

Introduction to the day

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the diverse people of God.

OPENING SONG/PRELUDE

Where I Belong

©Bldg 429

(sung by Wing & A Prayer only)

WELCOME

The congregation is invited to stand as they are able and to face the baptismal font.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
who is eager to forgive
and who loves us beyond our days.

Amen.

Dear friends, together let us acknowledge
our failure to love this world as Jesus does.

God of mercy and forgiveness,

we confess that sin still has a hold on us.

We have harmed your good creation.

We have failed to do justice,

love kindness,

and walk humbly with you.

Turn us in a new direction.

Show us the path that leads to life.

Be our refuge and strength on the journey,

through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

Beloved of God:

your sins are forgiven ✚ and you are made whole.

God points the way to new life in Christ,
who meets us on the road.

Journey now in God's abiding love

through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Please remain standing and turn to face the altar as you are able.

GATHERING SONG *In Christ Alone*

©Keith Getty/Stuart Townend

♩=60

VERSE

G D G A D/F#



1. In Christ a - lone my hope is found, He is my
 2. In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full-ness of
 3. There in the ground His bod - y lay, Light of the
 4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the

3 G D/F# Em7 G/A D G D G



light, my strength, - my song; This Cor - ner - stone, this sol - id
 God in help - less babe! This gift of love and right-eous -
 world by dark - ness slain; Then, burst - ing forth in glo - rious -
 pow'r of Christ ___ in me; From life's first cry to fi - nal

6 A D/F# G D/F# Em7 G/A D D/F#



Ground, firm through the fierc - est drought _ and storm. What heights of
 -ness, scorned by the ones He came ___ to save. Till on that
 Day, up from the grave He rose ___ a - gain! And as He
 breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny. No pow'r of

9 G D/F# A^{sus} A D/F# G Bm7



love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv - ings
 cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of God was sat - is -
 stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on
 hell, no scheme of man, can ev - er pluck me from His

12 A^{sus} A G D G A D/F#



cease. My Com - fort - er, my All in All, here in the
 -fied. For ev - 'ry sin on Him was laid; Here in the
 me; For I am His and He is mine, bought with the
 hand; Till He re - turns or calls me home, here in the

INSTRUMENTAL

15 G D/F# Em7 G/A D Am7



love of Christ ___ I stand.
 death of Christ ___ I live.
 pre - cious blood ___ of Christ.
 pow'r of Christ ___ I'll stand!

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.

KYRIE

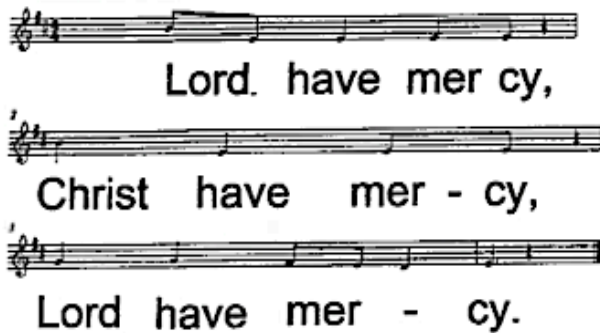
Kyrie

©Kent Alleluia Liturgy

Leader

In peace, let us pray
to the Lord

CONGREGATION




Lord. have mer cy,
Christ have mer - cy,
Lord have mer - cy.

2

Leader

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

CONGREGATION



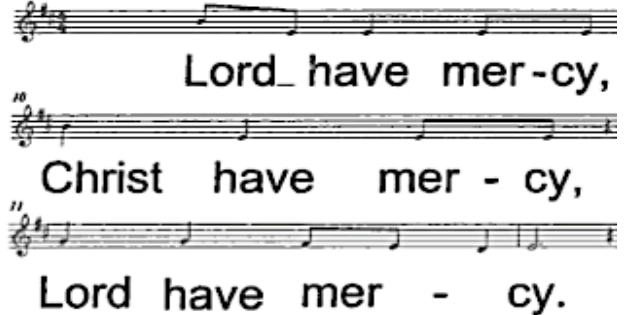
Lord. have mer- cy,
Christ have mer- cy,
Lord have mer - cy.

