

STATEMENT OF FAITH *Apostles’ Creed*
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD’S PRAYER

P. Together let us pray as our Lord Jesus taught us...
C. 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

BENEDICTION

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ + and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C. Amen.

(Please sit)

CLOSING SONG “America the Beautiful” sts. 1-4

1. O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea! (continued...)

2. O beautiful for pilgrim feet,
Whose stern impassion'd stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America! God mend thine ev'ry flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!

3. O beautiful for heroes proved In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness,
And ev'ry gain divine!

4. O Beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam,
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

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P. Go in peace and serve the Lord!
C. Thanks be to God!

*** * * To GOD BE THE GLORY * * ***

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CONNECTION SERVICE
May 25, 2025
10:30am

PRELUDE / WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(please fill out Friendship Pads)*

WORSHIP SONG

“We Thank You, Lord, for Eyes to See” sts. 1-4

1. We thank You, Lord, for eyes to see
The beauty of the earth;
For ears to hear the words of love
And happy sounds of mirth.
2. For minds that find new thought to think,
New wonders to explore;
For health and freedom to enjoy
The good You have in store.
3. Oh, may our eyes be open, Lord,
To see our neighbor’s need;
And may our ears be kept alert
Their cries for help to heed;
4. Make keen our minds to plan the best
For one another’s good,
That all the world may be at last
One friendly neighborhood.

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(Please stand)

INVOCATION

P. In the name of the Father, and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen

CONFESSION OF SINS AND FORGIVENESS

P. Almighty God, have mercy on us for Christ’s sake.

C. **Almighty God, I am unworthy of You and Your grace and mercy. I have sinned against You in thought, word and deed. And I cannot free myself from this condition. Therefore, I take refuge in Your loving-kindness; and I ask for Your forgiveness. We ask for Your forgiveness.**

P. Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die for you and for His sake He forgives you. As a called and ordained servant of the Lord, and on His behalf, I say to you, “You are forgiven.” In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

(Please sit)

FIRST READING Acts 16:9-15

⁹A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” ¹⁰And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

¹¹So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. ¹³And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. ¹⁴One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.

(continued...)

¹⁵And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us.

L. Here ends the first reading.

C. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING Revelation 21:9-15, 21-27

⁹Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.” ¹⁰And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, ¹¹having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. ¹²It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— ¹³on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. ¹⁴And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. . . .

²¹And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, transparent as glass.

²²And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, ²⁵and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

L. Here ends the second reading.

C. **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand)

GOSPEL READING John 5:1-9

¹After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

²Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. ³In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. ⁵One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. ⁶When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be healed?” ⁷The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.” ⁸Jesus said to him, “Get up, take up your bed, and walk.” ⁹And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked.

P. Here ends the reading of the Gospel.

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

(Please sit)

TITHES & OFFERING

(While the music is playing, please bring your offerings forward and place them in the plate.)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

MESSAGE SONG

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”
LSB 770, sts. 1-3

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

“FAULTS, FAILINGS, DISAGREEMENTS AND CHRIST”
(Text: Acts 15:36-41)
The Rev. Peter Gueldner

(Please stand)