

The LITURGY of MORNING PRAYER & HOLY COMMUNION on

4TH SUNDAY after TRINITY, 2025 A.D.

Church! The liturgy is entirely contained within this booklet. In general, we stand (*) to sing, sit to listen, and kneel (†) to pray. **Boldface** indicates congregational participation. At Holy Communion, all baptized Christians who love our Divine Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in sincerity and are living in peace and charity with their neighbors are invited to receive the Eucharist. Further instructions on how to receive Holy Communion or a blessing can be found beginning on page 24.

The Liturgy begins at 10am, ending around 11:25am, after which our Agape potluck will begin in the fellowship hall. There will be no catechesis today. May God bless you on this Lord's Day!

Searching and Found

Paul Jernberg, The Love of God

You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you in a dry and parched land where there is no water. (Ps. 63:1)

Do we seek and search for God? Do we climb higher and higher struggling to reach for the One who seems at times elusive? Can we ever reach high enough? Or does God, knowing our frailty and great need, seek us? Two great traditions of church architecture portray the dilemma: our reach and search for God—the Gothic; and His descending embrace of us—the Byzantine.

Entering a Gothic Cathedral one's eyes are driven upward. The architects of Gothic churches erected gigantic pillars and vaults capable of reaching ever higher in and attempt to find heaven. It shows the genius of man in his quest for God. Though they are beautiful and take our breath away when we enter, and though we worship in splendor and anticipation of communion with our Creator, they never seem to reach high enough. In spite of our searching our arms are too short to embrace God. It is He who does the embracing.

The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them. The LORD watches over all who love him... (Psalm 145:19-20)

Upon entering an Eastern Orthodox Church one experiences a vast difference—a hovering, protective, enveloping space. The Orthodox Church dome is like a cloud descending and covering almost the entire worship space. It is a temporary protection, preserving us while we wait for God's coming. It has His face, the Pantokrator, at the center, surrounded by figures of the saints, angels, and apostles. They assure us—God is here. We don't need to continue to strive after Him through our own power. The pillars supporting the dome are not exerting great effort and energy struggling to hold the ceiling in place. Rather, they seem like tendrils, or roots, securing Heaven to earth. We fail in our attempt to go to God; He comes to us.

Artistic symbolism and splendor inhabit each. One feels a profound reverence and awe in both of them. They represent the highest achievements in symbolic architecture, and the length to which humanity has extended itself in worship, honor, and adoration of the Creator.

Has God at times felt 'far away'? Beyond our reach? Has our striving 'gothic' nature often led us to feel as if our 'earth' cannot reach our 'hoped for heaven'? Have we felt at other times completely held in the sure arms of Christ? Has He seemed to surround us with His love?

Have we felt the peace that comes when earth and heaven unite in our spiritual 'byzantine' cloud covering?

Yes, we have a dual nature—fallen, yet saved by Grace; yearning, yet spiritually fed; seeking, yet sought. In truth, we are both 'gothic' and 'byzantine'; we are both the searchers and the found.

But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who long for your saving help always say, "The LORD is great!" (Psalms 40:16)

-Greg Athnos



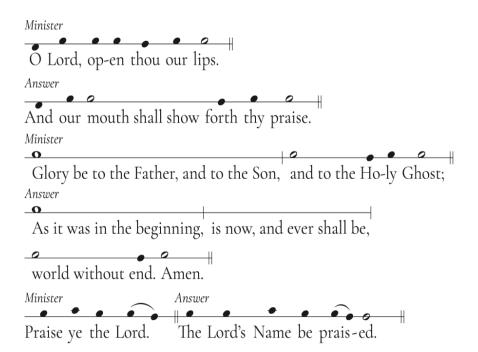
THE ORDER FOR MORNING PRAYER

*Opening Sentence

THE LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him. Hab. ii. 20.

I was glad when they said unto me, We will go into the house of the LORD. Psalm cxxii. 1.

