

**A Traditional Service for teaching** Colors change in the liturgical seasons to convey different seasons and moods in the church's prayer. Notice them in the presider's stole and the "paraments" {the cloth on the altar and pulpit.}

A. **Green** in time after Epiphany and Pentecost = verdant life in God's reign;

B. **Indigo blue** during Advent for hope and reflectiveness and wonder;

C. **White and gold** in Christmas & Easter for new life and new creation;

D. **Purple** in Lent for royalty and serious penitence: fasting, prayer, giving alms;

E. **Red** on Pentecost, Reformation, and Commemoration days for Holy Spirit or blood of the martyrs.

## I. Gathering

Introduction: [*a theme is used to shape the liturgy.*]

**Prelude** [*The prelude is a time for us to prepare our hearts and mind for worship. If conversation is necessary, please try to be as quiet as possible out of respect for the person playing as well as the other worshippers.*]

**Announcements:** {*life events in the faith community are shared*}

**Welcome:** {*We recall that we exist in the very heart of God as we make the sign of the cross, the sign of salvation marked at baptism.*} *The presiding minister begins.*

P: We begin our prayer, In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Confession and Forgiveness** [*We enter more fully into worship with confession and forgiveness, not to make us "worthy" to worship God or to "get something off our chests" so that we feel better about ourselves. We confess because we are sinners, and our ability to love God and neighbor perfectly is broken beyond our ability to mend on our own. God, however, mends us with unfailing love made known to us in Christ. Receiving forgiveness in the name of Christ at the beginning of worship give us the ultimate reason to rejoice and praise God with our worship.*]

**Gathering Hymn:** [*reminds us that we called together by God, graced and forgiven.*]

**Greeting** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**Kyrie** {*Greek for "Lord", is a prayer asking for God to fill the church and the world with mercy*} (spoken or sung): In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

**Hymn of Praise** **P:** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth....

**Prayer of the Day** [*Most of the Prayers of the Day or "Collect" are from historic ecumenical sources. For the most part, they are addressed to the First Person of the Trinity through Christ and in the power of Holy Spirit.*]

## II. Word

[*The Readings are those portions of Holy Scripture appointed by the Church to be read aloud as part of the liturgy. The collection of these readings is known as the lectionary. The public reading of the Word of God has always been part of the liturgy for Holy Communion, reflecting the continuation of an ancient practice in Judaism. Through the cycle of a year, and completely each Sunday, the story of our salvation history is told. We typically follow the three year cycle of readings from the Revised Common Lectionary, published in 1994 and adopted by most North American Christian Churches.*]

**First Reading:** *Taken from the Hebrew Scriptures, recounts a portion of the Jewish experience of God from creation through the occupation of the Roman Empire.*

**Psalm** - *often sung or chanted are prayers originally set to music expressing the many emotions of the community, from lament to fear to rejoicing.*

**Second Reading:** *Usually taken from the Christian Testament, recounts the experience of the early Church and teaches about life in Christ.*

**Gospel:** *The third and major reading, from one of the four Gospels, is appointed for the eucharistic liturgy. By the second century, the unique character and authority of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John had been recognized and acknowledged by the Church. "Gospel" means "Good News" and comes from Mark 1:1. By the fourth century, it was customary to accompany the Gospel chanting or reading with a procession led by incense and candles. People stood to receive it, reaching out to touch or kiss the gospel book. Typically, the reading of the Gospel was done by someone ordained; in other words, taught to read.*

**Sermon:** *Intended to break open the Word and assist in its modern application.*

**Hymn of the Day:** *a sung response tied to the message of the Word of God and/or the sermon.*

**Reciting of the Apostles', Nicene, or Athanasian Creed :** *The ancient ecumenical creeds are an attempt to put into words what is ultimately a mystery of the heart: the nature of the Trinity, the God we confess as Father, Son and Holy Spirit or "Creator," "Redeemer," and "Sanctifier." The creed is not a litmus test or a loyalty oath one must believe to be a member of this church. It attempts to describe some of the ways God reaches out to be in relationship with us and all God's creation. We stand as free people, in ancient days with hands held aloft, to profess our beliefs in the God who is revealed to us.*

*[We are formed by the Word of God to believe and to pray. As Christ's Body today, we stand together as people freed by God's grace to bring forth all those people and situations we desire God's healing love to touch.]*

**Prayers of Intercession:** Having been formed into the Body of Christ through the Word, Christ now calls on us to pray

1. For the Church... God of grace, hear our prayer.
2. For creation...
3. For nations, leaders, states, the world...
4. For those who seek healing, shelter, protection, basic needs...
5. For our faith community...
6. For those who have died...
7. We lift these and all of our prayers to you in the power of Holy Spirit and through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

**Share Christ's Peace** *{The peace of Christ is beyond our understanding and outside of our control, and before we approach the table of reconciliation for communion, we lay down our differences to extend the peace we desire in Christ, for all our neighbors.}*

### **III. Meal**

**Offertory & offering Prayer** *{As an act of worship, we return to God through the Church some of what we have received as gift: Treasure, Time, and Talents. These offerings are then prayed*

over with a collect prayer asking God to bless them and distribute them for the life of the world.}

**Preface Dialogue and Preface Prayer & Sung Sanctus** - *remind us why we give thanks and praise to our God.*

*In the Eucharistic prayer, we continue the ancient Jewish practice of remembering, which is what Jesus asks us to do, and in remembering, the events of salvation are made real again today. Christ becomes truly present to us and joins us in our meal of grace and love.*

**Our Father** [*Jesus' disciples witnessed how his prayer was different from their own and what they experienced in Temple or Synagogue. They asked Jesus, "Teach us to pray." According to tradition, this was Jesus' example of how to pray from the heart.*]

### **Invitation to Communion**

**Prayer after Communion** *transitions from the meal to being sent forth by giving thanks for the meal and asking God to bless us for continued ministry in the world.*

## **IV. Sending**

### **Sending Eucharistic Ministers to the Homebound**

**Blessing** [*The words of the Benediction remind us of God's promise to be with us as we go into the world to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Words of blessing can be found in both the Old and New Testament. The most common blessing, known as the Aaronic benediction, comes from Numbers 6:23-27, "The LORD bless you and keep you. The Lord let his face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with kindness and give you peace." New Testament blessings include Jesus' words to the woman in Luke 7:50, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace," and from Galatians 2:10, we are reminded that "They asked only one thing, that we remember the poor." Strengthened by God's presence through Holy Communion, we go forth to proclaim that "The kingdom of heaven has come near." (Matthew 10:7)]*

### **Sending Hymn**

**Dismissal Pledge** [*our mission statement sends us into the world with intention under the power of Holy Spirit*]