

## Light a candle

## Sign of the cross

In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## Sing

“It is Well with My Soul” - [https://youtu.be/AHe\\_qmo3gX4](https://youtu.be/AHe_qmo3gX4)

“Build Your Kingdom Here” – Rend Collective

<https://youtu.be/DqZX08DDWiA>

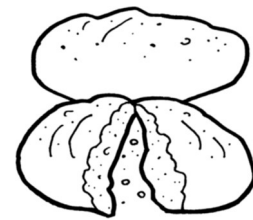
“Days of Elijah” – Robin Mark <https://youtu.be/ca9LnzJnpjQ>

“Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me” – Selah <https://youtu.be/rNXd0KQaYXg>

## God’s Word

Read: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



## Reflection

Corinth was an ancient Greek city, a Roman colony, an important sea port and a hub of transportation and trade. It was a city of great diversity in culture, religion, philosophy, social status and morality. When Paul spread the good news in Corinth people from various backgrounds responded and formed the Church. As a result many different ideas were held or circulated within this new congregation. After Paul’s departure the congregation became confused with the different ideas and broke into four main groups, each group claiming allegiance to their own ‘leader’ and with their own focus. Very briefly these groups might be described as follows: the legalists who focused on the law, the libertines who focused on freedom, the philosophers who were heavily influenced by Greek philosophy, and the mystics who saw themselves as super-spiritual and sought mystical or magical experiences.\* Paul knew that these confused and divided people could not be brought back together by his own efforts. Christ alone can unite his Church. Before addressing the problematic attitudes and behaviour of the people, Paul repeated the teaching of unity in Christ - that Jesus Christ is the one true foundation of his Church. This teaching is just as relevant to the Christian Church today. The Church is not about allegiance to a particular person or philosophy. The Church is the body of Christ. The foundation is Christ, the head is Christ, and all authority has been given to Christ. There is no room for rivalry, pride or self-serving behaviour. Rather we are called to encourage, edify and serve each other. We are all fellow workers in God’s vineyard. We work not in our own strength, but in God’s strength. Jesus gives us what we need each day to work for him.

\*Refer to *Introducing the New Testament* by John Drane.

### **Activity**

Think of someone in your congregation who may need encouragement and help. How might you do this? Remember to pray for them and to pray for the Church.

### **Music**

Sing/Listen to music. Ideas:

“Oh, How Good It Is” Keith and Kristyn Getty [https://youtu.be/eV\\_hNTpKO-E](https://youtu.be/eV_hNTpKO-E)

“The Church’s One Foundation” – Forrest <https://youtu.be/2ECY2IleRg8>

“Because He Lives” - <https://youtu.be/oPW9xYEyijQ>

“30 Contemporary Christian Songs on Piano” <https://youtu.be/4o04D280MkE>

“Break Every Chain” – Jesus Culture <https://youtu.be/EtyVdC7E6Wo>

### **Bible verses**

Isaiah 55

### **Catechism**

Holy Communion – First Part

Holy Communion is the real body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, given with bread and wine for us Christians to eat and drink. It was begun by Jesus himself. Read: Matt. 26:26-28, Mark 14:22-24, Luke 22:19-20, 1 Cor. 11:23-25.



### **Prayer**

Lord God, we thank you for everything that you give us. We thank you for the world, for the Church and for people who love and help us. Most of all we thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ into the world to be with us and to save us. We know that through your Church we are united with other Christians so that we can worship you together and so that we are stronger in the face of all sorts of difficulties. We thank you that through your Church we receive your gifts of the Word and the Sacraments. We thank you that Jesus is with us in the Church and that he is with us always. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

### **Blessing**

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with favour, and give us peace. Amen.