



WELCOMING OF GUESTS AND VISITORS

** Indicates a time to stand in body or in spirit*

The Holy Spirit Calls Us Together As The People Of God

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

INTRODUCTION

L Lent has traditionally been a time of repentance and renewal. In the early church, this was a time of preparation and instruction for those to be baptized at the Great Vigil of Easter on Holy Saturday.

Later, this idea of preparation and instruction was applied to baptized Christians as well.

In our Lenten observance on these Wednesday evenings, we will focus on five of the six great themes of Luther's Small Catechism in our homilies.

They are: The Ten Commandments (God's Law), The Apostles' Creed (Faith), The Lord's Prayer (Prayer), The Sacrament of Holy Baptism (Grace), The Sacrament of the Altar (Holy Communion). This year, we are just leaving out Confession and Absolution (Forgiveness).

Tonight, our service order will be centered around the Apostles' Creed as a way of unifying our faith in loving response to the Gospel of our Lord.

[Please stand if you are able.]

*CALL TO GATHER

P We gather in the name of God: Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen!

*INVITATORY

P Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; Come into his presence with singing.

C Know that the Lord is God. It is He who has made us, and we are His; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. (Psalm 100:1-3)

***Gathering Hymn**

Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross

ELW 335

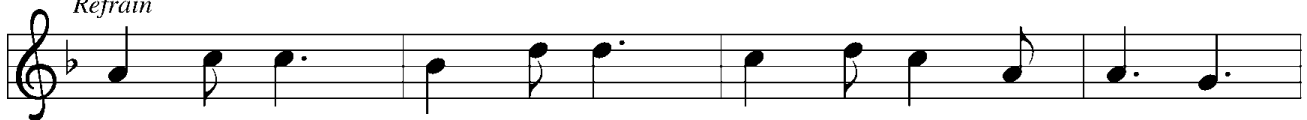


1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

[Please, be seated.]

We Are Called To Confess And Repent Of Our Sins.

A BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Psalm 51:1-17

P Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love,
according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.

C **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.**

P For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

C Against you, you alone, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

P Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

C You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

P Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

C Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

P Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

P Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

C Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

P Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

C Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

P O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

C For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

P Through faith, the gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

C Amen.

[Please, stand if you are able.]



Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

[Please, remain standing if you are able.]

In Gratitude We Build the Church of Christ

WE RESPOND TO GOD

***THE GREETING**

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

C And also with you.

***THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Together we pray,

C Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

[Please, be seated.]

THE OFFERTORY

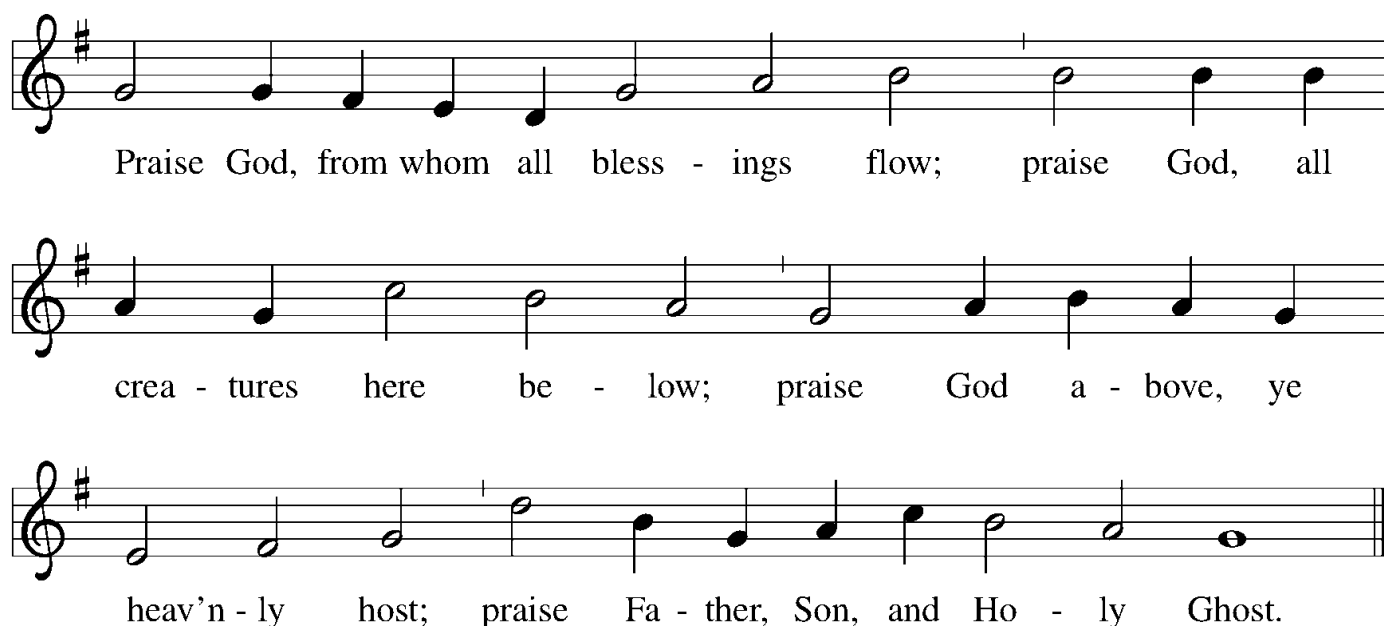
P Let us bring our offerings of Love to the Lord.

