

Order of Worship

January 12, 2025

GATHERING

*Please rise as you are able, in body or in spirit as we sing together.

GATHERING SONG (STAND)

'Shall We Gather at the River ELW 423 v 1, 3, 4

1 *Shall we gather at the river,
where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever
flowing by the throne of God?*

Refrain:

*Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.*

3 *Ere we reach the shining river,
lay we ev'ry burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver,
and provide a robe and crown.* Refrain

4 *Soon we'll reach the shining river,
soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver
with the melody of peace.* Refrain

Text and Music: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS (STAND)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
our creator,
our protector,
our wellspring of life. **Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts,
let us confess our sin.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

Merciful God,
**you speak blessing and compassion into the world.
Forgive us for the ways we act
with judgement, cruelty or indifference.
We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
we resist your call to oppose injustice;
we give in to scarcity and fear;
we assume the worst about one another.
Cleanse us from our faults
and release us from their grasp.
Show us your lovingkindness.
Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ's ways.**

Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance:
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name. You are mine.”
In + Christ you were forgiven.
In the Spirit, you were made free.
refreshed by the waters of mercy,
live anew as beloved children of God.

Amen.

GLORIA LBG 75 **Glory and Praise For Ever** (STAND)

Song Leader: *(Glory, glory, glory and praise for ever.)*
Glory, glory, glory and praise for ever.

(You are blessed, O Lord, God of our ancestors.) ***glory and praise for ever.***
(Exalted and praiseworthy forever.) ***glory and praise for ever.***
(Blessed be your holy and glorious name.) ***glory and praise for ever.***
(Exalted and praiseworthy forever.) ***glory and praise for ever.***

(Glory, glory, glory and praise for ever.)

Glory, glory, glory and praise for ever.

Text and music: Laura Ash, b. 1959, and David Ash, b. 1958; © 1996; OCP Publications

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(STAND)

Almighty God,

you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit
and revealed him as your beloved Son.

Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service,
that we may rejoice to be called children of God,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

*You may be seated.

The children are invited to come forward for the Children's Message.

(Piano: "Jesus Loves Me")

WORD

KIDS TIME

SCRIPTURE SONG

NTF 734 Gloria, Gloria

***Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!
(2x)***

Text: Taizé Community, 1978 | Tune: Jacques Berthier, b. 1923 | © 1979, 1988, Las Presses de Taizé

SCRIPTURE

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

SERMON SONG *ACS 955 Come to the Water of Life v. 1-4*

1. *All who are thirsty for mercy, all who are thirsty for love;
 all who are thirsty for love, for mercy,
 come: come to the Water of life.*

2. *All who are thirsty for healing, all who are thirsty for touch;
 all who are thirsty for touch, for healing,
 come: come to the Water of life.*

3. *All who are thirsty for beauty, all who are thirsty for truth;
 all who are thirsty for truth, for beauty,
 come: come to the Water of life.*

4. *All who are thirsty for justice, all who are thirsty for peace;
 all who are thirsty for peace, for justice,
 come: come to the Water of life.*

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943 | Music: Ray Makeever; arr. hymnal version
Text and music © 1999 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress

*Please rise as you are able, in body or in spirit.

PROFESSION OF FAITH *(SLIDE)*

We trust God, whose Love and Justice are revealed over and over through the voices of prophets and the lives of ordinary people, through a helpless newborn baby.

We trust Jesus the Christ, born a refugee, raised in poverty, dependent on the kindness of others. His insistence on God's radical love for all led him to the cross. Yet God's love overcame, and on the third day Love walked out of the tomb, alive and free in the world.

We trust the Holy Spirit, who blows where she will, calling us to the same path Jesus walked, and leading us all in the holy dance of life in the kingdom of God.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH *(STAND)*

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

(A brief silence)

You call us by name and form us. We give thanks for the gift of baptism. Nurture the baptized and equip people sent to proclaim the good news all over the world.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your voice sounds over the waters. Speak words of healing over the rivers and lakes, seas and oceans. Heeding your voice, lead us to care for water, and the land and creatures it nourishes.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You give strength to your people. Uphold all who serve the common good. Guide our government officials. Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You are with us in challenging times. Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment, or recovering from surgery. Accompany individuals and families affected by addiction or mental health challenges. Uphold each person as your beloved.

