

Anniversary of the Nicene Creed

November 9, 2025

Prelude

Confession & Absolution

P: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

C: Amen

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us gather with true hearts that confess our sins to God, that earnestly ask for forgiveness and that trust in our renewal through the work of our Savior Jesus the Christ.

A: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth. [Psalm 124:8]

A: I said I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

C: And you forgave the iniquity of my sin. [Psalm 32:5]

A: Almighty God, merciful Father:

C: I confess to you all my sins with which I have offended you and my neighbors. I am sorry for them. I devote myself to repentance and pray for your mercy. In your boundless grace and compassion send me your Holy Spirit that I may be strengthened in my faith and made ready for a life obedient to your will and your way.

P: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and full of steadfast love. [Exodus 34:6] Therefore, in obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I declare the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Entrance hymn

Holy God, We Praise Your Name



Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Nicene Creed: the 1st Petition

P: For 1,700 years the Christian Church throughout the world has confessed this first petition of the Nicene Creed together without disagreement or division. However, in our modern age, disagreement and division between Church and society have arisen over the "truthfulness" of what the faithful have long confessed. Today, we are challenged to express these words with our fullest intellects and deepest faith, seeking not to disagree and divide, but proclaim our perspective that all that is, was and will be, is manifested to the glory of God, the Father, and in the service of God, the Father's, good and gracious intentions for the Creation. And so, we confess . . .

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

first lesson genesis

t the beginning of God's creating the heavens and the earth, when the earth was wild and waste - darkness over the face of ocean rushing spirit of God hovering over the face of the waters . . . God said, "Let there be light" and there was light. God saw the light, that it was good. God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light, "Day" and the darkness he called, "Night." There was setting and there was dawning - one day.

God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."

God made the dome and separated the waters that were below the dome from the waters that were above the dome. It was so. God called the dome, "Heaven." There was setting, there was dawning – a second day.

God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together to one place, and let the dry land be seen."

It was so. God called the dry land, "Earth" and the gathering of the waters he called, "Seas." God saw that it was good . . .

. . . Thus, were finished the heavens and the earth, with all their array.

God had finished, on the seventh day, his work he had made, and then he ceased, on the seventh day, from all his work that he had made. God gave the seventh day his blessing and he hallowed it, for on it he ceased from all his, that by creating, he had made. These are the begetting of the heavens and the earth their being created.



Prayer

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you

P: Let us pray:

C: Loving God, you spoke into the darkness and disorder and created the intricate systems that sustain life on this

planet. As you breathed life into humanity and we lived, inspire us to continually breathe life back into all creation, celebrating its goodness, fulfilling our role, and humbly keeping our proper place in your plan for all that you have made. We pray this in the name of our risen Savior, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Nicene Creed: the $2^{n\delta}$ Petition

P: In 325 CE, Emperor Constantine decreed that all the Bishops of the Chrisitan Church must gather for an Ecumenical Council in the town of Nicaea to resolve a controversy over the nature of Christ — whether there was a time when Christ did not exist, as the priest Arius was teaching, or whether Christ had always been present with the Father for all time, as the Church had always taught. The Council decided that Christ has always been present with the Father and developed the language of this second petition to reflect this doctrine. And so, we confess . . .

C: 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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

Second Lesson

John 1

n the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God.

All things came into being through Him, and without Him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being in Him was life, and the life was the light of all people. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not gain control of it.

Reader: The Word of the Lord! C: Thanks be to God!



A wonderful exchange you make: you take our flesh and blood, and in return give us to share the shining realm of God, the shining realm of God.

Unlock the door again today that leads to paradise; the angel bars the way no more. To God let praises rise, to God let praises rise!

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you

P: Let us pray:

C: Father in heaven, we give you thanks that you did not choose to remain far away in splendor, but humbled yourself to come and know the mysteries of life among your people. As we yearn to understand the mysteries of your identity and the true nature of your Son, our Savior, keep us from stumbling over our own intellectual limitations and the poverty of our own experiences of time and space, that we will remain steadfast in the Faith of salvation to eternal life that lies ahead as we remain sure-footed in our following on the Way our Christ leads us. Amen.

Nicene Creed : the $2^{n\delta}$ Petition

P: Another unsettled issue that the Council of Nicaea took up was the dating of Easter. To this point, there had been no agreement as to when the Church would celebrate this holy day and each area had there own preferred methods for determining when Easter would fall each year. The Council decided that, henceforth, Easter will be celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the Spring equinox. However, the attempt to unite the Church in celebrating Easter together has still not succeeded, as Roman Catholic and Protestant Churches adopted the Gregorian Calendar to correct calendric problems created by setting a date using both lunar and solar times together, while the Orthodox Churches remain on the Julian Calendar. Which is why our Christmases and Easters often do not fall on the same days. Despite many attempts to achieve unity, there is still this great divide in the Church and no hope for a resolution dawning in our time. Still, we can confess together . . .

