

Today's Theme for Worship: The LORD speaks to us about forgiveness as his gift. Through that gift he renews our hearts and makes us his faithful followers and servants.

Opening Hymn: 770 O Christ Who Called the Twelve

1 O Christ, who called the Twelve To rise and follow you,
Forsaking old, familiar ways For ventures bold and new:
Grant us to hear your call To risk security
And, bound in heart and will to you, Find perfect liberty.

2 O Christ, who taught the Twelve The truth for ages sealed,
Whose words and works awakened faith, The ways of God revealed:
Instruct us now, we pray, By your empow'ring Word.
True teacher, be for all who seek Their light, their life, their Lord.

3 O Christ, who sent the Twelve On roads they'd never trod
To serve, to suffer, teach, proclaim The nearer reign of God:
Send us on ways where faith Transcends timidity,
Where love informs and hope sustains Both life and ministry.

4 O Christ, th'apostles' Lord, The martyrs' strength and song,
The crucified and risen King To whom the saints belong:
Though generations pass, Our tribute still we bring,
Our hymns a sacrifice of praise, Our lives an offering.

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Order of Service: Divine Service I

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Confession of Sins

P: 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: **Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us. Amen.**

P: 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: **(spoken) Amen.**

Prayer and Praise

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

Glory Be to God

Gloria in Excelsis

C: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you,
we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory!

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father;
receive our prayer, receive our prayer.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Glory to God, glory to God!

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: **Let us Pray.**

O God, the strength of those who trust in you, mercifully hear our prayers. Be gracious to us in our weakness, and give us strength to keep your commandments in all we say and do; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(spoken)* **Amen.**

The Word

FIRST LESSON: Hosea 5:15 - 6:6 - *Hosea shows us the LORD's eagerness to forgive. Even though God lovingly chastises us- sometimes harshly- he is still there to heal and restore us when we turn back to him. God's great love wins our hearts to love and serve him, even when we deserve his anger.*

¹⁵I will go. I will return to my place
until they admit their guilt and seek my face.

In their distress they will earnestly seek me.

⁶Come, let us return to the LORD.

For he has torn us to pieces,

but he will heal us.

He has struck us,

but he will bandage our wounds.

²After two days he will revive us.

On the third day he will raise us up,
so that we may live in his presence.

³Let us acknowledge the LORD.

Let us pursue knowledge of the LORD.

As surely as the sun rises,
the LORD will appear.

He will come to us like a heavy rain,
like the spring rain that waters the earth.

⁴What am I going to do with you, Ephraim?

What am I going to do with you, Judah?

For your faithfulness is like a morning mist,
like early dew that disappears.

⁵That is why I cut them to pieces by means of the prophets.

I killed them with the words of my mouth.

The judgments against you go forth like the light.

⁶For I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,

and the knowledge of God, rather than burnt offerings.

Psalm of the Day - Special Music Psalm 89a

I Will Sing... Forever (Psalm 89a)

Refrain Andy Braun

I will sing of the LORD's great love for - ev - er. _____

I will sing of the LORD's great love for - ev - er. _____

[Refrain:]

I will sing of the LORD's great love forever;
I will sing of the LORD's great love forever!

[Refrain]

I will sing of the LORD's great love forever;
I will sing of the LORD's great love forever!

You, O LORD, are mighty and your faithfulness surrounds you;

I will make your faithfulness known throughout all generations.

I will declare that your love stands firm forever;

Love and faithfulness go before you.

Who in the skies above can compare with the LORD?

You founded the world and all that is in it.

The heavens and earth are yours, O LORD, forever;

Righteousness and justice are your throne.

Blessed are those who acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence.

They rejoice in your name all day long; they celebrate your righteousness.

For you are their glory and strength and by your favor you exalt them.

[Refrain]

I will sing of the LORD's great love forever;
I will sing of the LORD's great love forever!

The heavens praise your wonders, LORD, forever;
You have established your faithfulness in heaven.

[Refrain]

I will sing of the LORD's great love forever;
I will sing of the LORD's great love forever!

[Refrain]

I will sing of the LORD's great love forever;
I will sing of the LORD's great love forever!

P: The gospel for today is taken from the Gospel of St. Matthew, the 9th chapter.

C: **(sing) Glory be to you, O Lord. Glory be to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 9:9-13 - *Jesus calls Matthew to be a disciple. Relying on Jesus, we follow and serve him in love.*

⁹As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting in the tax collector's booth. He said to him, "Follow me." Matthew got up and followed him.

