

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be His Kingdom, now and forever.

Almighty God, unto 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 Thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love Thee, and worthily magnify Thy Holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Decalogue

God spake these words and said:

I am the Lord thy God who brought Thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have none other gods but me.

***Lord have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven image, nor the likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down to them, nor worship them.

***Lord have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain.

***Lord have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day.

***Lord have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

Honor thy father and thy mother.

***Lord have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

Thou shalt do no murder.

***Lord have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

***Lord have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

Thou shalt not steal.

***Lord have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

***Lord have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

Thou shalt not covet.

***Lord have mercy upon us,
and write all these Thy laws in our hearts, we beseech Thee.***

Lord, Have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men.
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee,
we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord;
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

The Lord be with you.
And with Thy spirit.
Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lessons

A Reading from Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
 so that the mountains would quake at your presence--
as when fire kindles brushwood
 and the fire causes water to boil--
to make your name known to your adversaries,
 so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
 you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
 no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
 who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
 those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
 because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
 and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
 and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
 or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
 and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
 we are the clay, and you are our potter;
 we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
 and do not remember iniquity forever.
 Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
 shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 *In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,*
stir up your strength and come to help us.

3 Restore us, O God of hosts;
 show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4 *O LORD God of hosts,*
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears;
 you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 *You have made us the derision of our neighbors*
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts;
 show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

16 *Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand,*
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you;
 give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18 *Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;*
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

A Reading from 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The Gospel of the Lord!

Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

The Sermon

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.

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and ever living God, who in Thy Holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto Thy divine Majesty, beseeching Thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess Thy Holy Name may agree in the truth of Thy Holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth Thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer Thy Holy Sacraments. And to all Thy people give Thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive Thy Holy Word, truly serving Thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech Thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold Thy gracious hand in all Thy works, that, rejoicing in Thy whole creation, they may honor Thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of Thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech Thee, of Thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless Thy Holy Name for all Thy servants departed this life in Thy faith and fear beseeching Thee to grant them continual growth in Thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all Thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of Thy heavenly kingdom. Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate.

Amen.

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.

Matthew 11:28

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

1 Timothy 1:15

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:1-2

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.; and the blessing+ of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always.

Amen.