THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OPENING ACCLAMATION
Celebrant  Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People    And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

KYRIE
Celebrant  Lord, have mercy.
People     Christ, have mercy.
Celebrant  Lord, have mercy.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY
Celebrant  The Lord be with you.
People     And also with you.
Celebrant  Let us pray.

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON
Exodus 3:1-15
Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, “I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.” When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then he said, “Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” He said further, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” He said, “I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.” But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you: This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

Reader  The Word of the Lord.
People    Thanks be to God.
Gospel
The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

People
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON
The Rev. Robbie Laughton

A period of silence for reflection follows the sermon.

The People stand and say

THE NICE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Leader and People pray responsively

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, Mark and Gayle, our bishops and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in the Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence
The People may add their own petitions
Hear us, Lord;
*For your mercy is great.*
We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, loving God;
*And praise your Name for ever and ever.*

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
*Who put their trust in you.*

During a time of silent prayer, congregants are invited to come to the altar rail for healing prayer or light a candle for a special prayer intention.

Kneeling
Gracious God, we know that you hear the prayers of your people and that what we have asked in faith you will answer in wisdom. With humility and gratitude, we pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

Leader and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Celebrant concludes with an absolution.

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

BIRTHDAY PRAYER
O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE OFFERTORY
**THE HOLY COMMUNION**

*The People stand.*

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**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:

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.

*Continued in The Book of Common Prayer, page 362*

**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**

**Celebrant** Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

After all have received, the People stand or kneel.

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.

**THE BLESSING**

**THE DISMISSAL**

**Leader** Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

**People** Thanks be to God.

**WE PRAY FOR THE DEPARTED**

Judith McElwain

**WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO SERVE OUR COUNTRY OVERSEAS**

Kathryn McNamara, Kate Ballard, Sean Doherty, the Nelson family

**PRAYERS FOR THE PARISH**

Bonnie-Lorraine Thiele, Barbara Cooley, William Groft & family, Lori & family, Colleen Nelson, Mary Crow, Gladys Hook, Jim Murphy, Willie Banks, LaVerne Scott-Rayford, Michael Barrett, Darlene Freeman, Martha & Frank Cammarata, Maureen Pelosi, Anna Flaten, Margo Fitch, Tony Robson, John Iler, Margot Rood, Gail Multop, Algernon John Baptiste & family, Keith McMath, Russell George