Opening Song

Leader: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and forever.

Leader: We can love God with all our hearts.
People: We can love God with all our souls.
Leader: We can love God with all our minds.
Together: We can love our neighbors as ourselves.

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Let us pray.

Leader: God who is always with us, we pray for healthy food to eat, beautiful music that moves us, relationships that bond us, for play with friends and grown-ups, and for the gift of listening. Thank you for these ways to care for each other and inspire us to continue to share in your love. Amen.

Gospel Reading

Homily
Jesus began his ministry after he was baptized by John in the River Jordan, and that’s when our ministry begins too. When we’re baptized, we are made ready to serve God. Even if we are just babies, our baptism makes us part of God’s family and turns us into his helpers.

When we’re baptized, the people who love us make promises with us and for us to do the work that Jesus taught people to do. We promise to respect and love our neighbors, to follow Jesus, and to help those in need. These are important and serious promises, but God gives us people to help us keep the promises.

Today we’re going to think about neighbors that we will probably never meet but are part of God’s big family. Children around the world want to grow up healthy and strong and their families love them just like your family loves you. But not everyone has the things they need to grow up healthy and strong, and that’s when we can help be good neighbors.
Children and grown-ups need healthy food and people to love. We all need someone to listen to us and someone to play with. We need music and laughter, friends and hugs and prayers. Most of us have the things we need, and there are people who work to help everyone have the things they need. These helpers go around the world to be teachers and friends to families who want to learn about growing up safe and strong. We can help too by praying for children and families who are missing the things they need.

Praying is a good way to be a helper, and a good way to keep your promise to God. You can also tell your friends that you are praying for children and families who need help. You can be thankful for all the things that you have and learn about how people around the world grow and learn in different ways. Our church, and other churches like ours, are helpers too. We send money and prayers to Episcopal Relief & Development's ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE campaign. This way we can share with families who are learning to grow and be healthy. The people who work for Episcopal Relief & Development want us to all work together to better know our neighbors.

We are all part of God's big family. Be thankful for neighbors we haven't ever met, who live far away, but who know that we care about them.

The Creed
Leader: These are the things we believe.
People: We believe in God, who made everything.
We believe in Jesus, God's son, who loves us.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, who is always with us helping us to love each other.
Leader: Now we pray for others.

Prayers of the People
Let us pray for the life of the world...

For our loved ones ... those whom we know and hold in our hearts, and all of your children who are unknown to us but always known to you. Help us keep the needs of all, especially the youngest amongst us, in our prayers. Bond us through your love and inspire us to action alongside the voiceless. God of love, Receive our prayer.

For those who teach us... our teachers at school and church, our family at home, and in all places we learn and grow. Help us to listen and pray with patience as we learn from God and one another. God our teacher, Receive our prayer.

For those who lead us... give the leaders of our nations, towns, communities, and homes wisdom to serve people of all ages in love and peace. Give us all the language and intention to share your love in the world. God who guides us, Receive our prayer.

For the sick and poor... We pray for access that meets the needs of those who do not have enough. For nutritious food, housing, loving relationships, and all of the things that help us to thrive. God of the vulnerable, Receive our prayer.
For ourselves... Thanksgiving for play, for music that moves us and all of the good things you bless us with. Inspire us to dwell in the stories of others and respond to the needs of our neighbors as you have taught us. God who walks with us, Receive our prayer.

Exchange the Peace
Leader: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: And also with you.

Eucharistic Prayer
(The people’s responses are in bold)

The Offering
Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, we thank you for everything you have given us:
This beautiful world, our families and friends and our gifts and abilities.
Especially we thank you for sending us Jesus, your Son.
Jesus came and took care of the lonely and the sick,
The poor and the people who were left out.
And he showed us how to love one another.
We learned from Jesus to put you first God, to love you and to listen for your word to us.
Jesus followed your word even to the cross, showing us that God’s love can overcome even death and bring new life.

For all of this we praise you, saying:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
    Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
    Hosanna in the highest.

On the night before he died, Jesus sat at the table with his friends. He gave them bread and said, “Take this bread. Whenever you eat it, I will be with you. Then he took the cup and said, “Whenever you drink it, I will be with you.” Now we offer this bread and this wine and ourselves at this table, in faith remembering that:
Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.

We ask that your Holy Spirit come to this table and fill this bread and this cup with God's powerful love that can make all things new. Remember ________, ________, ________ for whom we pray this day.  
We pray that we too will be filled with the Spirit and joined together as one people blessed and filled with hope. We pray this giving honor and praise to God: father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

And now in the words that Jesus taught us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

[Alleluia.] Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
Therefore let us keep the feast. [Alleluia.]

Post Communion Prayer

Holy God, you have welcomed us into the family of Jesus your son and you have given us spiritual food to nourish our body and soul. Send us out into the world to make all things new. Give us strength, courage, and hope to love and serve you with grateful hearts through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Song

Concluding Collect

Leader: God we thank you for always being with us. Open and transform our hearts that we might connect more deeply with the needs of others and be moved to be your love and care in the world. Help us to keep courage as we learn, share, and give. Amen.  
Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!  
People: Thanks be to God!

Closing Song
**Suggested Playlist**
What the World Needs Now (is Love)
Happy by Pharrell Williams
Can’t Stop This Feeling Trolls Movie
Count on Me Bruno Mars
What a Wonderful World Louis Armstrong
Lean on Me Bill Withers
Best Day of My Life American Authors
Bear Necessities from Disney’s Jungle Book

**Suggested Hymns**
Sweet, Sweet Spirit
This Little Light of Mine
We are Marching in the Light of God
I have Decided to Follow Jesus
Morning has Broken
This is the Day
I’ve Got Peace Like a River
Let There be Peace on Earth (and Let it Begin with Me)
What a Wonderful World Louis Armstrong
Lean on Me Bill Withers
Best Day of My Life American Authors