#### As We Gather

The images Jesus uses as He proclaims the kingdom of God often come from the world of agriculture. His parables are filled with plants and trees and birds and animals. Grapes, grapevines, and vineyards are all used as illustrations by Jesus as He teaches the people who are His first hearers and us also. As people who have been grafted as branches into Christ the Vine through Holy Baptism, we seek ways to strengthen that connection as the Holy Spirit works in and through us. We now nourish our faith as branches in Christ's vineyard as we grow in Him by Word and Sacrament.

Opening Hymn: LSB 912
"Christ Is Our Cornerstone"

1 Christ is our cornerstone,
On Him alone we build;
With His true saints alone
The courts of heav'n are filled.
On His great love
Our hopes we place
Of present grace
And joys above.

Opening Hymn: LSB 912 "Christ Is Our Cornerstone"

2 Here may we gain from heav'n
The grace which we implore,
And may that grace, once giv'n,
Be with us evermore
Until that day
When all the blest
To endless rest
Are called away.

Opening Hymn: LSB 912 "Christ Is Our Cornerstone"

3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise
These hallowed courts shall ring;
Our voices we will raise
The Three in One to sing
And thus proclaim
In joyful song,
Both loud and long,
That glorious name.

#### Invocation

- P In the name of the Father and of the 

  → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

# **Opening Sentences**

- The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him,
- in those who hope in His steadfast love.
- P Taste and see that the LORD is good!
- Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!
- P O LORD, how manifold are Your works!
- In wisdom have You made them all.
- P May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
- C may the LORD rejoice in His works.

# **Confession and Absolution**

- As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy. Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.
- O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your Law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being.

# **Confession and Absolution conclusion**

- Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.
- P God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.
- C Amen.
- As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your

#### **Confession and Absolution conclusion**

- P sins in the name of the Father and of the 

  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

#### Introit

- P A little while, and you will see Me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see Me.
- I will extol You, my God and King, and bless Your name forever and ever.
- P Every day I will bless You and praise Your name forever and ever.
- The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

## **Introit**

- P All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD, and all Your saints shall bless You!
- My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless His holy name forever and ever.

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.

P A little while, and you will see Me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see Me.

# **Kyrie** (spoken together)

C Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

# Salutation P The Lord be with you. And also with you.

# **Prayer of the Day**

- Detus pray.
  O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

# First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. <sup>27</sup>And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?"

#### Acts 8:26-40

And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth.

33In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."

<sup>34</sup>And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom ask you, does the prophet say this, about

#### Acts 8:26-40

himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup>And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found

#### Acts 8:26-40

himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

- I This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

# Epistle Lesson: 1 John 4:1-21

¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore they speak from the

# 1 John 4:1-21

world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup>We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love not that we have loved God but that he loved us

#### 1 John 4:1-21

and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

13By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.
14And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.
15Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides

#### 1 John 4:1-21

in love abides in God, and God abides in him. <sup>17</sup>By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. <sup>21</sup>And this commandment we have from him: whoever

# 1 John 4:1-21

loves God must also love his brother.

- **I** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

#### Holy Gospel: John 15:1-8

- The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.
- **G** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me

#### John 15:1-8

am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

#### John 15:1-8

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day: LSB 474 "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen"

1 Alleluia!
Jesus is risen!
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, Heaven forever!
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

Refrain: Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Hymn of the Day: LSB 474 "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen"

3 Jesus the vine,
We are the branches;
Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
Heaven to earth,
Christ to the people,
Gift of the future now flowing to me.

Refrain: Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia! Hymn of the Day: LSB 474 "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen"

4 Weeping, be gone; Sorrow, be silent:
Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing: "O grave, be open!"
Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light.

Refrain: Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Sermon

**Confession of Faith: Nicene Creed** 

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 onlybegotten 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;

#### **Nicene Creed**

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.

