

### ***INVOCATION***

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

### ***OPENING SENTENCES***

P “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord:

C **I will put My laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.**

P And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest.

C **For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.”**

P I was glad when they said to me,

C **“Let us go to the house of the Lord!”**

### ***HYMN Let Our Gladness Have No End (LSB 381)***

Let our gladness have no end, alleluia!

For to earth did Christ descend, alleluia! Refrain

Refrain: On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save us;  
Christ, His Son, to save us.

Prophesied in days of old, alleluia!

God has sent Him as foretold, alleluia! (Refrain)

See, the loveliest blooming rose, alleluia!

From the branch of Jesse grows, alleluia! (Refrain)

Into flesh is made the Word, alleluia!

He, our refuge and our Lord, alleluia! (Refrain)

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### ***CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION***

P Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our gracious and heavenly Father.

C **Eternal God, we confess that by nature we are sinful people. We have transgressed Your Law in many ways, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not always been wise in our thinking and our speaking and our actions. Our motives and thoughts have not always been pure. We deserve Your punishment now and for eternity. O God, in Your mercy forgive our sin and restore us to a full and joyful relationship with You, through the merits of Jesus, our Lord. Direct all that we do by Your Holy Spirit that in the year now beginning we joyfully follow Your will and gladly obey Your Commandments as Your redeemed people.**

P In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify

you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Be at peace.

**C Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*INTROIT* Psalm 147:1, 5, 11–12; antiphon: John 1:14

**C The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

*W Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.*

*M Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; His understanding is beyond measure.*

*W But the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His steadfast love.*

*M Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!*

**C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY***

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray. Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

***OLD TESTAMENT READING*** 1 Kings 3:4–15

The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.” And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?”

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and

my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”

And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

P This is the Word of the Lord

**C Thanks be to God!**

*EPISTLE* Ephesians 1:3–14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

P This is the Word of the Lord

**C Thanks be to God!**

*GRADUAL* Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a

**C To us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder. And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

**Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!**

*HOLY GOSPEL* Luke 2:40–52

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter

**C Glory to You, O Lord**

The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the group they went a day’s journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them

and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord

C **Praise to you, O Christ!**

### ***CHILDREN'S' MESSAGE***

***HYMN OF THE DAY*** *O God, My Faithful God (LSB 696)*

O God, my faithful God, True fountain ever flowing,  
Without whom nothing is, All perfect gifts bestowing:  
Give me a healthy frame, And may I have within  
A conscience free from blame, A soul unstained by sin.

Grant me the strength to do With ready heart and willing  
Whatever You command, My calling here fulfilling;  
That I do what I should While trusting You to bless  
The outcome for my good, For You must give success.

Keep me from saying words That later need recalling;  
Guard me lest idle speech May from my lips be falling;  
But when within my place I must and ought to speak,  
Then to my words give grace Lest I offend the weak.

Lord, let me win my foes With kindly words and actions,  
And let me find good friends For counsel and correction.  
Help me, as You have taught, To love both great and small  
And by Your Spirit's might To live in peace with all.

Let me depart this life Confiding in my Saviour;  
By grace receive my soul That it may live forever;  
And let my body have A quiet resting place  
Within a Christian grave; And let it sleep in peace.

And on that final day When all the dead are waking,  
Stretch out Your mighty hand, My deathly slumber breaking.  
Then let me hear Your voice, Redeem this earthly frame,  
And bid me to rejoice With those who love Your name.

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## *SERMON*

### *THE LWML PLEDGE*

**C “In fervent gratitude for the Saviour’s dying love and His blood-bought gift of redemption, we dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have; and in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields, we pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us. We consecrate to our Saviour: our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our voices to sing His praises, our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom, our will to do His will, and every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him. Amen.”**

### *HYMN Of the Father’s Love Begotten (LSB 384)*

Of the Father’s love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years shall see Evermore and evermore.

Oh, that birth forever blessèd, When the virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bore the Savior of our race,  
And the babe, the world’s Redeemer, First revealed His sacred face Evermore and evermore.

This is He whom seers in old time Chanted of with one accord,  
Whom the voices of the prophets Promised in their faithful word.  
Now He shines, the long-expected; Let creation praise its Lord Evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heav’n, adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing.  
Pow’rs, dominions, bow before Him And extol our God and King.  
Let no tongue on earth be silent, Ev’ry voice in concert ring Evermore and evermore.

Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,  
Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory Evermore and evermore. Amen.

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### *NICENE CREED*

**C 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.**

***PRAYER OF THE CHURCH***

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

We pray for the Church, that the light of the Gospel of salvation be proclaimed here and everywhere, the wisdom of God be honored and followed, and the gifts of God be treasured and shared. Lord of the Church,

**C in mercy, hear our prayer.**

**P** We pray as this New Year begins for our nation and for all of the people of the world, that there be an end to hostilities and that times of peacefulness and wellness everywhere prevail. Lord of all times and all people,

**C in mercy, hear our prayer.**

**P** We pray for our families and our neighbours. Help us to remember that each person in our lives is a precious gift from God. Guided by the Holy Spirit, help us to choose wisely how we invest our time in the coming weeks and find in our associations with God's people a source of mutual support and blessing. Lord of all generations,

**C in mercy, hear our prayer.**

**P** We pray for all sorts and conditions of people, especially making our petitions for the hospitalized and those who are shut in. We pray for those whose lives are in transition, the unemployed, those who are downcast or grieving, and for all those for whom our intercession is desired, [including . . .]. Lord of care and grace,

**C in mercy, hear our prayer.**

**P** As a community of the faithful gathered, we remember those who have shared the faith with us and now have departed this earthly life, especially those whose earthly lives came to an end in the past year. Direct our ways that we complete our journey of life in faith with divine wisdom to direct us. At the end of our days, bring us to rejoice together eternally with saints and angels and all the company of heaven in light everlasting. Lord of eternity,

**C in mercy, hear our prayer.**

**P:** Continue to bless the work of the LWML in our congregation and throughout Canada; bless your Church in all its efforts to reach out with the good news of Christ, so that the message of Your love would spread in word and deed, and we would see others who join to follow in Your steps. Lord of the ever-growing Kingdom,

**C in mercy, hear our prayer.**

**P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

**C Amen.**

***LORD'S PRAYER***

***DISMISSAL***

P The Almighty and Merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us.

**C Amen.**

***HYMN Take My Life and Let It Be (LSB 784)***

Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in ceaseless praise,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of Thy love;  
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee,  
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing Always, only for my King;  
Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from Thee,  
Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold, Not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect and use Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose,  
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no longer mine;  
Take my heart, it is Thine own, It shall be Thy royal throne,  
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store;  
Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee,  
Ever, only, all for Thee.

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