

Sunday, February 4, 2024 9:00 am

Photo by Adam Deathe



Lent begins Ash Wednesday, February 14, with worship at 6:15 pm in the sanctuary.

Mid-week Lenten Gatherings

- 5:00 to 6:00 pm- A light supper served between 5:30 to 6:15 pm- Wednesday Church School
- 6:15 pm- Guided conversation and worship around the table at in the fellowship hall.

Calendar and focus for the mid-week Lenten services:

- February 21 Rejection Response (Luke 9:51-62)
- February 28 Wanting to See Again (Luke 18:35-43)
- March 6 The Man with No Friends (Luke 19:1-10)
- March 13 Unbinding and Letting Go (John 11:17-44)
- March 20 The Anointing (John 12:1-19)

There is still time to fill the care package boxes for Zion college students.

The boxes are out in the Gathering Space and available to be filled now until February 8.



We will be mailing the packages on February 9 so that students will receive them in time for Valentine's Day.

Donations to offset the cost of postage are welcome.



There is a Balm In Gilead

#614

Text: African American spiritual. Music: African American spiritual. Public Domain.

Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain, but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul, you can tell the love of Jesus and say, "He died for all."

3.

Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend; and if you lack for knowledge he'll ne'er refuse to lend.

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: God, our rock and refuge,

C: we pour out our hearts before you.
We have known you but have not always loved you.
We have wounded one another

We have wounded one another and sinned against you.

We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant.

Renew your creation.

Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all.

Amen.

L: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

God has spoken:

The time of grace is now.

In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.

By the authority of + Jesus Christ,

your sins are forgiven.

You are God's beloved.

C:

Amen.

Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

Kyrie

L: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

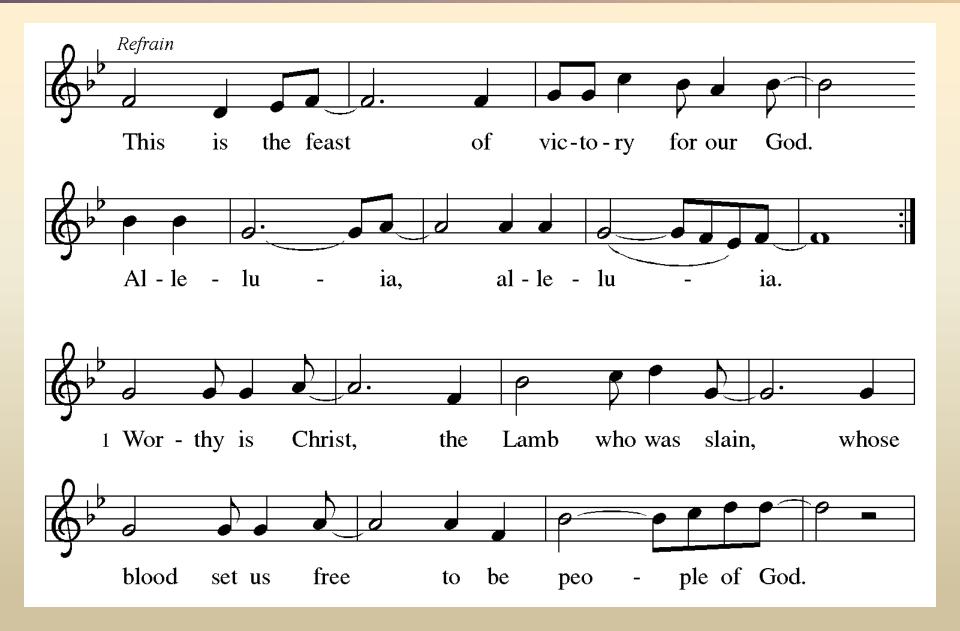
L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

