Greeting and Announcements

525 Crown Him with Many Crowns [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4Z-MsA1HyY]

1 Crown Him with many crowns,
   The Lamb upon His throne;
   Hark how the heav’nly anthem drowns
   All music but its own.
   Awake, my soul, and sing
   Of Him who died for thee,
   And hail Him as thy matchless king
   Through all eternity.

2 Crown Him the virgin’s Son,
   The God incarnate born,
   Whose arm those crimson trophies won
   Which now His brow adorn:
   Fruit of the mystic rose,
   Yet of that rose the stem,
   The root whence mercy ever flows,
   The babe of Bethlehem.

3 Crown Him the Lord of love.
   Behold His hands and side,
   Rich wounds, yet visible above,
   In beauty glorified.
   No angels in the sky

4 Crown Him the Lord of life,
   Who triumphed o’er the grave
   And rose victorious in the strife
   For those He came to save.
   His glories now we sing,
   Who died and rose on high,
   Who died eternal life to bring
   And lives that death may die.

5 Crown Him the Lord of heav’n,
   Enthroned in worlds above,
   Crown Him the king to whom is giv’n
   The wondrous name of Love.
   Crown Him with many crowns
   As thrones before Him fall;
   Crown Him, ye kings, with many
   Crowns, For He is king of all.

Confession and Absolution

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

Invocation

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

Exhortation

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.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Kneel/Stand
Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

P Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us
true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by
Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Declaration of Grace

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us
and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to
become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized
shall be saved.

Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

Amen.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

I will sing of steadfast love and justice;
to you, O LORD, I will make music.
Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!
Know that the LORD, he is God!
It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!
For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

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.
I will sing of steadfast love and justice;
to you, O LORD, I will make music.

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Kyrie/Gloria in Excelsis https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hguV0s_RWlU

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

Glory be to God on high:

and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav’nly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P  The Lord be with you.
C  And with thy spirit.
P  Let us pray.

O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C  Amen.

Sit

First Reading

Acts 1:12–26

Then [the apostles] returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry. (Now this man bought a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) For it is written in the Book of Psalms, “May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it”; and “Let another take his office.’

So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

A  This is the Word of the Lord.

C  Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Peter 4:12–19; 5:6–11

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

And “If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”
Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good. . . .

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the seventeenth chapter.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And 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.

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.

Sit

653 In Christ There Is No East or West
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3XD3ldfXcN0 (sorry, I couldn’t find vocals for this)

1 In Christ there is no east or west,  From sin, division, hate, and shame,  From spite and enmity!
   In Him no south or north,  Whate’er your race may be;  Who serves my Father as His child  Is surely kin to me.
But one great fellowship of love  In Christ now meet both east and west;  In Him meet south and north.
   Throughout the whole wide earth.  All Christian souls are one in Him  Throughout the whole wide earth.

2 With God there is no tribe or race;  With God there is no tribe or race;
   In Him we all are one.  In Him we all are one.
   He loves us as His children through  Our faith in His dear Son.
   Our faith in His dear Son.

3 So, brothers, sisters, praise His name  So, brothers, sisters, praise His name
   Who died to set us free  Who died to set us free

4 Join hands, disciples of the faith,  Join hands, disciples of the faith,
   Whate’er your race may be;  Whate’er your race may be;
   Who serves my Father as His child  Is surely kin to me.
   Is surely kin to me.

Text (sts. 1, 4–5): Public domain

Sermon

Grace, Mercy and Peace to you from God our Father and Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

This Sunday, we stand in between. In between the Ascension, when Jesus leaves the disciples after His Resurrection to take His rightful place at the right hand of God and Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church.

In the world today, we here in Illinois find ourselves in between. We’re between the stay at home order and beginning to re-open the state. We’re between Indiana and Missourri, both states that have begun to re-open. And honestly, it feels like we are stuck in between. On one hand, we need to be about protecting the physical health of our neighbors. On the other, livelihood of our neighbors must be protected.