*Preces

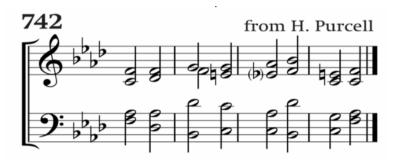


* Venite



- 1 O come, let us sing | unto · the LORD;
 - * let us heartily rejoice in the strength of | our salvation.
 - 2 Let us come before his presence with | thanksgiving;
 - * and show ourselves | glad in him with psalms.
 - 3 For the LORD is a | great God;
 - * and a great | King above all gods.
 - 4 In his hand are all the corners of the earth;
 - * and the strength of the hills is | his also.
 - 5 The sea is | his, and · he made it;
 - * and his hands prepared the dry land.
 - 6 O come, let us worship and | **fall** down,
 - * and kneel before the | LORD our **Ma**ker.
 - 7 For he is the | Lord our God;
 - * and we are the people of his pasture, and the | sheep of his hand.
 - 8 O worship the LORD in the | beauty · of holiness;
 - * let the whole earth | stand in awe of him.
 - 9 For he cometh, for he cometh to | judge the earth;
 - * and with righteousness to judge the world, and the | peoples with his truth.
 - Glory be to the Father, and | to the Son,
 - * and | to the Holy Ghost;
 - As it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever shall be,
 - * world without | end. Amen.

*The Portion of the Psalter: Psalm 123 and 124



- I UNTO thee lift I up mine eyes, * O thou that dwellest in the heavens.
- 2 Behold, even as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress, * even so our eyes wait upon the LORD our God, until he have mercy upon us.
- 3 Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us; * for we are utterly despised.
- 4 Our soul is filled with the scornful reproof of the wealthy, * and with the despitefulness of the proud.

Psalm 124

- I IF the LORD himself had not been on our side, now may Israel say; * if the LORD himself had not been on our side, when men rose up against us;
- 2 They had swallowed us up alive¹; * when they were so wrathfully displeased at us.
- 3 Yea, the waters had drowned us, * and the stream had gone over our soul.

- 4 The deep waters of the proud * had gone even over our soul.
- 5 But praised be the LORD, * who hath not given us over for a prey unto their teeth.
- 6 Our soul is escaped even as a bird out of the snare of the fowler; * the snare is broken, and we are delivered.
- 7 Our help standeth in the Name of the LORD, * who hath made heaven and earth.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, * and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, * world without end. Amen.

The Lesson: Judges 16:4-14

And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. 5 And the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and said unto her, Entice him, and see wherein his great strength lieth, and by what means we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him; and we will give thee every one of us eleven hundred pieces of silver. 6 And Delilah said to Samson, Tell me, I pray thee, wherein thy great strength lieth, and wherewith thou mightest be bound to afflict thee. 7 And Samson said unto her, If they bind me with seven green withs

that were never dried, then shall I be weak, and be as another man. 8 Then the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven green withs which had not been dried, and she bound him with them.9 Now there were men lying in wait, abiding with her in the chamber. And she said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he brake the withs, as a thread of tow is broken when it toucheth the fire. So his strength was not known. 10 And Delilah said unto Samson, Behold, thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: now tell me, I pray thee, wherewith thou mightest be bound. 11 And he said unto her, If they bind me fast with new ropes that never were occupied, then shall I be weak, and be as another man. 12 Delilah therefore took new ropes, and bound him therewith, and said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And there were liers in wait abiding in the chamber. And he brake them from off his arms like a thread. 13 And Delilah said unto Samson, Hitherto thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: tell me wherewith thou mightest be bound. And he said unto her, If thou weavest the seven locks of my head with the web. 14 And she fastened it with the pin, and said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awaked out of his sleep, and went away with the pin of the beam, and with the web.

