

GATHERING

Thanksgiving for Baptismp.119
Gathering Song: All Are Welcome#641
 OR *O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate*#722
Apostolic Greeting; Kyrie; Glory to God p.120

Prayer of the Day:

Life-giving God—you come to us, as we are and where we are, knowing our deepest secrets and shame—and you love us without reservation. Your compassion and kindness heals us and makes us whole. Through your love we are called to be advocates seeking justice for the oppressed, as we welcome and serve others, loving them as ourselves. May our lives be signs of your grace as we follow the way of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Hymn: Light Dawns on a Weary World #726
 OR *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*#712

WORD

First Lesson: Micah 6:6–8

Children’s Message

Psalms 146

Second Lesson: Romans 12:9–21

Gospel Acclamation p.124

Gospel: Mark 12:28–34

Adult Meditation

Written by National Bishop Susan C. Johnson

Hymn of the Day: Christ Be Our Light #715
 OR *When the Poor Ones*#725

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God the Creator, who loves the world and says it is good.

We believe in Jesus Christ—the presence of God embodied and among us. Jesus walks with the lonely; eats with sinners; feeds the hungry; forgives the unforgivable; and continues to show us the way. He calls us to a life that death cannot end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit of God, who has spoken through the prophets and continues to urge us to live fully and honestly—seeking justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly, as a forgiven and forgiving people whose joy gives life.

We believe in the church as community. Though flawed and imperfect, the church offers a place for everyone. We believe that Christ is among us and leads us to give ourselves away in love. We believe we are called to choose hope, to resist evil, to advocate for the oppressed, and to rejoice in the gift of life. Amen.

Prayers of the People response: *Hear our prayer.*

Sharing of the Peace p.128

Offering

Offering Hymn: Take My Life #583
 OR *Here I Am, Lord*#574

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

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SENDING

Blessingp.221

Sending Hymn: We Are Called#720
 OR *Let Streams of Living Justice*#710

Dismissalp.222

LESSONS:

Micah 6:6-8

'With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?'

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Psalms 146

Refrain: I will sing praises to God, who lifts up those who are bowed down.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

Refrain: I will sing praises to God, who lifts up those who are bowed down.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith for ever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

Refrain: I will sing praises to God, who lifts up those who are bowed down.

The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. The Lord will reign for ever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

Refrain: I will sing praises to God, who lifts up those who are bowed down.

Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Mark 12:28-34

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