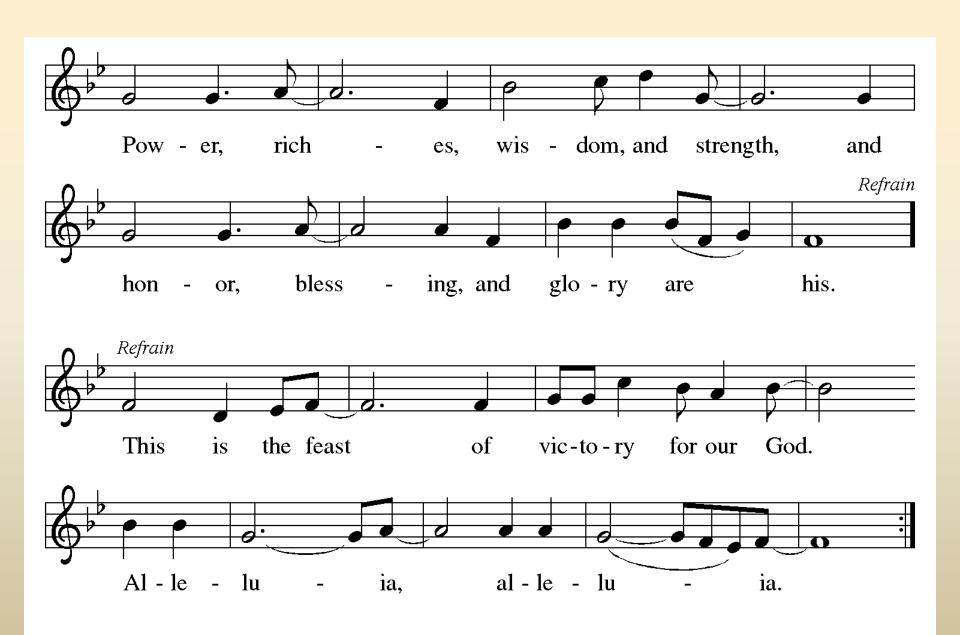
C: Lord, have mercy.

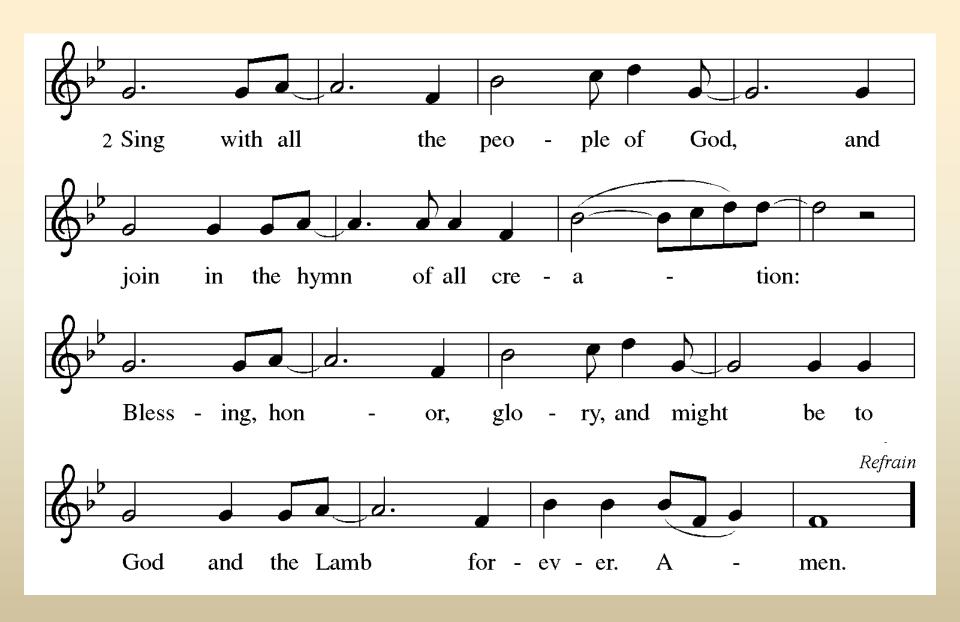
L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

