

ORDER OF SERVICE

LOVE IN CHRIST IS STRONG AND LIVING



1 Love in Christ is strong and liv - ing,
2 Love is pa - tient and for - bear - ing,
3 Love in Christ a - bides for - ev - er,



Bind - ing faith - ful hearts in one;
Clothed in Christ's hu - mil - i - ty,
Faint - ing not when ills at - tend;



Love in Christ is true and giv - ing—
Gen - tle, self - less, kind, and car - ing,
Love, for - giv - ing and for - giv - en,



May his will in us be done!
Reach - ing out in char - i - ty.
Shall en - dure un - til life's end.

Text: Dorothy R. Schultz, b. 1934. © 1980 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Tune: DOROTHY (87.87) Ralph C. Schultz, b. 1932. © 1980 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.
Used by permission.

STAND

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are



they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -



ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -



ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -



ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.



Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

M: Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BE SEATED

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 7:8-13 NIV

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “When Pharaoh says to you, ‘Perform a miracle,’ then say to Aaron, ‘Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh,’ and it will become a snake.”

So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did just as the Lord commanded. Aaron threw his staff down in front of Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a snake. Pharaoh then summoned wise men and sorcerers, and the Egyptian magicians also did the same things by their secret arts: Each one threw down his staff and it became a snake. But Aaron’s staff swallowed up their staffs. Yet Pharaoh’s heart became hard and he would not listen to them, just as the Lord had said.

PSALM 71

Refrain



Bless-ed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

Psalm tone



In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge;^{*}
let me never be put to shame.

Rescue me and deliver me in your righteousness;^{*}
turn your ear to me and save me.

Be my rock of refuge to which I can always go;^{*}
For you are my rock and my fortress.

Refrain

Since my youth, O God, you have taught me,^{*}
and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds.

Even when I am old and gray,^{*}
do not forsake me, O God,

till I declare your power to the next generation,^{*}
your might to all who are to come.

**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.**

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 5:21-31 NIV

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church— for we are members of his body. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. Jesus Christ has destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Alleluia. (2 Timothy 1:10b cf. NIV)



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

STAND

GOSPEL

John 6:60-69 NIV

On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"

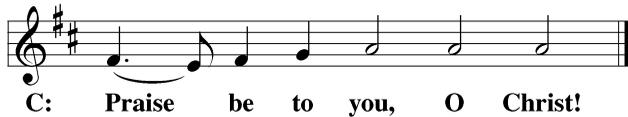
Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him."

From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

"You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve.

Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



BE SEATED

LORD
TO WHOM
SHALL WE GO?
YOU HAVE THE WORDS
OF ETERNAL LIFE.

LOVE IS THE GRACIOUS GIFT



1 Love is the gra - cious gift of your good - ness;
2 You loved me first, Lord, send - ing me Je - sus.
3 Love means for - give - ness, pa - tience, and kind - ness;
4 Love in a mar - riage, love free - ly giv - en,
5 Love a - mong Chris - tians, love in the fam - 'ly,



Love is the pa - tient fruit of your care;
Then I re - spond - ed, trust - ing your Son.
Love is not jeal - ous, boast - ful, or rude.
Love of a hus - band, love of a wife—
Love for the Sav - ior, whose blood was shed,



Love is the gen - tle work of your Spir - it,
Now you in - vite me to love my neigh - bor,
Love en - dures all things, bear - ing, be - liev - ing;
Made to con - tin - ue, blos - som, and flour - ish,
Love and sub - mis - sion one to an - oth - er



Who is the source of love ev - 'ry - where.
Show - ing your true love to ev - 'ry - one.
Love hopes for - ev - er, re - joic - es in truth.
Grow ev - er deep - er through - out this life.
As un - to Christ, who reigns as our head.

Text: Donald E. Smith, b. 1952, alt. © 1985 Donald E. Smith. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Tune: BUNESSAN (Irregular) Gaelic melody, 19th century.

SERMON

“See Christ in Marriage”

Ephesians 5:21-31

1. For how he loves his Church
2. For how we honor our Head

STAND

APOSTLES' CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

BE SEATED

OFFERING

STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: O Lord, our God, you are wise and powerful, good and gracious. Your mercies are new every morning. Each day you open your hand and provide for the needs of your children on earth.

C: **We praise you for every grace and blessing.**

M: Strengthen your Church in all the world. Let your comforting message of salvation in Christ Jesus be proclaimed to troubled souls everywhere.

C: **Use our ministries and offerings to extend your healing and your hope.**

M: We bring you our requests for the various structures of our society. Bless our national, state, and local governments.

C: **Grant us civil servants who are worthy of honor and respect.**

M: Grant prosperity to our businesses and industries. Give employers a sense of fairness toward their workers, and employees a feeling of joy and pride in their workmanship.

C: **Help us find satisfaction in all work well done.**

M: Invigorate the schools of our land. Give success to every effort that helps students read, think, and communicate in ways that will promote an informed and responsible citizenry. Arouse curious minds to discover the wonders of your created order.

C: **Give us teachers and students who pursue excellence.**

M: Strengthen the families of our country. Give fathers and mothers a renewed commitment to be good parents. Give children and young people the wisdom to regard their parents as your representatives.

C: **Lead us to love one another as you have loved us.**

SPECIAL PRAYERS AND INTERCESSIONS MAY FOLLOW

M: Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught, with the confidence that you will hear and with the faith that you will respond for our welfare.

C: **Amen.**

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.

CLOSING PRAYER

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people.
Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and
bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.



THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION



1 The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er
 3 The Church shall nev - er per - ish. Her dear Lord,
 4 Though with a scorn - ful won - der The world sees
 5 Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult



Christ, her Lord; She is his new cre - a - tion By
 all the earth; Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One
 to de - fend, To guide, sus - tain, and cher - ish, Is
 her op - pressed, By schisms rent a - sun - der, By
 of her war She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of



wa - ter and the Word. From heav'n he came and
 Lord, one faith, one birth. One ho - ly name she
 with her to the end. Though there be those that
 her - e - sies dis - tressed, Yet saints their watch are
 peace for - ev - er - more Till with the vi - sion



sought her To be his ho - ly bride; With his own
 bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food, And to one
 hate her And strive to see her fail, A - gainst both
 keep - ing; Their cry goes up, "How long?" And soon the
 glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest And the great



blood he bought her, And for her life he died.
 hope she press - es, With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 foe and trai - tor She ev - er shall pre - vail.
 night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.
 Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.