

Changed to Be Growing

As We Gather

Prepare to be changed! Each time God's people gather for worship, change occurs. As we hear the Gospel proclaimed and receive the means of grace, we are renewed and become strengthened, supported, and fed. God changes us as the Holy Spirit works in and among us. There are changes happening now and changes yet to come. In this "green" season of the Church Year, we have special opportunities to thank God for the continuing growth that He graciously grants us.

PREPARATION

698 May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill

LSB 698

- 1 May we Thy precepts, Lord, fulfill
 And do on earth our Father's will
 As angels do above;
 Still walk in Christ, the living way,
 With all Thy children and obey
 The law of Christian love.

- 2 So may we join Thy name to bless,
 Thy grace adore, Thy pow'r confess,
 From sin and strife to flee.
 One is our calling, one our name,
 The end of all our hopes the same,
 A crown of life with Thee.

- 3 Spirit of life, of love and peace,
 Unite our hearts, our joy increase,
 Thy gracious help supply.
 To each of us the blessing give
 In Christian fellowship to live,
 In joyful hope to die.

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Invocation

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

Opening Sentences

Galatians 5:22–23; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Psalm 23:6

- P** The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

C Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Confession and Absolution

Titus 3:4–5; Deuteronomy 30:19–20; 1 Corinthians 6:19

P “When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy.” Let us go to Him, confident that He will grant us forgiveness for Jesus’ sake.

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination

P Heavenly Father,

C we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have failed to exhibit goodness, the fruit of Your Holy Spirit, in our thinking, speaking, and acting. We have not always chosen life, loving the Lord our God, obeyed His voice, and held fast to Him. We have not always sought to be reconciled to our brothers. Our Lord Jesus revealed His person and ministry through His words and actions. In Your great mercy, forgive, renew, and lead us so that we may be revealed as His faith-filled followers to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P

687 Thine Forever, God of Love

LSB 687

- 1 Thine forever, God of love!
Hear us from Thy throne above;
Thine forever may we be
Here and in eternity!
- 2 Thine forever! Oh, how blest
They who find in Thee their rest!
Savior, guardian, heav’nly friend,
O defend us to the end!
- 3 Thine forever, Lord of Life!
Shield us through our earthly strife.
Thou, the life, the truth, the way,
Guide us to the realms of day.
- 4 Thine forever! Shepherd, keep
These Thy frail and trembling sheep;

Safe alone beneath Thy care,
Let us all Thy goodness share.

5 Thine forever! Thou our guide,
All our wants by Thee supplied,
All our sins by Thee forgiv'n;
Lead us, Lord, from earth to heav'n.

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Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin

C may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name;

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 30:15–20

¹⁵“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil.

¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his just decrees then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it.

¹⁷But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 3:1–9

¹But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? ⁴For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not being merely human?

⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. ⁹For we are God’s fellow workers. You are God’s field, God’s building.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Verse

Ephesians 5:2

P Alleluia. Walk in love, as Christ loved us

C **and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.**
Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 5:21–37

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

P [Jesus said,] “You have heard that it was said to those of old,

C **‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’**

P “But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

“You have heard that it was said,

C **‘You shall not commit adultery.’**

- P** “But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.
“It was also said,
- C** **‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’**
- P** “But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery. And whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.
“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old,
- C** **‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’**
- P** “But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.”
- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Children’s Message

394 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

LSB 394

- 1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
Manifested by the star
To the sages from afar,
Branch of royal David’s stem
In Thy birth at Bethlehem:
Anthems be to Thee addressed,
God in man made manifest.
- 2 Manifest at Jordan’s stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
And at Cana wedding guest
In Thy Godhead manifest;

Manifest in pow'r divine,
Changing water into wine;
Anthems be to Thee addressed,
God in man made manifest.

3 Manifest in making whole
Palsied limbs and fainting soul;
Manifest in valiant fight,
Quelling all the devil's might;
Manifest in gracious will,
Ever bringing good from ill;
Anthems be to Thee addressed,
God in man made manifest.

4 Sun and moon shall darkened be,
Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;
Christ will then like lightning shine,
All will see His glorious sign;
All will then the trumpet hear,
All will see the Judge appear;
Thou by all wilt be confessed,
God in man made manifest.

5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord,
Present in Thy holy Word—
Grace to imitate Thee now
And be pure, as pure art Thou;
That we might become like Thee
At Thy great epiphany
And may praise Thee, ever blest,
God in man made manifest.

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Sermon

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.**

Prayer of the Church

Offering

785 We Praise You, O God

LSB 785

- 1 We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before You, we kneel and adore You;
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.

- 2 We worship You, God of our fathers, we bless You;
Through trial and tempest our guide You have been.
When perils o'ertake us, You will not forsake us,
And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

- 3 With voices united our praises we offer
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us.
To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

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Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

Ⓟ Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach 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;

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.**

Benediction

LSB 166

- 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.

Announcements

863 Our Father, by Whose Name

LSB 863

- 1 Our Father, by whose name
All fatherhood is known,
Who dost in love proclaim
Each family Thine own,
Bless Thou all parents, guarding well,
With constant love as sentinel,
The homes in which Thy people dwell.

- 2 O Christ, Thyself a child
Within an earthly home,
With heart still undefiled,
Thou didst to manhood come;
Our children bless in ev'ry place
That they may all behold Thy face,
And knowing Thee may grow in grace.

- 3 O Spirit, who dost bind
Our hearts in unity,
Who teachest us to find
The love from self set free,
In all our hearts such love increase
That ev'ry home by this release
May be the dwelling place of peace.