

An Order for Worship Online
The Feast of the Resurrection, April 12, 2020
The First Day of Eastertide

I. CENTERING OUR HEARTS & MINDS FOR WORSHIP

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Let us join our hearts and minds in prayer:

O God, who made this most holy morning to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Hymn of Exaltation

1 Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

3 Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

2 Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O Grave? Alleluia!

4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

The Reaffirmation of Baptism

The Church is the gift of God to a broken world, and will be preserved by the power of the Spirit unto the Fullness of Time: for the work of praise, the celebration of the Resurrected Christ in the Holy Sacraments, and the formation of people in the recovery of the Image of God for the ministry of reconciliation with all nations. All those who have been Baptized into the Faith of Jesus, the Christ, are born from above and receive the blessing of Almighty God to worship HIM in spirit and in truth, and to love their neighbors and enemies as themselves. Therefore on this Holy Day, when Jesus passed over from Death to Life, let us renew the Covenant of our Baptism:

Do you believe in the God?

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, our Lord, the Living Word begotten of the Almighty God before all worlds, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; who descended to the dead, and on the third day, rose again; who ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

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.

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and turn away from sin?

I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as the One through whom Creation is being redeemed; do you put your whole trust in his grace and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with his Body, the Church, which Christ has opened to all people?

I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, cruelty, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

I do.

II. THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

O Lord, open our lips,
And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Most merciful God, out of all the words that will now be spoken and heard, may it be your Living Word that stays in our hearts. Give us the grace to receive it, and give us the charity to let all the other words slip away. We pray this in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Creation is Brought Forth from God's Love, Genesis 1: 1 to 2: 4

In the beginning when God created[a] the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God

saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Observe a moment of silence.

A Psalm of Thanksgiving, 100

sung by The Corner Room

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Serve the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord, he is God.

It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the Lord is good;

his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

The Prophecy of Isaiah, 55: 1-11

Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.
Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Preparation

“What a Beautiful Name”

Hillsong

You were the Word at the beginning
One With God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation
Now revealed in You our Christ
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a beautiful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

You didn't want heaven without us
So Jesus, You brought heaven down
My sin was great, Your love was greater
What could separate us now
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a wonderful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

How sweet is your name, Lord,
How good You are!
I love to sing your name, Lord,
I love to sing of who you are!

Death could not hold You,
the veil tore before You,
You silenced the boast of sin and grave!
The heavens are roaring,
the praise of Your glory,
For You are raised to life again!
You have no rival, You have no equal
Now and forever, God you reign!
Yours is the Kingdom, Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name, above all names!

What a powerful Name it is!
The Name of Jesus Christ my King...
What a powerful Name it is -
Nothing can stand against -
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus!

The Holy Gospel, according to John, 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.”

Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet.

They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"
She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."

When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?"

Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher).

Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.

These are the words of Eternal Life.

Thanks be to God.

Reflecting on the Scriptures: "As She Runs"

Every night when Elliott goes to sleep, we read stories and sing songs. One book we come back to over and over again is the story of Corduroy: the little brown bear in green overalls who is continually passed over in the toy department. But one day, a little girl named Lisa falls in love with the little bear and brings all the savings from her piggy bank in exchange for Corduroy. I like the story for lots of reasons: it's well-written for the ear, for instance, and the artwork is colorful and engaging. But more than the technical aspects of the literature, what I like most about this story is that it has to do with redemption. Both Lisa and Corduroy wonder if they will ever have a friend, and Lisa empties her piggy bank to answer the question. Leaving the store with the bear in her arms - no box for Corduroy - she runs all the way home, filled with the excitement of having something dear and perfect and precious to call her very own. She has to run, you see, because the joy of being united with her heart's desire can't be contained by anything so grown up as walking! What she feels in her heart erupts in her legs, and when they reach Lisa's apartment, Corduroy says, "This must be home."

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, God of unfathomable love, who emptied yourself of everything so that we could be with you forever: Come and speak to us now in the power of the Advocate, the Spirit of Truth, that we might have a foretaste of what it will feel like when we finally go home with you to your Father's house. We pray this out of love for you, trusting in your grace to make it so. Amen.

It's either very late on Saturday night, or very early on Sunday morning. There's no grey yet on the horizon, and the candles in the house have all burnt down to stubs. Mary Magdalen has been up all night under the pretense of preparing spices to anoint Jesus' body. And Martha and Lazarus leave her alone, knowing that her basket was ready hours ago. Her brother and sister know that fussing over every detail for the tenth time is what keeps Mary from collapsing in complete and absolute grief. The image of Jesus being beaten with wooden rods and chains is still fresh in their minds. And the humiliation of his desperate walk to Golgotha is still fresh in their hearts. And the life-ending sound of his final cry is still fresh in their ears. Having loved him back with a love as unconditional as his, Mary cannot sleep, she cannot eat, and if she stops moving she feels as though she'll never move again. The agony of her great misery is inconsolable. So Martha and Lazarus keep the candles lit, and let her be.

