+ Gathering +

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

Confession and Forgiveness

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 \pm Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

Gathering Song

Did You Feel The Mountains Tremble

Did you feel the mountains tremble?

Did you hear the oceans roar

When the people rose to sing of Jesus Christ, the risen One?

Did you feel the people tremble?

Did you hear the singers roar

When the lost began to sing of Jesus Christ, the saving One?

And we can see that, God, You're moving, a mighty river through the nations;

And young and old will turn to Jesus.

Fling wide, you heavenly gates; prepare the way of the risen Lord.

Open up the doors.

Let the music play, let the streets resound with singing:

Songs that bring You hope, songs that bring You joy, songs who dance upon injustice.

Do you feel the darkness tremble when all the saints join in one song,

And all the streams flow as one river to wash away our brokenness?

And here we see that God, You're moving; a time of jubilee is coming,

When young and old return to Jesus.

Fling wide, you heavenly gates; prepare the way of the risen Lord.

Open up the doors.

Let the music play, let the streets resound with singing:

Songs that bring You hope, songs that bring You joy, songs who dance upon injustice.

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Greeting ELW p.184

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

ELW p.51

O God, generous and supreme, your loving Son lived among us, instructing us in the ways of humility and justice. Continue to ease our burdens, and lead us to serve alongside of him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

+ Word +

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

First Reading Micah 3:5-12

A reading from Micah.

5Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets who lead my people astray, who cry "Peace" when they have something to eat, but declare war against those who put nothing into their mouths. Therefore it shall be night to you, without vision, and darkness to you, without revelation. The sun shall go down upon the prophets, and the day shall be black over them; 7the seers shall be disgraced, and the diviners put to shame; they shall all cover their lips, for there is no answer from God. But as for me, I am filled with power, with the spirit of the LORD, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin. 9Hear this, you rulers of the house of Jacob and chiefs of the house of Israel, who abhor justice and pervert all equity, 10who build Zion with blood and Jerusalem with wrong! 11Its rulers give judgment for a bribe, its priests teach for a price, its prophets give oracles for money; yet they lean upon the LORD and say, "Surely the LORD is with us! No harm shall come upon us." 12Therefore because of you Zion shall be plowed as a field; Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins, and the mountain of the house a wooded height.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Psalm 43

Let us recite together Psalm 43 as translated in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal:

¹Give judgment for me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people;

deliver me from the deceitful | and the wicked.

²For you are the God of my strength; why have you rejected me,

and why do I wander in such gloom while the enemy oppresses me?

3Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, and bring me to your holy hill and to your sanctuary;
4that I may go to the altar of God, to the God of my joy and gladness;

and on the harp I will give thanks to you, O God my God. ⁵Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul, and why are you so disquieted within me?

Put your trust in God, for I will yet give thanks to the one who is my help and my God.

Second Reading

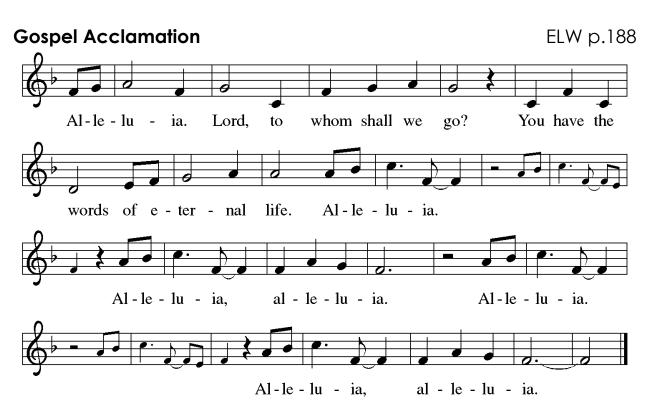
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

A reading from First Thessalonians:

⁹You remember our labor and toil, brothers and sisters; we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. ¹⁰You are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was toward you believers. ¹¹As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, ¹²urging and encouraging you and pleading that you lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

¹³We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God's word, which is also at work in you believers.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.



Gospel Reading

Matthew 23:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, ²"The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; 3therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. 4They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. 5They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. 6They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, ⁷and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi. 8But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. ⁹And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. 10Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. 11The greatest among you will be your servant. 12All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted."

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Leslie D. Weber

Song of the Day #426

Sing with All the Saints in Glory



- Sing with all the saints in glo - ry, sing the res - ur - rec-tion song!
- Oh, what glo-ry, far ex-ceed - ing all that eye has yet per-ceived!
- Life e ter nal! heav'n re joic es: Je - sus lives who once was dead.



