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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.
- **P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- **P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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 neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

- In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C Amen.

+Service of the Word+

Introit

It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High.

The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God.

They still bear fruit in old age;

they are ever full of sap and green,

to declare that the LORD is upright;

he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

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.

It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High.

Kyrie 152

- **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.
- 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.
- 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.

Gloria in Excelsis



Salutation and Collect of the Day

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us pray.

 Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

P The Old Testament Reading is from Ezekiel, chapter 17.

²²Thus says the Lord GOD: "I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest. ²⁴And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it."

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

On your wondrous works, I will meditate, and I will declare your greatness.

Epistle 2 Corinthians 5:1–17

P The Epistle is from 2 Corinthians, chapter 5.

¹We know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ²For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

⁶So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. ¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance

and not about what is in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.



LSB 156



Holy Gospel

Mark 4:26–34

- **P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the fourth chapter.
- Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁶[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. ²⁷He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. ²⁸The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? ³¹It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. ³⁴He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to You, O Christ.





Sermon

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.

Prayer of the Church

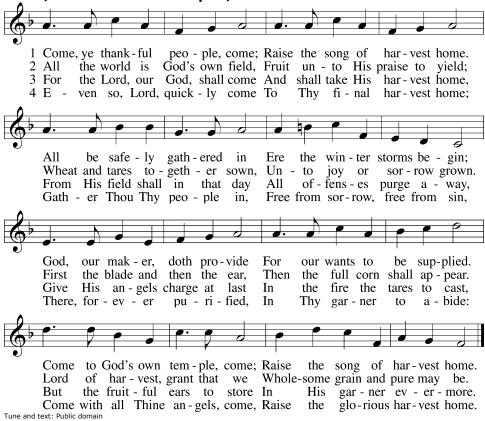
- **P** ... Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- P through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

 \mathbf{C}

Lord's Prayer

- **P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
 - 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.





Collect for the Word

P Let us pray.

Lord God, bless Your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a word of power and peace to convert those not yet Your own and to confirm those who have come to saving faith. May Your Word pass from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the lip, and from the lip to the life that, as You have promised, Your Word may achieve the purpose for which You send it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Benediction LSB 166

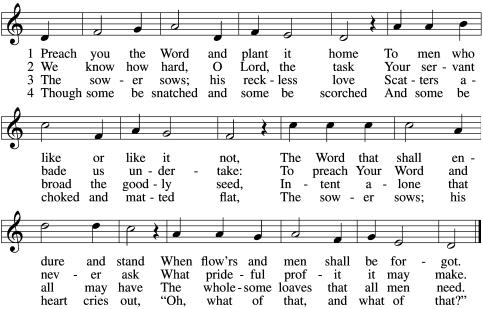
The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be

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.





- Of all his scattered plenteousness
 One-fourth waves ripe on hill and flat,
 And bears a harvest hundredfold:
 "Ah, what of that, Lord, what of that!"
- 6 Preach you the Word and plant it home
 And never faint; the Harvest Lord
 Who gave the sower seed to sow
 Will watch and tend His planted Word.

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Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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