



Pompton Reformed Church

Liturgy for January 24

Call to Worship

With the pressing crowds, searching for healing and hope,

We wish to see Jesus.

With the pushed out and cast aside, with the lonely lost, stripped of pride,

We wish to see Jesus.

With those who seek mystery and meaning, wisdom and grace,

We wish to see Jesus.

Lord, let our souls rise to meet you as the day rises to meet the sun.

Glory 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.

Song: Come Thou Fount

Prayer of Confession

God of Mercy and Grace,

you come to us in Jesus of Nazareth

to break down the dividing walls of hostility between us:

Yet we maintain walls that separate and isolate.

You give us the ministry of reconciliation,

Yet we withhold mercy and forgiveness.

You ask us to acknowledge and share our wealth,

Yet we refuse to recognize and relieve the poverty around us.

You bless our lives with boundless love,

Yet we fail to witness to that love,

and so keep others from knowing you.

Forgive our selfishness, we pray.

Transform us by your Spirit and your Word

into the image of Christ. **Amen.**

Words of Assurance

As it says in Psalm 103, "the Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in love. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has

compassion on those who fear him. For he knows how we are formed, and he remembers that we are dust.”

Friends, may the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Living the Way of Jesus

As followers of Jesus, our lives are shaped by the grace and peace we have been given. As we see his life, our own lives are changed. Hear these words from the Gospels.

Once, someone asked Jesus, “What is the greatest commandment in The Bible?” Jesus replied, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. And love your neighbor as yourself.” Let us live the way of love. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People and Lord’s Prayer

Sermon Text: John 6:30-39

Sermon Title: “The Bread of Life”

³⁰ So they asked him, “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’^[a]”

³² Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

³⁴ “Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.”

³⁵ Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. ³⁶ But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. ³⁷ All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰ For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

Communion

Friends of the Lord Jesus Christ, the holy meal which we are about to celebrate is a feast of remembrance, of communion, and of hope.

We come to remember that our Lord Jesus Christ was sent by the Father into the world so that we may forever be in relationship with him. We come to have communion with this same Christ who has promised to be with us always, even to the end of the world. We come in hope, believing that this is just a preview of a greater feast where we will be united with those who have gone before us and we will see God face to face.

We know that this is a deep mystery, yet this is the center of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

Jesus said, I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. Here is the bread of life given for us; let all who hunger come and eat. Here is the fruit of the vine, poured out for us; let all who thirst come and drink. Sister/Brother, the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

The Lord Jesus, the same night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you: do this in remembrance of me." After that, he took the cup and lifted it, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. When you drink, do it in remembrance of me." The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ. The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ. Everyone is invited to this table. So come, if you hunger for a better world. Come, if you thirst for restoration and wholeness. And come, if you long to experience the presence of God in your life. Come when ready.

So take, eat, remember and believe that the body and the blood of Christ was given for the complete forgiveness of all our sins.

(Partake in the elements when ready)

Benediction