

## The Humbled Servant

### As We Gather

Jesus' disciples did not understand the prophecy about His death and resurrection. They focused, instead, on their personal greatness. So, He inverted their viewpoint, using a child to explain that true greatness is in humble servanthood, in welcoming even children (then considered to be without status). But our inner passions rebel and war against such servanthood, as James explains in the Epistle. Fortunately, by the gracious gift of faith, in place of personal struggles, we can rely on God, as Jeremiah does in the Old Testament Reading and David in today's psalm. Our Lord is the humblest and therefore greatest Servant, and by His death and resurrection He has proclaimed that God's grace knows no bounds. Confidently, we can follow Him in humble servanthood each day.

## PREPARATION

### 807 When Morning Gilds the Skies

*sts. 1–4*

- 1 When morning gilds the skies,  
My heart, awaking, cries,  
    “May Jesus Christ be praised!”  
When evening shadows fall,  
This rings my curfew call:  
    “May Jesus Christ be praised!”
- 2 When mirth for music longs,  
This is my song of songs:  
    “May Jesus Christ be praised!”  
God's holy house of prayer  
Hath none that can compare  
    With “Jesus Christ be praised!”
- 3 No lovelier antiphon  
In all high heav'n is known  
    Than “Jesus Christ be praised!”  
There to the\_ eternal Word  
The\_ eternal psalm is heard:  
    “May Jesus Christ be praised!”
- 4 Ye nations of mankind,  
In this your concord find:  
    “May Jesus Christ be praised!”  
Let all the earth around  
Ring joyous with the sound:  
    “May Jesus Christ be praised!”

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### Invocation

- P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**

### Confession and Absolution

*James 3:18; 4:5–6, 8; Psalm 54:1–2, 4, 6*

- P In today's Epistle, James urges, “Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” Let us go to God, echoing David's words in Psalm 54, appointed for today.

- P O God, save me, by Your name,  
C **and vindicate me by Your might.**
- P O God, hear my prayer;  
C **give ear to the words of my mouth.**

P James' words in today's Epistle guide our confession. Gracious God,  
C **we confess that as we have desired friendship with the world, we forget that it would mean enmity with God. We confess that our passions are at war within us. We have had bitter jealousy and selfish ambition inside us. In all humility, we come to You, holy Lord, seeking Your peace to calm the war within us.**

P God has not given up on you! He yearns jealously over the spirit that He has made to dwell in us. Indeed, He gives more grace. James writes, "A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace," and in His death and resurrection, Jesus gave us His righteousness and established peace between us and God. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Behold, God is my helper;  
C **the Lord is the upholder of my life.**

P With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to You;  
C **I will give thanks to Your name, O LORD, for it is good.**

### Kyrie

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  
C **Amen.**

### Salutation

P The Lord be with you.  
C **And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

O God, whose strength is made perfect in weakness,  
C **grant us humility and childlike faith that we may please You in both will and deed;**

P through 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

*Jeremiah 11:18–20*

<sup>18</sup>The LORD made it known to me and I knew;  
then you showed me their deeds.

<sup>19</sup>But I was like a gentle lamb  
led to the slaughter.

I did not know it was against me  
they devised schemes, saying,  
"Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,

let us cut him off from the land of the living,  
that his name be remembered no more.”  
<sup>20</sup>But, O LORD of hosts, who judges righteously,  
who tests the heart and the mind,  
let me see your vengeance upon them,  
for to you have I committed my cause.

L This is the Word of the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

### Gradual

*Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.*

P Fear the LORD, you His saints,  
C **for those who fear Him lack nothing!**

P Many are the afflictions of the righteous,  
C **but the LORD delivers him out of them all.**

### Epistle

*James 3:13—4:10*

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. <sup>16</sup>For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

<sup>1</sup>What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. <sup>4</sup>You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. <sup>5</sup>Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? <sup>6</sup>But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup>Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup>Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

L This is the Word of the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

### Holy Gospel

*Mark 9:30–37*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the ninth chapter.  
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>30</sup>[The disciples] went on from there and passed through Galilee. And [Jesus] did not want anyone to know, <sup>31</sup>for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise.” <sup>32</sup>But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup>And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you discussing on the way?” <sup>34</sup>But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.” <sup>36</sup>And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.”

