We come today to listen to God’s word and celebrate the Eucharist. Gathered together in this place, we look around and see our neighbors. Many of them are people much like us. The neighbor in today’s Gospel—the good Samaritan—is not. Samaritans were seen as outcasts by the Jewish people who frequented the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. Yet it was this foreigner, this outsider, this stranger, who is the true neighbor to the Jewish victim. May hearing this parable expand our understanding of “neighbor” as it moves our hearts to reach out to those not like us.

As we gather let us begin our service by professing what we believe.

_Profession of Faith p. 104_

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (bow as we say) and by the Holy Spirit he was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day 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. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

_Introductory Rite:
_Greeting:_
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.
Blessed be God forever. Blessed be God forever.

_Penitential Rite: p.6_

My brothers and sisters, to prepare ourselves for this celebration, let us call to mind our sins.

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen

_Opening Prayer:_
O God, who show the light of your truth to those who go astray, so that they may return to the right path, give all who for the faith they profess are accounted Christians the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ and to strive after all that does it honor.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

_Liturgy of the Word:_
_First Reading p. 84_
A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy

_Deuteronomy 30:10-14_

Moses said to the people: "If only you would heed the voice of the LORD, your God, and keep his commandments
and statutes that are written in this book of the law, when you return to the LORD, your God, with all your heart and all your soul.

"For this command that I enjoin on you today is not too mysterious and remote for you. It is not up in the sky, that you should say, 'Who will go up in the sky to get it for us and tell us of it, that we may carry it out?' Nor is it across the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross the sea to get it for us and tell us of it, that we may carry it out?' No, it is something very near to you, already in your mouths and in your hearts; you have only to carry it out."

The word of the Lord.  

Responsorial Psalm: Page 84  

Psalm 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20

R/. Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.

R/. Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.

I pray to you, O LORD, for the time of your favor, O God!
In your great kindness answer me with your constant help.  
Answer me, O LORD, for bounteous is your kindness: in your great mercy turn toward me. R/.  

I am afflicted and in pain; let your saving help, O God, protect me.  
I will praise the name of God in song, and I will glorify him with thanksgiving. R/.  

"See, you lowly ones, and be glad; you who seek God, may your hearts revive!  
For the LORD hears the poor, and his own who are in bonds he spurns not." R/.  

For God will save Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah.  
The descendants of his servants shall inherit it, and those who love his name shall inhabit it. R/.  

Second Reading:  

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians  

Colossians 1:15-20

Christ Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in him were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he himself might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile all things for him, making peace by the blood of his cross through him, whether those on earth or those in heaven.

The word of the Lord.  

Gospel:  

Glory to you, O Lord

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke  

Luke 10:25-37

There was a scholar of the law who stood up to test Jesus and said, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?" He said in reply, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." He replied to him, "You have answered correctly; do this and you will live."

But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan
traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn, and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.' Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?' He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection on the Word:

• After Moses enjoined the Chosen People to keep the LORD’s commandments, he encouraged them by pointing out that the commandments were easily accessible. They were not hidden in the heavens or beyond the edge of the sea. No, the law to love God and neighbor was written right on their hearts, the words right on their lips. So too for us. The law of love is not beyond our reach, for it was planted in us in baptism. We know what we should do; we rely upon God’s grace in following through.

• It was perfectly rational for the priest and the Levite to do exactly what they did in the parable of the good Samaritan. They both had important responsibilities in the temple. If they were traveling to Jerusalem, it would have been very important that they maintain their ritual purity. The victim on the side of the road was half-dead. They would be considered unclean if they even came within four cubits of a dead body, so they couldn’t even get close enough to determine if he was still breathing or not. No wonder they hurried by on the opposite side. Both could easily rationalize their inaction by telling themselves that serving the Lord in the temple was more important than serving the stranger dying on the road. But rationalization is just a way that we use to explain or excuse something we do that we know is wrong. We rationalize rather than listen to our conscience.

• Though Jesus did not explicitly refer to this parable when he told his disciples about the last judgment, he could have said about those who he welcomed into the kingdom, “I was lying half-dead by the side of the road and you cared for me.” The priest and Levite could only see their Lord as present in the temple in Jerusalem; they failed to see him lying bleeding on the side of the road. Only the Samaritan was moved with compassion by what he could not fail to see: a fellow child of God in need of care and mercy. Can we see the Lord in a stranger in need?

Question of the Week
How do I rationalize passing by someone in need? What will spur me to stop and help instead?

Prayer of the Faithful:
Like the good Samaritan, may we be moved with compassion for those in need as we bring our needs and their needs before the Lord.

• For the Church, the body of Christ, that we may be Christ’s body in the world, reaching out to help those in need, lifting up those who have fallen, and caring for those who are suffering, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

• For civic leaders at every level, that they may exercise compassion toward their constituents, and that that compassion may be reflected in the laws they enact and the policies they implement, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

• For judges, prosecutors, police officers, and all those who apply and enforce the law, that they may do so with justice and fairness, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

• For victims of crime and abuse, that they, like the victim in today’s Gospel, may receive care and comfort, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.
• That our community of faith may reach out to those who we do not ordinarily regard as our neighbors, exercising our love for fellow children of God, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

• For what else should we pray? Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

• For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

Loving God, your Son showed us an example of selfless love in the parable of the good Samaritan, and provided an example himself in laying down his life for the rest of humanity. May we be examples as well of selfless love for our neighbor. Grant this and all the prayers we make through your Son and our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Communion Rite

The Lord’s Prayer: p. 136
Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us.

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.

Rite of Peace:
The sign of peace outwardly expresses a deep spiritual reality; through this sign we acknowledge Christ’s presence in each other and share the peace we have received from Him. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Communion:
Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

The body of Christ. Amen.

Prayer after Communion:
Having consumed these gifts, we pray, O Lord, that, by our participation in this mystery, its saving effects upon us may grow.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Concluding Rite:

Final Blessing:
May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ! Thanks be to God.