

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,

have mercy on us.

**We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.**

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
and turn us again to life in you**

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
and through his death and resurrection,
Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of ✚ Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
to do God's work in the world.

Amen.



GATHERING SONG *Dearest Jesus, at Your Word*

Dearest Jesus, at Your Word

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal staff and a basso continuo staff. The lyrics are written below the vocal staves. The first system includes a four-part vocal entry. The second system continues the melody. The third system features a more complex harmonic texture. The fourth system concludes the piece with a final cadence.

1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
3 Ra - diance of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from
4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and

gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,
God pro - ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:

and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -
fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and
help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and
all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on

es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.
all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.
songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.
earth a - wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The reading may be announced:

A reading from Ezekiel.

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

The reading may be concluded:

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-9

The psalm for the day is read responsively.

¹To | you, O LORD,

I lift | up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.
⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,**
for they are from | everlasting.
⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.
⁸**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;**
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.
⁹You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

The reading may be announced:

A reading from Philippians.

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The reading may be concluded:

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

The gospel is announced.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²³When [Jesus] 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?" ²⁴Jesus 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. ²⁵Did 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?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So 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.

²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

The gospel concludes:

The gospel of the Lord.


Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON




HYMN OF THE DAY *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*


Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service




1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;
3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal-ing light
4 Called by wor-ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer-cy's per - fect deed;
still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up - on our quick-ened sight,
to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,
hope and health, good-will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.
by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.
stir-ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.
that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985

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APOSTLES' CREED

The Apostles' Creed is spoken.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

These prayers are adapted from the ELCA Worship Blog "Worship in the Home" for Sunday, Sept. 20, 2020.

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need, responding to each petition with the words "Hear our laments, and receive our prayers."

A brief silence.

Throughout the globe is the church: many assemblies are postponed by the virus, our songs quieted, our leaders searching for new ways forward. That you will continue to inspire all the baptized with the mind of Christ, we pray to you, faithful God.

Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.

Around us nature is strained: polar ice is melting, excessive rains ravage the land, fires consume forests, fields, and homes, and animals are deprived of habitat. That you will preserve and protect the earth, we pray to you, mighty God:

Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.

Around us is a needy world: governments allow injustice, violence threatens stability, people experience prejudice, reforms are thwarted, workers are unemployed, medical facilities are strained, children are abused. That you will save the people in all the nations of the world, we pray to you, compassionate God:

Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.

In our nation's courts, we see justice delayed and justice denied. Yet we thank you for the life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg and for her passion for equality under the law. That you will uphold honest judges and insightful juries throughout our criminal justice system, we pray to you, righteous God:

Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.

Around us are the sick: there is starvation, the virus continues, many persons receive no medical attention, our neighbors and dear ones are ill. That you will bless all ministries of care and will relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit, especially (*those named here*) and all those we name now aloud and in the silence of our hearts (*brief silence*) we pray to you, merciful God.

Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.

Before us lived countless of the faithful — the famous and the forgotten, our relatives and strangers. We lament their deaths, and we praise their witness. That we may confess Jesus Christ as Lord through our life and at our death, we pray to you, eternal God.

Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray,

Merciful God, our ordinary gifts seem small

for such wonders as you provide,

but you make of them an abundance,

just as you do with our lives.

Receive what we have to offer,

and multiply it as you multiplied the

loaves and the fishes in order to feed your people.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

The presiding minister leads one of the following or another appropriate prayer.

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

This thanksgiving prayer echoes the readings used on readings for fall in Year A.

Glory to you, O God, for your creative Word:

making and mending all things,

evoking the cosmic hymn of praise,

and singing a love-song for your beloved:

your vineyard, your flock, your people.

With all creation we sing, Glory! **Glory!**

Blessed are you for your liberating Word:
speaking through Moses and the prophets,
encountered in the Gospels,
and proclaimed in the assembly:
your freedom, forgiveness, and life for the world.
With the whole world we say, Blessing! **Blessing!**

Holy are you, O God, for your living Word:
among us wherever we gather,
welcoming everyone to your feast,
and, with grace and generosity,
bringing to earth the kingdom of heaven.
With saints and angels, we cry, Holy! **Holy!**

Clothe us in your loving Spirit,
flowing from the Crucified and Risen One,
and keep us awake to your presence
in the people and places you call us to serve.
Glory, praise, and blessing are yours,
Holy God, now and forever. Amen. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

The presiding minister may introduce the Lord's Prayer.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

Mothering God,
Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *O God, My Faithful God (see next page)*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

From sundaysandseasons.com

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O God, My Faithful God

1 O God, my faith - ful God, true foun - tain ev - er flow - ing,
 2 Give me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing
 3 Keep me from say - ing words that lat - er need re - call - ing;
 4 When dan - gers gath - er round, oh, keep me calm and fear - less;

with - out whom noth - ing is, all per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:
 what - ev - er you com - mand, my call - ing here ful - fill - ing—
 guard me, lest i - dle speech may from my lips be fall - ing;
 help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheer - less;

give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in
 to do it when I ought, with all my might—and bless
 but when, with - in my place, I must and ought to speak,
 help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,

a con - science free from blame, a soul un - stained by sin.
 what - ev - er I have wrought, for you must give suc - cess.
 then to my words give grace, lest I of - fend the weak.
 and, by your Spir - it's might, to live at peace with all.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: WAS FRAG ICH NACH DER WELT, Ahasuerus Fritsch, 1629–1701