

# THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

## THE CONFESSION

- P: We begin our worship in the name of the Father and of the +Son  
and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: **Amen.**
- P: Just as parents have compassion on their children, so the Lord has  
compassion on all who fear him.
- C: **If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive  
our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
- P: The Lord is coming. The celebration is ready. Are we?

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

- P: Most gracious God,
- C: **We are not worthy of all the kindness and all the love which you  
have shown unto your children. We have responded with  
disobedience and indifference, allowing our lamps to run dry. We  
truly deserve your wrath and punishment. For the sake of Jesus  
Christ we turn to you for forgiveness.**
- P: Our heavenly Father does not forsake his dear children. Jesus  
Christ was given to die for us, that we might be prepared to meet  
the Lord when he comes. For his sake your sins are forgiven, and  
the Holy Spirit enables you to be named the children of God.
- C: **The Bridegroom is coming! Let us go out to meet him! Amen**

## THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

- Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you
- People: **And also with you**

## THE HYMN: - "Knowing You"

## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Lord, when the day of wrath comes  
we have no hope except in your grace.  
Make us so to watch for the last days  
that the consummation of our hope**

**may be the joy of the marriage feast of your Son, Jesus Christ our  
Lord.  
Amen.**

## THE FIRST AND SECOND LESSONS

## THE READING OF THE HOLY GOSPEL

## THE OFFICE HYMN – "Change My Heart"

## THE SERMON: "The Tragedy of an Unprepared Life"

## THE APOSTLES CREED

**CONG: I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of  
the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION


Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord.  
People: **Lord, have mercy.**

## THE OFFERTORY AND THE PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

## THE BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you  
and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and  give you peace.

**People: Amen.**

## THE RECESSIONAL HYMN – “Send the Light”

Pastor: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God. Amen**