

## Prelude

## GATHERING

### Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

**Amen.**

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

**C: Holy God, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth. Praise to you for the water of baptism and for your Word that saves us. Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation. Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears. Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us. Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

### Gathering Hymn

“O Holy Spirit, Root of Life”

Hymn No. 399

### Greeting

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

**R/ And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

*(Together)* **Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### Children's Sermon

## WORD

### First Lesson

**Isaiah 44:6-8**

<sup>6</sup>Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. <sup>7</sup>Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. <sup>8</sup>Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

*(After the reading:)* The word of the Lord. **R/ Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 86:11-17 Responsively (Lector and People)**

<sup>11</sup>Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth;  
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

<sup>12</sup>**I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,  
and glorify your name forevermore.**

<sup>13</sup>For great is your love toward me;  
you have delivered me from the pit of death.

<sup>14</sup>**The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks my life;  
they have not set you before their eyes.**

<sup>15</sup>But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

<sup>16</sup>**Turn to me and have mercy on me;**

Give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.

<sup>17</sup>**Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to  
shame; because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.**

**Second Lesson****Romans 8:12-25**

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—<sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. <sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

*(After the reading:)* The word of the Lord. **R/ Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

Page 151

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

**Holy Gospel****Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43***(Spoken after the announcement)* **R/ Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;<sup>25</sup> but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup>And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ <sup>28</sup>He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ <sup>29</sup>But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’” <sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” <sup>37</sup>He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup>the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, <sup>42</sup>and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

*(Spoken after the reading)* **R/ Praise to you, O Christ.****Sermon**

Pastor Bill Mains

**Hymn of the Day**

“Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast”

Hymn No. 516

**Apostles Creed***(Together)* **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our LORD. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

Called together in the Spirit's embrace, let us pray for the healing of God's world.

*Response to prayers: (Sung)*

Hymn No 752

**Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.**

All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your care through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**R/ And also with you.**

## **MEAL**

### **Offering**

### **Great Thanksgiving**

page 152

### **Eucharistic Prayer**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord...

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes...

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again ...**

To whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**Amen**

### **Lord's Prayer**

page 154

*Traditional right hand column*

### **Invitation**

Everyone who hungers, come to the table. All are welcome.

### **Lamb of God**

page 154

### **Distribution**

We invite all Christians, even the youngest, to the table of the Lord. Children who desire a blessing rather than receiving the bread and the wine should stand with folded hands to indicate their preference. Please follow the ushers' directions to one of several communion stations in the sanctuary. If you need to have the sacrament brought to your pew, please inform an usher. Receive the wine or indicate a preference for grape juice by asking the server or pointing to the center of the tray. *Gluten free wafers available upon request.*

**Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**R/ Amen.**

**Prayer after Communion**

*(Together)* **Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore. Amen.**

**SENDING****Benediction**

May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**R/ Amen.**

**Sending Hymn**

“On What Has Now Been Sown”

Hymn No. 550

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**R/ Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

*It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.*

***Birgitta of Sweden, renewer of the church, died 1373***

*Birgitta married at age thirteen and had four daughters. Widowed at age thirty-eight, she gave all that she owned to the poor, and founded a community of monks and nuns led by a woman. Her work is continued today by the Society of St. Birgitta.*