

Assembly Closing Worship

2nd Sunday after Pentecost —June 2, 2024

GATHERING

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

*** THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

We praise you, O God, for water—
the Platte, the Missouri, and all the rivers and lakes of Nebraska,
the rain that nourishes animals and plants,
the water for drinking and bathing.
We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for our water stories—
a flood that cleansed the earth,
the sea that drowned the enemy,
a river that healed leprosy.
We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We remember the waters of Jesus—
baptized in the Jordan River,
calming the Sea of Galilee,
drinking from Jacob's Well,
healing at the pool of Bethesda,
washing the disciples' feet.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for through water you have birthed us into the family of Christ,
bathed us in forgiveness, and enlivened us in the Spirit.

We praise you, O God, for baptism.

We praise you, O God, for baptism.

O God, you are the Ocean, sustaining this earth.
O God, you are the River, saving us from death.
O God, you are the Fountain, granting us health and well-being.
We praise you, O God, today, tomorrow, forever.
Amen, and amen.
Amen, and amen.

*** GATHERING SONG *Gather Us In* (ELW 532)**

**1 Here in this place the new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.**

**2 We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,
we are the old who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.**

**3 Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**

**4 Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away--
but here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

*** 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.

*** LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

We gratefully acknowledge the Native Peoples on whose ancestral homelands we gather as the Nebraska Synod: the Lakota Sioux, the Pawnee, the Cheyenne, the Omaha, the Oto, the Arapaho, and the Ponca. We acknowledge that they have occupied and cared for this land over countless generations, and we celebrate their continuing contributions to the life of this region, as well as the diverse and vibrant Native communities who make their home here today. May all who call this land “home” continue to work together for the healing of all nations and the establishment of justice and peace for all people.

Amen.

KYRIE (ELW p. 213)



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **Lord, have mer - cy.**
Lord, have mer - cy:



Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **Christ, have mer - cy.**
Christ, . . . have mer - cy:



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **Lord, have mer - cy.**
Lord, have mer - cy:

*** CANTICLE OF PRAISE *Glory Be to God in Heaven* (ELW p. 204)**

**1 Glory be to God in heaven;
peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation,
Father of surpassing worth:
we exalt you, we adore you,
we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you;
here on earth our songs we raise.**

**2 Glory be to Christ forever,
Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior,
you have come from heav'n above;
on the cross you died to save us;
now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us;
in your promise firm we stand.**

**3 Holy One we now acclaim you;
Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you,
throned on high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit,
in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit,
glory be to God on high!**

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Almighty and ever-living God, throughout time you free the oppressed, heal the sick, and make whole all that you have made. Look with compassion on the world wounded by sin, and by your power restore us to wholeness of life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

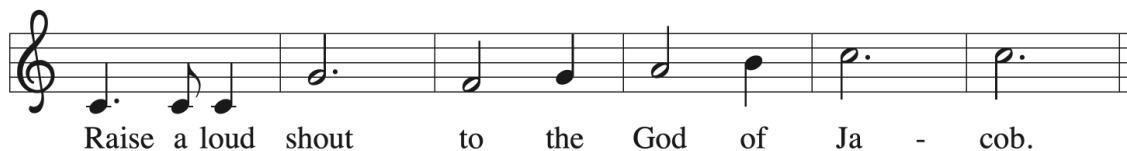
READING: Deuteronomy 5:12-15

A reading from Deuteronomy.

¹²Observe the sabbath day and keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. ¹³Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁴But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you. ¹⁵Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 81:1-10



¹Sing with joy to | God our strength
and raise a loud shout to the | God of Jacob.

²**Raise a song and | sound the timbrel,
the merry harp, | and the lyre. R**

³Blow the ram's horn at | the new moon,
and at the full moon, the day | of our feast;

⁴**for this is a stat- | ute for Israel,
a law of the | God of Jacob.**

⁵God laid it as a solemn charge upon Joseph, going out over the | land of Egypt,
where I heard a voice I | did not know:

⁶**I eased your shoulder | from the burden;
your hands were set free from the grave- | digger's basket. R**

⁷You called on me in trouble, and I de- | livered you;
I answered you from the secret place of thunder and tested you at the wa- | ters of Meribah.

⁸**Hear, O my people, and I will ad- | monish you:
O Israel, if you would but lis- | ten to me!**

⁹There shall be no strange | god among you;
you shall not worship a | foreign god.

¹⁰**I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the | land of Egypt.
Open your mouth wide, and | I will fill it. R**

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4:5-12

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

⁵We do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

⁷But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. ⁸We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. ¹¹For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. ¹²So death is at work in us, but life in you.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 216)



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Al - le -
lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*** GOSPEL: Mark 2:23—3:6**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²³One sabbath [Jesus] was going through the grainfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. ²⁴The Pharisees said to him, “Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?” ²⁵And he said to them, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? ²⁶He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions.” ²⁷Then he said to them, “The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; ²⁸so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath.”

