

PRELUDE

"Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee" – arr. Marilyn Ham

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (*inspired by Psalm 119: 1-8*)

Happy are those who walk in God's ways.

Blessed are those who observe God's commandments.

Faithful are those whose eyes are fixed on righteousness.

Joyful are those whose hearts are filled with praise.

Come, let us love the Lord our God.

We come to worship the One who leads us in the ways of life. ~ <http://www.ministrymatters.com/>

RECONCILING IN CHRIST (RIC) STATEMENT

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, **we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.**

Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

In the name of God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

(Stand) GATHERING HYMN

"Light Dawns on a Weary World"

ELW#726

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.

KYRIE *ELW page 184; setting 8*

(*"Kyrie eleison" is a Greek expression meaning "Lord, have mercy."*)

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;

for this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;

that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;

for life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;

that you nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

HYMN OF PRAISE *ELW page 185; setting 8*

**This is the feast of vict'ry for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his
reign. Alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.
Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.
This is the feast of vict'ry for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his
reign. Alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of vict'ry for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his
reign. Alleluia.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

(sit) READING: Isaiah 55:10-13

God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹² For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle, and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *page 188; setting 8*

 **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

The holy Gospel according to Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!"

¹⁸ “Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

The Gospel of our Lord. . . **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(sit) SERMON

(Stand) HYMN OF THE DAY

“We Plow the Fields and Scatter”

ELW #681

APOSTLES CREED

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.

(sit) PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: **Hear our prayer.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

Your gift given today continues our purpose of “Joyfully taking God’s love into the world!”

Thank you!



OFFERING MUSIC

“One Bread, One Body” – arr. Mark Hayes

GREAT THANKSGIVING *ELW Page 190; setting 8*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow’r and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORDS PRAYER

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.

INVITATION

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

LAMB OF GOD *ELW Page 191; setting 8*

 **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION SONG

“For the Bread Which You Have Broken”

ELW #494

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. **Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen**

(Stand) SENDING HYMN

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

ELW #547

BLESSING

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Amazing Grace (with Ash Grove)” – arr. Marilyn Ham

Preaching/Presiding: Pastor Brian Julin-McCleary

Cantor: Sandy Gardner

Communion Servers: Jan, Sue & John O'B

Greeter:

Sound/Video: Steve Peters

Musician: Nicole Green

Reader: Sue O'Brien

Ushers: Jim Burkhardt, Jim Fitkin

Welcome Center Host:

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