Hear us now as we pray for those dearest to us (aloud or in our hearts):

(pause for spoken prayers of the people)

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You draw us into community. Embolden ministries of racial reconciliation, nurture work on behalf of immigrants and refugees, and equip each to use their gifts for the sake of neighbors near and far.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You grant us peace. Comfort all who grieve. Dwell with us in this life and, at the last, join us with the saints whom you have created, formed, and named.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

Let us share a sign of peace with one another.

(Sharing of the Peace)

MEAL

OFFERING

(the Presider presents the Offering plates to the Ushers)

We return to God what was first given to us.

(the Offering plates are passed—the Ushers wait at the back)

(Presider motions the Ushers forward and receives the Offering plates)

OFFERING PRAYER

God of grace,
your love reaches to the heavens,
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.
Bless what we offer to your service:
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.
Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,
now and always.

Amen.

*Please rise as you are able, in body or in spirit.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(STAND)

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.

(piano may play, Presider speaks over it)

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(Holy, holy, holy Lord) ***Holy, holy, holy Lord,***
(God of power and might,) ***God of power and might,***

(Heaven and earth are full of your glory.)
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

(Hosanna in the highest.) ***Hosanna in the highest.***
(Blessed is the one who comes) ***Blessed is the one who comes***
(in the name of the Lord.) ***in the name of the Lord.***

(Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.)
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Text: from *The United Methodist Hymnal* | Music: Jackson Henry | Music © 2011 Jackson Henry

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word 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, we pray as Jesus taught:

**Eternal Spirit,
Earth maker, Pain bearer, Life Giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world;
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope
and come to earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trial too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. AMEN**

The Lord's Prayer of Māori and Polynesia

* You may be seated.

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

This is Christ's table. As such, all are welcome.

Today we offer the ancient Biblical practice of anointing for healing
which Jesus encouraged his disciples to offer to others
—everyone is invited to receive this healing gift.

If you choose to participate, continue over to one of the Prayer Ministers
after you receive communion. They will make the sign of the cross on your
forehead with anointing oil and pray for your healing.

Prayer ministers are also available behind the anointing area today
for personal prayer requests.

The communion bread we serve is gluten-free; the wafers are not.
Red wine is around the outside of the communion tray;
white grape juice is available in the center.
Should you prefer to receive a blessing only,
you may cross your arms / fold your hands
The ushers will guide you forward.

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

LAMB OF GOD *TFF 35*

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.*

(2x)

Text: International Consultation on English Texts

Music: Tillis Butler and James Harris, *Detroit Folk Mass* | Music © 1986 Fortress Press

(Slide during Communion)

*Spirit, remind me that Jesus is chosen and marked by love
and that I am also chosen by God and marked by the love of Jesus. Amen*

* Please rise as you are able, in body or in spirit.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

(STAND)

Nourishing God,
at this table you have refreshed us
with holy gifts of food and drink.
Strengthen us for service,
and send us out to embody your good news
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.
In the name of Christ we pray, **Amen.**

SENDING

*You may be seated for Our Life Together Announcements.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

(Announcements—Worship Team Lay Leader will facilitate)

*Please rise as you are able, in body or in spirit, as we sing together.

SENDING SONG **(STAND)**

W&S 3164 *Down to the River to Pray*

Refrain: *As I went down in the river to pray, studyin' about that good ole way
and who shall wear the [starry crown], good Lord, show me the way.*

Verse: *O [sisters], let's go down, let's go down, come on down.
Come on [sisters], let's go down, down in the river to pray.*

Refrain: *[robe and crown]* Verse: *[brothers]*

Refrain: *[starry crown]* Verse: *[fathers]*

Refrain: *[robe and crown]* Verse: *[mothers]*

Refrain: *[starry crown]* Verse: *[sinners]*

Tag: *Come on sinners, let's go down, down in the river to pray.*

Words: Southern USA Folk song | Music: Southern USA Folk song; transcribed by Jackson Henry
Transcription © 2011 Jackson Henry

BLESSING (STAND)

The Spirit of the triune God
+ bless you with joy,
anoint you with compassion,
and send you in love. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL SONG

ACS 914 Jesus, the Light of the World v. 1

1 *Hark! the herald angels sing, Jesus, the Light of the world;
"Glory to the newborn King," Jesus, the light of the world.*

Refrain:

*We'll walk in the light, beautiful light,
come where the dewdrops of mercy are bright.
Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus the light of the world.*

DISMISSAL (STAND)

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly. **Thanks be to God.**