



# *Summer Worship*

## *July 23, 2023*

*Full Service Bulletin*

**Welcome to Faith and thank you for worshipping with us!**

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### **GATHERING**

**Prelude**

**Call to Worship**

**Gathering Hymn**

“Your Little Ones, Dear Lord”

ELW #286

- 1 Your little ones, dear Lord, are we,  
and come your lowly bed to see;  
enlighten ev'ry soul and mind,  
that we the way to you may find.
- 2 With songs we hasten you to greet,  
and kiss the ground before your feet.  
Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night  
that gave you birth, our soul's delight.
- 3 Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord,  
and to us all your grace accord;  
true faith and love to us impart,  
that we may hold you in our heart.
- 4 Until at last we too proclaim,  
with all your saints, your glorious name;  
in paradise our songs renew,  
and praise you as the angels do.

## Greeting

A: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the unity of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you!**

A: You are the treasured people of the LORD,

**C: a people holy to the LORD our God.**

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

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

A: One does not live by bread alone,

**C: but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.**

## Prayer Requests

A: Any prayer requests?

## The Hymn of Praise “Let the Whole Creation Cry” ELW #876

**1 Let the whole creation cry,  
"Glory to the Lord on high!"  
Heav'n and earth, awake and sing,  
"Praise to our almighty king!"  
Praise God, angel hosts above,  
ever bright and fair in love;  
sun and moon, lift up your voice;  
night and stars, in God rejoice.**

**2 Servants striving for the Lord,  
prophets burning with the word,  
those to whom the arts belong  
add their voices to the song.**

**Pow'rs of knowledge and of law,  
to the glorious circle draw;  
all who work and all who wait,  
sing, "The Lord is good and  
great!"**

**3 Men and women, young and old,  
raise the anthem loud and bold,  
and let children's happy hearts  
in this worship take their parts;  
from the north to southern pole  
let the mighty chorus roll:  
"Holy, Holy, Holy One;  
glory be to God alone!"**

## Prayer of the Day

A: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

A: Let us pray.

**C: Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

## WORD

### First Reading

Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19

*God's deeds of forgiveness and gift of hope indicate that God's faithful people must also show kindness. No other god cares for all people.*

<sup>13</sup>For neither is there any god besides you, whose care is for all people, to whom you should prove that you have not judged unjustly;

<sup>16</sup>For your strength is the source of righteousness, and your sovereignty over all causes you to spare all.

<sup>17</sup>For you show your strength when people doubt the completeness of your power, and you rebuke any insolence among those who know it.

<sup>18</sup>Although you are sovereign in strength, you judge with mildness, and with great forbearance you govern us; for you have power to act whenever you choose.

<sup>19</sup>Through such works you have taught your people that the righteous must be kind, and you have filled your children with good hope, because you give repentance for sins.

### Psalm

Psalm 86:11-17

<sup>11</sup>Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

<sup>12</sup>**I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and glorify your name forevermore.**

<sup>13</sup>For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the pit of death.

<sup>14</sup>**The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks my life; they have not set you before their eyes.**

<sup>15</sup>But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

<sup>16</sup>**Turn to me and have mercy on me; give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.**

<sup>17</sup>Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame; because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

## Second Reading

Romans 8:12-25

*For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.*

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—<sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

<sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

L: Holy wisdom, holy word.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Kid's Time

**Gospel Acclamation** “Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”

WOV #783 vs 1&2

**1 Seek ye first the kingdom of God  
and its righteousness,  
and all these things shall be added unto you.  
Allelu, alleluia.**

**2 Ask and it shall be given unto you;  
seek and you shall find;  
knock and the door shall be opened unto you.  
Allelu, alleluiah!**

## Gospel

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.*

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;<sup>25</sup> but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup>And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' <sup>28</sup>He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' <sup>29</sup>But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "

<sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." <sup>37</sup>He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup>the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, <sup>42</sup>and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

## Sermon

### Sermon Song

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

ELW #276

1 Infant holy, infant lowly,  
for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ the child is Lord of all.

Swiftly winging, angels singing,  
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child is Lord of all!

- 2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping  
vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story,  
tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the child was born for you!  
Christ the child was born for you!