Like the last two weeks, this morning’s Gospel reading is also part of Jesus’s Farewell Discourse. In chapter 16, the disciples hear His message clearly and Jesus again predicts the disciples’ abandonment and says “33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

We also find ourselves between God and the World, just as Jesus was during His High Priestly Prayer. Jesus begins this morning’s gospel by praying about himself and then the disciples. Later, after the end of our reading this morning, Jesus prays for all who will believe in their message, us.

As we hear Jesus’s prayer, we hear that Jesus knows why He was sent, what lies before Him, and the results that come from His faithful obedience. Jesus was sent to give eternal life to those God has chosen, by proclaiming that the kingdom of heaven is at hand, teaching God’s Word, revealing God’s Plan of Salvation, the vicarious atonement for sins through His innocent, bitter suffering and death on the Cross. Jesus knows that He brings glory to God by doing the Father’s will, reconciling God to us by dying on the cross to atone for the sins of all mankind. As He looks forward to the cross, Jesus knows that He has done and will continue to do the Father’s will, completing the work God has given Him. Jesus has used the authority given Him from the Father to give eternal life to those God has given to Him. Jesus has given the disciples God’s words. The disciples have received God’s words, understood them to be God’s words, knowing Jesus to be the way, the truth and life.
We too know Jesus, and knowing Jesus, we know the Father. Through Jesus’s death, we are reconciled to the Father, yet we live in the world but not of the world. We find ourselves in between – sinner and saint living in the now and not yet.

You and I live in the kingdom of God as His Children, heirs of His Heavenly Eternal Kingdom. You and I are saints of God for all eternity. Your salvation is assured. You have been bought for a price. But you also live in this world, where you struggle, facing fiery trials with God’s promise “And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.” (1 Peter 5:10). You live in the “not yet”, the sure hope of the Resurrection when our bodies will be perfected and rejoin our souls to live forever in the new heavens and the new earth, God’s restored creation for all eternity. But you also live in the now of this sinful world.

You are a sinner. I am a sinner. Paul tells the Romans “None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks God.12 All have turned away; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” (Romans 3: 10-12). At times, you fail to love the Lord your God with all your heart and mind and soul. You don’t always love one another as you should, and you don’t always love your neighbors as yourself. Despite your best efforts to use the Law as a guide, not to earn your salvation but in a joyful response to your salvation, you still sin. “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” (1 John 1:8). Your sinful flesh, the devil and the world all tempt you to turn away from your loving God and seek your own way.

As sinners, you sometimes seek your own ways and your own good. At some point, You have placed yourself, your needs, your wants, your desires before those of others. You have been deceived by this world, the world’s declarations that what is evil is good and what is good is evil, and the world’s fleeting promises. Sometimes, you find yourself more concerned about temporal things than spiritual things, placing the things of this world ahead of the things of God and of eternity. As today’s Epistle warns, from time to time, you cling to your foolish pride instead of humbling yourself before God. You sometimes fail to be watchful for the attacks of the enemy. You rebel against God, choosing your own way, your own thoughts above His ways and His thoughts. Instead of being in God, you chose to be in the world. You chose to rebel against being one with the Father, choosing instead to be one with the world, chasing the fleeting pleasures that lead away from God and one another.

