



Opening Service

Chapel of the Christ

January 6, 2017

GATHERING RITE ON THE WORD OF GOD

Stand at the direction of the presiding minister. Face the cross at the back of the chapel and follow its path to the chancel where it becomes the focus of Christian worship.

L: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Introduction to the Hymn

C: **Blessed Jesus, at your Word
We are gathered all to hear you.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred
Now to seek and love and fear you,
By your teachings, sweet and holy,
Drawn from earth to love you solely.**

L: Oh, how I love your law!

C: **I meditate on it all day long.**

L: Your commands make me wiser than my enemies,

C: **for they are ever with me.**

L: I have more insight than all my teachers,

C: **for I meditate on your statutes.**

L: How sweet are your words to my taste,

C: **sweeter than honey to my mouth!**

Psalm 119

C: **All our knowledge, sense, and sight
Lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
Till your Spirit breaks our night
With the beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us;
You must work all good within us.**

L: All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

C: **so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.** *2 Timothy 3*

L: Yet so often we have despised God's Word and failed to gladly hear and learn it. For this and all our sins, we bow before God and humbly ask his forgiveness.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior, Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

C: **Gracious Savior, good and kind,
Light from Light, from God proceeding,
Open now our heart and mind;
Help us by your Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry your people raises;
Hear and bless our prayers and praises.**

L: God gave his Word so "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31). The Scriptures testify about Jesus, who lived a perfect life for you, died on the cross to pay for all your sins, and rose again to assure you of your salvation. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit

C: **Amen.** (spoken)

C: **Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
Praise to you and adoration!
Grant that we your Word may trust,
Confident of our salvation,
While we here below must wander,
Till we sing your praises yonder.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray.

Holy Spirit, you proceed from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son you are worshiped and glorified. Pour out on your servants a spirit of wisdom and courage, that with all our strength and with all your blessings we may teach and learn what is good and pleasing to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns in perfect unity with you and the Father, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.** (spoken)

BE SEATED

Bless Us Through Your Word, O Lord

Proverbs 2:6-8

For the Lord gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.
He holds success in store for the upright,
he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless,
for he guards the course of the just
and protects the way of his faithful ones.

Response

**Lord, open now my heart to hear, And through your Word to me draw near.
Let me your Word e'er pure retain; Let me your child and heir remain.**

**Your Word inspires my heart within; Your Word grants healing from my sin.
Your Word has pow'r to guide and bless; Your Word brings peace and happiness. (CW 282)**

Romans 10:14-17

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

Response

**Spread, oh, spread the mighty Word; Spread the kingdom of the Lord
Ev'rywhere his breath has giv'n Life to beings meant for heav'n.**

**Tell them how the Father's will Made the world and keeps it still,
How his only Son he gave All from sin and death to save. (CW 576)**

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Response

**Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow his example pure.
Flee the world which would deceive us And to sin our souls allure.
Ever in his footsteps treading, Body here yet soul above,
Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, abide with me. Savior, lead; I follow thee. (CW452)**

Psalm 86:9-11

L: All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, Lord;

C: they will bring glory to your name.

L: For you are great and do marvelous deeds;

C: you alone are God.

L: Teach me your way, LORD,

C: that I may rely on your faithfulness;

L: give me an undivided heart,

C: that I may fear your name.

Response

**Lord, you I love with all my heart; I pray you ne'er from me depart; With tender mercies cheer me.
Earth has no pleasure I would share; Heaven itself were void and bare If you Lord were not near me.
And should my heart for sorrow break, My trust in you no one could shake.
You are the treasure I have sought; Your precious blood my soul has bought.
Lord Jesus Christ, My God and Lord, my God and Lord,
Forsake me not! I trust your Word. (CW 434)**

1 Timothy 4:6-8

If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

Response

**How precious is the Book divine, By inspiration giv'n!
Bright as a lamp its doctrines shine To guide our souls to heav'n.**

**Its light, descending from above Our gloomy world to cheer,
Displays a Savior's boundless love And brings his glories near. (CW 284)**

Matthew 7:24-27

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.

Response

**How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?**

In ev'ry condition, in sickness and health,
In poverty's vale, or abounding in wealth,
At home and abroad, on the land, on the sea –
The Lord, the Almighty, your strength e'er shall be. (CW 416)

STAND

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: Let us pray to the God of all knowledge and wisdom that the Church may be renewed and strengthened for her mission.

Silent prayer

L: O Lord, you have revealed your good and gracious will to your people on earth. Forgive us for the apathy we feel for searching out the deeper truths of your Word.

C: **Holy Spirit, help us put self aside and rejoice in the truth that builds us up.**

L: Heavenly Father, send the Spirit of Jesus into our hearts, that like the Bereans of old we eagerly learn of you.

C: **Holy Spirit, increase in us the knowledge of your truth.**

- L: As you sent your Son among us as the Word made flesh, so bless the efforts of schools, colleges, and seminaries, and especially this college of ministry to proclaim your continuing presence among us in Word and Sacrament. Bless our efforts to prepare those who will faithfully proclaim your grace for us in Christ Jesus.
- C: Holy Spirit, instill in us a desire to teach others the wisdom of your ways, and energize our bodies and minds for the tasks you have given us.**
- L: God of light, give to the Church renewed wisdom and fresh understanding, that the message of your salvation may shine ever brighter in this dark age.
- C: Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your love, that others may see our good deeds and praise our Father in heaven.**
- L: Hear us as we bring you our private petitions.
- Silent prayer.*
- L: Holy Spirit, renew the face of the earth, that at the name of Jesus every knee may bow.
- C: May your peace, which transcends understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT

- L: The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you.**
- L: Lift up your hearts.
- C: We lift them up to the Lord.**
- L: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
- C: It is good and right so to do.**
- L: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who came as the Light of the world so that the world may have light and life through him.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

O holy, holy, holy
Lord God, to you we pray,
The heavens show your glory,
The earth your works display.
Hosanna! Come and save us,
Lord God of hosts on high,
And in your grace and mercy
Receive our fervent cry.

Hosanna in the highest!
How truly blest is he
Who in God's name is coming
To set his people free!
He comes to bring salvation
And with his blood outpoured
Deliver us from bondage—
Hosanna, mighty Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

L: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

Lamb of God

Dale Witte



Lamb of God you, take a - way, the,
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God
you, take a - way, the, sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God you, take a - way, the, sin of the
world; grant, us your peace. A - men.

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

The Scriptures teach that the celebration of the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another as Christians, bound around a common confession of faith. Those who publicly profess this common faith are welcome to commune.

Approach the appropriate table at the usher's direction. Extend your hand to receive the wafer. Guide the cup with your hand when receiving the wine.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

Take and Eat (CWS 741)

What Is This Bread? (CWS 742)

Speak, O Lord (CWS 735)

STAND

SONG OF SIMEON

**O Lord, now let your servant
Depart in peace, assured:
For I have seen your promised
Incarnate, saving Word—
A Light that will enlighten
All gloom where Gentiles dwell;
The brilliant, crowning glory
Of those in Israel!**

**All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever Three-in-One;
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God's Triune name resounding
Through all eternity.**

L: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. Grant that we may live as your people now and as your guests forever at the marriage feast of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

BLESSING

L: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

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Service Participants

Presiding Ministers

Rev. John Boeder
MLC Campus Pastor

Rev. Jeff Schone
MLC Vice President for Student Life

Organist

Dr. Wayne Wagner, Professor Emeritus
MLC Adjunct Organ Instructor