### Response to the Word (*Creed*)

WOV p.49

A: In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

**C: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.** (*Ephesians 1:13-14*)

A: 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, God's 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**

### *Confession & Forgiveness*

P: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

*Jude 20*

**C: pray in the Holy Spirit.**

P: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

*Jude 21*

**C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

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

*2 Cor. 5:17*

**C: Everything old has passed away; behold everything has become new!**

*Stand*

P: 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.*

P: Gracious God,

**C: 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**

P: The almighty and merciful God grants you pardon, forgiveness, and release from all your sins.

**C: Amen**

## **The Prayers of the Church (A.M.)**

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

O God, you call your church to announce the gospel of reconciliation and truth both near and far. Guide your church as it seeks your wisdom and shares it, trusting your Spirit bearing witness among us. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You brought forth all creation and called it good. Direct policymakers to protect lands and seas. Bring rain to sun-parched fields and protect areas impacted by natural disasters (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You desire peace among nations and peoples. Guard our neighborhoods from hatred, watch over police officers and firefighters, and teach us to advocate for those who live in fear. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You are gracious and merciful, comforting those who suffer any affliction (*especially*). Sustain your people living with HIV/ AIDS, provide shelter for all who are unhoused, and release any who are unjustly imprisoned. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You name each of us as your children. Guide our hospitality ministry to welcome all, our education ministry to equip us for faithful living, and our social ministry to enact the gospel in our community. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You send faithful people to proclaim freedom from bondage and to renew your church. Encourage us by the witness of the faithful departed (*including Birgitta of Sweden, whom the church commemorates today*), so that we live into that same hope. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **Passing of the Peace**

**P:** The Peace of the Lord be with you always.     **C:** And also with you.

## **The Offering**

“Praise and Thanksgiving”

ELW #689

**1 Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer**

**for all things living, you have made good:**

**harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,**

**hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.**

**2 God, bless the labor we bring to serve you,**

**that with our neighbor we may be fed.**

**Sowing or tilling, we would work with you,  
harvesting, milling for daily bread.**

**3 Father, providing food for your children,**

**by Wisdom's guiding teach us to share**

**one with another, so that, rejoicing with us, all others may know your care.**

**4 Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people,**

**freely confessing your gracious hand.**

**Where you are reigning, no one will hunger;**

**your love sustaining showers the land.**

## **Offering Prayer**

**A:** Let us pray. Merciful God,

**C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.**

**Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**



## MEAL

### Words of Institution

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, ...  
... almighty Father, now and forever.

C: Amen

### The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13 & Luke 11:2-4

P: Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: 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**

### Distribution

“Away in a Manger”

ELW #277

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky  
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

ELW #272

- 1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming  
from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming

as seers of old have sung,  
it came, a flow'r so bright,  
amid the cold of winter,  
when half-spent was the night.

2 Isaiah had foretold it,  
the rose I have in mind;  
with Mary we behold it,  
the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright,  
she bore to us a Savior,  
when half-spent was the night.

3 This flow'r, whose fragrance tender  
with sweetness fills the air,  
dispels with glorious splendor  
the darkness everywhere.  
True man, yet very God,  
from sin and death he saves us  
and lightens ev'ry load.

4 O Savior, child of Mary,  
who felt our human woe;  
O Savior, king of glory,  
who dost our weakness know:  
bring us at length, we pray,  
to the bright courts of heaven  
and into endless day.

## SENDING

### Post-Communion Blessing

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ nourish your soul and fill you with his grace now and forever!

C: Amen

### Post-Communion Canticle (*sung*)

WOV p.40

**Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell everyone what God has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and bear Christ's holy name.**

**Send us with your promises, O God, and lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia.**

## **Post-Communion Prayer**

A: Let us pray.

**C: Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever. Amen**

## **Benediction**

P: Go from this meal knowing that God blesses you and keeps you.  
That God's face shines on you and is gracious to you.  
That God looks on you with great favor and gives you peace.

**C: Amen**

## **Announcements**

**Sending Song**            "Go Tell It on the Mountain"            ELW #290

### *Refrain*

Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!

2 The shepherds feared and trembled  
when, lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth.

### *Refrain*

1 While shepherds kept their  
watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light.

3 Down in a lonely manger  
the humble Christ was born;  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn.

### *Refrain*

### *Refrain*

## **Dismissal**

A: Go in peace and serve the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

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