¹⁰As Jesus was reclining at the table in Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners were actually there too, eating with Jesus and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

¹²When Jesus heard this, he said to them, "The healthy do not need a physician, but the sick do. ¹³Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' In fact, I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: **(sing) Praise be to you, O Christ. Praise be to you, O Christ.**

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.

Hymn of the Day: 596 Let Me Be Yours Forever

1 Let me be yours forever, My faithful God and Lord;
Let me forsake you never Nor wander from your Word.
Lord, do not let me waver But give me steadfastness,
And for such grace and favor Your holy name I'll bless.

2 Lord Jesus, my salvation, My light, my life divine,
My only consolation, To you I all resign,
For you have dearly bought me With blood and bitter pain.
Let me, since you have sought me, Eternal life obtain.

3 O gracious Holy Spirit, My comforter and guide,
Grant that in Jesus' merit I always may confide,
Him to the end confessing Whom I have known by faith.
Give me your constant blessing And grant a Christian death.

Text: Nikolaus Selnecker, 1532-92, st. 1; *Gesangbuch*, Rudolstadt, 1688, st. 2-3;
tr. Matthias Loy, 1828-1915, alt.

Sermon Romans 4:18-25

¹⁸Hoping beyond what he could expect, he believed that he would become the father of many nations, just as he was told: "This is how many your descendants will be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith, even though he considered his own body as good as dead (because he was about one hundred years old), and even though he considered Sarah's womb to be dead. ²⁰He did not waver in unbelief with respect to God's promise, but he grew strong in faith, giving glory to God ²¹and being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness."

²³Now the statement "it was credited to him" was not written for him alone, ²⁴but also for us to whom it would be credited, namely, to us who believe in the one who raised our Lord Jesus from the dead. ²⁵He was handed over to death because of our trespasses and was raised to life because of our justification.

Create in Me

C: Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold,
uphold me with your free Spirit.

Offering Prayer

Prayer of the Church: *Spoken by the Pastor*

Lord's Prayer

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

The Sacrament

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

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

P: 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

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might:
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

Matthew 26:26-28

1 Corinthians 11:24,25

P: 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."

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

C: **(spoken) Amen.**

O Christ, Lamb Of God *Agnus Dei*

C: 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. Amen.

Distribution Hymn: 313 Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior

1 Jesus Christ, our blessed Savior, Turned away God's wrath forever;
By his bitter grief and woe He saved us from the evil foe.

2 As his pledge of love undying, He, this precious food supplying,
Gives his body with the bread And with the wine the blood he shed.

3 Jesus here himself is sharing; Take heed how you are preparing,
For if you do not believe, Judgment instead you shall receive.

4 Useless would be Jesus' passion If salvation you could fashion.
Do not come if you suppose You need not him who died and rose.

5 Christ says, "Come, all you that labor, And receive my grace and favor;
Those who feel no pain or ill Need no physician's help or skill."

6 Then hold fast with faith unshaken That this food is to be taken
By the souls who are distressed, By hearts that long for peace and rest.

7 Praise the Father, who from heaven Unto us such food has given
And, to mend what we have done, Gave into death his only Son.

8 If your heart this truth professes And your mouth your sin confesses,
Surely you will be his guest And at his banquet ever blest.

Text: John Hus, c. 1369-1415; German version, Martin Luther, 1483-1546, abr.; tr. composite.

Song of Simeon *Nunc Dimittis*

C: In peace, Lord, you let your servant now depart
according to your word.

For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared for ev'ry people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory,
the glory of your people Israel.

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

C: **And his mercy endures forever.**

P: 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.

Or

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (*spoken*) **Amen.**

Blessing

P: 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: (*spoken*) **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: 458 May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill

1 May we your precepts, Lord, fulfill
And do on earth our Father's will
As angels do above,
Still walk in Christ, the living way,
With all your children, and obey
The law of Christian love.

2 So may we join your name to bless,
Your grace adore, your pow'r confess,
To flee from sin and strife.
One is our calling, one our name,
The end of all our hopes the same:
A glorious crown of life.

3 Spirit of life, of love, and peace,
Unite our hearts, our joy increase,
Your gracious help supply.
To each of us the blessing give
In Christian fellowship to live,
In joyful hope to die.

Text: Edward Osler, 1798-1863, alt.