

## Welcome

### Prelude

### Opening Hymn

#### 906 O Day of Rest and Gladness

- 1 O day of rest and gladness,  
O day of joy and light,  
O balm of care and sadness,  
Most beautiful, most bright;  
This day the high and lowly,  
Through ages joined to bless,  
Sing, "Holy, holy, holy,"  
The triune God confess.
- 2 This day at earth's creation  
The light first had its birth;  
This day for our salvation  
Christ rose from depths of earth;  
This day our Lord victorious  
The Spirit sent from heav'n,  
And thus this day most glorious  
A threefold light was giv'n.
- 3 This day, God's people meeting,  
His Holy Scripture hear;  
His living presence greeting,  
Through bread and wine made near.  
We journey on, believing,  
Renewed with heav'nly might,  
From grace more grace receiving,  
On this blest day of light.
- △ 4 That light our hope sustaining,  
We walk the pilgrim way,  
At length our rest attaining,  
Our endless Sabbath day.  
We sing to Thee our praises,  
O Father, Spirit, Son;  
The Church her voice upraises  
To Thee, blest Three in One.

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### Invocation

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Confession and Absolution

**P** Before praising our Lord for His goodness to us, it is fitting that we first confess our sins to Him, that He may cleanse our hearts as only He can do. Most merciful God,

**C** **We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. Too often, we have lived as if you did not matter and as our agendas mattered most. We have been resistant to Your love working through us, so our love for others has failed. There are those whom we have hurt, and many we have failed to help. We deserve punishment and condemnation, both now and forever. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy upon us. Fill us with Your Spirit and renew us, so that we may be compelled to no longer live for ourselves, but for Him who died for us and has been raised to life. Amen.**

**P** Friends in Christ, I have good news for you! Your heavenly Father has heard your prayer. In His mercy and grace, He never gives up on us. His love is much more powerful than all our sins. For the sake of His Son's death on the cross and resurrection from the dead, He forgives us all of our sins and empowers us to live for Him and His Kingdom. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Please share the Lord's peace with one another.

## Service of the Word

### Hymn of Praise (Favorite Hymn; Sarah Stern)

#### Majesty

TOSB 135

1 Majesty, worship His majesty.  
Unto Jesus be all glory power and praise.  
Majesty, kingdom authority,  
Flow from His throne unto own  
Who His anthem raise.

So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus.  
Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus the King.

Majesty, worship His majesty.  
Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all kings.

#### Introit

*Psalm 85:8–10, 13; antiphon: v. 7*

**P** Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

**C** Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

**P** Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.

**C** Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

**P** Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.

**C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**P** Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

#### Kyrie

LSB 168

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C** Amen.

#### Salutation and Prayer of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** We pray.

Lord of all power and might, author and giver of all good things, graft into our hearts the love of Your name and nourish us with all goodness that we may love and serve our neighbor; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

#### Old Testament Reading

*1 Kings 19:9b–21*

Behold, the word of the LORD came to [Elijah], and he said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" <sup>10</sup>He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." <sup>11</sup>And he said, "Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. <sup>12</sup>And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. <sup>13</sup>And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" <sup>14</sup>He said, "I have been very jealous for

the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.” <sup>15</sup>And the LORD said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria. <sup>16</sup>And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place. <sup>17</sup>And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha put to death. <sup>18</sup>Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

<sup>19</sup>So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his cloak upon him. <sup>20</sup>And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, “Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you.” And he said to him, “Go back again, for what have I done to you?” <sup>21</sup>And he returned from following him and took the yoke of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the yokes of the oxen and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and went after Elijah and assisted him.

 This is the Word of the Lord.

 Thanks be to God.

## Hymn

### 802 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

- 1 Immortal, invisible,  
God only wise,  
In light inaccessible  
hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious,  
the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious,  
Thy great name we praise.
- 2 Unresting, unhasting,  
and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting,  
Thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice like mountains  
high soaring above  
Thy clouds which are fountains  
of goodness and love.
- 3 To all life Thou givest—  
to both great and small—  
In all life Thou livest,  
the true Life of all;  
We blossom and flourish  
as leaves on the tree  
And wither and perish—  
but naught changes Thee.
- 4 Great Father of glory,  
pure Father of light,  
Thine angels adore Thee,  
all veiling their sight;  
All laud we would render:  
O help us to see  
'Tis only the splendor  
of light that hides Thee.

Text: W. Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.

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## Epistle

*Galatians 5:1, 13–25*

<sup>1</sup>For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. . . .

<sup>13</sup>For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

<sup>14</sup>For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>15</sup>But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

<sup>16</sup>But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup>For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. <sup>18</sup>But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. <sup>19</sup>Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup>idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, <sup>21</sup>envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,

goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup>And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

<sup>25</sup>If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Alleluia and Verse

LSB 173

**C** Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

## Holy Gospel

Luke 9:51–62

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the ninth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>51</sup>When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup>And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. <sup>53</sup>But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup>And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” <sup>55</sup>But he turned and rebuked them. <sup>56</sup>And they went on to another village.

<sup>57</sup>As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” <sup>58</sup>And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” <sup>59</sup>To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” <sup>60</sup>And Jesus said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”

<sup>61</sup>Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” <sup>62</sup>Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Old Roman Symbol

**C** I believe in God the Father Almighty;

and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord, Who was born from the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, Who under Pontius Pilate was crucified and buried, on the third day He rose again from the dead, ascended into heaven sits at the right hand of the Father, whence He will come to judge the living and the dead;

and in the Holy Spirit, the holy Church, the remission of sins, and the resurrection of the flesh. Amen

## Hymn of the Day

### 688 “Come, Follow Me,” the Savior Spake

- 1 “Come, follow Me,” the Savior spake,  
“All in My way abiding;  
Deny yourselves, the world forsake,  
Obey My call and guiding.  
O bear the cross, whate’er betide,  
Take My example for your guide.
- 2 “I am the light, I light the way,  
A godly life displaying;  
I bid you walk as in the day;  
I keep your feet from straying.  
I am the way, and well I show  
How you must sojourn here below.
- 3 “My heart abounds in lowliness,  
My soul with love is glowing;  
And gracious words My lips express,  
With meekness overflowing.  
My heart, My mind, My strength, My all,  
To God I yield, on Him I call.
- 4 “I teach you how to shun and flee  
What harms your soul’s salvation,  
Your heart from ev’ry guile to free,

From sin and its temptation.  
I am the refuge of the soul  
And lead you to your heav'nly goal."

- 5 Then let us follow Christ, our Lord,  
And take the cross appointed  
And, firmly clinging to His Word,  
In suff'ring be undaunted.  
For those who bear the battle's strain  
The crown of heav'nly life obtain.

Text: tr. Charles W. Schaeffer, 1813–96; (sts. 1–3, 5): Johann Scheffler, 1624–77; (st. 4): Geistliche Lieder und Lobgesänge, 1695  
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## Sermon

## *"Follow the Leader"*

Luke 9:51-62

## Hymn of Response

### 691 Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing

- 1 Fruitful trees, the Spirit's sowing,  
May we ripen and increase,  
Fruit to life eternal growing,  
Rich in love and joy and peace.
- 2 Laden branches freely bearing  
Gifts the Giver loves to bless;  
Here is fruit that grows by sharing,  
Patience, kindness, gentleness.
- 3 Rooted deep in Christ our Master,  
Christ our pattern and our goal,  
Teach us, as the years fly faster,  
Goodness, faith, and self-control.
- 4 Fruitful trees, the Spirit's tending,  
May we grow till harvests cease;  
Till we taste, in life unending,  
Heaven's love and joy and peace.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926–2024  
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## Prayer of the Church

### 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## Offering

### Welcoming of New Members

David & Joanne Cooley  
Lori Gellasch  
George & Sarah Stern  
Linda Vernick (Assoc.)


## Thank the Lord

LSB 181

- ☞ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.  
Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.  
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

## Benediction

LSB 183

-  The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and +†+ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## Hymn to Depart

### 731 O God, Forsake Me Not

- 1 O God, forsake me not!  
Your gracious presence lend me;  
Lord, lead Your helpless child;  
Your Holy Spirit send me  
That I my course may run.  
O be my light, my lot,  
My staff, my rock, my shield—  
O God, forsake me not!
- 2 O God, forsake me not!  
Take not Your Spirit from me;  
Do not permit the might  
Of sin to overcome me.  
Increase my feeble faith,  
Which You alone have wrought.  
O be my strength and pow'r—  
O God, forsake me not!
- 3 O God, forsake me not!  
Lord, hear my supplication!  
In ev'ry evil hour  
Help me resist temptation;  
And when the prince of hell  
My conscience seeks to blot,  
Be then not far from me—  
O God, forsake me not!
- 4 O God, forsake me not!  
Lord, I am Yours forever.  
O keep me strong in faith  
That I may leave You never.  
Grant me a blessèd end  
When my good fight is fought;  
Help me in life and death—  
O God, forsake me not!

Text: Salomo Franck, 1659–1725; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.  
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