

PRELUDE “As High As the Heavens”

Chorus:

As high as the heavens are above the earth,

So great is the Father's love;

As far as the east is from the west,

So far He has taken our sin from us.

Verse:

For His anger lasts only a moment,

But His favor lasts for a lifetime;

Weeping may remain for the night,

But rejoicing comes, it comes in the morning.

Chorus:

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

whose steadfast love is everlasting,

whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

Amen.

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Reconciling God,

**we confess that we do not trust your abundance,
and we deny your presence in our lives.
We place our hope in ourselves
and rely on our own efforts.
We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.
We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.
We fear difference and do not welcome others
as you have welcomed us.
We sin in thought, word, and deed.
By your grace, forgive us;
through your love, renew us;
and in your Spirit, lead us;
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

Beloved of God,
by the radical abundance of divine mercy
we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus,
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.
Our sins are forgiven.
Let us live now in hope.
For hope does not disappoint,
because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you.
Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy,
that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior
and Lord. **Amen.**

READING

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 (NRSV)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

67 (NRSV)

May God be merciful to us and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.

**Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

**The earth has brought forth its increase;
God, our own God, has blessed us.**

May God give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 15:[10-20]

21-28(NRSV)

Please rise for the Gospel. The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 15th chapter:
Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Special Music "I Believe in Jesus"

1. I believe in Jesus,

I believe He is the Son of God.

I believe He died and rose again,

I believe He paid for us all.

Chorus:

And I believe that He's (You're) here now,

Standing in our midst.

Here with the power to heal now,

And the grace to forgive.

2. And I believe in You, Lord.

I believe You are the son of God.

I believe You died and rose again,

I believe You paid for us all.

Chorus:

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of goodness and growth,

all creation is yours,

and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

With your grace we are here today,

Nourish us through these gifts that we place before you:

our talents, our support for your church on earth and our hearts,

that we might proclaim your steadfast love

in our communities and in the world,

through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share a sign of God's peace in a distanced way to one another! (All gathered are invited to share a sign of peace, maybe a wave or a peace sign, a hello from afar.)

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

BLESSING

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,

nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ,
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "In the Secret"

1. In the secret, in the quiet place,
In the stillness, You are there.
In the secret, in the quiet Hour I wait, only for You,
'Cause I want to know You more.

Chorus:

I want to know You.
I want to hear your voice.
I want to know You more.

I want to touch You.
I want to see Your face.
I want to know You more.

2. I am reaching for the highest goal

That I might receive the prize.

Pressing onward, pushing ev'ry hindrance aside, out of my way,

'Cause I want to know You more.

Chorus:

Service modified from Sugar Creek Lutheran Church, Elkhorn, WI. 's bulletin, message by Bishop Peter Rogness

