



# 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 Ten Commandments as our guide and light to a life in loving response to the Gospel of our Lord.

*[Please, be seated.]*

### \*CALL TO GATHER

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

C Amen!

### \*INVITATORY

P Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

**C Let us come before God with thanksgiving and extol the Lord with music and song. (Psalm 95:1-2)**

**\*Gathering Hymn**

*Softly and Tenderly*

*ELW 608*



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,



watch - ing for you and for me.  
mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!  
par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

*[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.**

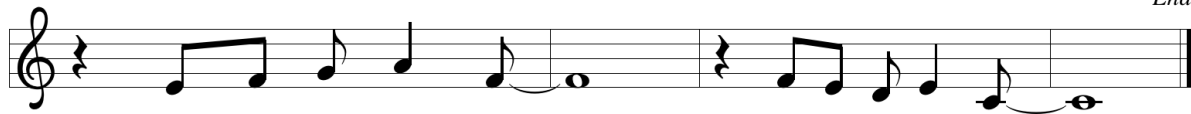
P Through faith, the gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

**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*

**THE RESPONSE 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

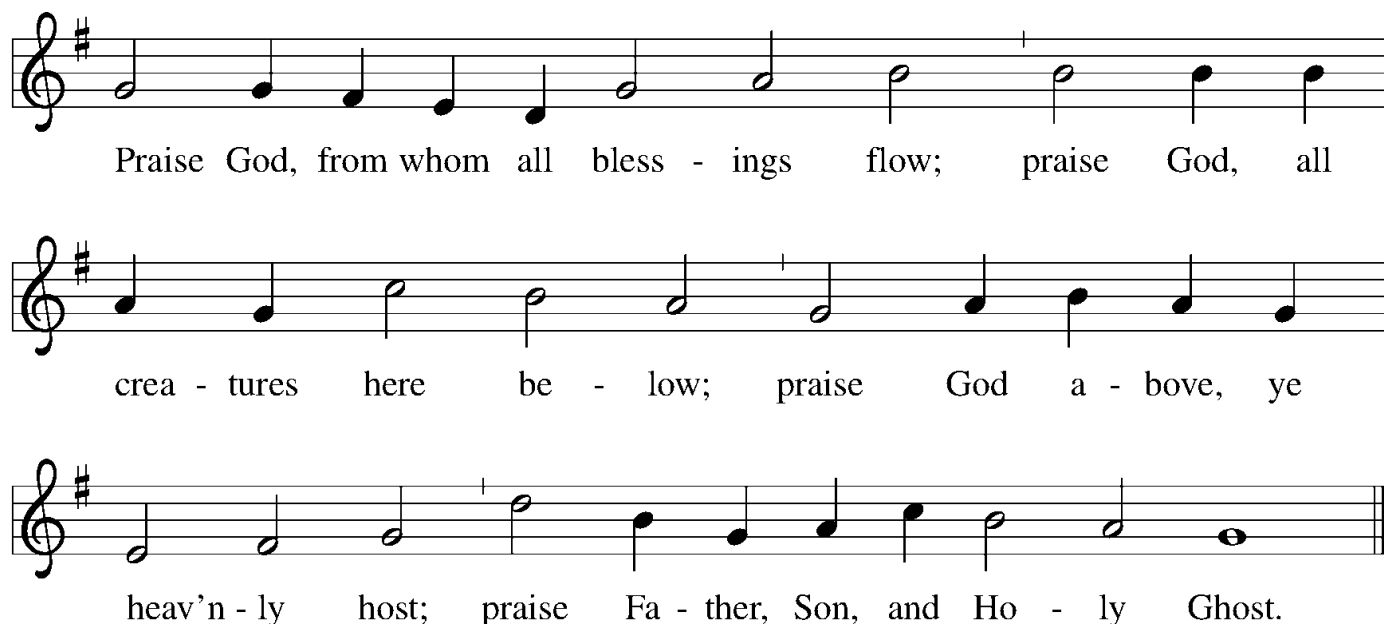
P Let us bring our offerings of Love to the Lord.

*[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.

### \*AN 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*

### AN EXHORTATION

L Brothers and sisters: We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation.

But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended. As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love - the discipline of Lent - help us to wage our spiritual warfare.

**C Let us therefore turn to the Word of God this night. For the Word of God contains the Law and the Gospel and is the light before our eyes.**

L The Gospel is God's gracious promise to us as his beloved children. It shows us all that He has done for us, in Israel and in Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sins and for newness of life. Christ makes us his own and heirs of his king-dom. The Law, on the other hand, represents what God expects of us in the response of our lives as we live in loving service to his will.

**C The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart. The commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to our eyes.**

#### THE DECALOGUE

L God spoke these words, and said: I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods.

**C Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this commandment.**

L You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

**C Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this commandment.**

L Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

**C Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this commandment.**

L Honor your father and mother.

**C Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this commandment.**

L You shall not kill.

**C Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this commandment.**

L You shall not commit adultery.

**C Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this commandment.**

L You shall not steal.

**C Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this commandment.**

L You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

**C Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this commandment.**

L You shall not covet.

**C Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this commandment.**

*[Please, stand if you are able.]*

### **\*THE DUOLOGUE**

P Jesus summarized the Decalogue into two great commandments: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like it; You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.”

**C The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart. The commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to our eyes.**

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.

*Refrain*

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

### Guide Me Ever

ELW 618



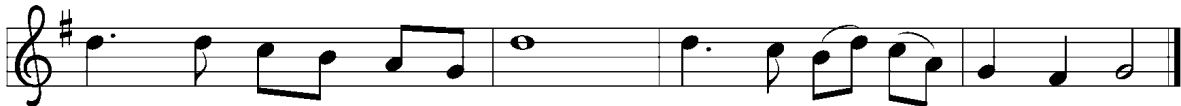
1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this  
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing  
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me  
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me  
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,  
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.  
shield me with your might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.  
I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

### \*THE DISMISSAL

**P** Go in peace and obey God's commandments.

**C** We will, with God's help.

### POSTLUDE