

I Believe in the Holy Spirit

As We Gather

God's people have gifts that are signs of His loving presence and demonstrations of His gracious power. In a sermon preached in 1538, Martin Luther observed, "Whoever comes to faith can only say that the Holy Spirit comes when and where and to whom He pleases at the time He pleases. He comes when and where He pleases and also gives a person as many gifts as He pleases" (*WLS* § 2057). As people in whom the Spirit dwells, we have the joy of discovering special gifts of God in one another and in ourselves as well. May that mutual discovering and celebrating be truly God pleasing in every way!

Prelude & Welcome

Ringing of the Tower Bell

655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

- 1 Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son
And bring to naught all He has done.
- 2 Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known,
For You are Lord of lords alone;
Defend Your holy Church that we
May sing Your praise eternally.
- 3 O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Opening Sentences

- P** We have begun our worship in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Let us speak together the words of the Apostles' Creed regarding the Third Person of the Holy Trinity.
- C** **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

P What does this mean?

C **I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.**

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

Introit

Psalm 2:6–7; Psalm 117; antiphon: Psalm 115:18

P But we will bless the Lord
from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the Lord!

C **As for Me, I have set My King
on Zion, My holy hill.**

P I will tell of the decree:
The Lord said to Me, “You are My Son; today I have begotten You,”

C **Praise the Lord, all nations!
Extol Him, all peoples!**

P For great is His steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P But we will bless the Lord
from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the Lord!

647 Lord Jesus Christ, the Church’s Head

sts. 1–2

1 Lord Jesus Christ, the Church’s head,
You are her one foundation;
In You she trusts, before You bows,
And waits for Your salvation.
Built on this rock secure,
Your Church shall endure
Though all the world decay
And all things pass away.
O hear, O hear us, Jesus!

2 O Lord, let this Your little flock,
Your name alone confessing,
Continue in Your loving care,
True unity possessing.
Your sacraments, O Lord,
And Your saving Word
To us, Lord, pure retain.
Grant that they may remain
Our only strength and comfort.

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Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 51:1–6

¹“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD:
look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

²Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
that I might bless him and multiply him.

³For the LORD comforts Zion;
he comforts all her waste places
and makes her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴“Give attention to me, my people,
and give ear to me, my nation;
for a law will go out from me,
and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵My righteousness draws near,
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will judge the peoples;
the coastlands hope for me,
and for my arm they wait.

⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens,

and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and they who dwell in it will die in like manner;
but my salvation will be forever,
and my righteousness will never be dismayed.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

Psalm 138

¹I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;
²I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your
faithfulness,
for you have exalted above all things
your name and your word.
³On the day I called, you answered me;
my strength of soul you increased.
⁴All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O LORD,
for they have heard the words of your mouth,
⁵and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD,
for great is the glory of the LORD.
⁶For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly,
but the haughty he knows from afar.
⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve my life;
you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies,
and your right hand delivers me.
⁸The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Epistle

Romans 11:33—12:8

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

³⁴“For who has known the mind of the Lord,
or who has been his counselor?”

³⁵“Or who has given a gift to him
that he might be repaid?”

³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be
glory forever. Amen.

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to
present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God,
which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you
may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and
perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (Tone F)

Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.



P Fear the LORD, | you his saints,*
for those who fear him lack | nothing!

C Many are the afflictions of the | righteous,*
but the LORD delivers him out | of them all.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 16:13–20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

645 Built on the Rock

- 1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand
Even when steeples are falling.
Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land;
Bells still are chiming and calling,
Calling the young and old to rest,
But above all the souls distressed,
Longing for rest everlasting.
- 2 Surely in temples made with hands
God, the Most High, is not dwelling;
High above earth His temple stands,
All earthly temples excelling.
Yet He who dwells in heav'n above
Chooses to live with us in love,
Making our bodies His temple.
- 3 We are God's house of living stones,
Built for His own habitation.
He through baptismal grace us owns
Heirs of His wondrous salvation.
Were we but two His name to tell,
Yet He would deign with us to dwell
With all His grace and His favor.
- 4 Here stands the font before our eyes,
Telling how God has received us.
The altar recalls Christ's sacrifice
And what His Supper here gives us.
Here sound the Scriptures that proclaim
Christ yesterday, today, the same,
And evermore, our Redeemer.
- 5 Grant, then, O God, Your will be done,
That, when the church bells are ringing,
Many in saving faith may come
Where Christ His message is bringing:
"I know My own; My own know Me.
You, not the world, My face shall see.
My peace I leave with you. Amen."