The same God who spoke the universe into existence God has also spoken your salvation into existence. God has called you to be His own. God sent Jesus to take your sins to the cross to pay the price for your sins, a price you cannot pay. Jesus took your sins to the cross and instead gives you His Righteousness, the righteousness of His full obedience to God’s Will by living a perfect life and then laying down his life for us. Jesus has paid the price for your sins and has set you free from sin, free to be a child of God, in the world but not of the world. As His saints, we know “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9). And so, you confess your sins, and receive His forgiveness, finding comfort and strength in God’s promises and cling to His promises. You face the trials and tribulations of this life assured that Jesus has overcome the world. You seek God’s will for your life. You willingly obey Jesus’s command to love one another as he has loved you. You find yourself in between – in between this life and life everlasting. You live in world but not of the world. You live in God’s Kingdom now as a sinner in this sinful, broken world, filled with pain and suffering while you look forward in the sure hope of the resurrection waiting and anticipating living in God’s Kingdom in a resurrected body, a perfect body, a body without sin, without pain. You look forward to the day when every tear will be wiped away, when every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord. While you live on this earth, you find yourself between God and mankind, doing the Father’s work by the Father’s authority – sharing God’s plan of salvation with
others that they too many hear God’s Word faithfully proclaimed so that the Holy Spirit can work faith in their hearts to call them to be God’s children, heirs of his heavenly kingdom to the glory of God. Amen.

And now, may the peace of God which surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus to life everlasting. Amen.

Stand
Prayer of the Church

Guard Your people, O Lord, and grant us unity of faith and singleness of heart as we come to You in prayer. 

Brief silence

Lord, You have promised not to abandon Your people but to be with us always. Grant us grace to hear Your Word with faith and receive Your Holy Sacrament with repentant hearts, and to keep what we hear and receive upon our lips in holy lives. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord, You have delivered the saints from fiery trial and raised up the martyrs from the darkness of death to everlasting life. Give us courage, that we may give bold witness to the truth in our own day and proclaim Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord, You have pledged Your Spirit and promised to supply Your Church with pastors who will preach and teach Your Word. Give us ears to hear and hearts to believe Your Word. Raise up those who will serve Your Church in generations to come, that we may never be without the aid of those who serve us in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord, You have power over all things and appoint an order on earth for the protection of the weak, the punishment of evildoers and the encouragement of virtue. Bless Donald, our president; JB, our governor; and all who make, administer and judge our laws. Give them wisdom for the challenges of our times. Give us grace, that we may honor the gift of liberty and be good citizens and neighbors to all. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord, You have compassion upon all who suffer. Give grace to the sick, to those with mental illness, to the dying in their last hours and to those who grieve. Hear us especially for __________ and those we name in our hearts. Grant them patience in their afflictions and deliver them according to Your gracious will. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord, You are the source of all wisdom and knowledge. Bless those who teach, those who learn and especially those who graduate this year. Guide them strength in the pursuit of Your Word and truth, to live honorable lives in worthy vocations, that in all things You may be glorified. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord, You have given us Your own Son as our Savior and Redeemer. He has set His table among us in the presence of our enemies, that we might be receive the body and blood of Christ. Guard the unity of this table, that we would confess Him with one voice and receive this blessed Sacrament with one faith, and hear our prayers for all for whom gathering has been made difficult. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord, You have daily and richly supplied us with all things for this body and life. Give us grateful hearts, that we may receive Your gifts with thanksgiving and bring to You our tithes and offerings. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord, we rejoice in the Savior’s promise to guard us, your people. Until we are with You in Your presence forevermore, guard us against the devil who prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking those whom he might devour. Grant us the power to resist him and trust in You without fear; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lord’s Prayer

P  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;

LSB 196

Trinity Lutheran Church, Harvel, IL

Vicar Joe Nehring

May 24, 2020
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C Amen, amen, amen.

652 Father, We Thank Thee https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zfNlRDOXRDg

1 Father, we thank Thee who hast planted  
Thy holy name within our hearts.
Knowledge and faith and life immortal  
Jesus, Thy Son, to us imparts.
Thou, Lord, didst make all for Thy pleasure,  
Didst give us food for all our days,
Giving in Christ the Bread eternal;  
Thine is the pow’r, be Thine the praise.

2 Watch o’er Thy Church, O Lord, in mercy,  
Save it from evil, guard it still,  
Perfect it in Thy love, unite it,  
Cleansed and conformed unto Thy will.
As grain, once scattered on the hillsides,  
Was in this broken bread made one,  
So from all lands Thy Church be gathered  
Into Thy kingdom by Thy Son.

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