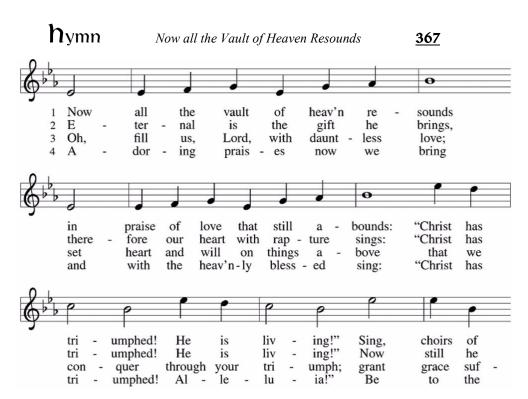
C: For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

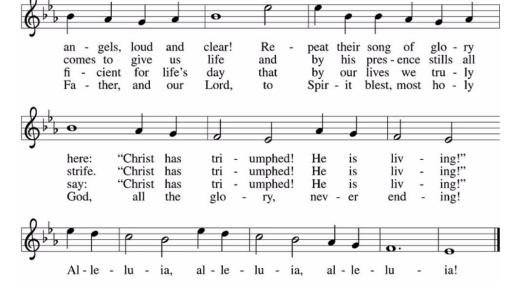
On the day after the Sabbath, at early dawn, the women who had prepared spices came to the tomb. They found the stone was rolled away from the tomb. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood beside them in clothes that were dazzling. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, and the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? Remember how he spoke to you while he was still in Galilee, saying that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise."

And the women were reminded of his words.

Returning from the tomb, they reported all this to the eleven disciples and to all the rest who were gathered there. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who said this to the apostles, but their message appeared to be nonsense, and no one believed their words.

Reader: The Word of the Lord! C: Thanks be to God!





P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you

P: Let us pray:

C: Creator of the Sun to rule by day and the moon to rule by night, as we marvel and revere the wonder of your Creation fill us with the wonder and marvel of the new creation that came on that first Easter and will come for us on the great Day of Resurrection. Bless your Church with the unity of faith that we will, one day, celebrate the Risen One together and guide us to finding ways to reflect that inevitable future in our life together as your people in the present, that others may come to know the life offered through the Gospel and the renewal of life we offer through our love in your name. We pray this in name of the one raised that we will live, Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

Nicene Creed: the 3rd Petition

P: One of the other divisions caused by the Nicene Creed, or more properly, the Nicene-Constantinopolitan version of the Creed is the later addition of the Filioque – "who proceeds from the Father and the Son." The original Nicene Creed only stated that, "who proceeds from the Father." The "and the Son" was added 300 years later by the Roman Catholic Church to respond to continued

heresies about the nature of the Trinity, but was not added by an Ecumenical Council. The Orthodox Church did not appreciate the Roman Catholic Church acting unilaterally – and arrogantly in the Orthodox Church's opinion – to make this change to the Creed and has never agreed to make it part of the version the Orthodox Church recites. This past year, in response to wanting to renew closer relations with the Orthodox Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America voted at our Churchwide Assembly to remove the Filiogue from the Lutheran recitation of the Creed – neither the Orthodox Church nor the Roman Catholic Church paid this gesture toward greater unity in the church any notice because it was also a poorly executed unilateral decision by our small, beloved, part of the whole Christian Church. While coming from the intentions of the heart, the change is loosely based on solid theological argument and understanding and, therefore, the Pastor of Grace has determined that removing it is not in the best interests of either ecumenism nor faithful confession of the trinitarian nature of God by our congregation. Therefore, we continue to confess . . .

C: We 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 worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

<u> Fourth lesson</u>

John 14

If you may wholistically-love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and the Father will give you another Advocate into the eons. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the cosmos is not empowered to receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will abide in you. I will not leave you orphaned - I come to you. Yet shortly the world will no longer see me - but you see me, because I live, and you will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. The one who has my commandments and is keeping them, that one is the one loving me - but the one loving me, will be loved by my Father, and I will love that one and will reveal myself to that one."

Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?"

Jesus answered him, "If someone may love me, they will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and will abide with them. Whoever is not loving me, is not keeping my words - and the word that you are hearing is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me. I have said these things to you while I am abiding with you, but the

Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and will remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I am leaving with you - my peace I am giving to you. I am not giving it to you as the world is giving it. Do not be shaken so that your heart becomes timid!

Reader: The Word of the Lord! C: Thanks be to God!



- 4 Not mere knowledge, but discernment, nor rootless liberty; turn disquiet to contentment, doubt into certainty. Refrain
- 5 Keep us fervent in our witness, unswayed by earth's allure. Ever grant us zealous fitness, which you alone assure. Refrain

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you

P: Let us pray:

C: Spirit of God, overflowing love of Father for Son and Son for Father, come, stir our faith, inspire our minds, soften our hearts, strengthen our voices, calm our anxieties, free us from fear and open our eyes to seeing all things from the evaluative point of view of the Faith. Amen.

