

**Opening Hymn: The God of Abram praise**

The God of Abram praise  
who reigns enthroned above,  
Ancient of everlasting Days,  
and God of love:  
to him uplift your voice  
at whose supreme command  
from earth we rise and seek the joys  
at his right hand.

The God who reigns on high  
the great archangels sing,  
and 'Holy, holy, holy' cry  
'Almighty King!  
Who was and is the same,  
and evermore shall be:  
eternal Father, great I AM,  
we worship thee.'

The whole triumphant host  
give thanks to God on high;  
hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
they ever cry:  
hail, Abram's God, and mine!  
(I join the heavenly lays)  
all might and majesty are thine,  
and endless praise.

*Leoni 148 NEH*

**The Welcome, Notices, Confession, and Kyrie**

**The Collect**

Almighty God,  
you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,  
that they may return to the way of righteousness:  
grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion,  
that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession,  
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;  
through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

**The New Testament Reading**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Romans 4: 13–25*

Gradual: Lent Prose

*Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.*

O thou chief Corner-stone, Right Hand of the Father:  
Way of Salvation, Gate of Life Celestial:  
cleanse thou our sinful souls from all defilement.

God, we implore thee, in thy glory seated:                      Sins oft committed now we lay before thee:  
bow down and hearken to thy weeping children:                with true contrition, now no more we veil them:  
Pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses.                      grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution.

*Mode v 507 NEH*

The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' And he called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*St Mark 8:31–end*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon

The Creed:

Let us declare our faith in the living God.

**We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

The Prayers of Intercession *and* The Peace

Offertory Hymn: **Take up thy cross**

Take up thy cross, the Saviour said,  
if thou wouldst my disciple be;  
deny thyself, the world forsake,  
and humbly follow after me.

Take up thy cross; let not its weight  
fill thy weak spirit with alarm;  
his strength shall bear thy spirit up,  
and brace thy heart, and nerve thine arm.

Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame,  
nor let thy foolish pride rebel;  
the Lord for thee the Cross endured,  
to save thy soul from death and hell.

Take up thy cross then in his strength,  
and calmly every danger brave;  
'twill guide thee to a better home,  
and lead to victory o'er the grave.

Take up thy cross, and follow Christ,  
nor think till death to lay it down;  
for only he who bears the cross  
may hope to wear the glorious crown.

To thee, great Lord, the One in Three,  
all praise for evermore ascend;  
O grant us in our home to see  
the heavenly life that knows no end.

*Breslau 76 NEH*

**Anthem: Lord, for they tender mercy's sake**

Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake, lay not our sins to our charge,  
but forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives:  
to decline from sin and incline to virtue, that we may walk in a perfect heart,  
before thee now and evermore. Amen.

*attributed to Richard Farrant (c 1530–80)*

**Communion Hymn: From heaven you came**

From heaven you came, helpless babe,  
entered our world, your glory veiled;  
not to be served but to serve,  
and give your life that we might live.

*Refrain: This is our God, the Servant King,  
he calls us now to follow him,  
to bring our lives as a daily offering  
of worship to the Servant King.*

There in the garden of tears,  
my heavy load he chose to bear;  
his heart with sorrow was torn,  
'Yet not my will but yours,' he said.

Come, see his hands and his feet,  
the scars that speak of sacrifice,  
hands that flung stars into space  
to cruel nails surrendered.

*Refrain:*

*Refrain:*

So let us learn how to serve,  
and in our lives enthrone him;  
each other's needs to prefer,  
for it is Christ we're serving.

*Refrain:*

*Servant King 489 AM*

**Dismissal: In Christ alone**

In Christ alone my hope is found,  
he is my light, my strength, my song;  
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,  
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my All in All,  
here in the love of Christ I stand.

There in the ground his body lay,  
light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then bursting forth in glorious day  
up from the grave he rose again!  
And as he stands in victory  
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
for I am his and he is mine—  
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
this is the power of Christ in me;  
from life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
can ever pluck me from his hand:  
till he returns or calls me home,  
here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

678 AM