

Service of Word and Prayer

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:13)

And also with you.

The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart.

If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,
and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Faith comes from what is heard,
and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.
(Romans 10)

You are the treasured people of the Lord,
a people holy to the Lord our God.

Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.
Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.
(Deuteronomy 26, 11, 8)

Prayer of the Day

The salutation may precede the prayer.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

First Reading:

A reading from Mark 12:1-17

After the reading, the reader may say:

The word of the Lord.

All may respond:

Thanks be to God.

Questions for reflection:

1. Why do we sometimes reject something that will help us, make our lives better, change things for the better? What is it about human nature that turns away new innovations?
2. What are the reasons the religious leaders of His day rejected Jesus? Do we see those same reasons playing out today as people reject Him?
3. How would you say Jesus is the cornerstone of your life?
4. Describe the patience of God. How is God patient? In what way do you appreciate the patience of God?
5. How is God both kind and severe? Which one appeals to you more? Does the severity of God bother / worry you?
6. Read the following verses and observe any further thoughts about Jesus as cornerstone: 1 Peter 2:6; Isaiah 28:16; 1 Peter 2:7-8

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

(Ephesians 1:13-14)

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.*
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;
pray in the Holy Spirit.
(Jude 20)

Keep yourselves in the love of God;
look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.
(Jude 21)

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:
Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.
Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Silence for reflection and self examination.

Gracious God,
**have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown, things done and left undone.
Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins.
Amen

Offering

An offering is received. Please consider mailing a check to the church or giving online at:

<https://christmonroe.weebly.com/giving.html>

Let us pray.

Gracious God,

**in the abundance of your steadfast love, you call us from death to life, from silence to speech, from idleness to action. With these gifts we offer ourselves to you, and with the Church through all the ages we give thanks for your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen**

The Prayers

The prayers begin with these or similar words:

As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the needs of the Church, the human family, and all the world.

Prayers are included for the whole Church, the nations, those in need, the parish, and special concerns. The congregation may be invited to offer other petitions. The leader gives thanks for the faithful departed, especially for those who recently have died.

Each portion of the prayers concludes with these or similar words:

God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude with these or similar words:

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O God, for the sake of Christ who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.**

Blessing

May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ fill you with every spiritual blessing.

Amen

May the God of faithfulness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

(Romans 15)

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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