



**Prelude**

**“Rock of Ages”**

# **CALL TO WORSHIP**

(from Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16)

One: Come and worship God, the Almighty.

**Many: Come and tell of God's glorious  
deeds!**

One: It is the Lord who divided the sea;

**Many: it is God who led the people day  
and night.**

One: God made streams come out of  
the rock,

**Many: so that waters flowed down like  
rivers.**

One: We will tell of the things we have  
heard and known;

**Many: we will share God's wonders  
with each generation.**

**All: Let us worship God!**

# **Gathering Prayer**

# **Call to Confession**

(from Ezek. 18:30-32)

One: On the journey of life, our sins weigh us down. So God invites us to cast them away - to seek a new heart and a new spirit! In this time of silent confession, I invite you to be honest with God about what is weighing you down today.

One: Please continue in silent confession.

One: Amen.

# **We Are Forgiven!**

(from Rom. 8:34)

One: Sisters and brothers, hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ. And Christ died for us; Christ rose for us; Christ reigns in power for us; and Christ prays for us.!



Friends, believe the good news of the  
gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**All: Thank you Lord, Amen**

# A Time for Children



# **First Scripture Reading**

**Exodus 17:1-7**

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

The people quarreled with Moses, and said,  
“Give us water to drink.” Moses said to  
them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why  
do you test the Lord?”

But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?”

So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.”

The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.”



Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

# **Matthew 21:23-27**

## **“Testing”**

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?”

Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?”

And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.”

So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.”

And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you  
by what authority I am doing these things.



**Affirmation of Faith**  
**(The Apostles' Creed)**



**I BELIEVE in God the Father, Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, dead, and buried;**

**he descended into hell;**

**the third day he rose again from the dead;**

**he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on**

**the right hand of God the Father Almighty;**

**from thence he shall come to judge**

**the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic Church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

# **Prayers of the People**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**Invitation to Offering**

**Ministry Announcements**

# **Charge and Blessing**

(from Psalm 114:7-8 and 2 Cor. 13-14)

One: Depart in peace, in the presence and the power of the Lord who turns hard rock into a pool of water and flint stone into a flowing stream.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus  
Christ, the love of God, and the  
communion of the Holy Spirit be with  
us all!

**All: Alleluia, Amen!**

# **Postlude**

**“O the Deep, Deep  
Love of Jesus”**



