

Lessons from the Liturgy: *The Offering*

God does not need our money. Yet, he urges us to return our offerings to him as a show of love and to benefit our brothers and sisters in the faith through the support of the ministry of Word and Sacrament. We are stewards, that is, we manage and care for that which belongs to our master.

The Common Service

*If you would like to follow along with the music for this liturgy,
it begins on page 15 in the front of the hymnal.*

PRESERVICE MUSIC: *Please use this time in quiet preparation for worship.*



- ✦ *The bell rings announcing that Christians are gathering around the Word.*
- ✦ *The minister processes with the acolyte who carries a flame symbolizing that the light of Jesus is with us, and the candles are lit.*
- ✦ *As the acolyte and minister enter, **please stand** to sing the opening hymn.*

OPENING HYMN

Almighty Father; Heaven and Earth #480 (v.1-3)

- 1 Almighty Father, heav'n and earth
With lavish wealth before you bow;
Those treasures owe to you their birth,
So richly furnished for us now.

- 2 The wealth of earth, of sky, of sea,
The gold, the silver, sparkling gem,
The waving corn, the bending tree
Are yours; you are but lending them.

- 3 To you, as early morning's dew,
Our praises, gifts, and prayers shall rise
As rose, when joyous earth was new,
Faith's patriarchal sacrifice.

INVOCATION

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: (*sung*) **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

LORD, HAVE MERCY (*Kyrie*)

**C: (*sung*) Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.**

ABSOLUTION

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (*sung*) Amen.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

GLORY BE TO GOD (*Gloria in Excelsis*)

C: (*sung*) **Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father almighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us. For you only are holy; you only are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: (*sung*) **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy and to bring forth fruits in faith and hope and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (*sung*) **Amen.**

Be seated

The Word

FIRST LESSON

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 (NIV)

When you have entered the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it, ²take some of the firstfruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land the LORD your God is giving you and put them in a basket. Then go to the place the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name ³and say to the priest in office at the time, "I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come to the land the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." ⁴The priest shall take the basket from your hands and set it down in front of the altar of the LORD your God. ⁵Then you shall declare before the LORD your God: "My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful

and numerous. ⁶But the Egyptians mistreated us and made us suffer, subjecting us to harsh labor. ⁷Then we cried out to the LORD, the God of our ancestors, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression. ⁸So the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders. ⁹He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; ¹⁰and now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, LORD, have given me." Place the basket before the LORD your God and bow down before him. ¹¹Then you and the Levites and the foreigners residing among you shall rejoice in all the good things the LORD your God has given to you and your household.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalms 33

Page 79 in the front of the hymnal

***Refrain:* The earth is full of the goodness of God, the goodness of our God.**

Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous;^{*}
it is fitting for the upright to praise him.

For the Word of the LORD is right and true;^{*}
he is faithful in all he does.

By the word of the LORD were the heavens made,^{*}
their starry host by the breath of his mouth.

For he spoke, and it came to be;^{*}
he commanded, and it stood firm.

***Refrain:* The earth is full of the goodness of God, the goodness of our God.**

The LORD foils the plans of the nations;^{*}
he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.

But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever,^{*}
the purposes of his heart through all generations.

The LORD loves righteousness and justice;^{*}
the earth is full of his unfailing love.

**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.**

Refrain: The earth is full of the goodness of God, the goodness of our God.

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 1:3-14 (NIV)

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will — ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹ he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment — to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession — to the praise of his glory.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Deuteronomy 30:14 (NIV)

M: Alleluia. The Word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it. Alleluia.

C: *(sung)* Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Please stand for the highlight of the service: the Gospel.

GOSPEL

Luke 21:1-4 (NIV)

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:

C: (sung) Glory be to you, O Lord!

As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. ²He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. ³“Truly I tell you,” he said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the others. ⁴All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: (sung) Praise be to you, O Christ!

