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OVERCOMING LIFE'S SORROWS THROUGH GRACE



Welcome! We're excited you're here. In our service, we gather before Almighty God to offer Him our worship and praise. We come together to be strengthened by His Word to be His witnesses.

Families, if you brought your children with you today, we want you to know that the spiritual well-being of your child is very important to us. Many families wish to teach and encourage their younger child(ren) to be in church and get what they can out of it. If you feel that you need to take your child out for whatever reason; there is a cry room near the back of the sanctuary and a restroom with a baby changing station is located by the elevator (to the left as you exit the sanctuary). **Guests**, we welcome you. If you will, please help us to get to know you by filling out the Guest side of the Welcome Card found in the pews/ chair backs and place it in the offering plates.

As We Gather: "One of the problems in our Christian life is that we begin with a relationship, then revert to rules. We reduce the joy of a relationship to routine and dull regimen. How do we begin the Christian life? By grace. How do we continue the Christian life? By grace. God gives saving grace. God gives strengthening grace. ... Christ says, "By grace you're saved. By grace you're strengthened. And My grace is always sufficient." (*Overcoming Life's Sorrows – Learning From Jeremiah,* R. Reed Lessing, Concordia Publishing House, 2021, pg. 154)

WELCOME

Please Stand

CALL TO WORSHIP

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

OPENING HYMN

686 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

- 1 Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee; May I still Thy goodness prove.
- 2 Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by Thy help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.
- 3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.

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OPENING SENTENCES

Ephesians 1:3, 6-7

P Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

C to the praise of His glorious grace, with which He has blessed us in the Beloved.

Taking the cross of grace and peace to form a community of uncommon servants.

OPENING SENTENCES *(cont.)*

P In Him we have redemption through His blood,

C the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Based on Rom. 8:26–27; Is. 55:6; Ps. 50:15; Jer. 16:19

[Silence for personal confession and meditation.]

P God the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. 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. This is the promised place of God's dwelling. Therefore let us seek the Lord while He may be found and call upon Him while He is near.

C Blessed God, apart from You there is no god. Apart from You there is no hope or forgiveness. We confess our sin amid the fears and anxieties of daily life. We have gone our own way, lost in our sin and faithlessness. Therefore, we return to You here, remembering Your promise, "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you." Deliver us from all anxiety, forgive our sins, speak Your comforting Word of hope, and lead us in the way of Your righteousness and peace.

P The Lord is your strength and your stronghold, your refuge in the day of trouble. Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word made flesh, announce the grace of God to all of you. 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.

EXCHANGE OF PEACE

HYMN OF PRAISE

376 Once in Royal David's City

- 1 Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Savior holy.
- 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in heav'n above;
And He leads His children on To the place where He is gone.

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SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Be Seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 20:7-13

(Jeremiah's words from the depth of persecution.)

⁷ O Lord, you have deceived me, and I was deceived; you are stronger than I, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all the day; everyone mocks me. ⁸ For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. ⁹ If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. ¹⁰ For I hear many whispering. Terror is on every side! "Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" say all my close friends, watching for my fall. "Perhaps he will be deceived; then we can overcome him and take our revenge on him." ¹¹ But the Lord is with me as a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble; they will not overcome me. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten. ¹² O Lord of hosts, who tests the righteous, who sees the heart and the mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you have I committed my cause. ¹³ Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN

696 O God, My Faithful God

- 1 O God, my faithful God, True fountain ever flowing,
Without whom nothing is, All perfect gifts bestowing:
Give me a healthy frame, And may I have within
A conscience free from blame, A soul unstained by sin.
- 2 Grant me the strength to do With ready heart and willing
Whatever You command, My calling here fulfilling;
That I do what I should While trusting You to bless
The outcome for my good, For You must give success.
- 4 Lord, let me win my foes With kindly words and actions,
And let me find good friends For counsel and correction.
Help me, as You have taught, To love both great and small
And by Your Spirit's might To live in peace with all.

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EPISTLE

Ephesians 1:3–14

(God invites us into celebration through the lavish gift-giving of His Son.)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

Taking the cross of grace and peace to form a community of uncommon servants.

VERSE

Luke 2:40

P Alleluia. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom.

C And the favor of God was upon Him. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:40–52

(The boy Jesus at Passover in the Jerusalem temple)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.⁴¹ Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Be Seated – Children are dismissed for Children's Church.

MESSAGE HYMN

533 Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure

- 1 Jesus has come and brings pleasure eternal, Alpha, Omega, Beginning and End;
Godhead, humanity, union supernal, O great Redeemer, You come as our friend!
Heaven and earth, now proclaim this great wonder: Jesus has come and brings pleasure eternal!
- 2 Jesus has come! Now see bonds rent asunder! Fetters of death now dissolve, disappear.
See Him burst through with a voice as of thunder! He sets us free from our guilt and our fear,
Lifts us from shame to the place of His honor. Jesus has come! Hear the roll of God's thunder!
- 3 Jesus has come as the mighty Redeemer. See now the threatening strong one disarmed!
Jesus breaks down all the walls of death's fortress, Brings forth the pris'ners triumphant, unharmed.
Satan, you wicked one, own now your master! Jesus has come! He, the mighty Redeemer!

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MESSAGE

Please Stand – Children return from Children's Church.

CREED

Second Article of the Apostles' Creed and Meaning

C I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

P What does this mean?

CREED *(cont.)*

C I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from all eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

OFFERING *(Thanks for your ongoing stewardship and support of God's mission here!)*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Prayer response after each petition...)

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13

+ SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

2 Timothy 4:22

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

[Colossians 3:1]

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

[Psalm 136]

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, fitting, and the proper reflection of our faith, that we, at all times and in all places give thanks to You, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for He is Your Word incarnate, the light and life of Your mercy and grace, present even now at Your altar, just as He promised. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

HYMN

533 Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure

4 Jesus has come as the King of all glory! Heaven and earth, O declare His great pow'r,
Capturing hearts with the heavenly story; Welcome Him now in this fast-fleeting hour!
Ponder His love! Take the crown He has for you! Jesus has come! He, the King of all glory!

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THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matt. 26:26–28; Mk. 14:22–24; Lk. 22:19–20; 1 Cor. 11:23–25

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Be Seated

Please Stand

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Blessed Savior, as You have given Yourself and Your grace to us, keep us in Your faith that we may live in You even as You live in us. Grant that Your body and blood preserve us in the true faith to life everlasting and translate to living as Your followers today. Hear us for the sake of Your name, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

523 O Word of God Incarnate



1 O Word of God in - car-nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
2 The Church from You, dear Mas-ter, Re-ceived the gift di - vine;
3 O make Your Church, dear Sav-ior, A lamp of bur - nished gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:
And still that light is lift - ed O'er all the earth to shine.
To bear be - fore the na - tions Your true light as of old!



We praise You for the ra - diance That from the hal - lowed page,
It is the chart and com - pass That, all life's voy - age through,
O teach Your wan - d'ring pil - grims By this their path to trace



A lan - tern to our foot - steps, Shines on from age to age.
Mid mists and rocks and quick - sands Still guides, O Christ, to You.
Till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, They see You face to face!

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DISMISSAL

Into the world, overcoming through God's Grace...

A HUGE "Thank you" to those that served to make worship happen (virtual and in-person) today...

Pastor	Rev. Pastor Hoerth	Reader	Jan Remmele
Children's Message	Chris Graves, DCE	Organist	Carol Trumbo
Elder	Bob Remmele	Acolyte	Johanna Srinivasagan



Acknowledgments

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