the destruction of our own wickedness; like a surgeon removing a deadly tumor or a lifeguard pulling a drowning man from the water. Not merely external change, but inward renewal.

Let me ask you plainly, Where are you looking in your life today?

The crowd looked at Peter; Peter pointed instantly to Christ.

Where do you look? To worldly success? To your own morality? To human religion? To yourself? Or do you look to Christ alone?.

The healed man stood before the crowd as living evidence that Jesus Christ was alive, but Peter refused to let the crowd stop at the miracle. He directed them to the Savior. And that is where this passage leaves us today.

Ask yourself:

Are you captivated by the miracles of God, but missing the message?

Are you impressed by Christianity, but completely untouched by Christ?

It is entirely possible to admire Jesus and remain unchanged. You can respect Jesus and remain lost. You can be impressed by Christianity and never belong to Christ.

Here is the ultimate dividing line:

Marvel at the works of God and still remain unchanged. Admire God and remain the same

or

Repent and be made new.

The greatest miracle in Acts 3 is not a lame man walking. It is sinners being called to forgiveness, to cleansing, to Christ.

Repent and be converted. Turn back. Your sins can be completely blotted out. Times of refreshing await you. Jesus, the Prince of Life, stands ready to turn you from every iniquity and pour out His blessing upon you.

Come not merely to observe the miracle, but to be transformed by the miracle maker.

Come not merely to listen, but to respond.

Come not merely to wonder, but to worship.

For in Christ there is complete forgiveness, true life, and glorious restoration.

So, will you merely stand and marvel, or will you repent and believe and live as the Salt and Light of His Word in this dark and broken world.

Let us pray,

O Lord our God,

Grant that what we have heard with our ears may be written upon our hearts.  
Cause Your truth to take root deeply within us  
and bear fruit in lives marked by faith, obedience, and love.

Give us grace not merely to hear Your Word but to do it.  
Strengthen our weakness, enlighten our minds,  
and direct our wills according to Your good pleasure.  
Preserve us from pride, protect us from error,  
and keep us steadfast in the way of righteousness.

Teach us to seek You above all earthly treasures,  
to trust You above all worldly securities,  
and to love You above all created things.  
May our lives reflect the beauty of Your grace  
and the power of Your transforming mercy.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Augustine

## **Communion**

### **Invitation to the Table**

Beloved in Christ,

This table does not belong to any church, denomination, or minister. It is the Lord's Table, and He Himself is the gracious host who welcomes His people.

Here God sets before us the visible signs of His covenant grace. In the bread and cup, Christ assures us of the gospel that has been proclaimed to us: that His body was given and His blood was shed for the forgiveness of sins.

This meal is not for those who imagine themselves righteous, but for those who know their need of mercy. It is not for those who trust in their own goodness, but for those who rest upon Christ alone for salvation.

If you have turned from your sin, if you trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, and if you desire to follow Him in repentance and faith, then come. Come not because you are worthy, but because Christ is worthy. Come not because your faith is strong, but because His promises are sure.

If, however, you are living in unrepentant sin or have not yet placed your trust in Christ, we ask that you refrain from participating at this time. Instead, consider the grace of God freely offered in the gospel and seek the Lord while He may be found.

For all who come in faith, Christ Himself declares: "Whoever comes to me I will never cast out."

Come, then, for all things are now ready.

### **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 and fitting  
to give Him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, and our greatest joy, to give You thanks and praise, O Lord our God, Creator of heaven and earth.

You spoke, and all things came into being. By Your power all things continue to exist, and by Your wisdom all things are governed. You made us in Your image to know You, love You, and glorify You forever.

Yet when we rebelled against You and turned from Your ways, You did not abandon the work of Your hands. In steadfast love You pursued Your people, speaking through the Law and the Prophets, revealing Your promises, and preparing the way for our redemption.

In the fullness of time You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem those under the Law. He lived the life we could not live, fulfilled all righteousness, bore our sins upon the cross, and rose victorious from the grave. Through Him You have reconciled sinners to Yourself and secured an eternal inheritance for all who believe.

