

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

Words of Welcome

Opening Sentences

■ We begin in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

- Through Jeremiah, God invited His people to pray for salvation; through the Spirit-inspired author of Hebrews, God assures us that He hears the cries of Jesus, our great High Priest; and with blind Bartimaeus calling out to the Lord for mercy and grace, let us also come before our Lord, seeking His grace. Our help is in the name of the LORD,
- C the Maker of heaven and earth. (Psalm 124:8)

Opening Hymn

LSB 979 | "God, Whose Almighty Word"



Confession of Our Sins

- P Hear the cry of Your people, O Lord!
- G Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!
- In our sin and shame, we have ignored the needs of others around us and have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

G Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!

■ In our own struggles against temptation and falling into sin, we know that we are by nature sinful and unclean and have wandered from Your will and Your ways.

G Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!

- P Have mercy on us for the sake of Jesus, our great High Priest, and forgive us our sins. Renew in us a right spirit and restore to us the joy of Your salvation.
- **G** Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me! Amen!

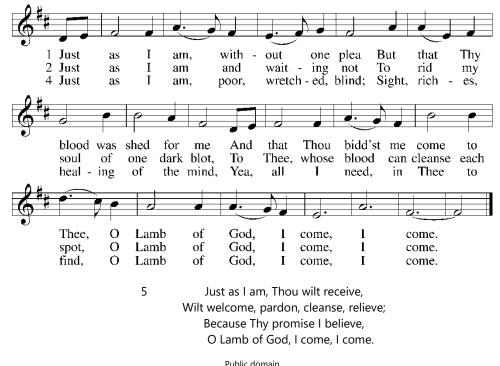
Forgiveness of Our Sins

Our heavenly Father created us to enjoy the life He has so graciously bestowed on us. He has given His only Son, who suffered and died to pay for all that separates us from His love and mercy. He has promised to hear all who call on Him in faith. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, our great High Priest, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the -H Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Hymn of Praise

LSB 570 (st. 1-2, 4-5) | "Just As I Am, Without One Plea"



Prayer of the Day

Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and hear us. Call us to Yourself today, and grant us healing, hope, life, and salvation. Grant us also the strength of faith to take up our cross and follow You, who lives and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading | Jeremiah 31:7-9

⁷This is what the LORD says. Sing with joy for Jacob, and shout for the greatest of the nations. Make your praises heard and say, "LORD, save Your people, the remnant of Israel!" ⁸Watch, I will bring them from a land in the north and gather them from the ends of the earth. The blind and the lame will be there, the pregnant woman together with the woman in labor. They will return as a huge community. ⁹They will come weeping. They will pray as I bring them back. I will lead them beside streams of water, on a level path where they will not stumble. For I am a Father to Israel. Ephraim is My firstborn.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

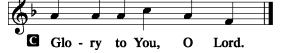
Epistle Reading | Hebrews 7:23-28

²³There were many who became priests because death prevented any of them from continuing to remain in office. ²⁴But because this One endures forever, He has a permanent priesthood. ²⁵So for this reason He is able to save forever those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to plead on their behalf. ²⁶This is certainly the kind of High Priest we needed: One who is holy, innocent, pure, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. ²⁷Unlike the other high priests, He does not need to offer sacrifices on a daily basis, first for His own sins and then for the sins of the people. In fact, He sacrificed for sins once and for all when He offered Himself. ²⁸For the law appoints as high priests men who have weaknesses. But the word of the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been brought to His goal forever.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

Holy Cospel | Mark 10:46-52 The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the tenth chapter.



⁴⁶They came to Jericho. As Jesus and His disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, a blind man, Bartimaeus the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the road begging. ⁴⁷When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁸Many told him to be quiet, but he kept shouting all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁹Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." They called the blind man, saying, "Cheer up! Get up. He is calling you!" ⁵⁰He tossed aside his outer garment, jumped up, and went to Jesus. ⁵¹"What do you want Me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man replied, *"Rabboni*, I want to see again." ⁵²Jesus told him, "Go. Your faith has made you well." Immediately he received his sight and began following Jesus on the road.



Profession of Faith | A Statement of Belief

A We believe in one God. God the Almighty Father made everything that exists, even those things we cannot see.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ. He is the eternal Son of God, and is really God Himself. In order to save us from our sins, He came down from heaven and by the power of the Holy Spirit He was born a man, the child of the virgin Mary. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate, and died and was buried. As the Bible had foretold, He rose from the dead on the third day. He returned to heaven, and rules there with God the Father. He will come back in glory to judge all people, and He will rule forever.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who is the giver of life. He is to be worshiped and glorified together with the Father and the Son. He speaks to us in the Bible. We believe that all Christians are called to be members of the Body of Christ, the Church. We believe that our sins are forgiven in Baptism, and we look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the eternal life promised to us. Amen.

