

Gathering to Worship

Prelude

Welcome

We have come to worship God!

On behalf of the Soul Repair Center, we warmly welcome each one of you to this worship service.

With the whole Christian Church around the world, we stand today at the beginning of the Lenten season.

On this coming Wednesday, known as Ash Wednesday in the Christian Church, Christians around the world will begin a 40 day season of preparation and repentance in which we remember anew Jesus' passion and suffering for us, offer him our own suffering and brokenness knowing that "by his stripes we are healed," and eagerly anticipate his resurrection from the dead. We trust that the Spirit of the crucified and risen Christ will unite us to him and to one another in our worship today.

Please join me in the Lenten Call to Worship printed in your Order of Service:

* Call to Worship

based on Isaiah 43:19-21

Let us worship God, who has done great things.

We rejoice in our God, who made a way through the desert of this world.

Let us worship God, who has caused streams of mercy to flow in the wasteland.

We are the people God has formed through Christ; we worship him, and we rejoice!

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

We praise God for the grace that has saved us. Alleluia! We rejoice!

* Hymn of Praise – *Lift High the Cross*

Chalice Hymnal 108

* Prayer of Invocation

Journey with us, O holy God, as we travel to the cross. Sharpen our focus, that our attention may center more on you than ourselves. Lead us through the shadows of darkness and prepare our hearts, that we might be a people of prayer, ready to perceive and respond to your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. In his name we pray. **Amen.**

Confession and Renewal

Call to Confession

Psalm 139:23-24, NRSV

God calls us to confession with these words from Psalm 139:

Search me, O God, and know my heart;

Try me and know my thoughts.

See if there is any wicked way in me,

And lead me in the way everlasting.

Prayer of Confession – *Just As I Am, Without One Plea*

Chalice Hymnal 339

Assurance of Pardon – Matthew 11:28-30

Hear these words of comfort and assurance from Jesus:

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Hymn of Dedication – *Have Thine Own Way, Lord!*

Chalice Hymnal 588

Litany of Lament and Prayer for Healing

We praise you today as the God of peace.

**We thank you, Lord Jesus, for coming to proclaim peace to those who are far away
and peace to those who are near.**

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

We long for peace and want to be peacemakers.

Yet we know that in a world filled with evil and corruption, there is a time for war.

**We know that you have authorized government to resist those who do evil
and to protect the innocent.**

We know there is a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

We lament how easy it is to confuse what time it is.

**To fight when we should refrain from fighting,
to confuse necessary restraint of evil with national self-interest,**

**to treat the horrors of war too lightly,
to lose urgency to end war that goes on too long.**

**We acknowledge the high cost of war in human lives and cultural destruction,
the ways that war despoils the divine stamp of God's image in all of war's victims.**

**We lament that we have been party to wars that have unnecessarily wounded, maimed,
and disfigured your children in body and soul.**

We are sorry. Be merciful to us, we pray.

(A time of silence for personal confession and lament)

**We claim the promise of your Word today,
that you do not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities,**

**that as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is your love for those who fear you.**

**That as far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

We praise you today as the one who comes with healing in your wings.

We pray today for the healing of the nations.

You have already created peace by the blood of your cross.

Make peace reign in our world, dear God.

And make us instruments of your peace.

**We pray for the day when all nations will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks,**

**for the day when there will be no more war, no mourning, no crying anymore.
Make us instruments of your peace.**

And come, Lord Jesus.

Come quickly. Amen.

Proclamation of God's Word

Scripture Reading – Psalm 63:1-8

- ¹ You, God, are my God,
earnestly I seek you;
I thirst for you,
my whole being longs for you,
in a dry and parched land
where there is no water.
- ² I have seen you in the sanctuary
and beheld your power and your glory.
- ³ Because your love is better than life
my lips will glorify you.
- ⁴ I will praise you as long as I live
and in your name I will lift up my hands.
- ⁵ I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods;
with singing lips my mouth will praise you.
- ⁶ On my bed I remember you;
I think of you through the watches of the night.
- ⁷ Because you are my help,
I sing in the shadow of your wings.
- ⁸ I cling to you;
your right hand upholds me.

Meditation – “In the Shadow of Your Wings”

–Rev. Dr. Duane Kelderman

Prayer

Celebration of Holy Communion

The Opening

**The Lord be with you.
And also with you.**

**Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.**

**Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

Words of Institution

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God! People will come from east and west, from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God. When our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him. This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast that he has prepared.

With joy we praise you, gracious God, for you created heaven and earth, made us in your image, and kept covenant with us— even when we fell into sin. We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by his life, death, and resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

The Acclamation

Therefore we proclaim our faith as signed and sealed in this sacrament.
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Prayer for the Work of the Holy Spirit

Send your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray, that the sharing of the bread that we break and the cup that we bless may be for us the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Grant that, being joined together in him, we may attain to the unity of the faith and grow up in all things into Christ, our Lord. And as this grain has been gathered from many fields into one loaf, and these grapes from many hills into one cup, grant, O Lord, that your whole church may soon be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

The Communion

The Thanksgiving

Please repeat after me these words of thanksgiving:

Praise the Lord O my soul . . . (congregation repeats)
All my inmost being, praise his holy name . . .
Praise the Lord, O my soul . . .
And forget not all his benefits . . .
Who forgives all your sins . . .
And heals all your diseases . . .
Who redeems your life from the pit
And crowns you with love and compassion . . .
Who satisfies your desires with good things . . .
So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's . . .

Departing to Serve

* Hymn of Praise – *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

Chalice Hymnal 622

* Closing Blessing

May our Lord, whose arms were spread on the cross to embrace the whole world,
help us this week to take up the cross and follow him. **Amen.**

Postlude