

GATHERING HYMN: “*Come Thou Font of Every Blessing*”# 807

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.

MORNING PRAYER

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

C: On this day of celebrating your love, we lift to you those who have given us life, those who have loved us, those who have blessed us, and those who have taught us, our mothers. May your blessing pour out upon the woman who gave us birth, and those beautiful, strong women of faith who have been mothers to us along our journey. Amen.

FIRST READING: ACTS 17:22-31

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’ Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.

L: Holy wisdom, Holy Word.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 66:8-20

Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.

Our God has kept us among the living and has not allowed our feet to slip

For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us just as silver is tried.

You brought us into the net; you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

I will enter your house with burnt offerings and will pay you my vows—
those that I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams; I will give you oxen and goats.

Come and listen, all you who believe, and I will tell you what God has done for me.

I called out to God with my mouth, and praised the Lord with my tongue.

If I had cherished evil in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me;

but in truth God has heard me and has attended to the sound of my prayer.

Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld unfailing love from me.

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 3:13-22

Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if

suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

L: Holy wisdom, Holy Word.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “*Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil*”#512

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 14:15-21

P: The holy Gospel according to John, the 14th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees her nor knows her. You know her, because she abides with you, and she will be in you. “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON *The Time Has Come for Us to Know*..... Pastor Stahlberg

HYMN OF THE DAY “*Mothering God*”#735

STATEMENT OF FAITH

C: 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 urged his followers to express that same love in their daily lives. 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 about 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

P: United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

P: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Let’s share Christ’s peace with one another.

OFFERING *We are now invited to praise God with our offering!*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray:

C: Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Remember us into your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

COMMUNION HYMN: "*As the Grains of Wheat*"#465

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

C: Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. Amen.

SENDING HYMN "*Lord Be Glorified*" (vs 1 & 4).....#744

BLESSING

P: 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.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

C: Thanks be to God.

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

C: 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.