^{3:1}Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. ²They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. ³And he said to the man who had the withered hand, “Come forward.” ⁴Then he said to them, “Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?” But they were silent. ⁵He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. ⁶The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

*** HYMN OF THE DAY *Praise and Thanksgiving* (ELW 689)**

**1 Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer
for all things living, you have made good:
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.**

**2 God, bless the labor we bring to serve you,
that with our neighbor we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, we would work with you,
harvesting, milling for daily bread.**

**3 Father, providing food for your children,
by Wisdom's guiding teach us to share
one with another, so that, rejoicing
with us, all others may know your care.**

**4 Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people,
freely confessing your gracious hand.
Where you are reigning, no one will hunger;
your love sustaining showers the land.**

*** THE APOSTLES' CREED (ELW p. 217)**

Called, gathered, enlightened, and sanctified by the Holy Spirit, we confess our 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 OF INTERCESSION

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

Guide your church to expressions of faith that bring rest, rejuvenation, and release. Remind us to be attentive to the spiritual, physical, and societal weariness of our neighbors, that the love we cultivate might proclaim your grace through tangible acts of mercy and justice. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Keep us mindful of the rhythms of nature as the days lengthen and the seasons shift toward summer. Walk with us as we continue to recover and rebuild from spring storms, and bring favorable weather for the flourishing of crops, gardens, and orchards. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Suffering and violence continues throughout your creation, O God of peace. Let your Holy Spirit dwell deeply within us, that we might cast a vision of love and community where there is hatred and division. Help us practice peace with ourselves, one another, and our neighbors, that a spirit of discernment and care for the common good might be cultivated among us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Provide wholeness and respite to all who are weary: those who struggle in any way and those who care for them, especially all who continue to suffer the aftereffects of severe weather in body, mind, or spirit. Strengthen and uplift all who are called to vocations of caring and public service in their times of exhaustion or frustration. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Stir our hearts toward abundant generosity among neighbors who experience hunger, housing insecurity, or any other scarcity of the essentials needed to support our bodies and our lives. Bless feeding ministries and community food efforts, community gardens, farmers markets, food pantries, farmers, grocers, and all who work to provide sustenance and shelter for others. Open both our hearts and our tables. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We remember the communion of saints whose lives made visible the saving life of Jesus Christ. In particular we remember these beloved of the Nebraska Synod: Pastor Jack Berry, Pastor Ron Nelson, Pastor Fred Landsberg, Pastor Deanne Lundahl, Pastor Tom Holcombe, Pastor Roger Sasse, Pastor Lee Griess, and others whom we name before you now. *(a brief silence is kept for naming)*. Guide us by their example to embody the treasure of your love for the sake of our world, until we come to our final rest in you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Uniting God, you have called us together as one church, entrusted us with your mission in this place and time, and asked us to steward your gifts in such a way that the world may hear your gospel proclaimed in word and deed. Send us into your world with bold and joyful hearts, cultivating love for you, for one another, and for our friends and neighbors. Receive our prayers through the power of your Spirit and the love of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*** PEACE**

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

THANKSGIVING

We respond to God's grace with gratitude and praise.

*** OFFERING HYMN *For the Fruit of All Creation* (ELW 679)**

**1 For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.**

**For these gifts to ev'ry nation,
thanks be to God.**

**For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.**

**2 In the just reward of labor,
God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor,
God's will is done.**

**In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.**

**3 For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.**

*** THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

Holy God, our Maker, our Healer, our Teacher,
your magnificent creation springs forth from your Word.
All that has life and breath praises your name.
For your Word that sustains the earth, we thank you, O God.
We thank you, O God.

You sent us Jesus, your Word, to renew the world.
He healed the sick, fed the hungry,
preached your mercy, and called us to faith.
For your Word in our Lord Christ, we praise you, O God.
We praise you, O God.

Nourish us with the Spirit of your Word,
that we may grow in grace, bearing the fruits of redemption,
and sharing your strength and beauty with all the world.
For your Word in our lives, we entreat you, O God.
We entreat you, O God.

Accept our thanksgiving and receive our prayer,
for the sake of your living Word, Jesus our Savior.
Amen.

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, in the language or translation of our hearts.

The assembly is invited to pray the Lord's Prayer in the translation they choose.

SENDING

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

*** BLESSING**

The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever.

Amen.

*** CLOSING OF A SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

Jesus said, You will be my witnesses
to the ends of the earth.

I chose you and appointed you
to bear fruit that will last.

Remember, I will be with you always,
to the end of time.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and extend to us 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.

O God, our beginning and our end, you kept Abraham and Sarah in safety throughout the days of their pilgrimage, you led the children of Israel through the midst of the sea, and by a star you led the magi to the infant Jesus. Protect and guide us now as we set out to travel. Make our ways safe and our homecomings joyful, and bring us at last to our heavenly home, where you dwell in glory with our Lord Jesus Christ and the life-giving Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

I declare this assembly closed in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

*** SENDING HYMN *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (ELW 631)**

**1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.**

**2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.**

**3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.**

**4 Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!**

*** SENDING**

**Go in peace! Proclaim the good news of God's cultivating love!
Thanks be to God!**

All music and liturgical texts reproduced in this service (unless otherwise noted) are used by permission under the following licenses:

OneLicense: A-723746

Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License: SAS027327

Sundays and Seasons Hymns and Songs License: A723746

CCLI: 1891425

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.