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

### 772 In Holy Conversation

1 In holy conversation  
We speak to God in prayer,

And at His invitation  
Our deepest thoughts we share.  
We come, His will obeying,  
As children bringing needs;  
And to support our praying,  
His Spirit intercedes.

2 These holy conversations  
Begin in childlike ways;  
We bring our supplications  
And words of thanks and praise.  
With care our Father listens  
To ev'ry thought expressed,  
Then answers our petitions  
In ways He knows are best.

3 As holy conversation,  
In silence or by word,  
In ev'ry situation  
Through Jesus, we are heard.  
So let us pray securely,  
Expressing hopes and fears  
With confidence that surely  
Our Father ever hears.

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## Sermon

## 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 Using the promptings of James in the Epistle, let us pray for the nations around the world, the Church wherever it is found, and for ourselves here in this place.

Wherever nations quarrel and plunge toward war, O God, open the ears of their leaders to hear the wisdom from above and pursue peace.

C **Move them to find joy in humble service.**

P Wherever international alliances, national leaders, and groups within society follow the lead of their selfish ambitions at the expense of the downtrodden and forgotten people across borders and in their midst, O God, give both citizens and their leaders hearts that are open to reason, full of mercy, impartial and sincere.

C **Grant that peace break out across borders and justice within them.**

P Whenever the Church is fraught with boasting, falsehoods, and schisms, O God, send Your Holy Spirit to use Word and Sacrament to bring clergy and lay leaders to repentance.

C **Embolden them to announce with one voice the victory Your Son won for us all.**

P Wherever people respond to illness, accident, injustice, and discrimination, O God, strengthen them to rely on You for protection in all circumstances.

C **Guide them to make decisions in wisdom and to sow righteousness in peace.**

P Whenever our conduct betrays worldly jealousy and selfish ambition, O God, turn our laughter to mourning and our joy to gloom until we recognize Your unending grace.

C **Help us seek to meet the needs of the people around us in humble service.**

P Wherever people call out to You in their distress, [*especially . . .*], O God, visit, relieve, heal, and console them according to Your gracious will.

C **Use us as part of Your answers to their fervent prayers.**

P Whenever we pridefully seek to solve our problems by our own strength, O God, remind us of Your faithfulness, constant presence, and gracious protection for Jesus' sake.

C **Show us how to humbly serve the people around us as You have served us.**

P Heavenly Father, hear us and all for whom we pray, as we rely on Your gracious plans for all we need;

C **through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

### Offering

## SACRAMENT

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## The 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 T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

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 T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## 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;  
and 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  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## Distribution Hymns

### 633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

*sts. 1-6*

- 1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing  
Praise to our victorious King,  
Who has washed us in the tide  
Flowing from His piercèd side.  
Alleluia!
- 2 Praise we Him, whose love divine  
Gives His sacred blood for wine,  
Gives His body for the feast—  
Christ the victim, Christ the priest.  
Alleluia!
- 3 Where the paschal blood is poured,  
Death's dread angel sheathes the sword;  
Israel's hosts triumphant go  
Through the wave that drowns the foe.  
Alleluia!
- 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,  
Paschal victim, paschal bread;  
With sincerity and love  
Eat we manna from above.  
Alleluia!
- 5 Mighty Victim from the sky,  
Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;  
You have conquered in the fight,  
You have brought us life and light.  
Alleluia!

- 6 Now no more can death appall,  
Now no more the grave enthrall;  
You have opened paradise,  
And Your saints in You shall rise.

Alleluia!

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### Post-Communion Thanksgiving

- P O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament,  
C **and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You;**
- P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
C **Amen.**

### Benediction

- P 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 T give you peace.  
C **Amen.**

### 923 Almighty Father, Bless the Word

- 1 Almighty Father, bless the Word  
Which through Your grace we now have heard.  
Oh, may the precious seed take root,  
Spring up, and bear abundant fruit!
- 2 We praise You for the means of grace  
As homeward now our steps we trace.  
Grant, Lord, that we who worshiped here  
May all at last in heav'n appear.
- D 3 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

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### Dismissal

- P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God!**

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