Hymn of the Day

"A Blind Man Sat Beside the Road" | Tune: NEW BRITAIN

 A blind man sat beside the road And begged for charity Until he heard a stranger's step And asked, "Who can this be?" 	
2. "Who can this be, and will He stop For one as poor as I?" Then voices pierced his darkness deep: "The Lord is passing by."	
3. "He must not pass me by," he cried; "He must in pity see These empty hands, these sightless eyes! Have mercy, Lord, on me!"	
Message	

Response Verses

"A Blind Man Sat Beside the Road" | Tune: NEW BRITAIN

 Then Jesus stopped in mercy spoke; Those sightless eyes He healed
 Which, opened wide, by faith made whole, The Son of God revealed.

 Our blindness cries for vision bright, Our poverty for grace, O Lord, have mercy now on us; To us reveal Your face.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007. Copyright $\mbox{\sc c}$ 1993, GIA Publications, Inc. Tune: NEW BRITAIN, Columbian Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829, Public domain.

Offering

A SPECIAL NOTE: The mission and ministries of Ascension are supported by the love, generosity and sacrificial giving of our members and friends. If you are a GUEST today, please do not feel obligated to make a contribution, but know that any financial gift which you make will be used to help share Christ's love and salvation. Our offerings are an important part of our worship. Also, take a moment to fill out a Friendship Card and place it in the offering plate. Thank you!

Choir Anthem | "When We are Living" | Traditional Spanish

Prayers of God's People

- Gracious and merciful Lord, we give You thanks that You have restored our spiritual sight in the salvation You have given to the whole world through the blessed and glorious death and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Help us to fix our eyes continually upon Him as He comes to us here in the preaching of Your Holy Word. Enable us to follow Him in the way that leads to the eternal vision of everlasting life. Hear us, O Lord.
- **G** Your mercy is great.
- Great and mighty Lord, today we thank You especially for Lutheran Braille Workers, who serve those with vision impairments with religious and spiritual materials. Bless the many volunteers in their service to blind and low-vision people worldwide. Hear us, O Lord.
- **G** Your mercy is great.

▶ Ever-present and living Lord, even as You came to this earth not to be served but to serve, so also equip us by the power of the Gospel through Your Spirit to be Your servants in this world, eager to care for one another and loving as we have first been loved by You. Grant that those who are wandering and lost be pointed to Your mercy and truth that they follow You to life now and eternal life to come. Hear us, O Lord.

G Your mercy is great.

▶ Lord of compassion, hear our cries for the weak and vulnerable, for those with physical afflictions like Bartimaeus, who call to You for mercy and peace, (especially...). Hear our prayers for the homeless, the hungry, the distressed, and the grieving, (especially...). Sustain and bless all who care for those that suffer. Hear us, O Lord.

G Your mercy is great.

▶ Lord of creation, preserve our nation in justice and honor that we lead a peaceable life with all godliness. Grant wisdom and integrity to all who bear the offices of government in our land. Help them to serve all people according to Your holy will. Guard and protect also all who serve in the armed forces of our country. Grant them faithfulness and success in their service, and grant that their homecomings be joyful. Hear us, O Lord.

G Your mercy is great.

(Special petitions may be offered.)

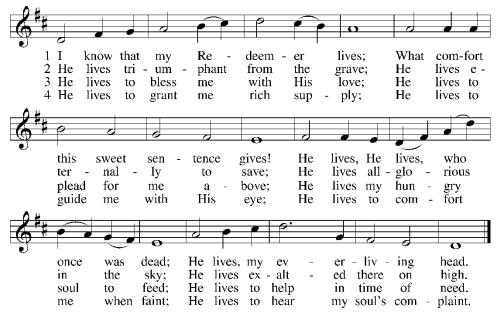
- For these and whatsoever else we should ask, we pray to You in the name of Jesus, Your Son, our Savior, who has taught us how to pray:
- Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive 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.

Benediction | Numbers 6:24-26

C Amen.

Closing Hymn

LSB 461 (st. 1-4) | "I Know That My Redeemer Lives'



Sending

P Go forth in peace as you serve the Lord and your neighbor who is in need!

C Thanks be to God!

Postlude

+ TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY +