

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

C: Dear God, dear Jesus,+ we confess in front of you and one another that we do not often understand what is Your will for us. We all look for the afterlife and forget that you came to redeem us for this life. We are self-focused and self-preoccupied, instead of being other-oriented as you were while on this earth. Forgive us, we pray! Teach us your righteousness so that we forget about our self-righteousness. Open our hearts and minds to the Gospel, the Good News of the kin-dom of God, which is peace with justice and goodness. Amen.

P: God forgives! Always! In the name of Christ Jesus, our Lord, you are forgiven and daily given a chance to repent and forgive others. In forgiveness you find the peace of heart, that Jesus promised. Amen.

MORNING PRAYER

P: Please join with me in the prayer of the day:

C: Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ’s blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: ACTS 9: 36-43

Down the road a way in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha, “Gazelle” in our language. She was well-known for doing good and helping out. During the time Peter was in the area she became sick and died. Her friends prepared her body for burial and put her in a cool room. Some of the disciples had heard that Peter was visiting in nearby Lydda and sent two men to ask if he would be so kind as to come over. Peter got right up and went with them. They took him into the room where Tabitha’s body was laid out. Her old friends, most of them widows, were in the room mourning. They showed Peter pieces of clothing the Gazelle had made while she was with them. Peter put the widows all out of the room. He knelt and prayed. Then he spoke directly to the body: “Tabitha, get up.” She opened her eyes. When she saw Peter, she sat up. He took her hand and helped her up. Then he called in the believers and widows, and presented her to them alive. When this became known all over Joppa, many put their trust in the Master. Peter stayed on a long time in Joppa as a guest of Simon the Tanner. Holy wisdom, Holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;
I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.”

**All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.**

But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied.

I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods, never take their names upon my lips.

O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who uphold my lot.

My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a rich inheritance.

I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me night after night.

I have set the LORD always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope.

For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the pit.

You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. Holy wisdom, Holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” (verse 1).....# 367

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 20:19-31

Glory to you, O Lord. When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name. The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON *“Forgiveness and Peace”* Pastor Liliana Stahlberg

HYMN OF THE DAY *“Forgive Our Sins as we Forgive”*

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe God, a divine presence, gentle and loving, the ground of our being. We believe Jesus, who embodied the love of God, and who showed his wounds urging his followers to heal the wounds of others and raise them to new life. We believe the Holy Spirit, as God's continuing presence in our world, surrounding us with compassion. We believe the church is the Body of Christ where people gather to praise and learn The Way of Christ, to share our concern for one another, and to bring justice and healing to all of God's Creation. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence. Your mercy is great.*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
Let's share Christ's peace with one another.

OFFERTORY SONG "*GIVE THANKS*"

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Gracious Lord, teach us always to return to you from all you have blessed us with. May our offering bring comfort and healing to the broken hearted, assuage the poverty of others and gives us new life in Christ Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

The God of all, who raised + Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN "*The Lord Now Sends Us Forth*" #538

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One. **Thanks be to God.**

SONG OF PEACE (*You may join hands.*)

My peace I give unto you. It's a peace that the world cannot give. It's a peace that the world cannot understand. Peace to know, peace to live. My peace I give unto you.

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