CONFESSION OF FAITH: THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,**

who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly #484

- 1 Brothers, sisters, let us gladly Give to God our all, our best—
Service hearty, thorough, honest, With a living love impressed.
All our duty, all our striving, All our time to him belong;
Praise him, then, with true devotion; Come before him with a song.
- 2 By his mercy, by his bounty, By the gift of Christ, his Son,
What great goodness he has shown us, What high marvels he has done!
Let us to him promptly, freely, Yield our bodies and our souls,
Thankful that his love protects us, That his wisdom all controls.
- 3 Gracious Lord, accept our service For the sake of Christ, your Son;
Lo, our hope abides now only In the righteousness he won.
Bless and save us; help and guide us; Watch to comfort and restore
Till in heav'n we rest rejoicing, Praising you forevermore.

SERMON

Please stand

CREATE IN ME

- C:** *(sung)* Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.
Amen.

Be seated

OFFERING

The members of St. Mark have joined together to spread God's message both in this community and around the world. If you are a visitor, please do not feel obligated to participate in the offering. You are our guests, and we thank you for giving us the opportunity to share God's Word with you! Those who wish to give an offering may give electronically through our website, scan this QR code, or mail a check to church. Website and mailing addresses are listed at the top of page 1.



Please stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

The Sacrament

At St. Mark we practice the custom of Close Communion, inviting to our altar only confirmed members of our church body, the WELS, and of those in fellowship with us. We do this because Communion is also a sign of Christian unity, based upon agreement on the doctrines of the Bible. This is not an insult to our Christian brethren in other denominations, but a recognition of differing church teachings. We, with all Christians, look forward to the day when we will all sit together in peace at the marriage feast of the Lamb. (See 1 Corinthians 10:17 and 1 Corinthians 11:27-29)



If you wish to follow along with the music for the communion liturgy, it begins on page 21 in the front of the hymnal.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sung)* **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: *(sung)* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: *(sung)* **It is good and right so to do.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (*Sanctus*)

C: *(sung)* **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of heavenly hosts; heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he, blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: *(sung)* **Amen.**

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD (*Agnus Dei*)

C: *(sung)* **O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.**

Be seated

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

We Give Thee But Thine Own #485

- 1 We give thee but thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from thee.
- 2 May we thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as thou blessest us, To thee our firstfruits give.
- 3 Oh, hearts are bruised and dead, And homes are bare and cold,
And lambs for whom the shepherd bled Are straying from the fold.
- 4 To comfort and to bless, To find a balm for woe,
To tend the lone and fatherless, Is angels' work below.
- 5 The captives to release, To God the lost to bring,
To teach the way of life and peace-It is a Christlike thing.
- 6 And we believe thy Word Though dim our faith may be:
Whate'er for thine we do, O Lord, We do it unto thee.

Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord #309

- 1 Draw near and take the body of the Lord,
And drink the holy blood for you outpoured.
Offered was he for greatest and for least,
Himself the victim and himself the priest.
- 2 He that his saints in this world rules and shields
To all believers life eternal yields,
With heav'nly bread makes them that hunger whole,
Gives living waters to the thirsty soul.
- 3 Come forward, then, with faithful hearts sincere,
And take the pledges of salvation here.
Before your altar, Lord, your servants bow;
In this your feast of love be with us now.

Please stand

SONG OF SIMEON (*Nunc Dimittis*)

C: (*sung*) **Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.**

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: (*sung*) **And his mercy endures forever.**

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (*sung*) **Amen.**

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: (*sung*) **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Almighty Father, Heaven and Earth #480 (v.4-5)

4 We, Lord, would lay, at your request,
The costliest off'rings on your shrine,
And when we give and give our best,
We but return your gifts divine.

5 O Father, whence all blessings come,
O Son, Dispenser of God's store,
O Spirit, bear our off'rings home—
Lord, make them yours forevermore!



At the end of the service, the acolyte extinguishes the candles and carries the flame out of church to symbolize that the light of Jesus goes with us into the world.



Let us know you worshipped with us!

If you take a picture of this QR code with most smartphones it will take you to our Friendship Register and Online Connection Card. You may also visit: stmarksbemidji.org/online-connection-card/

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