Death and sor - row, earth's dark sto - ry, to the for-mer days be-long. a - ges plead-ing nev-er that full joy con-ceived. Ho - liest hearts for death - less voic - es! Child of God, lift up your head! Shout with joy, O



a-round the clouds are break-ing, soon the storms of time shall cease; God has prom-ised, Christ pre-pares it, there on high our wel-come waits. Life e - ter - nal! Oh, what won-ders crowd on faith; what joy un-known,



in God's like - ness we a - wak - en, know - ing ev - er - last-ing peace. Ev - 'ry hum - ble spir - it shares it, Christ has passed the e-ter - nal gates. when, a - mid earth's clos-ing thun-ders, saints shall stand be - fore the throne!

Text: William J. Irons, 1812–1883, alt. Music: MISSISSIPPI, William Bradley Roberts, b. 1947

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Nicene Creed p. 104

With the whole church, let us confess our faith with the words on the Nicene Creed:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth,

of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,

eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God,

begotten, not made,

of one Being with the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate:

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

* universal

Prayers of Intercession

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, you invite those who feel most unworthy of love to a seat at the head of your table. Through the humility, vulnerability, and repentance of your church, bring a compassionate welcome to all in need of your grace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Sustaining God, guide all people of the earth through harsh extremes in the cycles of creation—drought and monsoon, blistering heat and freezing cold. Hold in your mercy all places where lives have been disrupted by natural disasters. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Sovereign God, gather our country around a shared table this week during our national election. Open fruitful dialogue between people of every political party, place, age, and socioeconomic status so that we may discern the common good you desire for us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, protect those whose human dignity has been denied and oppressed in our nation. Raise the voices of those who have been silenced and bring justice where power has been abused for personal gain. We pray especially for those listed on our prayer list and those we name now aloud or silently (pause for names). Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Eternal God, you unite all the faithful in a banquet of your abundance. This day we remember all who now feast in your eternal presence, especially all who have died in the past year (Pastor will read names). Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever. **Amen.**

Peace

+Meal+

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

While we are not gathering together in person, please continue to support the mission of the church as you are able.

Electronic donations can be made at https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/475611.

Checks can be also be sent to church:

521 Providence Rd, Chesapeake, VA 23325

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Teaching About Online Communion

We practice two sacraments in the Lutheran tradition: baptism and holy communion. These are celebrated in community, in public worship, where we can all participate and remember together: God is known for using ordinary earthly things (like water, bread, and wine) to make extraordinary promises (like forgiveness, salvation, healing and new life) to creation.

We don't serve ourselves communion because there's something holy about that promise coming from outside our own bodies, a perfect declaration from God spoken to us by our neighbor: This is the body of Christ, given for you. This is the blood of Christ, shed for you. If you are gathered together with others from your household, speak these words aloud when you serve each other. If you do not have someone in the room with you while you receive the sacrament, hear the Pastor's voice as the external word of grace and invitation.

To maintain the aspect of gathered assembly that is central to the sacrament of Holy Communion, please join us live via Zoom

at 9:45am for worship, including the Lord's Supper. It is preferred that you refrain from partaking if you are watching a video of worship after the fact.

Today is a good reminder that this simple meal nourishes God's community across time and space—this is why we call it communion. We would rather be with you in person for the sacrament today, but we trust Jesus to show up beyond our limitations, to meet us in this separation with a Spirit that unites, to feed us with the bread of life who is our source and strength.

Great Thanksgiving

This is an altar, where we worship the One who provides for creation, where we remember we are so small and also we matter so much.

And this is a dinner table, where we show up honest and empty handed, where there is more than enough and everyone has a seat at the table.

Blessed are you, O God, the One who plants gardens and rains manna, who multiplies bread and fish for thousands, who eats with outcasts and drinks with women, who is sacred love and life made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Jesus has promised his full presence in this meal. We don't know how he does it, showing up with the bread and wine so that we cannot pull them apart. This love is impossible and irrational. It is everything we need and cannot give ourselves. And so we open ourselves to the mystery and hold out our hands to receive the gifts of God.

Communion

Where possible, commune one another saying "the body of Christ, given for you" and "the blood of Christ, shed for you." You are invited to provide your own elements (bread, wine, grape juice) or pick up kits from church.

Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **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.**

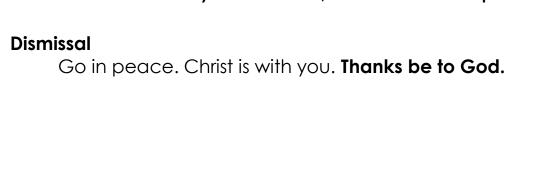
Announcements

Sending Song #423

Shall We Gather at the River



Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899 Music: HANSON PLACE, Robert Lowry



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