Then, all of sudden, unable to wait any longer, she grabs her basket of oils and perfumes and spices and sets out in the dark for Jerusalem, the city of the King. Her siblings protest, but she is gone in the blink of an eye. After the three-mile walk through the cold dark of Sunday morning she is flushed and tired, and begins to wonder whether she has the courage to do what Traditions requires, or whether she'll have the strength to roll the stone by herself. But to her astonishment and fear, the grave of her Lord and Savior stands open, a deeper dark in the luminous purple of morning just before dawn. All the dread of the last two days returns in full force, and without thinking she drops her basket at the entrance to the tomb and runs, for the first time, to find Peter.

Having returned with her to the tomb, Peter and John have no idea what to make of the absence of Jesus' body and beg her to return with them before they are seen by the Romans or the Temple Police. But she refuses and is left alone at the grave of Jesus. And there she weeps, overcome with despair.

Finally, there is enough light to see, and she decides she will go into the tomb to find out if there might be some clue to what has happened. But she stops... and stares... and dares not even breathe. Two men dressed in white sit where they laid Jesus on the eve of the Sabbath. All is quiet as she holds her breathe. And then, as she catches it, her sobs ring out against the stone walls.

"Woman, why are you weeping?" they ask her gently.

"They have taken my Lord," Mary stammers. But just then the two men stand, and Mary turns to see another man at the entrance to the tomb.

"Woman why are you weeping?" he asks. "Whom are you seeking?"

At her wits end, Mary cries with an angry, heart-broken voice, "If you have taken him somewhere, tell me, and I will go and take him away!!"

With this she collapses at his feet, no longer able to sustain this new indignity and injustice on top of the grief of Jesus' torture and crucifixion. Then Jesus reveals himself:

"Mary."

At the sound of her name, Mary stops breathing again. And in that utter silence not a leaf moves, no bird sings, no bees buzz, and her pulse, her mind, and even Time stands still; for Mary knows that she has heard the voice of Jesus.

Then, as though it was the very first morning when God turned light into the Universe, the nanoseconds resume their indefatigable march towards Eternity, the dawn breaks into morning, the

birds begin an uproarious song, the wind rushes through the palms, and Mary turns to see the light of the Eternal God shining in the face of her Lord, her Teacher, her Friend: *Rabbouni!!* she cries, and her tears become “the very wine of blessedness.”

Now touch! Now smell! Now sound! proving what her mind cannot understand: this is Jesus! the One whom they had crucified! She touches the wounds in his hands, she kisses the wounds in his feet, but then he draws her up and sets her on her feet.

“Mary, do not hold on to me. Go and tell my brothers, I am ascending to the Father: to my God and to your God!” For a moment Mary stares, drinking in the terrible majesty of his face and basking in the light radiating from his eyes. And then she laughs with the most musical, playful, confident joy that a human being can make, and turns and runs, for the second time, to find Peter.

And as she runs, all the songs of her people come rushing to her ears, as if myriads and myriads and thousands and thousands of old dry bones have come alive and are singing at full voice:

Come! everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price!
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

As she runs, she knows that LOVE has triumphed over Death...
As she runs, she knows that she is truly and completely reconciled to God...
As she runs, her hope becomes like the heat of a thousand suns...
As she runs, she knows that the veil of tears will be lifted from all creation...
As she runs, she knows that the beginning of the end of the world is come...
As she runs, she knows that all the oppressed will go free...
As she runs, she knows that the meek will inherit the earth...
As she runs, she knows that nothing good will be lost...

As she runs, she wonders what she will say to Peter and the rest...

And then she's there... standing in their midst, out of breath and clamoring for their attention: shining with the fullness of the Image of God "undimmed before the breaking of the world." And to their astonishment, with the Prophetic Power of the sons and daughters of the Living God, Mary proclaims at full voice the words of eternal life that will forever declare the Glory of God's Everlasting Love:

“I have seen the Lord!”

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW!
PRAISE GOD ALL CREATURES HERE BELOW!
PRAISE GOD ABOVE, YE HEAV'NLY HOSTS!
PRAISE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY GHOST!
AMEN.

III. PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THANKSGIVING

The Offering

“O Happy Day”

Aretha Franklin and Mavis Staples

Well, well, well... mmmhmmm
It was, sure 'nough, a happy day!
My Lord! O happy day!
When Jesus washed,
O when he washed, when Jesus washed...
He washed my sins away!

