

# THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

## THE ENTRANCE HYMN – “Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear”

### 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: For our sakes, Christ was obedient to death..

*(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: For our sakes, Christ was obedient to death. He was lifted up from the earth that we might be drawn to him.

## 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 PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God,

whose glory it is always to have mercy,  
be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways  
and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith  
to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word;  
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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 – “Somebody’s Knocking”

## THE SERMON: “Are We Bearing Fruit this Lent?”

## 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: Lord, in your mercy,  
People: Hear our prayer.

#### THE OFFERTORY AND THE PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS


#### THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray:

People: receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the  
offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross,  
we may know the joy of the Resurrection; though Christ our  
Lord. Amen.

#### 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 – “They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love”

P: Marked with the Cross of Christ,  
Let us go in peace and serve the Lord.  
C: Thanks be to God!