

**Opening Hymn      436      Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates**

<sup>1</sup> Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;  
behold, the King of glory waits!  
The King of kings is drawing near;  
the Savior of the world is here.

<sup>2</sup> O blest the land, the city blest,  
where Christ the ruler is confessed!  
O happy hearts and happy homes  
to whom this King of triumph comes!

<sup>3</sup> Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
make it a temple, set apart  
from earthly use for heaven's employ,  
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

<sup>4</sup> Redeemer, come! I open wide  
my heart to thee: here, Lord, abide!  
Let me thy inner presence feel:  
thy grace and love in me reveal.

*Priest:      Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*

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

**Collect for Purity (Book of Common Prayer, pg. 355)**

**Gloria (spoken)**

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, from whom all good proceeds: Grant that by your inspiration we may think those things that are right, and by your merciful guiding may do them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**A Reading from the Book of Genesis 12:1-9    read by Pat Breinin**

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram, and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord

**People:** *Thanks be to God*

**Psalm 33:1-12**

**Exultate, just!**    *To be read responsively- led by Pat Breinin*

Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous; \*  
it is good for the just to sing praises.

Praise the LORD with the harp; \*  
play to him upon the psaltery and lyre.

Sing for him a new song; \*  
sound a fanfare with all your skill upon the trumpet.

For the word of the LORD is right, \*  
and all his works are sure.

He loves righteousness and justice; \*  
the loving-kindness of the LORD fills the whole earth.

By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, \*  
by the breath of his mouth all the heavenly hosts.

He gathers up the waters of the ocean as in a water-skin \*  
and stores up the depths of the sea.

Let all the earth fear the LORD; \*  
let all who dwell in the world stand in awe of him.

For he spoke, and it came to pass; \*  
he commanded, and it stood fast.

The LORD brings the will of the nations to naught; \*  
he thwarts the designs of the peoples.

But the LORD's will stands fast for ever, \*  
and the designs of his heart from age to age.

Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD! \*  
happy the people he has chosen to be his own!

**A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans 4:13-25** *(read by Dennis DiVincenzo)*

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord

**People:** *Thanks be to God*

**Sequence Hymn 117 Brightest and Best of the Morning** *(Verses 1-2, Gospel, Alleluia, Verses 3-4)*

<sup>1</sup> Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;  
star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

<sup>2</sup> Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining,  
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
angels adore him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.

<sup>3</sup> Shall we then yield him, in costly devotion,  
odors of Edom, and offerings divine,  
gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean,  
myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?.

<sup>4</sup> Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
vainly with gifts would his favor secure,  
richer by far is the heart's adoration,  
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

### **The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26**

**People:** *Glory to you, Lord Christ (Remain standing)*

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me."

And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well. When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, "Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. And the report of this spread throughout that district.

**Priest:** The Gospel of the Lord

**People:** *Praise to You, Lord Christ*

**Sermon:** The Rev. Dr. Johnson Mathew

### **The Nicene 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.

**Prayer for Peace** *(read together, led by Dennis DiVincenzo)*

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**Prayer for Sound Government** *(led by Dennis DiVincenzo)*

O Lord our Governor, bless the leaders of our land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth.

**Lord, keep this nation under your care.**

To the President and members of the Cabinet, to Governors of States, Mayors of Cities, and to all in administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties.

**Give grace to your servants, O Lord.**

To Senators and Representatives, and those who make our laws in States, Cities, and Towns, give courage, wisdom, and foresight to provide for the needs of all our people, and to fulfill our obligations in the community of nations.

**Give grace to your servants, O Lord.**

To the Judges and officers of our Courts give understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and justice served.

**Give grace to your servants, O Lord.**

And finally, teach our people to rely on your strength and to accept their responsibilities to their fellow citizens, that they may elect trustworthy leaders and make wise decisions for the well-being of our society; that we may serve you faithfully in our generation and honor your holy Name.