He taught me how (well he taught me how)
To watch (to get on my knees)
Watch and pray (and pray)
To get down on my knees and pray!!
My lord, good God, shout him out, my lord, yes it is, yeah
Oh! Glad to be born, to enjoy this day!
My lord, good God, hold up, my lord, oh yeah!
Talking about, I wanna sing it with you...

O happy day, when Jesus washed,
O when he washed, when Jesus washed...
He washed my sins away!
My Lord! Good God! O how... O happy Day!

Well, well, well...

Let's go back to the garden of Gethsemane (Let's go back, Let's go back)

Where the Lord said, "This is not my will, but thine be done."

He rolled into to the region on that day (oh yeah)

and the crowd cried out (oh yeah)

And they waved their palms (oh yes they did)

He cried all day "Hosannah!" Hosannah!

And you let him fall off the hill that day, (my Lord)

And they named him to fall (yes they did)

Oh happy day! Rejoice! (Oh happy day) Rejoice! Rejoice!

First stone rolled away. Yes it rolled (oh yeah)

Yes it was! Rejoice! He washed my sins away!

Oh happy day!

Please send in your offering each week (or month) through the mail.

Contact the church if you need assistance with your offering.

The Confession and Absolution of our Sins

Beloved in Christ, having made new our profession of faith and our commitment to serve the LORD with our whole body, mind, and strength, and having heard the proclamation of the Resurrection of Jesus, let us confess the ways we have strayed from God's love, that we may be renewed in the ministries to which we are called:

Almighty and most merciful Father, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy upon us: that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

All enter into silent confession.

Creator of all that is seen and unseen:

Have mercy upon us!

Christ Jesus, Living Word, by whose love all things are reconciled to God:

Have mercy upon us!

Spirit of Truth and Holiness, in whom we live and move and have our being:

Have mercy upon us!

Receive the Promise of the Gospel:

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life: for God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

May the Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, pardon and deliver you from all your sins through Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness by the power of the Holy Spirit, and keep you in eternal life, until the Fullness of Time, when The LORD is all in all. **Amen.**

And may the Peace of Christ, which passes understanding, move deeply in your heart, that you may have knowledge of your salvation through the forgiveness of your sins: for all who call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved!

Thanks be to God!

The Prayers of the People & The Great Thanksgiving

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "**Lord, have mercy**"

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For David our Bishop, and for all other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you are one with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who do not know your love, or who cannot allow themselves to believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those in positions of public trust, that they may serve justice and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who live and work in this community, especially those on the front lines of our healthcare systems, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For a blessing upon all human labor, and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Ionia First United Methodist and the Lyons-Muir Church, that we may see the fruitfulness of obedience in our time and be delivered from all diversion, that with singleness of heart and mind we might show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our enemies and those who wish us harm, and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For ourselves; for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and for those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have a place in your eternal home, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of Saint Mary Magdalen, and all the saints, we commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to you, O Christ, our strength and our Redeemer.

To you, O Lord our God.

Holy God, “who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist,” may our prayers be pleasing to you; for it is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord: the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. Therefore with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your Name and join their unending hymn:

**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 are you and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captive and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. Then in fullness of his love he gave his disciples the Sacrament of his Body and Blood, to be for us true food and true drink, that when we are gathered we might fully understand and experience the power of your grace and forgiveness. And by the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. When the Lord Jesus ascended, to reclaim the glory that was eternally his, he promised to be with us always in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

Therefore, in remembrance of these your mighty and saving acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves, our souls and bodies, in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Bless and sanctify us, most gracious God, by the outpouring of your Holy Spirit, that as we feed upon the Living Word we might go forth into the world as the Body of Christ redeemed by his Blood. By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in your Holy Church: All honor and glory be unto thee, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Hymn of Exaltation, "Crown Him With Many Crowns"

1 Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark! how the heav'nly anthem drowns
All music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.

2 Crown Him the Lord of Life,
Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife
For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing
Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring,
And lives that death may die!

3 Crown Him the Lord of Peace,
Whose power a scepter sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease,
Absorbed in prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end,
And round His pierced feet
Fair flowers of Paradise extend
Their fragrance ever sweet.

4 Crown Him the Lord of Love:
Behold His hands and side;
Rich wounds yet visible above
In beauty glorified:
All hail, Redeemer, hail,
For Thou hast died for me,
Thy praise shall never, never fail
Through all eternity.

IV. THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common and private prayers to you; and you have promised, through your well-beloved Son, that when two or three gather in your Name, you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and prayers of your servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Go now in peace to love and serve God and your neighbor in all that you do.
Amen.