

## THE STORY: THE BEGINNING OF THE END

**THEME:** At just the right time, God gives us the grace we need.

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### OPENING PRAYER

**C:** We thank You, God. Each one of us has been made in a special way by You. You have given us skills and abilities so that we can serve You.....and also so that we can care for each other. Bless our time together in worship that we may be strengthened to live.....and be strengthened to share Your love and mercy with others. We ask that Your presence be with us in our time together—Father, + Son and Holy Spirit. In Your name we pray. Amen.

#### **TIME TO REFLECT.....**

P: We gather together today to remind ourselves that God first loved us.

**C:** Jesus said, “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

*John*

*13:34-35*

P: We gather together to be challenged to follow Jesus’ example of self-sacrificing service. We are not always quick to serve others. We would rather take care of ourselves. During this time of silence we think of those moments in thought, word and deed that we have fallen short in service to others.

#### *Time of Silence*

P: We confess.....

**C:** Lord....too often I have chosen self-preservation rather than service to others. Too often I have been so concerned with my problems, hurts and challenges, that I have forgotten to engage in the problems, hurts and challenges of others. I need your forgiveness today. Help me to see that You give new life through today’s forgiveness.....and that You promise to walk with me as I now seek to serve others.

P: I announce God’s grace to you in the forgiveness of your sins. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. As we serve others, God goes with us—we are not alone. Jesus said, “Remember, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

**C: Amen!**

### OPENING SONG OF PRAISE

#### Morning Has Broken

Morning has broken.....Like the first morning,  
Blackbird has spoken.....Like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain’s new fall.....Sunlit from heaven,  
Like the first dewfall.....On the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning  
Born of the one light.....Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning,  
God's recreation of the new day!

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: We pray. Almighty God, sometimes we feel so far lost that there is no hope. It can lead us into the thought that we are beyond Your reach and that we don't deserve fully Your grace. Even when things are dark, help us to know that You want more than anything to rescue us.....even from our own messes. Help us to know that Your love alone is a wellspring of life. In Jesus' name.

**C: Amen!**

### SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 53:6-11                      *The Promised Messiah*

All we like sheep have gone astray;  
    we have turned—every one—to his own way;  
and the LORD has laid on him  
    the iniquity of us all.  
He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
    yet he opened not his mouth;  
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,  
    and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,  
    so he opened not his mouth.  
By oppression and judgment he was taken away;  
    and as for his generation, who considered  
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,  
    stricken for the transgression of my people?  
And they made his grave with the wicked  
    and with a rich man in his death,  
although he had done no violence,  
    and there was no deceit in his mouth.  
Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him;  
    he has put him to grief;  
when his soul makes an offering for guilt,  
    he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;  
the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.  
Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;  
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,  
    make many to be accounted righteous,  
    and he shall bear their iniquities.

Holy Gospel: Luke 4:16-30

Jesus Rejected at Nazareth

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me

to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives

and recovering of sight to the blind,

to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, “Is not this Joseph's son?” And he said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Physician, heal yourself.’ What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.” And he said, “Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.” When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. But passing through their midst, he went away.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

**Make me a channel of your peace.**

**Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.**

**Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,**

**And where there's doubt, true faith in you.**

**Make me a channel of your peace.**

**Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.**

**Where there is darkness.....only light,**

**And where there's sadness, ever joy.**

**Make me a channel of your peace,**

**It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,**

**In giving of ourselves that we receive,**

**And in dying that we're born to eternal life.**

SERMON

“Examining Our Approach”

## **CONFESSING OUR FAITH**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
And born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
Was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again,  
He ascended into heaven,  
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
The Holy Christian Church,  
The communion of saints,  
The forgiveness of sins,  
The resurrection of the body  
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **OFFERINGS GATHERED**

(We give our offerings as a sign of our lives given to the Lord in humble service)

## **OFFERING SONG "Green Book" 409 Praise and Thanksgiving**

Praise and thanksgiving, Father we offer  
For all things living, Created good:  
Harvest of sown fields, Fruits of the orchard  
Hay from the mown fields, Blossom and wood.

Bless, Lord, the labor We bring to serve you,  
That with our neighbor We may be fed.  
Sowing or tilling, We would work with you,  
Harvesting, milling For daily bread.

Father, providing food for your children,  
By your wise guiding Teach us to share  
One with another, So that, rejoicing  
With us, all others May know your care.

Then will your blessing Reach ev'ry people,  
Freely confessing Your gracious hand.  
Where all obey you, No one will hunger;  
In your love's sway you Nourish the land.

### PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

After each petition the response is:

P: Lord in your mercy

C: **Hear our prayer.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

### CLOSING SONG "Red Book" 66

### Great is the Lord!

Great is the Lord, He is holy and just, By His power we trust In His love.

Great is the Lord, He is faithful and true, By His mercy He proves He is love.

Great is the Lord, And worthy of glory, Great is the Lord, And worthy of praise.

Great is the Lord, Now lift up your voice, Now lift up your voice: Great is the Lord Great is the Lord

Great is the Lord, He is holy and just, By His power we trust In His love.

Great is the Lord, He is faithful and true, By His mercy He proves He is love

Great are you Lord, And worthy of glory Great are you Lord, and worthy of praise.

Great are you Lord, I lift up my voice, I lift up my voice: Great are you Lord! Great are you Lord!

### HEARING FROM THE COMMUNITY

### Chief Tom Phelps

### DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

### **POST-SERVICE MUSIC**