

Order of Service–March 9, 2025

Welcome & Announcements

Greeting *please rise as you are able and comfortable and welcome one another into worship*

Invocation *please remain standing*

“Good Grace”

“No Longer Slaves” *please be seated*

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another....

Congregation: Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Pastor: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Congregation: **Amen**

“I Will Rise” *please rise as you are comfortable and able*

Nicene Creed

Congregation: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and

apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Holy Communion *please be seated until it is time for you to come forward, rows come forward front to back, left to right*

Please read the explanation of our Communion practice below.

COMMUNION is a time for us to come in union to receive Jesus' body and blood. On the night before Jesus died on the cross, He shared a "last supper" with His disciples. The experience that happened so many years ago compels us to this day to celebrate the "Lord's Supper" (or Holy Communion as it is called). Jesus invited us to share this gift until He returns so that we may have forgiveness of sins, strengthening of faith and the power to live God-pleasing lives. God's word tells us that when we receive the Lord's Supper we are not merely receiving bread and wine, but the true, real body and blood of Jesus Christ. We claim the promise of Christ's real presence as we hear him say "This is my body...this is my blood." Baptized adult Christians who know they need God's daily forgiveness, who are sorry for their sins, who seek God's forgiveness, and who believe the body and blood of Jesus Christ are truly present in this meal are invited to share this great gift of God.

We encourage those who are unsure of their beliefs or who don't yet agree with our beliefs to use the time of communion to reflect, pray, and sing. We encourage those who are in agreement with us in our beliefs to receive the body and blood of Jesus, given and shed for our forgiveness. Those that wish non-alcoholic wine for communion will find those cups located in the center trays. Those who would like gluten-free wafers can take them from the bowl containing the wafers.

"Thank You For the Blood"

Reading from Luke 19:28-48 *please be seated*

And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. [29] When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, [30] saying, "Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. [31] If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.' " [32] So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. [33] And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" [34] And they said, "The Lord has need of it." [35] And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. [36] And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. [37] As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, [38] saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" [39] And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." [40] He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

[41] And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, [42] saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. [43] For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side

[44] and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

[45] And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold, [46] saying to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer,' but you have made it a den of robbers."

[47] And he was teaching daily in the temple. The chief priests and the scribes and the principal men of the people were seeking to destroy him, [48] but they did not find anything they could do, for all the people were hanging on his words.

Children's Message & Offering

Message: "The Stones Would Cry Out"

Stones are inanimate objects, the result of the dynamic forces of creation, that now are inanimate. Humans have used stone to build buildings that speak about the builders and have carved stones in the shape of the imagination of the carvers. Jesus personifies inanimate stones to emphasize the importance of the Gospel and the depth of sadness over our fallen world.

Responsive Prayer and Reflection *please rise as you are comfortable and able*

(Pastor Speaks the light print, the congregation responds with the dark print)

P: Like Jesus, we weep over our fallen world and the religious conditions we live in.

C: Today, Jesus, you have spoken clearly Your word of warning and Your peace.

P: We have peace with you, O heavenly Father, and peace among us,

C: The peace that supasses all human understanding.

P: The passion and resurrection of Jesus brings us that peace and so we join the disciples:

C: "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Blessing

"Stand in Your Love"

Go in Peace + Serve the Lord