Nicene Creed: the $3^{R\delta}$ Petition

P: The Creed ends with our confession that we believe that God intends the Church to be one, unified, universal community that maintains a historical continuity with the community Christ, himself, gathered around him as the first Church in the Apostles. We then confess that membership in the community comes through Baptism – necessary only once as God's call and claim on us that liberates us from sin. Unfortunately, this statement is yet another source of division within the Church as other Protestant communities pursue multiple baptisms as necessary, or beneficial, in response to continual lapses in faithful living. However, the Creed concludes with the hopeful confession that the imperfections of this world – and this Church – will come to an end and the world and Church God intends will have its time, finally. Therefore, we confess...

C: 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.

Lifth lesson

revelation 21

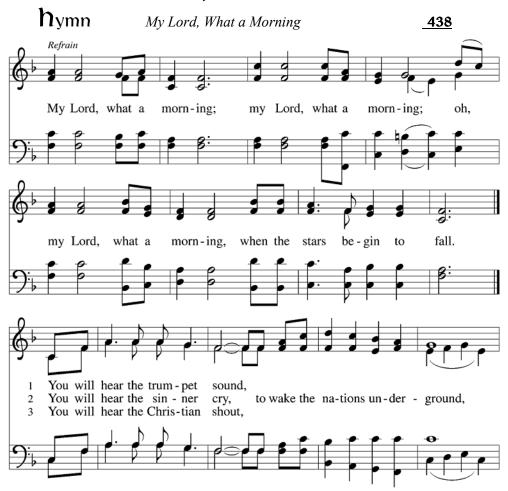
Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the tabernacle of God is among mortals.

God will tabernacle with them; they will be God's peoples, and God will be with them; God will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new."

He also said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

Reader: The Word of the Lord! C: Thanks be to God!





P: The Lord be with you C: And also with you

P: Let us pray:

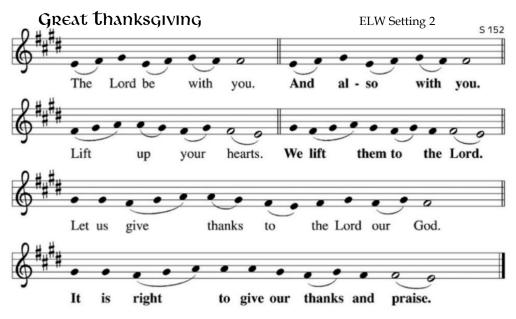
C: Alpha and Omega, beginning and end of all things, preserve your Church in these challenging times as you have always preserved your Church since the challenges the Apostles faced and overcame, renewing our steadfast endurance to persevere in our obedience to you command to baptize all the nations, our striving to overcome our divisions and our expectation of the resurrection in the life to come. We pray this in the name who breaks the boundaries of death and life, Jesus, the Christ. Amen.



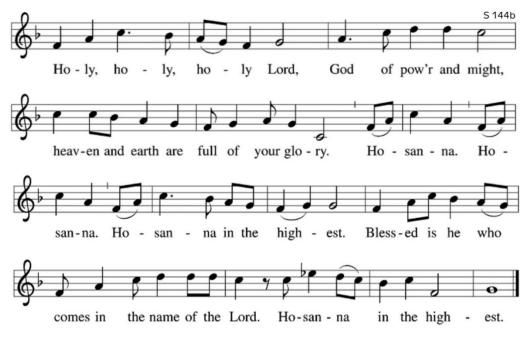


A: Let us Pray

C: Living God, we praise you for the abundant blessings of this life. In humble recognition of the love you always show to us, we bring these gifts and ourselves as our thanks. Use them and us to bear the fruit of goodness and grace so that your glory will be known to all. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

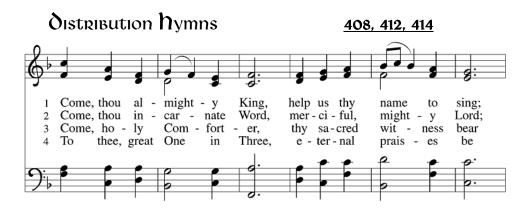


P: It is indeed . . .



the lord's prayer

C: 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. 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 now and forever. Amen.







but as the Three, in love and hope, made room with-in their dance when fear con-fines the dance in death, God rolls a - way the stone. go tell the world of weight and woe that we are free to move! to shape in song this joy, this life: the dance of Trin - i - ty.



Post Communion Blessing & Prayer Benediction





postlude & dismissal



Sunday November 9

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:45 a.m. Town Hall Meeting – in person & online

9:45 a.m. Sunday School & Post-Confirmation Student

Meeting

9:45 a.m. No Confirmation class

11:00 a.m. Worship

Monday November 10

9:30 a.m. Widowed Support Group

7:00 p.m. Social Ministry/Green Team Meeting

Tuesday November 11

6:30 a.m. Breakfast & Bible Study

11:00am Bible Study with Pastor Chris - in person or online

3:30 p.m. Bible Study Lite 101 w/ Pastor Chris

4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

7:00 p.m. Bible Study with Pastor Chris (online only)

Wednesday November 12

9:00 a.m. Piecemakers Quilting Group

Thursday November 13

7:30 p.m. Digital Committee Meeting

Sunday November 16

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School Family Advent Wreath Making Event

9:45 a.m. Confirmation class & Post-Confirmation Student Meeting

11:00 a.m. Worship

12:15 p.m. Annual Meeting in the sanctuary