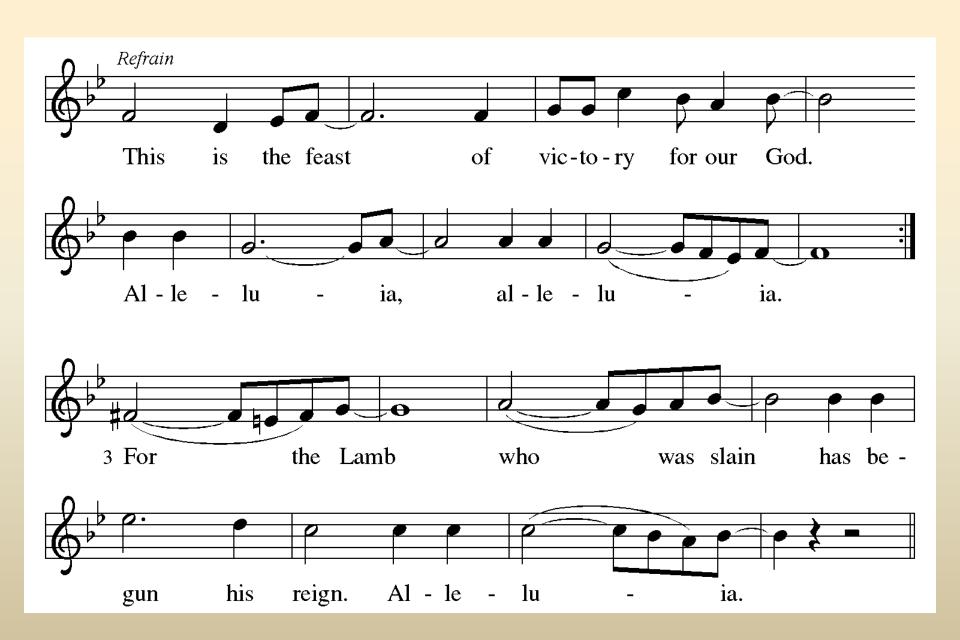
C: Amen.