3

Leader

For peace in the world,
for the health of God's church,
and for all unity, let us pray
to the Lord

CONGREGATION



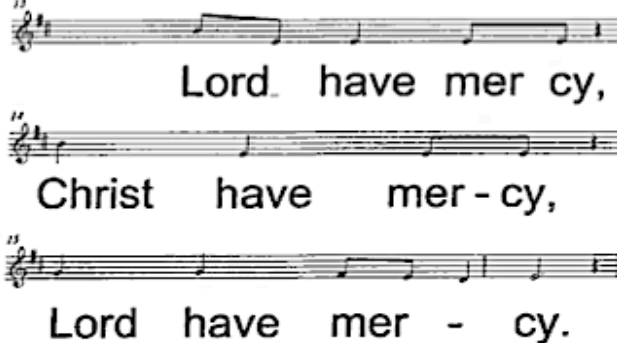
Lord. have mer- cy,
Christ have mer - cy,
Lord have mer - cy.

4

Leader

For this holy house,
and we who offer praise, let us pray
to the Lord

CONGREGATION

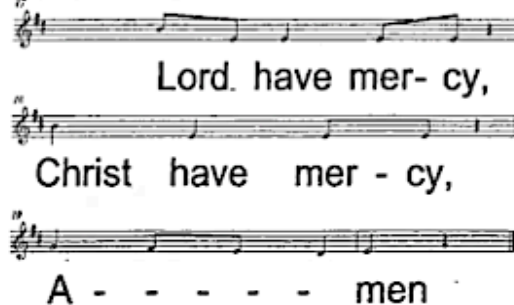


Lord. have mer cy,
Christ have mer - cy,
Lord have mer - cy.

Leader

Help, save, comfort and defend us,
gracious Lord

CONGREGATION



Lord. have mer- cy,
Christ have mer - cy,
A - - - - men

This is the feast of vic-tor-y
 Feast of vic-tory for our God.
 This is the feast of vic-tor-y
 Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia
 Wor-thy is the
 Lamb who was slain
 His blood to set us free
 Peo-ple of God to serve the Lord
 Serve the Lord for e-ver.
 Po-wer, rich-es,
 wis-dom, strength
 Hon-or, bless-ing, glo-ry

All be-long to God on high.
 Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
 This is the feast of vic-tor-y
 Feast of vic-tory for our God.

This is the feast of vic-tor-y
 Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia
 Sing with all God's
 ho-ly peo-ple
 Join the hy-mn of
 all cre-a-tion
 Bless-ing, hon-or,
 glo-ry, mi-ght
 Be to God and the
 Lamb for-ev-er
 A-men! A-men!

This is the feast of vic-tor-y
 Feast of vic-tory for our God.
 For the Lamb who once was slain
 Has be-gun his reign forev-er.
 A - - - - men!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20 (Pr. Allen Dunn)

Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the LORD; or choose death by following other gods.

A reading from Deuteronomy.

¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 1 (Pr. Allen Dunn)

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

²**Their delight is in the law of the LORD, and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

⁴**It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶**For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

SECOND READING: Philemon 1-21 (Pr. Allen Dunn)

While Paul was in prison, he was aided by Onesimus, a man who had run away from Philemon, a slaveowner and a Christian friend of Paul. Paul told Onesimus to return to Philemon and encouraged Philemon to receive Onesimus back as a Christian brother.

A reading from Philemon.

¹Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, ²to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God ⁵because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. ⁷I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through

you, my brother.

⁸For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, ⁹yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. ¹²I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; ¹⁴but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

KIDS' MESSAGE

(Pr. Allen Dunn)

The congregation is invited to stand as they are able to welcome the Gospel

GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33

(Pr. Carolyn Brodt)

Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] and he turned and said to them, ²⁶“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated


SERMON

(Pr. Carolyn Brodt)

The congregation is invited to stand as they are able

HYMN OF THE DAY *Ten Thousand Reasons: Bless the Lord, O My Soul* (ACS 1097)


Refrain




Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;



wor-ship his ho - ly name. Sing like nev - er be-fore,




O my soul; I'll wor-ship your ho - ly name.



