

Words of Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Let us confess our need for God's forgiveness.
(a time of silence is kept)

Gracious God,

We confess to you the truth of our broken lives.

We have not trusted your promises or walked in your ways.

**You know the depth of our sins against you,
each other and your whole creation.**

**We pray for the healing and wholeness
made possible through Jesus Christ,
our Savior and brother.**

Have mercy on us and bring us back to you.

Amen.

God sent Christ Jesus

to announce the good news of forgiveness and release
to all who are bound by guilt or broken by shame,
that we might praise God and serve the world
with glad and generous hearts.

In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Live in newness of life, in hope and peace.

Amen.

Gathering Song *Beneath the Tree of Life* (vs. 1, 2 & 3)

Refrain

Come and gath - er be - neath the tree of life.

Come and gath - er be - neath the tree of

life— root of wis - dom, branch of peace, fruit of

heal - ing and re - lease. Come and

gath - er be - neath the tree of life.

Verses

1. Here we raise the sav - ing cross of
2. Flow - ing from this tree of grace and
3. Come and drink the wa - ters of sal -
4. Here be - neath the branch - es of your
5. Root - ed in the rich earth of your

Je - sus, sing - ing praise to him who
 pas - sion, Oh how sweet the taste, how
 va - tion, come and die to sin, rise
 mer - cy, we in - voke your name, re -
 Gos - pel, may we bear the fruits your

leads us on from death in - to new life.
 deep and rich the well - spring of your love.
 up to life with - in the Reign of God.
 mem - ber how your love has set us free.
 Word has plant - ed deep with - in our hearts.

To Refrain

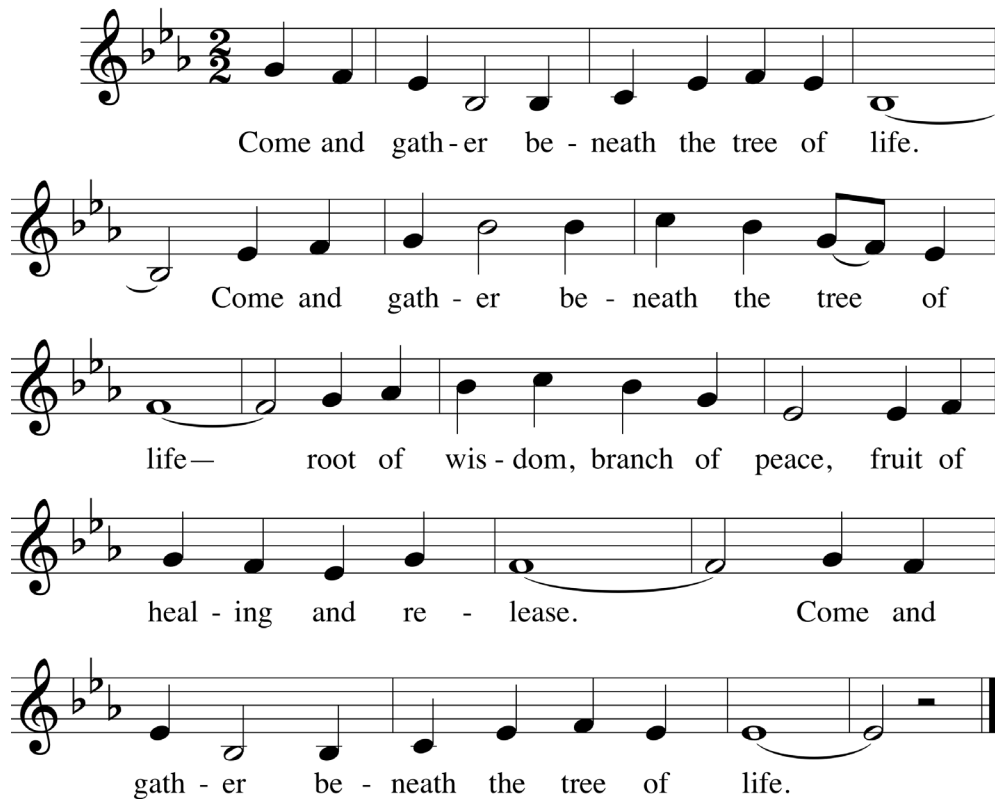
Greeting

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

And also with you.

