

PREPARATION FOR THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Because Holy Communion is an expression of our oneness in faith, we request that each person desiring to commune with us examine him/herself on the basis of these points of faith:

I believe that:

+ I am a sinner in need of God’s forgiveness.

+ Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from sin, Satan and death.

+ Jesus Christ is really present in the Sacrament, and

+ The bread and wine I receive are also the true Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

+ All my sins are forgiven through this Sacrament.

+ As God enables me, I pledge to thank, praise, serve and obey Him.

Those who hold in common these teachings are invited to join us at the Lord’s Supper. If you are visiting us for the first time, or have questions or reservations about these points of faith, we invite you to speak with the Pastor before the service.

The lighter colored wine is non-alcoholic for those with special needs. Gluten-free wafers are also available on the small table as you approach the railing.

Hymns during Distribution — Please join in singing:

• “Your Table I Approach”

• Special Music

• “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

Nunc Dimittis

Post-Communion Collect

#628

#643

p199

p200

THE BENEDICTION

THE CLOSING HYMN — “The Church’s One Foundation”

THE POSTLUDE

✠✠✠

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2026

***WELCOME!** Treasures are hard to find and even harder to hold on to. Jesus describes the kingdom of God as a great treasure hidden in a field, a pearl of great price, and a net full of fish. But this treasure is one of God’s own making. He esteems us His treasured possession and delivers up His own Son that we might be His own and live under Him in His kingdom without end. On earth that treasure is hidden in the dirt, found side by side among cheap trinkets, and in nets that hold good and bad fish. But one day, it will all be clear. They will be set apart and the false treasures exposed. For now, it is enough to believe His Word and trust in His promise and hold steadfast to His Son.*

✠✠✠

THE PRESERVICE MUSIC AND PRELUDE

THE RINGING OF THE BELL AND PASTORAL GREETING

✠ THE PREPARATION ✠

THE OPENING HYMN – “O Jesus, King Most Wonderful”

#554

THE INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

(taken from D.S. III—p 184)

P:

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C:

Amen.

P:

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C:

Who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

P:

I said, I will confess my transgression unto the Lord,

C:

And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Psalm 32:5

P:

O almighty God, merciful Father,

C:

I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P:

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C:

Amen.

THE KYRIE and GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

p 186

C:

♪ Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

P:

♪ Glory be to God on high:

C:

♪ And on earth peace, goodwill toward men....

(The rest of the Gloria is printed on the screens.)

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

✠ THE WORD ✠

THE FIRST READING — Deuteronomy 7:6-9, ESV Pew Bibles p 179

In this Old Testament reading, we hear how God initiates and concludes the relationship with us, His people. He searches for us, and He finds us and makes us His own.

“For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING — Romans 8:28-39, ESV Pew Bibles p 1123

These words celebrate the depth of God’s actions for us. Through Christ’s death for us and the activity of the Holy Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God’s love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

[St. Paul wrote:] Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL ALLELUIAS

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

p 190

THE HOLY GOSPEL READING — Matthew 13:44-52, ESV Pew Bibles p 973

[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

p192

THE SERMON HYMN –“Jesus, Priceless Treasure” vs. 1-2, 4

#743

THE SERMON

✠ THE RESPONSE ✠

THE HYMN OF RESPONSE–“Jesus, Priceless Treasure” v. 6

#743

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE AND TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

THE GATHERING OF OUR OFFERINGS-

“I Love Your Kingdom, Lord”

#651

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD’S PRAYER (10:00)

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION (8:00) (Please see back page to prepare.)

Preface and Sanctus

p194

Lord’s Prayer

p196

Words of Institution and Pax Domini

p197

Agnus Dei

p198