1 The sun comes up, it's a new day dawn-ing;
2 You're rich in love, and you're slow to an - ger. Your
3 And on that day when my strength is fail - ing, the



... it's time to sing your song a - gain. What - ev - er may
name . . is . . . great, and your heart is kind. For all . . your
end . . draws near, and my time has come; . . . still, my



pass, and what - ev - er lies be - fore me, let me be
good-ness, I will keep . . on . . sing - ing— ten thou-sand
soul will sing your praise un - end - ing— ten thou-sand



Refrain

sing - ing when the eve - ning comes.
rea - sons for my heart to find.
years and then for - ev - er - more!

CREED

Let us join with Christians throughout the world and confess our shared faith using the words of the 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.

Please be seated

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Pr. Allen Dunn)

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation.

We pray for the church around the world and for the mission of the gospel. Refresh the hearts of your people, deepen our understanding of every good thing we share, and strengthen our partnerships in the faith. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For the well-being of the earth and all its creatures: for trees and forests, for all that will yield fruit this season, and for streams and other bodies of water. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For the nations and those in authority: for the elected leaders of our towns, states, and country, and for international organizations. Grant wisdom to those who govern and raise up citizens who make decisions in the best interest of their neighbors. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For all in need: for those who suffer from disease, who struggle with homelessness or food insecurity, for those whose family life is difficult, and for all in this community who need your care. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For this community of faith: for all our labors—begun, continued, and ended in you—that they glorify your holy name. Bless your people with the strength to live into their many vocations for the sake of the world. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the saints who now rest from their labors. Give us faith, like them, to love you with all our hearts, and by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

(Prayer requests provided by congregation to be added here by Reader)

Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

We acknowledge that all we have is a gift from God and in gratefulness we return to God a portion of the time, finances, and gifts that God has given us. Thank you so much for your continued support.

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God,
in your great love you richly provide for our needs. Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing, and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all.
Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,
our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,
you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.
You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,
and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.
You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Remembering, therefore,
his life given for us and his rising from the grave,
we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.
By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:
strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,
and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church, both now and forever.
Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us using the language of our hearts.
**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites you to this table.
Come, taste and see.

*All are welcome to join in our communion celebration.
Please follow the directions of Pastor Carolyn and the ushers.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of the abundant table,
you have refreshed our hearts in this meal
with bread for the journey.
Give us your grace on the road
that we might serve our neighbors with joy;
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

The congregation is invited to stand as they are able.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

God, who gives life to all things
and frees us from despair,
bless you with truth and peace.
And may the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
guide you always in faith, hope, and love.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

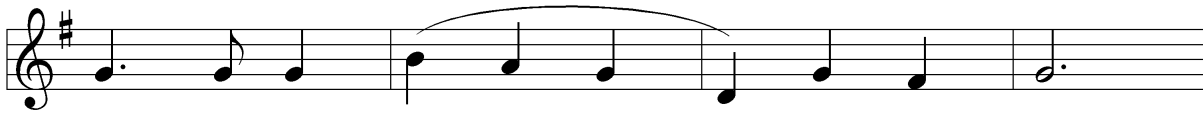
Earth and All Stars!

(LBW 558)

Music and Lyrics on Following Page



1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets!
 2 Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing snow - storm!
 3 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals!
 4 En - gines and steel! Loud pound - ing ham - mers!



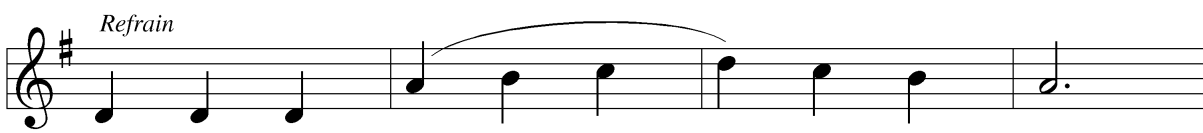
Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!



Oh, vic - to - ry! Loud shout - ing ar - my!
 Flow - ers and trees! Loud rus - tling dry leaves!
 Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming cel - los!
 Lime-stone and beams! Loud build - ing work - ers!



Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!



Refrain

He has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too will praise him with a new song!

5 Classrooms and labs!
 Loud boiling test tubes!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Athlete and band!
 Loud cheering people!
 Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

6 Knowledge and truth!
 Loud sounding wisdom!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Daughter and son!
 Loud praying members!
 Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After brief announcements related to the ministry of Bethel, the congregation is invited to stand and face the font.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

Thanks be to God.