

# 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: Return to me with all your heart, says the Lord, with fasting, with  
weeping, and with mourning, with broken and contrite  
hearts.

C: **For the Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and  
abounding in steadfast love.**

P: Christ suffered for our sins, once for all, the righteous for the  
unrighteous, in order to bring us to God.

*(Silence for meditation and self-examination.)*

P: O God, in your kindness, have pity.

C: **O God, in your mercy, wash away our sins. Wash us clean of sin  
and guilt, the sins that we cannot forget and those we  
cannot remember. For we have disobeyed you and done  
wrong; we deserve your punishment. For the sake of  
Jesus Christ, turn your eyes from our iniquity, and cover  
our guilt, that we may know again the joy of your  
salvation.**

P: Jesus Christ never sinned. But God treated him as a sinner, so  
that Christ could make us acceptable to God.

C: **All we, like sheep, have gone astray; and the Lord has laid on  
him the iniquity of us all.**

P: If God is for us, who can be against us?

C: Amen

## THE APOSTOLIC GREETING AND PEACE: \*

P: Behold, now is the acceptable time;

C: **now is the day of salvation.**

P: The grace, mercy and peace of God be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

## THE HYMN: - "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, our strength,  
the battle of good and evil rages within and around us,  
and our ancient foe tempts us  
with his deceits and empty promises.  
Keep us steadfast in your Word  
and, when we fall, raise us again and restore us  
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.

## THE FIRST AND SECOND LESSONS

## THE READING OF THE HOLY GOSPEL

(The Gospel response is "Thanks be to God.")

## THE OFFICE HYMN – "Count Your Blessings"

## THE SERMON: "Blessed to be a Blessing"

## THE NICENE CREED

*LEADER: We confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:*

CONG: I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
The only-begotten 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 our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit 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 sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living  
and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped  
and gloried,  
Who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian 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.

#### 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 – “There Shall Be Showers of Blessing”

P: Marked with the Cross of Christ,  
Let us go in peace and serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**