

## 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.**

GATHERING MUSIC: *Gregorian Chanting*

SILENCE and REFLECTION TIME: What do you feel guilty about? What have you done and what have you left undone?

## PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS AND SURRENDER

**C: God, hear your servant, listen to my voice, for you know me, and you know my heart. You know I thirst, you know I hunger, and you know I need only You. I will go to the highest mountain, I will go to the deepest valley, I will go God anywhere in your world, wherever you send me. I wait to hear Your voice, to follow Your Way, and to do so in complete surrender. For You are my God and I am your servant. Amen.**

## HEALING THROUGH FORGIVENESS

P: God is. We can only stand in awe before God's amazing Love. God is Love. Bathing in this unconditional Love is transforming every cell in our body. Here is the God of Love again, this morning, Eternally embracing us, forgiving us and transforming us into the image of His Son our Lord, Jesus, the Christ.

**+WORD+**

## FIRST READING: GENESIS 32:22-31

The same night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the fork of the Jabbok river. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a spirit wrestled with him until daybreak. When the spirit saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with this stranger. Then the spirit said, 'Let me go, for the day is breaking.' But Jacob said, 'I will not let you go, unless you bless me.' So the spirit said to him, 'What is your name?' And he said, 'Jacob.' Then the spirit said, 'You shall no longer be called **Jacob**, (*heel or behind*) but **Israel**, (*the one struggling with God*), for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.' Then Jacob asked him, 'Please tell me your name.' But the spirit said, 'Why is it that you ask my name?' And there the spirit blessed him. So Jacob called the place **Peniel**, (*the Face of God*) saying, 'For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.' The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip. Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

**My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.**

The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

**Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**

the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

**the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

**The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in,  
from this time forth forevermore.**

SECOND READING: 2 TIMOTHY 3:14-4:5

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully. Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "*Change My Heart O God*".....#801

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE 18:1-8

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."' Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."' Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time. This is the good news of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON "*We Are All Israel— The One Struggling With God*" Rev. Stahlberg

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 OF INTERCESSION

P: In gratitude and humility, let us join together in prayer on behalf of God’s creation. *A brief silence.* Compassionate 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!*

*Please stand to receive the Holy Gifts of God for the people of God!*

OFFERTORY SONG “*GIVE THANKS*”

**C: Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ, his son. And now let the weak say, I am strong, let the poor say, I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks. Give thanks.**

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Gracious God, in your great Love you richly provide for our needs. Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing, and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all.

**C: Amen.**

+SENDING+

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.**

BLESSING

P: May the love of God watch over you; may the peace of Christ fill your heart; may the Holy Spirit fill your life and speak to you daily. **Amen.**

**C: Amen.**

SENDING SONG “Gracious Spirit, Head Our Pleading” .....#401

SONG OF PEACE

**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.**

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS