



GATHER

Prelude

Words of Welcome

We gather in the image of the Creator
who is a community of love.

We gather in the name of the Redeemer
who reconciles all of creation.

We gather in the presence of the Life Giver
who inspires new life and renews it.

Gathering Song

Have You Not Noticed?

1. Have you not noticed stars in the heavens
Light ever streaming through time and space?
New universes God is creating
Beyond our wisdom here on this earth.
2. Have you not noticed sunflowers in gardens,
Blossoming orchards providing food?
God's great abundance ever bestowing
Food for all tables – the common good.
3. Have you not noticed your many blessings
Everyday moments providence provides?
Share now God's goodness making connections
With all creation embrace and abide.

(to the tune of Morning Has Broken)

Confession and Forgiveness

We praise you God, for the Earth that sustains life. Through the planetary cycles of days and seasons, renewal and growth, you open your hand to give all creatures our food in the proper time. In your Wisdom you gave a Sabbath for the land to rest. But these days our living pushes the planet beyond its limits. Our demand for growth, and an endless cycle of production and consumption are exhausting our world. The forests are leached, the topsoil erodes, the fields fail, the deserts advance, the seas acidify, the storms intensify. Humans and animals are forced to flee in search of security. We have not allowed the land to observe a Sabbath, and the Earth is struggling to renew. And so we confess. God of mercy and justice,

You assure us that we can be filled from the yield of the land.

We confess our lack of trust that we can thrive within the Earth's limits.

You affirm that our security is found in enough.

We confess our lack of courage to resist the myth of endless growth.

You tell us that the land is Yours, and everything in it.

We confess to thinking of creation as given, instead of a gift.

You call us to leave enough fruit on the vine and in the fields to feed our neighbors, animals, and replenish the Earth.

We confess our failure to share what we receive from the Earth.

You call us to fairness and justice.

We confess our lack of faith, not loving you with our whole heart and strength and mind, or our human and non-human neighbors as ourselves.

Turn us from fear and mistrust,

and free us to imagine a life reconciled to the Earth and all creatures, through the Good News of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God (Romans 8:26–27).

Amen.

(adapted from the Lutheran World Federation)

Greeting

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

Amen.

Song of Praise

God of Wonders

Lord of all creation,
of water, earth and sky,
the heavens are your tabernacle,
Glory to the God on high.

Refrain: God of wonders, beyond our galaxy
You are holy, holy.
The universe declares your majesty
You are holy, holy,
Lord of heaven and earth,
Lord of heaven and earth.

Early in the morning,
I will celebrate the light,
When I stumble in the darkness,
I will call your name by night.

Refrain: God of wonders, beyond our galaxy
You are holy, holy.
The universe declares your majesty
You are holy, holy,
Lord of heaven and earth,
Lord of heaven and earth.

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Children's Time

WORD

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 103

Refrain

The Lord is kind and mer-ci - ful, the
Lord is kind and mer-ci - ful.

Verses

1. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all my being bless God's name;
bless the Lord, and forget not God's benefits.
2. God pardons all your iniquities, and comforts your sorrows,
redeems your life from destruction and crowns you with kindness.
3. Merciful, merciful, and gracious is our God;
slow to anger, abounding in kindness.

Text: Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 8; para. by Marty Haugen, © 1983, GIA Publications, Inc.; refrain trans. © 1969, ICEL
Music: Marty Haugen, © 1983, GIA Publications, Inc.

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions.

²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia Verse

The image shows a musical score for the Alleluia Verse. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The first system has the lyrics "Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." The second system has the lyrics "Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." The music is written in a simple, melodic style with a steady rhythm.

Music: "Alleluia 7," Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994, and the Taizé Community
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Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Glory to you, O Lord

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Pastor Richard Rollefson

Hymn of the Day

A King Once Told His Servants

1. A king once told his ser - vants, "Now pay me what is mine!"
 2. Though he had been for - giv - en, that man was not so kind.
 3. O God, in Christ you freed us; now may we not for - get.

One came to him and begged him, "I'll pay! Just give me time!"
 He threat-ened one who owed him, "Now pay me what is mine!"
 Our sin was o - ver - whelm - ing but you once paid the debt.

And so the king for - gave him, though that man's debt was great.
 He would not show com - pas - sion toward one whose debt was small.
 May we live lives of mer - cy, for - giv - ing, bless-ing, too;

What joy to be un - bur - dened! What cause to cel - e - brate!
 What judg-ment came up - on him! How bit - ter was his fall!
 and may our grace toward oth - ers re - flect our thanks to you.

WORDS: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2012 (Matthew 18:25-35; 6:12, 14-15; 18:21-22)
 MUSIC: Trad. Welsh Melody, *Hymnau a Thonau*, 1865

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Affirmation of Faith

We belong to the Creator in whose image we are all made.

In God we are breathing, in God we are living, in God we share the life of all creation.

We belong to Jesus Christ, the true icon of God and of humanity.

In him God is breathing, in him God is living, through him we are reconciled.

We belong to the Holy Spirit, who gives us new life and strengthens our faith.

In the Spirit love is breathing, in the Spirit truth is living, the breath of God always moves us.

We belong to the Holy Trinity, who is one in all and Three-in-One.

In God we are all made, in Christ we are all saved, in the Spirit we are all united.

Prayers of the People

Prayer requests: Alan Estes, Family of Gloria Brown

Prayers for our church family: Sven, Kathryn & Finn Hammer/Winfrey; Steven & Cindy Harding; Carol Harvey

The Peace

MEAL

Offering

Thanksgiving for the Word

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with word 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

SENDING

Sending Song

Forgiveness

It's the hardest thing to give away
and the last thing on your mind today
It always goes to those who don't deserve.
It's the opposite of what you feel
when the pain they caused is just too real
It takes everything you have to say the word
Forgiveness, forgiveness

It flies in the face of all your pride,
it moves away the mad inside
It's always anger's own worst enemy
Even when the jury and the judge say
You've got a right to hold a grudge
It's the whisper in your ear sayin' set it free
Forgiveness, forgiveness
Forgiveness, forgiveness

Chorus

Show me how to love the unlovable
Show me how to reach the unreachable
Help me now to do the impossible
Forgiveness, forgiveness
Help me now to do the impossible
Forgiveness

It'll clear the bitterness away
it can even set the prisoner free
There is no end to what its power can do
So let it go and be amazed by what you see through eyes of grace
The prisoner that it really frees is you
Forgiveness, forgiveness
Oh, Forgiveness, forgiveness

Chorus 2

Show me how to love the unlovable
Show me how to reach the unreachable
Help me now to do the impossible
Forgiveness I want to finally set it free
Show me how to see what Your mercy sees
Help me now to give what You gave to me
Forgiveness, forgiveness
Forgiveness, forgiveness, forgiveness

Benediction

Mothering God,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Thanks to:

Lector: Steve Bennett

Musicians, Singers: Paul Woodring / Dave Becker / Joan Pedersen / Sue Haas-Clark / Patti Frey / Richard Rollefson