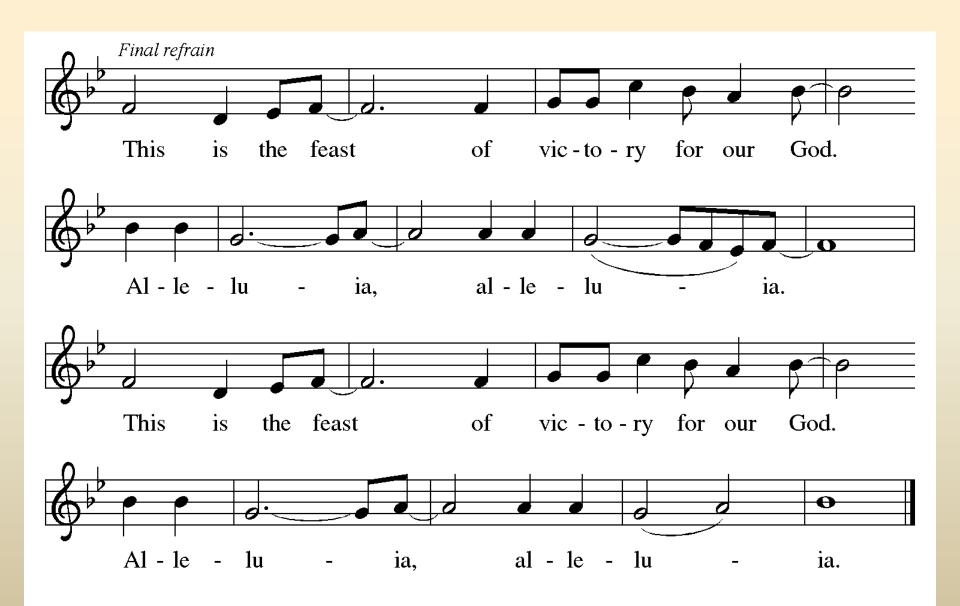
Hymn of Praise

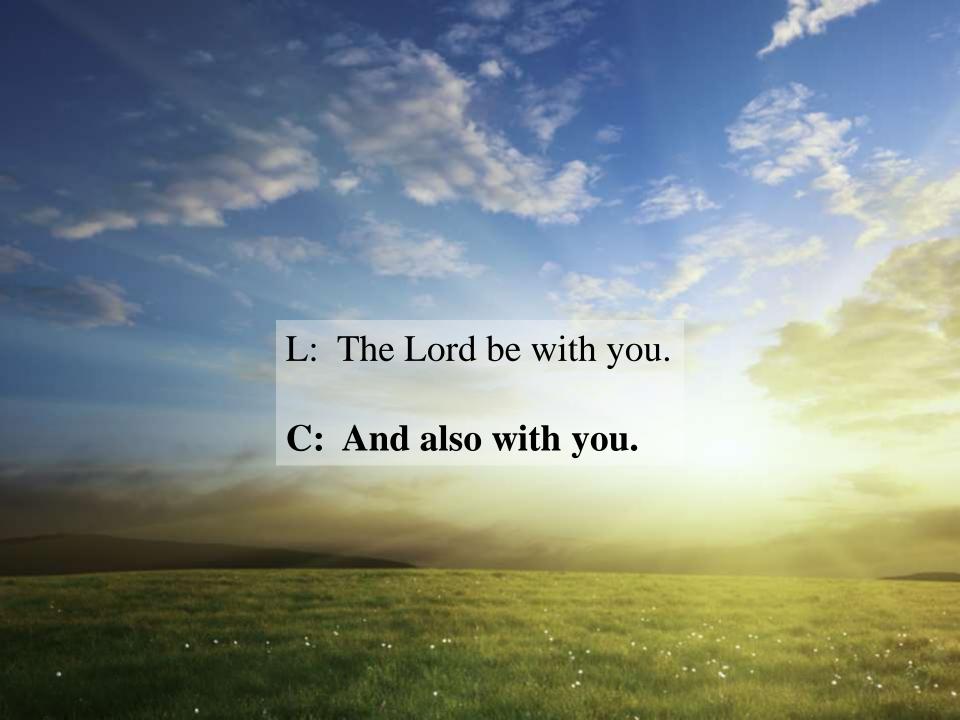












Prayer of the Day

L: Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31

The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in;
²³who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name;

because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. ²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.

30Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;
31but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 147:1-11, 20c

- L: ¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! How pleasant it is to honor |God with praise!
- C: ²The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem, and gathers the exiles of Israel.
- L: ³The LORD heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.
- C: ⁴The LORD counts the number of the stars and calls them all by their names.

- L: ⁵Great is our LORD and mighty in power; there is no limit to God's wisdom.
- C: ⁶The LORD lifts up the lowly, but casts the wicked to the ground.
- L: ⁷Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make music upon the harp to our God,
- C: 8who covers the heavens with clouds and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the mountains.

- L: ⁹God provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they cry.
- C: ¹⁰God is not impressed by the might of a horse, and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,
- L: ¹¹but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD, in those who await God's steadfast love. ^{20c}Hallelujah!

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

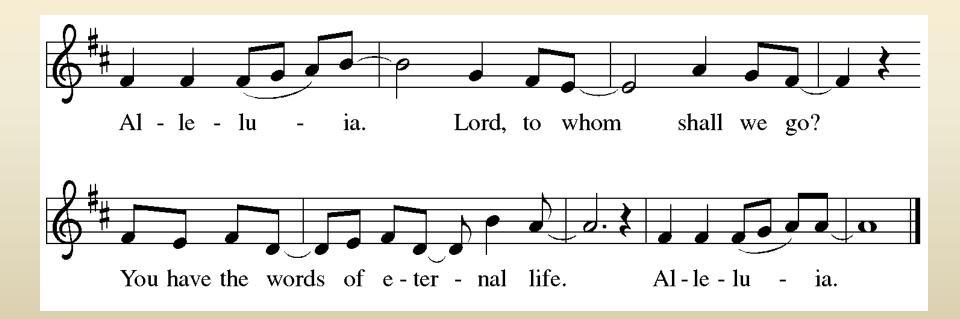
¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them.

²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the first chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

²⁹As soon as Jesus and the disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.