Through the ministry of Your Holy Spirit, You gather Your church from every tribe and tongue and nation. You strengthen the weak, comfort the afflicted, and equip Your people to bear faithful witness to Christ in the world. You unite us as one body under one Lord, sustained by one gospel and animated by one Spirit.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, with the church triumphant in glory, and with all the redeemed throughout every generation, we praise Your holy name and sing:

**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.**

Holy and blessed are You, O Lord our God, and blessed is Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Savior.

He proclaimed good news to the poor, welcomed sinners, healed the broken, and called people to repentance and faith. He willingly offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for sin, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God.

Raised from the dead and exalted to Your right hand, He reigns as King over all things and continually intercedes for His people. From there He shall come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom shall have no end.

Therefore, remembering His incarnation, His perfect obedience, His atoning death, His victorious resurrection, His ascension into heaven, and His promised return, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Merciful Father, send Your Holy Spirit upon us as we receive these gifts of bread and cup. Grant that, receiving them in faith, we may truly partake of Christ and all His benefits. Strengthen our union with Him and deepen our fellowship with one another as members of His body.

Feed our souls with the riches of Your grace. Confirm us in faith, increase our love, strengthen our hope, and renew our obedience. Having been nourished at Christ's table, may we go into the world as faithful servants, bearing witness to His saving grace in word and deed.

Through Him, with Him, and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are Yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

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**

Hear the words of the institution of the Lord's Supper as they were delivered by the Apostle Paul:

"For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, 'This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'" (1 Corinthians 11:23-24)

Our Savior's body was given for us. Upon the cross He bore our sins and endured the judgment we deserved, that we might receive forgiveness, peace, and everlasting life.

In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." (1 Corinthians 11:25)

His blood was poured out for the remission of sins. By His sacrifice the covenant promises of God are secured for all who trust in Him.

For as often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

### **Taking of the bread**

Take, eat, and remember that Christ gave His body for you.

### **Drinking of the cup**

Take, drink, and remember that Christ shed His blood for the complete forgiveness of sins.

### **Prayer after Communion**

Gracious Father,

We thank You that You have welcomed us to Your table and nourished us with the riches of Your grace. We praise You that in this holy meal You have strengthened our faith, renewed our hope, and reminded us once again of the sufficiency of Christ's saving work.

Grant that what we have received with our lips we may hold fast in believing hearts. May the gospel we have proclaimed at this table shape our thoughts, govern our actions, and direct our lives.

Send us into the world in the power of Your Holy Spirit. Keep us steadfast in the truth of Your Word, faithful in prayer, joyful in hope, patient in suffering, and fruitful in service.

May our lives bear witness to the grace we have received, so that others may see Christ in us and glorify our Father in heaven.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**Amen.**

### **Invitation to Offering**

#### **Offering**

#### **Offertory Prayer**

#### **(Congregant Prepared)**

#### **Closing Hymn #543: "Here, O My Lord, I See Thee" (V 1,4,5)**

Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;  
 here would I touch and handle things unseen;  
 here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace  
 and all my weariness upon Thee lean.

Too soon we rise, the symbols disappear.  
 The feast, though not the love, is past and done;  
 the bread and wine remove, but Thou art here,  
 nearer than ever, still my Shield and Sun.

We have no help but Thine; nor do we need  
 Another arm save Thine to lean upon;  
 It is enough, O Lord, enough indeed;  
 Our strength is in Thy might, Thy might alone.

**Pastoral Prayer**

Gracious Father,  
We thank You for the mercy we have received,  
for the truth we have heard,  
and for the grace that sustains us each day.

Continue Your work in us.  
Where we are weak, strengthen us.  
Where we are wandering, bring us back.  
Where we are burdened, give us rest.  
Shape us into a people who reflect Your mercy, Your truth, and Your love.

We lift up one another to You  
those who are weary,  
those who are suffering,  
those who are rejoicing,  
and those who are quietly struggling.  
Be near to each one according to their need.

And as we prepare to share in fellowship,  
we ask Your blessing upon that time.  
May our conversations be gracious and encouraging.

May our time together reflect unity, kindness, and genuine care.  
Use even our simple gathering to strengthen the bonds of love among us.

Make us a people who not only hear Your Word, but live it out together.

We ask all of this in dependence upon You. **Amen.**

**Benediction**

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely,  
and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our  
Lord Jesus Christ.

And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be  
among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**