*Canticle: Jubilate Deo



- O BE joyful in the LORD, | all ye lands:
 - * serve the LORD with gladness, and come before his | presence with a song.
- Be ye sure that the LORD he is God;
 it is he that hath made us, and not | we ourselves;
 * we are his people, and the | sheep of · his PASture.
- O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his | courts with praise;

 * be thankful unto him, and | SPEAK | good of this name.
 - * be thankful unto him, and | SPEAK | good of \cdot his name.
- 4 For the LORD is gracious, his mercy is | everlasting; * and his truth endureth from generation to | generAtion.

and his truth endureth from generation to | generation

* and | to the Holy Ghost;

Glory be to the Father, and | to the Son,

As it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever shall be, * world without | END. Amen.

THE ORDER FOR HOLY COMMUNION

[†]The Collect for Purity

LMIGHTY God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

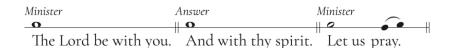
[†]The Summary of the Law

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith.

THOU shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Merbecke

†Kyrie eleison Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. have mer - cy us.



[†]The Collect for the 4th Sunday after Trinity

GOD, the protector of all that trust in thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy; Increase and multiply upon us thy mercy; that, thou being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things eternal. Grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake our Lord. Amen.

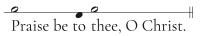
The Epistle: Romans 8:18-23

I RECKON that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. 20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, 21 because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. 23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

*The Holy Gospel: St. Luke 6:36-42

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

 $B^{\,\scriptscriptstyle E}$ ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. 37 Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: 38 give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again. 39 And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch? 40 The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master. 41 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but perceivest not the beam that is in thine own eye? 42 Either how canst thou say to thy brother, Brother, let me pull out the mote that is in thine eye, when thou thyself beholdest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to pull out the mote that is in thy brother's eye.





*The Nicene Creed

I BELIEVE in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible: And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the onlybegotten Son of God; Begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God; Begotten, not made; Being of one substance with the Father; By whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven. And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man: And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried: And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures: And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father: And he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

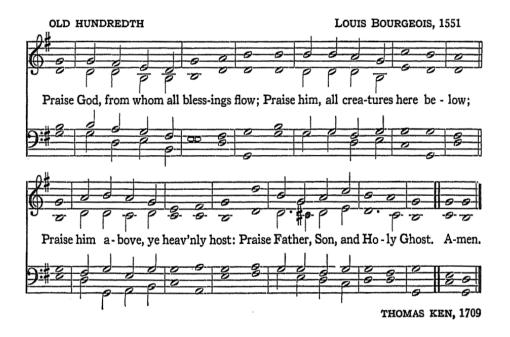
And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake by the Prophets: And I believe one, holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church: I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins: And I look for the Resurrection of the dead: And the Life of the world to come. Amen.

Homily

<u>Notes</u>

Offertory:

*Presentation Doxology



†Prayer for the whole state of Christ's Church

Apostle hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men; We humbly beseech thee most mercifully to accept our alms and oblations, and to receive these our prayers, which we offer unto thy Divine Majesty; beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord: And grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

E beseech thee also, so to direct and dispose the hearts of <u>all Christian Rulers</u>, that they may truly and impartially administer justice, to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of thy true religion, and virtue.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all <u>Bishops and other Ministers</u>, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy People give thy heavenly grace; and especially to <u>this congregation</u> here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear, and receive thy holy Word; truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succour all <u>those who</u>, in this transitory life, <u>are in trouble</u>, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also # bless thy holy Name for all thy <u>servants</u> <u>departed this life</u> in thy faith and fear; beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service, and to give us grace so to follow their good examples, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

†A General Confession & Absolution

Y E who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the

commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways; Draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

(Here, we pause briefly to recall our sins.)

All LMIGHTY God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, Against thy Divine Majesty, Provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; The remembrance of them is grievous unto us; The burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee In newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A LMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him; Have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

†Comfortable Words

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all who truly turn to him.

OME unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. St. Matt. xi. 28.

So God loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. St. John iii. 16.

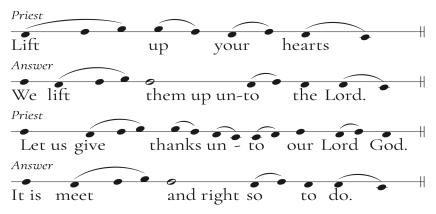
Hear also what Saint Paul saith.

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I Tim. i. 15.

Hear also what Saint John saith.

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the Propitiation for our sins. 1 St. John ii. 1, 2.

†Sursum corda



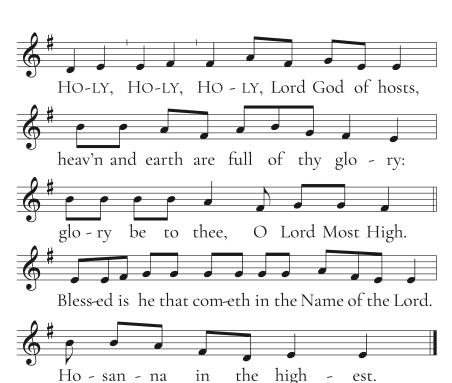
†Preface

I T is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

T HEREFORE with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

†Sanctus & Benedictus

Merbecke



[†]The Prayer of Consecration

A LL glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there (by his one oblation of himself once offered) a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again: For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took Bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you; Do this in remembrance of me. + Likewise, after supper, he took the Cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me. +

†The Oblation

WHEREFORE O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy Divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and

glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

†The Invocation

AND we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

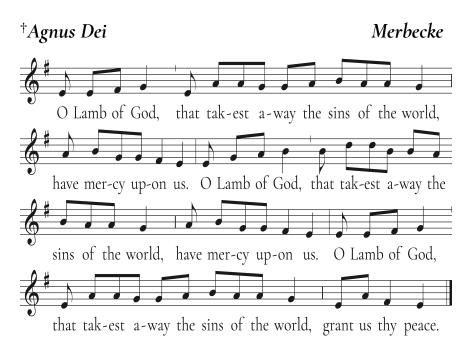
A ND we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness, mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion. And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee, that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him. And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice; yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service; not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

And now, as our Saviour Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,



†Prayer for Humble Access

We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his Body, and our souls washed through his most precious Blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen



Instructions for taking Holy Communion

If you are baptized into God's family and you sincerely love Christ, then you are welcome to partake of His Sacrament, whether you are a member of the Reformed Episcopal Church or another Christian denomination. To partake by the Common Cup, simply ingest the consecrated host that is placed in your palm. To partake by Intinction (where the consecrated host is dipped in the Precious Blood and placed upon your tongue), leave the consecrated host in your palm. If you are not receiving Holy Communion today, either because you are not baptized or for conscience's sake, you are still invited forward to receive a blessing. Indicate this preference by crossing your arms over your chest. Baptized children are welcome to receive Holy Communion if that is the practice and desire of the parents. If you have a severe gluten allergy, you may receive consecrated gluten-free hosts in the small section to the far right of the Communion rail. If you are returning to church after a long time away, you are encouraged to wait to receive Communion until you speak to one of the clergy. Instead, receive a blessing at the rail.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Using the Hymnals in the pews, all are invited to sing the following hymns during the time when we receive communion:

- #294, For the bread which thou hast broken
- #295, Break thou the Bread of Life
- #296, Shepherd of souls

†Prayer of Thanksgiving

A LMIGHTY and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee, for that thou dost vouchsafe to feed us who have duly received these holy mysteries with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favour and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs through hope of thy everlasting kingdom, by the merits of his most precious death and passion. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.



†Blessing

THE Peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: And the Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. Amen.

*Recessional Hymn (next page)

V: Let us go forth in joy and peace to love and serve the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

Upcoming Events

- July 23-24: Cell Groups meet
- July 25, 6pm: Feast of St. James the Apostle

623



Text: Isaac Watts, 1719; based on Psalm 72 Tune: John Hatton, 1793 DUKE STREET LM