

Thank you for serving your church in this way and for sharing God's word with your sisters and brothers. A few reminders:

- Practice the readings beforehand.
- Please arrive at least ten minutes before your scheduled service. "A Guide to Pronouncing Biblical Names" book is located in the Pastor's Sacristy, the small room on the right hand side at the front of the Sanctuary. If, after consulting the book, you still need help with any pronunciations, Pastor can help you.
- You may sit in one of the right-side altar chairs until it is time to read, or you may come forward prior to the Prayer of the Day.
- When speaking, please project your voice and make sure you are speaking as loudly and clearly as possible.
- The lessons may be introduced simply by saying,

"The Old Testament Reading is from the number chapter of book."

After the lesson the reader says, "The Word of the Lord." And congregation responds, "Thanks be to God."

"The New Testament Reading is from the number chapter of book."

After the lesson the reader says, "The Word of the Lord." And congregation responds, "Thanks be to God."

Thank you again for serving. Your contribution to worship is appreciated by all!

INTRODUCTION

It is possible to hear in Jesus' high priestly prayer, a prayer he offered shortly before his death, the petitions of the ascended Lord for his own throughout history—to our day—and beyond. Jesus prays for us. In holy baptism we become believers in God, have our robes washed in the flood of Christ's forgiveness, and receive the gift of life forever with all the saints.

READINGS

Colossians 3:12-17

Psalm 97

Revelation 22:12–14, 16–17, 20–21

John 17:20–26

FIRST READING: Colossians 3:12-17

¹²As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Ⓐ The Word of the Lord. ☩ Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 97

¹The LORD is king; let the ¹ earth rejoice;
let the multitude of the ¹ isles be glad.

²Clouds and darkness are ¹ round about him,
righteousness and justice are the foundations ¹ of his throne.

³A fire ¹ goes before him
and burns up his enemies on ¹ every side.

⁴His lightnings light ¹ up the world;
the earth sees it and ¹ is afraid.

⁵The mountains melt like wax at the presence ¹ of the LORD,
at the presence of the Lord of ¹ the whole earth.

⁶The heavens de-¹clare his righteousness,
and all the peoples ¹ see his glory.

⁷Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight ¹ in false gods!
Bow down before him, ¹ all you gods.

⁸Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Ju-¹dah rejoice,
because of your judg-¹ments, O LORD.

⁹For you are the LORD, most high over ¹ all the earth;
you are exalted far a-¹bove all gods.

¹⁰The LORD loves those ¹ who hate evil;
he preserves the lives of his saints and delivers them from the hand ¹ of the wicked.

¹¹Light has sprung up ¹ for the righteous,
and joyful gladness for those who ¹ are truehearted.

¹²Rejoice in the ¹ LORD, you righteous,
and give thanks to his ¹ holy name.

SECOND READING: Revelation 22:12–14, 16–17, 20–21

The ascended Christ, hidden from our sight, promises to come again. We eagerly pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," with all who respond to this invitation.

¹²See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

¹⁴Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates. ¹⁶It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

¹⁷The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let everyone who hears say, "Come." And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift."

²⁰The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! ²¹The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

A The Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 17:20–26

Jesus prays that the life of his followers will be characterized by an intimate unity of identity with God. To be so identified with God means also to share in God's mission: to proclaim the word that will bring others into this same unity.

²⁰I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

²²The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

²⁵Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

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