

# Jesus Christ, the Same Yesterday, Today, and Forever

Wednesday, March 26, 2025 7:00 pm

Pastor Jeffrey M. Engholm



## **Order of Worship**

#### Welcome

Tonight we gather in the name of our living God, our healer, our hope, and our only home. We come to hear the promises of God, to pray for unity, to pray for healing, and to pray for wholeness. And after this time of prayer is finished, we are sent into the world to share the light of Christ with all.

#### Litany

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last. **Amen.** It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

To sing praise to your name, O Most High.

To herald your love in the morning, your truth at the close of the day.

### **Opening Hymn**

#### Gather Us In

Chorus: Gather us in, gather us in
God only knows where we have been
Gather us in, gather us in

- We have come for mercy, we have come for peace We have come with heavy hearts Looking for release (Chorus)
- God is God of mercy, God is God of peace God has felt our heavy hearts God has set them free (Chorus)

### Readings

Ecclesiastes 3
Jeremiah 29
Hebrews 13

## Prayer

Let us pray,

Almighty God, you are the creator, helper, and healer of us all. Look upon the divisions in your world and help us to know that we are all your children, that all nations belong to one great family, and that your Holy Spirit leads us all to you. Multiply our prayers in every land until the whole earth becomes united in your love. Just as you have been with us in the past, sustain us in the present, and give us a vision for a peaceful future. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

#### Song

## Spirit, Open My Heart

Chorus: Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living,
As you love may I love in receiving and in giving, Spirit, open my heart.

- 1. God replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender, All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender. (Chorus)
- 2. Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story, In each thought, word, and deed may my living bring you glory. *(Chorus)*
- 3. May I weep with those who weep share the joy of friend and neighbor, As I live from day to day, love will be my finest labor. *(Chorus)*

Message Allison Neaton

#### Hymn of the Night

#### O Christ the Same

- O Christ the same, through all our story's pages, our loves and hopes, our failures and our fears; eternal Lord, the King of all the ages, unchanging still amid the passing years:

   O living Word, the source of all creation, who spread the skies and set the stars ablaze;
   O Christ the same, who wrought our whole salvation, we bring our thanks to you for all our yesterdays.
- O Christ the same, the friend of sinners, sharing our inmost thoughts, the secrets none can hide; still as of old upon your body bearing the marks of love, in triumph glorified:

   O Son of man, who stooped for us from heaven,
   O Prince of life, in all your saving power,
   O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are given, we bring our thanks to you for this the present hour.
- 3. O Christ the same, secure within whose keeping our lives and loves, our days and years remain; our work and rest, our waking and our sleeping, our calm and storm, our pleasure and our pain: O Lord of love, for all our joys and sorrows, for all our hopes, when earth shall fade and flee, O Christ the same, beyond our brief tomorrows, we bring our thanks to you for all that is to be.

#### **Sharing of the Peace**

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

Offering

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#### **Closing Prayer**

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Prayer of Jesus

Holy One, our only Home, blessed be your name.
May your day dawn, your will be done, here, as in Heaven.
Feed us today, and forgive us, as we forgive each other.
Do not forsake us at the test, but deliver us from evil.
For the glory, the power, and the mercy are yours, now and forever. Amen.

(Written by the Benedictine Women of Holy Wisdom Monastery in Madison, Wisconsin)

#### **Benediction**

Almighty God bless us now and forever.

Amen.

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

At the end of the service this evening, you are welcome to light a candle and remain in prayer for as long as you like before you leave.