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Sermon "Built to Last" *Matthew 16:13-20*

Confession of Faith - Nicene Creed

- P** Today we heard Jesus ask His disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" and again, "But who do you say that I am?" While the majority of people, even in our secularized world, still believe there is a god who exists, most of them cannot say who He is or what He is like, or even that He created us. Who do you say God is?

- C** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible
and invisible.
- P** Many people, including Jews, Muslims, Jehovah's Witnesses and
Mormons, say that Jesus is a real historical figure, yet they do
not know Him as He is revealed in Scripture. Who do you say
the Son of Man is?
- C** I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God.
- P** Many people say that Jesus is not true God, that He is a created
being like any of us, not God from eternity, but adopted by God
as His Son. Who do you say the Son of Man is?
- C** He is begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
- P** Still others say that Jesus is not true man, that He only appeared
to be human, lacked a human soul, and was not subject to death.
Who do you say the Son of Man is?
- C** For us and for our salvation came He down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
- P** Many people say that Jesus is merely a great teacher, that He
came to be an example for us to follow, and that this was the
extent of His mission. Who do you say the Son of Man is?
- C** On the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the
living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.
- P** Many people say that the Holy Spirit is not God, but is an
impersonal force, like magnetism or electricity, that emanates
from God to accomplish His will. Who do you say the Holy
Spirit is?
- C** I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped
and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.

- P** Finally, there are many who say that the Church of Jesus is outmoded, and that with further enlightenment of our minds, the Church will one day cease to exist altogether. What do you say about the Church?
- C** **I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

Organ Offertory & Stewardship Minute

Prayer of the Church

With stanzas of LSB 768

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs, invoking the Holy Spirit as we sing the stanzas of the hymn “To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray” during our time of intercession. The first stanza of the hymn dates back to the thirteenth century; the other three stanzas were written in the sixteenth century by Martin Luther. We sing stanza 1 together.

**1 To God the Holy Spirit let us pray
For the true faith needed on our way
That He may defend us when life is ending
And from exile home we are wending. Lord, have
mercy!**

- P** We pray for the Church, that God’s people live confidently and share joyfully the message of salvation in word and deed. And we pray for this gathering of God’s holy people, that we be blessed with all grace and evidence the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. Lord, be with us and bless us.

- C** **The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,
goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.**

**2 O sweetest Love, Your grace on us bestow;
Set our hearts with sacred fire aglow
That with hearts united we love each other,
Ev’ry stranger, sister, and brother. Lord, have mercy!**

- P** We pray for our families and for those who share in our Christian fellowship and join with us in worship, and for all who are part of the household of faith. Also we pray for those with special concerns and needs this day: those who are hospitalized or shut in, those who are grieving, the unemployed and underemployed, the chronically ill, and all those whose needs are known and unknown to us. Lord, grant that we bring Your blessing to situations of need in all places.

C If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. . . . As we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

3 Transcendent Comfort in our ev'ry need,
Help us neither scorn nor death to heed
That we may not falter nor courage fail us
When the foe shall taunt and assail us. Lord, have mercy!

P Merciful God, we thank You for all those faithful people whose words and actions have guided us in the past, especially remembering those no longer with us on earth, who now share in Your eternal presence. By the working of Your Holy Spirit, direct us to walk Your servant way throughout our lives until that day when we stand in Your glorious presence in heaven. Amen.

C The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

4 Shine in our hearts, O Spirit, precious light;
Teach us Jesus Christ to know aright
That we may abide in the Lord who bought us,
Till to our true home He has brought us. Lord, have mercy!

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Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Thanksgiving

P Let us pray.
Grant, O Lord, that the Word we have received with our ears we may keep with pure hearts, and that through the gift imparted to us in this present life we hereafter receive life everlasting; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

C Amen.

Benediction

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.

644 The Church's One Foundation

sts. 1-5

- 1 The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the Word.
From heav'n He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.
- 2 Elect from ev'ry nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation:
One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses
With ev'ry grace endued.
- 3 Though with a scornful wonder
The world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder,
By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping;
Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song.
- 4 Through toil and tribulation
And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation
Of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.
- 5 Yet she on earth has union
With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won.
O blessèd heav'nly chorus!
Lord, save us by Your grace

That we, like saints before us,
May see You face to face.

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✠ Soli Deo Gloria ✠
To God Alone Be Glory