[Please, stand if you are able.]

*The Doxology

*Praise God, From Whom All
Blessings Flow*

ELW 885



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

*OFFERING PRAYER

P Together we pray.

C Gracious God, accept these gifts, and with them our lives,
to be used in your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[Please, be seated.]

We Thank God For God's Precious Words And Commandments

THE WORD IS READ, PROCLAIMED AND SUNG

EXHORTATION

L Brothers and sisters: We are not left to wander in confusion about who God is or who we are. In His mercy, God has revealed Himself

as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and has made known to us the story of our salvation. In the Apostles' Creed, the Church confesses the faith once delivered to the saints: that we are created by the Father, redeemed by the Son, and renewed by the Holy Spirit. Though sin clouds our minds and hardens our hearts, God gathers us again through His truth, that we may stand firm in the hope of the Gospel.

C Let us confess the faith of the Church this night, trusting not in our own understanding, but in the saving work of the Triune God.

L In this Creed we proclaim the mighty acts of God: the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth; Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord, who was conceived, suffered, crucified, risen, and ascended for us and for our salvation; and the Holy Spirit, who calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Church. This faith is not merely words upon our lips, but the foundation beneath our feet and the hope set before our eyes.

C We believe. Strengthen us in this faith, and keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

L We believe in God, the Father almighty...

C Creator of heaven and earth.

L We believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

C He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

L He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

C He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

L We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints...

C the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life

everlasting. Amen.

[Please, stand if you are able.]

***Hymn for Illumination** *Open Your Ears, O Faithful People* **ELW 519**



1 O - pen your ears, O faith-ful peo - ple, o - pen your ears and hear God's word.
2 They who have ears to hear the mes - sage, they who have ears, now let them hear;



O - pen your hearts, O roy - al priest-hood, God has come to you.
they who would learn the way of wis - dom, let them hear God's word.



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!
Hal-le-lu-jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!

[Please, be seated.]

THE HOMILY

PASTOR ESTEVEZ

[Please, stand if you are able.]

***PRAYER OF RESPONSE**

P Together we pray.

C Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit, you have made us your own. You forgave us all our sins and brought us to newness

of life. Continue to strengthen us with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in us your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

God Blesses Us And Sends Us On A Mission To The World.

THE SENDING

***THE BENEDICTION**

P May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise ✝ bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

Bless Now, O God

ELW 326



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
 2 Bless so - journ-ers and pil - grims who share this wind-ing way;
 3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
 your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus-tains the day.
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun-tain round,
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
 but wait-ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
 to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

***THE DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace and affirm our faith to the world.

C We will, with God's help.

POSTLUDE