#### **Nicene Creed**

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** 

# Offering

# **Preface** spoken responsively)

- P The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **©** We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

# **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

P Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and have showed Your gracious power to us through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. We give You thanks that in His most Holy Supper You nourish us that we may grow in grace. Grant that we may receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood as we gather at His command. To You alone,

# **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

- P O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

# **Words of Our Lord**

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My

→ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

## **Words of Our Lord**

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My → blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

#### **Proclamation of Christ**

- As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- Remembering Your mercy, O Lord, and how our Savior suffered upon the cross, died the death that was ours to die, rose to bestow upon us the life that death cannot overcome, ascended to the glory of the Father's right hand, and sent forth the Spirit to lead us into faith, we pray You to bring conclusion all that our Savior began and

#### **Proclamation of Christ**

deliver us to that everlasting life and light in heaven forevermore. Hear us as we pray with one voice the prayer He has taught us:

# **Lord's Prayer**

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.

# **Lord's Prayer**

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

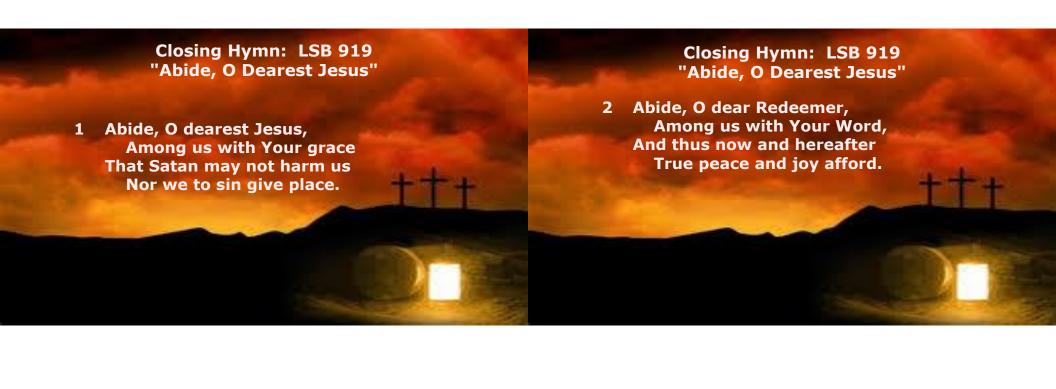


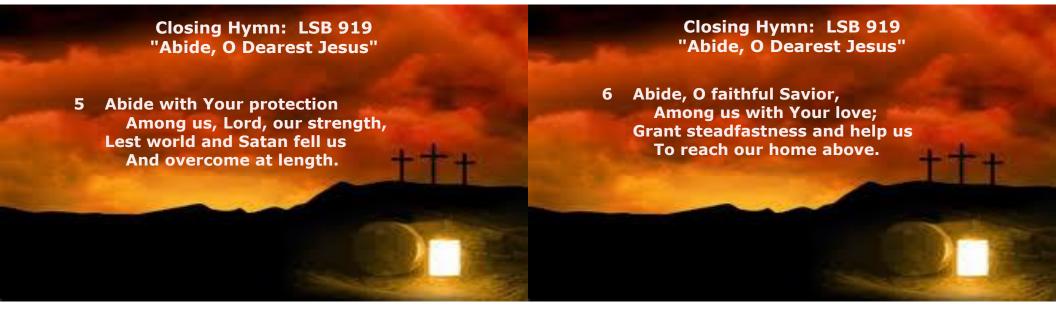
# **Post-Communion Thanksgiving**

- Let us pray, Holy Father, we ask You now, by this blessed food and drink, to deliver Your Church from every evil, to teach it to love You perfectly, and to make it truly one, even as this bread was made from many grains of wheat to become the carrier of the body of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and the wine was drawn from the fruitfulness of many grapes. Grant that we ever abide in the Word, Christ Himself, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
- C Amen.

## Benediction

- The Lord bless you and keep you.
   The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and 
   if give you peace.
- C Amen.







# **Acknowledgments - Do Not Remove**

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