

**We have not done your will, we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.**

Forgive us, we pray.

**Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Silent Confession)**

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners,
that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God! Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

You created light out of darkness
and brought forth life on the earth.

You formed us in your image
and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed,
your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity,
made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through your prophets.

In the fullness of time
you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior,
and at his birth the angels sang glory to you in the highest
and peace to your people on earth.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem
and there found no room,
so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem

and was despised and rejected.

As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born,
so by the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

As your Word became flesh, born of woman,
on that night long ago,
so, on the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

**And so, in remembrance of these
your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.**

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory,
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

*GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

(All offerings left on the prayer rail will go
to the March to the Manger Offering.)

SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

BIDDING PRAYER

Beloved in Christ, this Christmas Eve
it is our duty and delight

Rev. Tim Carpenter

to prepare ourselves to hear again
the message of the angels,
and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem,
and see this thing which is come to pass,
the Babe lying in a manger.
Therefore let us hear again from Holy Scripture
the tale of the loving purposes of God
from the first days of our sin
until the glorious redemption brought us
by this holy Child;
and let us make this house of prayer glad
with our carols of praise.
But first, because this of all things
would rejoice Jesus' heart, let us pray
for the needs of the whole world and all his people;
Lord, hear our prayer (moment of silence)
for peace upon the earth he came to save;
Lord, hear our prayer (moment of silence)
for love and unity within the one Church he did build;
Lord, hear our prayer (moment of silence)
for goodwill among all peoples.
Lord, hear our prayer (moment of silence)
And particularly at this time let us remember
the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed;
Lord, hear our prayer (moment of silence)
the sick and them that mourn;
Lord, hear our prayer (moment of silence)
the lonely and the unloved;
Lord, hear our prayer (moment of silence)
the aged and the little children;
Lord, hear our prayer (moment of silence)
and all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not,
or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.
Lord, hear our prayer (moment of silence)
Lastly let us remember all those who rejoice with us,
but upon another shore and in a greater light,
that multitude which no one can number,
whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom,
in this Lord Jesus, we forevermore are one.
Lord, hear our prayer (moment of silence)
This we ask in the name of the one
whose birth we celebrate,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ,
as we pray the prayer he taught us to pray:
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.**

