+ Gathering +

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

Gathering Song #416

At the Name of Jesus



Text: Caroline M. Noel, 1817–1877 Music: KING'S WESTON, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958 Music from Songs of Praise, © Oxford University Press 1925.

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Greeting WOV p.46

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.** You are the treasured people of the LORD,

a people holy to the Lord our God.

Keep the words of the LORD in your heart; teach them to your children.

Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.



Prayer of the Day

p.48

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

A reading from Ezekiel.

The 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. 31 Cast 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

17th Sunday After Pentecost —September 27, 2020—9:45am Worship via Zoom

have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Psalm 25:1-9

Let us recite together Psalm 25, verses 1 through 9, as printed in the hymnal:

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²My 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.

⁴Show 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.

⁶Remember, O LORD, your compassion 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 goodness, O LORD.

⁸You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.

⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

Second Reading

Philippians 2:1-13

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, 11 and every tonque 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; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

Gospel Acclamation WOV p.48 **■** Word of life, Je-sus Christ, all glo you! to ry Je-sus Christ, all praise you! Word of life, to Our hearts burn with - in us while you o-pen to us the Scrip-tures. Word of life, Je-sus Christ, glo all to you! ry 0 Word of life, Je-sus Christ, all praise you! to

Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:23-32

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

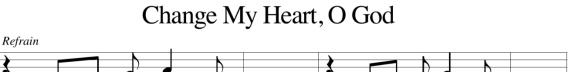
²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will 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. 31 Which 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 of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Leslie D. Weber

Song of the Day #801



Change my heart, O God;

make it ev - er true.



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot I am the clay. ter;



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

Text: Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953 Music: CHANGE MY HEART, Eddie Espinosa Text and music © 1982 Mercy/Vineyeard Publishing, admin. Music Services

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Response to the Word

WOV p.49

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He 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,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit.

Keep yourselves in the love of God; look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Gracious God, have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen

Peace WOV p.50

Siblings, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace.

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.

+ Thanksgiving+

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

WOV p.51

Let us pray.

God, our Creator, you open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature. With these gifts we bless you for your tender nurture and care. Help us to delight in your will and walk in your ways, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Prayers

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need

A brief silence.

In all the world, give your church unity. Inspire all the baptized with the mind of Christ. Where the church is powerful and where it struggles, shape us with humility and obedience so that your love may be at work in us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your Son took on all of bodily life in our world, even to death. Preserve and keep your creation, O God. Mend and redeem places that are polluted and damaged, so that all of creation confesses you as Lord. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Turn the nations toward life. Where our ways are unfair, give us new hearts and new spirits. Where sin permeates our cultures and institutions (especially), change our minds and teach us to trust your authority. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Our lives are yours, O God. Relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit. Defend the lives and welfare of children who are abused or neglected, hungry or exploited, bullied or lonely. We pray for those listed on our prayer list and those we name now aloud or silently (pause for names). Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Thank you for those who have gone into the kingdom ahead of us—tax collectors and prostitutes, likely and unlikely, obedient and slow to learn. By their witness, teach us to confess Jesus Christ as Lord in life and in death. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

Lord's Prayer WOV p.52

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach 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,

forever and ever.

Amen.

+Sending+

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

Blessing WOV p.53

May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ fill you with every spiritual blessing. **Amen.**

May the God of faithfulness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Announcements

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Sending Hymn Kyrie Eleison

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.

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.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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