

Reconciling in Christ Sunday- January 26th, 2025

Gathering/Land Acknowledgement/Call to Worship

P: We gather in the name of God, † Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit.

C: We gather on the traditional homelands of the Osage, Seneca, Lenape, and Shawnee peoples.

P: The roads that brought us here today were and are a place where First Nations people walked and lived on this sacred land.

C: We gather to honor the Creator, and all creation—human, animal, plant, water, wind, earth, and sky—that belong to God.

Gathering Song ELW 641-All are Welcome

Communal Lament *Based on Psalm 10*

P: In response to the ways that people have been excluded and condemned for whom they love and their gender identities or expressions, let us call out to the God who knows the depths of our sorrows and shares the grief in our hearts. After each petition, you are invited to respond saying:

C: Come near to us. Show us the way.

Let us pray:

P: O God, when racism, intolerance, and queerphobia feel inescapable and it is hard to imagine justice and a love that welcomes all of your children to our community, you seem hidden and far away. Come closer and dwell among us, encouraging us as we build resilient and just communities.

C: Come near to us. Show us the way.

P: O God, we have witnessed the harm and suffering of many beloved children, especially those whose sexual or romantic orientation, gender identity, or gender expression do not follow the patterns of patriarchy. Challenge us to disrupt this way of treating people who need our love and support.

C: Come near to us. Show us the way.

P: O God, we have witnessed the harm and suffering of many people, especially those whose race, ethnicity, or immigration status is different than our own. Stop us from taking the easy path of racism and fear of the other. Help us to build a society where all your beloved children fully belong.

C: Come near to us. Show us the way.

P: Help us to remember that you see us: our troubles and grief, the broken relationships that undermine community, our weakness and lack of courage in confronting evil. You hold our pain. We can leave it all to you. You are our helper.

C: Come near to us. Show us the way.

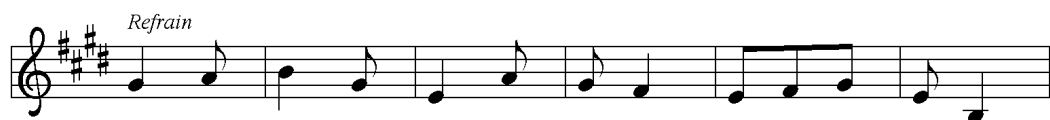
P: Help us to remember that you listen to our desires and calm our troubled hearts. We can cry out to you. You will not abandon us.

C: Come near to us. Show us the way.

P: God, rise up and comfort us so we no longer have to be afraid. Lead us to trust in the hope and promise of a resilient community, with justice for the oppressed, afflicted, and excluded.

C: Amen!

Now the Feast and Celebration



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

Prayer for the Day

A: Holy God,

C: your Word teaches us, calls us, and shapes us, that we will become the wisdom of God and the body of Christ for others. On this Reconciling in Christ Sunday may your word turn us toward what is good and holy and just, that your beloved people of all orientations and genders, all abilities, all kinds of personality and brains, and all cultures and ethnicities will know we are seen, known, and loved by you. May the example of Jesus continue to encourage loving speech and action in the work and ministry of justice. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

FIRST READING

L: Blessed are they who seek wisdom.

C: Who treasure her ways and follow her paths. [Proverbs 2]

PSALM

SECOND READING

L: Blessed are they who seek wisdom.

C: Who treasure her ways and follow her paths. [Proverbs 2]

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Optional Repeat

GOSPEL

P: The Gospel according to _____.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

(The Gospel is read)

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Water is life. Our bodies need water. This community needs water to be resilient and flourish. Plants and animals need water. Water is essential for all of life on this planet to thrive and flourish. We need water for drinking, for washing, for cooking, for cleaning, for refreshing. Water sustains our lives, and water enhances our lives. Every day of our lives includes multiple uses of water. Let us give thanks for the gift of water and for baptism.

C: We give you thanks, O God, for this water that comes to us as a gift from our Creator, the source of all that is good and life-giving. You are a generous and loving God who blesses us through water and who claims all people in the fullness of sexual or romantic orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, gender expression, immigration status, beliefs, and abilities.

P: Let us fill this font with water – water from our homes, water from nearby lakes and rivers, creeks and streams – water upon which all living creatures depend and that nourishes all of life on this planet. As we sing, you are invited to bring forward your water to pour into this font. We, though many, are one in the unity of God's love for us and for all the world. Water is life.

HYMN OF THE DAY: Shall We Gather at the River ELW 423

P: O God, may we live as careful stewards, guardians of this precious gift, protectors of the health of this planet, builders of resilient communities, and cultivators of life giving relationships that promote peace and unity.

C: Thanks be to God! Amen!

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SONG

AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD #302- VS 3

As with Gladness Men of Old



1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.
so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

OFFERING PRAYER

A: God of grace,

**C: 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.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider: *Congregation:*
The Lord be with you. And al-*so* with you.

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

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

P: It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ, who is your light made manifest to all the nations, and so with the church on earth, all creation and the host of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Congregation:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
 might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!
 Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: All thanks and praise are yours, O God, for in Christ you became incarnate in a human body. By your flesh we are freed from sin, death, and all that holds us captive. You have been revealed to us as one who breathes, and you breathe into us new life.

P: Therefore, we breathe your loving Spirit:

Moment of silence to breathe prayers of praise and longing.

P: With all of creation, we cry out:

C: Breathe on us, that we may live! (Ezekiel 37:9)

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.

Groaning in expectation with all of creation, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Breath of God, in this bread and cup you bring new life to this resilient community.

C: Breathe on us, that we may live!

P: May your Spirit intercede for us with sighs too deep for words, so that we might be made one body in Christ.

C: Breathe on us, that we may live!

P: Revive our faith, infuse us with your peace, and reveal to us your justice, so that we might witness to the resurrection in all that we say and in all that we do.

C: Breathe on us, that we may live!

P: All thanks and praise to you, O God, Holy One and Holy Three.

C: AMEN!

THE LORD'S 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 TO COMMUNION

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

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
you break the chains of ha - tred and
you are the way of jus - tice and
you are the way of mer - cy and



world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
fear:
peace:
love.

Final Stanza

Congregation or Assistant:



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Nourishing God,

**C: 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.**

BLESSING [from *Teresa of Avila*]

P: Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing make you afraid. All things are passing. God alone never changes. Patience gains all things. If you have God you will want for nothing. God alone suffices.

† May the blessing of God, Holy One and Holy Three, be with us today and every day, building us into a resilient community that practices justice and radical inclusion.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW 525-DU ÄR HELIG/YOU ARE HOLY

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace to practice resilient justice.

C: Thanks be to God

POSTLUDE