

HEARTS



HEAR

MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23

Call to Worship

Leader: Sin is always at work to counteract the good news of Christ.

People: But thanks be to God, the church is always at work, too! And we are glad to be a part of it.

Leader: Amen! No matter how ineffective our efforts may seem, there is always fertile soil which bears fruit for our labors.

People: We will continue to sow the seed of faith, convinced that many will be receptive and come into our Lord's kingdom.

Call to Worship

Prayer of Confession:

We are easily discouraged, Father, when we look back a few years and see how the church used to be the center of community life.

We feel the church today is on the other edge of existence for many people, and defeat haunts our aspirations.

Call to Worship

**Forgive us for submitting to such hopelessness,
when Christ has assured us of victory.**

**Lead us through our barren valley of depression
to the fertile soil where hearts are waiting to be
won to Christ our Savior through whom we
pray. Amen.**

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 Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead,
and buried;

the third day he rose
from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at 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 Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Glory Be to the Father

WORDS: Lesser Doxology, 3rd-4th cent.

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Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen. Amen.