

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

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### Prelude

### Opening Hymn

*God of Our Fathers*

Hymnal #718

God of our fathers, whose almighty hand leads forth in beauty all the starry band  
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies, our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past, in this free land by thee our lot is cast;  
be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay thy word our law, thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence, be thy strong arm our ever sure defense;  
thy true religion in our hearts increase, thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh thy people on their toilsome way, lead us from night to never-ending day;  
fill all our lives with love and grace divine, and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

Daniel Crane Roberts (1841-1907)

### Acclamation

pg. 355 in Book of Common Prayer

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* ***And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.***

### Collect for Purity

### Gloria

***Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.***

### Collect of the Day

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### The Lessons

The First Reading: *Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25*

<sup>1</sup>Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. <sup>2</sup>And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: 'Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. <sup>3a</sup>Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.'

<sup>14</sup>“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup>Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

<sup>16</sup>Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; <sup>17</sup>for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; <sup>18</sup>and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

<sup>19</sup>But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. <sup>20</sup>If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.” <sup>21</sup>And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the LORD!” <sup>22</sup>Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” <sup>23</sup>He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel.” <sup>24</sup>The people said to Joshua, “The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey.” <sup>25</sup>So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Psalm: *Psalm 78:1-7*

<sup>1</sup>**Hear my teaching, O my people; \***

**incline your ears to the words of my mouth.**

<sup>2</sup>**I will open my mouth in a parable; \***

**I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.**

<sup>3</sup>**That which we have heard and known,  
and what our forefathers have told us, \***

**we will not hide from their children.**

<sup>4</sup>**We will recount to generations to come  
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, \***  
**and the wonderful works he has done.**

<sup>5</sup>**He gave his decrees to Jacob  
and established a law for Israel, \***  
**which he commanded them to teach their children;**

<sup>6</sup>**That the generations to come might know,  
and the children yet unborn; \***

**that they in their turn might tell it to their children;**

<sup>7</sup>**So that they might put their trust in God, \***  
**and not forget the deeds of God,  
but keep his commandments.**

The Second Reading: *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

<sup>13</sup>We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

### **Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13**

[Jesus said,] <sup>1</sup>“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup>Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup>But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup>And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ <sup>12</sup>But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

### **The Sermon**

### **Nicene Creed**

### **Prayers of the People - All remain standing.**

*Presider or deacon*

Let us offer our prayers for the healing touch of Christ among all people, saying **Hear our prayer.**

*The Presider will add a concluding Collect.*

### **Confession of Sin**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept. Leader and People*

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

### **Peace**

Celebrant        The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
People            **And also with you.**

# HOLY COMMUNION

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## Offertory Music

*My Country 'tis of Thee*

Hymnal #717

My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing;  
land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside let freedom ring.

My native country, thee, land of the noble free, thy name I love;  
I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and templed hills; my heart with rapture thrills like that above.

Let music swell the breeze, and ring from all the trees sweet freedom's song;  
let mortal tongues awake, let all that breathe partake, let rocks their silence break, the sound prolong.

Our fathers' God, to thee, author of liberty, to thee we sing;  
long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light; protect us by thy might, great God, our King.

Samuel Francis Smith (1808-1895)

## Offertory

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.  
People ***And of thine own have we given thee.***

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the deacon or celebrant. The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Eucharistic Prayer A from Book of Common Prayer*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People ***We lift them to the Lord.***

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People ***It is right to give him thanks and praise.***

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

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Sanctus** ***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.***

Celebrant Holy and gracious Father. . .

. . .Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People ***Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

Celebrant We celebrate the memorial of our redemption. . .

. . .Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

## The 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, for ever and ever. Amen.*

## The Breaking of the Bread

*A period of silence is kept.*

## Fraction Anthem

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

## Communion Music

### *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

Hymnal #708

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need thy tender care;  
in thy pleasant pastures feed us; for our use thy folds prepare.  
Blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.

Early let us seek thy favor, early let us learn thy will;  
do thou, Lord, our only Savior, with thy love our bosoms fill.  
Blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us: love us still.

*Hymns for the Young, ca. 1830, alt.*

### *Almighty Father, Strong to Save*

Hymnal #579

Almighty Father, strong to save, whose arm hath bound the restless wave,  
who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep its own appointed limits keep:  
O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.

O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain o'er which our traffic runs amain  
by mountain pass or valley low; wherever, Lord, thy people go,  
protect them by thy guarding hand from every peril on the land.

O Spirit, whom the Father sent to spread abroad the firmament;  
O Wind of heaven, by thy might save all who dare the eagle's flight,  
and keep them by thy watchful care from every peril in the air.

O Trinity of love and power, our people shield in danger's hour;  
from rock and tempest, fire and foe, protect them wheresoe'er they go;  
thus evermore shall rise to thee glad praise from space, air, land, and sea.

Sts. 1 and 4, William Whiting (1825-1878), alt.; sts. 2-3, Robert Nelson Spencer (1877-1961)

## Sending Forth

## Postcommunion Prayer

*Celebrant and People*

***Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us  
as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.***

## Blessing

### Closing Hymn

### *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,  
for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!  
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,  
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,  
who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!  
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,  
confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.

O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years  
thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!  
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,  
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

Katherine Lee Bates (1859-1929), alt.

## Dismissal

Celebrant      Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
People          ***Thanks be to God.***

## Postlude