Repeat the refrain of Come and Gather Beneath the Tree of Life

Refrain



The musical notation is written on five staves in a 2/2 time signature with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The lyrics are: "Come and gath-er be - neath the tree of life. Come and gath - er be - neath the tree of life— root of wis - dom, branch of peace, fruit of heal - ing and re - lease. Come and gath - er be - neath the tree of life."

Prayer of the Day

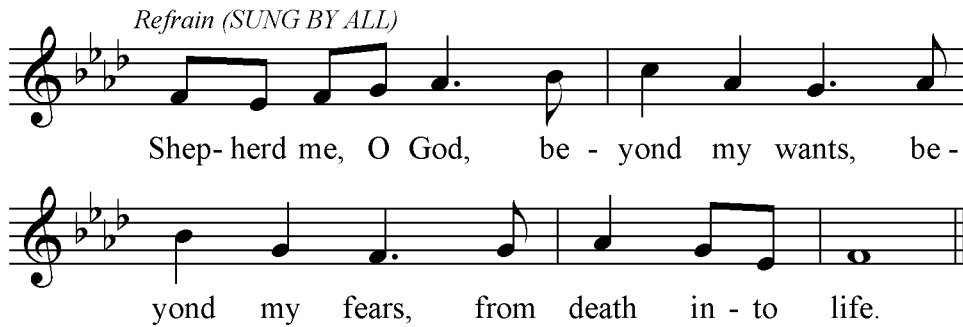
Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

Psalm 23

Refrain (SUNG BY ALL)



Shep- herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -
yond my fears, from death in - to life.

Verses (Sung by the Cantor)

1. *God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want, I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love, I walk by the quiet waters of peace. **REFRAIN***
2. *Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul, you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth, my spirit shall sing the music of your name. **REFRAIN***
3. *Though I should wander the valley of death, I fear no evil, for you are at my side, your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope. **REFRAIN***
4. *You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred, crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold. **REFRAIN***
5. *Surely your kindness and mercy follow me all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore. **REFRAIN***

Holy Gospel John 9:1-41

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called

Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

Song

I Saw the Light

I wandered so aimless, life filled with sin.
I wouldn't let my dear savior in.
Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night.
Praise the Lord, I saw the light

Chorus:

I saw the light I saw the light
no more darkness no more night
Now I'm so happy no sorrow in sight
Praise the lord, I saw the light.

Just like a blind man I wandered along
Worries and fears I claimed for my own
Then like the blind man that God gave back his sight
Praise the lord I saw the light. Chorus

I was a fool to wander and astray
Straight is the gate and narrow the way
Now I have traded the wrong for the right
Praise the lord I saw the light. Chorus

Affirmation of Faith

An ancient creedal expression of the teachings of the Christian faith.

**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

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

God of insight, open the hearts of the church and the world to all who testify to your deeds of power. Raise up voices in your church that are often silenced or overlooked due to age, gender expression, race, or economic status. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of insight, empower us to care for the land and all living things that dwell in it and beneath it. Provide rich soil for crops to grow. Bring rain to lands suffering drought. Protect hills and shorelines from damage caused by erosion. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of insight, bring peace to all people and nations. Anoint leaders who seek goodness, righteousness, and truth on behalf of all. Frustrate the efforts of those who would seek to cause violence or terror. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of insight, you care for our needs even before we ask. Come quickly to all who seek prayer this day (*especially*). Accomplish healing through the work of doctors, nurses, physical therapists, nutritionists, and all who tend to human bodies. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of insight, help this assembly lift up the unique gifts of each person who enters, no matter their physical capacity, cognitive ability, or sensory need. Help us to be creative and brave in making our facilities and our ministries accessible to all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of insight, you call out to those who are asleep and awaken them to new life with you. We give thanks for your saints (*especially*). Join us together with them as your children in this world and the next. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Peace

Thanksgiving for the Word

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end, bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.
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.**

Blessing

SENDING

Sending Song

Tree of Life



1. Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
2. Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling
3. Give us eyes to see you clear - ly; make us



death we are re - born; though you die in all of
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and
chil - dren of your light. Give us hearts to live more



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the
near - ly as your gos - pel shin - ing bright, as your



rise with ev - 'ry morn.
riv - er, you the sea.
gos - pel shin - ing bright.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.