**For yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Amen**

**Prayers of the People (remain standing):** *Led by Dennis DiVincenzo*

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 all bishops, priests and other ministers;

*For all who serve God in his Church.*

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially.....

Hear us, Lord;

*For your mercy is great.*

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life—those we name in our hearts, and also for those celebrating birthdays, including.....

We will exalt you, O God our King;

*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, especially.....

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

**The Priest adds a Concluding Prayer**

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

**The Confession and Absolution (*please kneel as you are able*)**

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.

**The Peace**

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

**Announcements and Recognition of Birthdays and Anniversaries**

**Offertory Hymn            401            The God of Abraham Praise**

<sup>1</sup> The God of Abraham praise,  
who reigns enthroned above;  
Ancient of Everlasting Days,  
and God of Love;  
Jehovah, great I AM!  
by earth and heaven confessed;  
I bow and bless the sacred name  
forever blest.

<sup>2</sup> He by himself hath sworn:  
we on his oath depend;  
we shall, on eagles-wings upborne,  
to heaven ascend:  
we shall behold his face,  
we shall his power adore,  
and sing the wonders of his grace  
for evermore.

<sup>3</sup> There dwells the Lord, our King,  
the Lord, our Righteousness,  
triumphant o'er the world and sin,  
the Prince of Peace;  
on Zion's sacred height  
his kingdom he maintains,  
and, glorious with his saints in light,  
for ever reigns.

<sup>4</sup> The God who reigns on high  
the great archangels sing,  
and "Holy, holy, holy," cry,  
"Almighty King!  
Who was, and is, the same,  
and evermore shall be:  
eternal Father, great I AM,  
we worship thee."

**Doxology (*please stand*)**

**"Old Hundredth"**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all people here below.  
Praise him above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**The Great Thanksgiving            BCP p. 361 (Eucharistic Prayer A)**

Priest            The Lord be with you  
*People*            *And also with you*  
Priest            Lift up your hearts  
*People*            *We lift them up to the Lord*  
Priest            Let us give thanks to the Lord our God  
*People*            *It is right to give him thanks and praise*

**Priest continues with Eucharistic Prayer A**

**Sanctus** *(spoken)*

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of your Glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

**Memorial Acclamation** *(spoken)*

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

**Amen** *(spoken)*

**The Lord's Prayer**

**The Breaking of the Bread**

Priest: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

**Communion Hymn 341 For the Bread Which You Have Broken**

<sup>1</sup> For the bread which you have broken,  
for the wine which you have poured,  
for the words which you have spoken,  
now we give you thanks, O Lord.

<sup>2</sup> By this pledge, Lord, that you love us,  
by your gift of peace restored,  
by your call to heaven above us,  
hallow all our lives, O Lord

<sup>3</sup> As our blessed ones adore you,  
seated at our Father's board,  
may the Church still waiting for you  
keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.

<sup>4</sup> In your service, Lord, defend us;  
in our hearts keep watch and ward,  
in the world to which you send us  
let your kingdom come, O Lord..

**Post-Communion Prayer**

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

**Closing Hymn 347 Go Forth for God**

<sup>1</sup> Go forth for God, go to the world in peace;  
be of good courage, armed with heavenly grace,  
in God's good Spirit daily to increase,  
till in the kingdom we see face to face.  
Go forth for God, go to the world in peace.

<sup>2</sup> Go forth for God, go to the world in love;  
strengthen the faint, give courage to the weak;  
help the afflicted; richly from above  
God's love supplies the grace and power we seek.  
Go forth for God, go to the world in love.

<sup>3</sup> Go forth for God, go to the world in strength,  
Hold fast the good, be urgent for the right;  
render to no-one evil; Christ at length  
shall overcome all darkness with his light.

<sup>4</sup> Go forth for God, go to the world in joy,  
to serve God's people every day and hour,  
and serving Christ, our every gift employ,  
rejoicing in the Holy Spirit's power.

**The Blessing**

**Dismissal**

People: *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!*