

Sunday, July 31, 2022

Prelude

Come All You People

Come all you people, come and praise the Most High
Come all you people, come and praise the Most High
Come all you people, come and praise the Most High
Come now and worship the Lord.

Come all you people, come and praise the Savior...
Come all you people, come and praise the Spirit...

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Merciful God,

We confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When we meet those in need on the road, we have too often passed by on the other side. When gathered together by your Spirit, we choose to scatter ourselves to distant places, away from you and away from each other. Through your Spirit, gather us again and set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.

Dear Friends, hear the good news! In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to love as God loves. You are free to live as God lives. The Holy Spirit has, indeed, gathered us once again, closer together, closer to God. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

Shall We Gather at the River

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.

On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,
We will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day. (*Refrain*)

Ere we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown. (*Refrain*)

Invocation

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

A Litany of Gathering

Let the assembly of the people be gathered around you, O Lord,
as you take your seat on high. *(Psalm 7)*

Whenever we gather, O Lord, we glorify your name.

May the name of the Lord be declared in Zion,
when the people gather together to serve the LORD. *(Psalm 102)*

Whenever we gather, O Lord, we glorify your name.

Let the redeemed of the Lord be gathered from all the lands,
from the east and the west, from the north and the south. *(Psalm 107)*

Whenever we gather, O Lord, we glorify your name.

The Lord builds up Jerusalem, and gathers the outcasts of the earth. *(Psalm 147)*

Whenever we gather, O Lord, we glorify your name.

Just as the body is one and has many members, so it is with Christ.
Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. *(1 Corinthians 12)*

Whenever we gather, O Lord, we glorify your name.

Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." *(Matthew 18)*

Whenever we gather, O Lord, we glorify your name.

Hymn of Praise

Let the poor one say, "I am rich again."
Let the lost one say, "I am found again."
Let the river flow.
Let the blind one say, "I can see again."
Let the dead one say, "I am born again."
Let the river flow, let the river flow.
Let the river flow, let the river flow,
Holy Spirit come, move in power.
Let the river flow.

Let the River Flow

Opening Prayer

Gracious Lord God, you have promised that, where two or three are gathered in your name, you are there in the midst of them. Be in the midst of us now, and bless this gathering with your holy presence so that we might be filled with your light, your life, and your love. In your name we pray.

Amen.

Reading

Luke 15

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." Then Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me! I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

Message

Hymn of the Day

All Are Welcome

Chorus:

All are welcome, friend and stranger,
At the banquet of the Savior,
All are welcome, all are welcome here.

From the woman who comes crying,
Leaving tears at Jesus feet,
To the man who knows the right way, but cannot see. *(Chorus)*

From the ones who feel forgotten,
Those who sense their place is gone,
To the ones who live in hunger, here you belong. *(Chorus)*

Go into the streets and cities,
To the farms and families,
Tell about the splendid table, God's mercy. *(Chorus)*

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.

Sharing of the Peace

Offering

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Closing Prayer

Almighty God, as we close this worship today, we pray that the ears that have heard your voice will continue to hear you each day. We pray that the eyes that have seen your great love may see that same love in the faces of our neighbors. We pray that the tongues that have sung your praise may speak the truth in love. And we pray that the feet that have walked into this gathering today may continue to walk in your light. We pray all this in the name of Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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.

Benediction

May Almighty God, Creator, Christ, and Comforter, keep you in God's light, God's truth, and God's love, now and forever.
Amen.

Closing Hymn

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Upon that mountain when my Lord spoke,
Out of his mouth came fire and smoke.
And all around me it looked so fine,
I asked the Lord if all was mine.

Refrain:

Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray,
Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.

The Jordan River is chilly and cold,
It chills the body but not the soul.
There ain't but one train upon this track,
It runs to heaven and runs right back. *(Refrain)*

I have sorrow and I have woe,
And I have heartaches here below.
But while God leads me I'll never fear,
For I know surely the Lord is near. *(Refrain)*

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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In Our Prayers this Week:

John Millar (husband of Nancy Pickering), Dave Sowles (neighbor of Jeff & Susan Engholm),
Delmer and Beth Malo (parents of Pam Olson), Rick & Laurie Mann,
Lyle Kuntz (father of Kim Kuntz), Deanna Nelson (sister of Elvina Nelson),
Sara Baluski (currently deployed in the U.S. military)