³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

32That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons.
33And the whole city was gathered around the door. 34And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

L: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Message

"Lifted Up"

Precious Lord, Take my Hand

#773

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1. Precious Lord, take my hand,
lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night,
lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

2. When my way grows...drear, precious
Lord, linger near,
when my life is....almost...gone,
hear my cry, hear my call,
hold my hand lest I fall.
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

3. When the darkness appears and the night draws...near, and the day is... past and ...gone, at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

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.



Arise, Your Light Has Come!

ELW #314 vv. 1, 4

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947. Music: William H. Walter, 1825-1892. Text © 1992 GIA Publication, Inc. Public Domain

1. Arise, your light has come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God
which shines on you today.



4. Arise, your light has come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing,
God's pow'r will make us strong.

Offering Prayer

L: Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C: Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

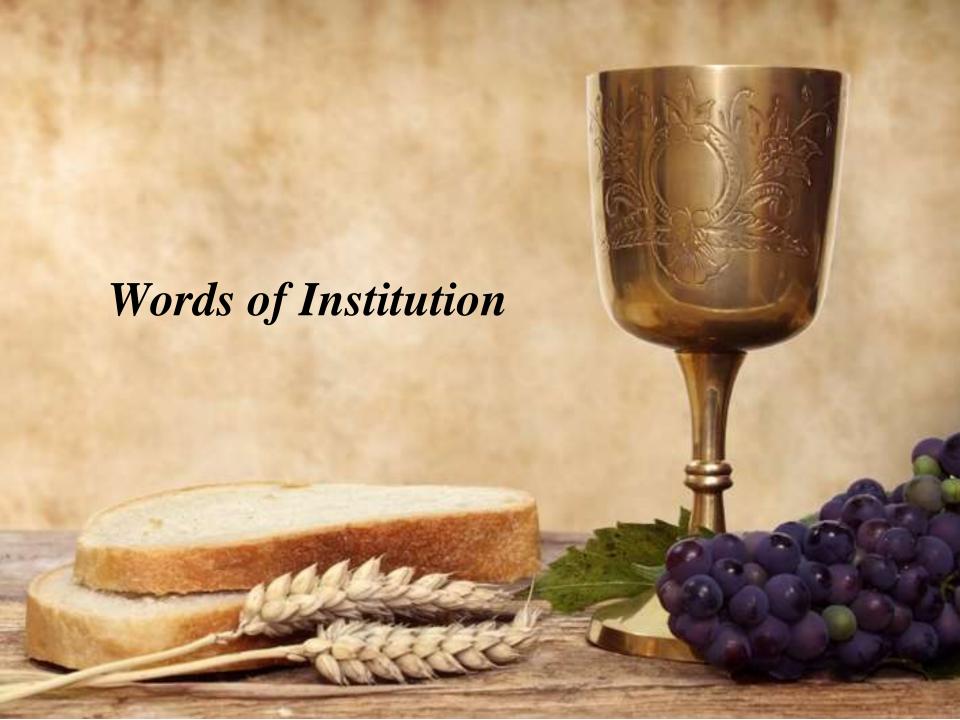
Response after each petition:

L: God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

C: 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. 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.



On Eagle's Wings

ELW #787

Text: Michael Joncas, b. 1951. Music: Michael Joncas, b. 1951. © 1979 New Dawn Music. Reprinted with permission under OneLicense #731814-A. All rights reserved.

1. You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in this shadow for life, say to the Lord: "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"



And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.



2. The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear: under God's wings your refuge, with faithfulness your shield.



And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.



You need not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day; though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come.



And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.



4. For to the angels God's given a command to guard you in all of your ways; upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.



And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

Blessed Assurance

ELW #638

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915. Music: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830-1908. Public Domain.

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above
Filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.



Prayer after Communion

L: Giver of every gift,
Christ's body is our food,
and we are Christ's body.
Raise us to life by your power
for the benefit of all and to your glory,
now and forever.

C: Amen.

Blessing

L: God who names you,
Christ who claims you,
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
H bless you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me

ELW #860

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1. I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me,
Singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.

2. Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me.
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me.
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me,
Singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.

3. When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me. When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me. When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me, Singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

C: Amen.

Thank you for worshipping with us!

God bless you!

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