

Worship in the Home

Sunday after Pentecost



“Come...Be a Part of Peace!”

2600 Atlantic Avenue, Fernandina Beach FL 32034

904.261.6306 www.poplweb.org

November 15, 2020

In this time of world-wide crisis, we are not able to gather for worship as the body of Christ. While we cannot be together in person, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer. Use this resource as an aid for prayer in the home. As with our prayers in the gathered assembly for worship.



Set out and light a candle and you may wish to have a bowl of water as a reminder of your baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Service of the Word

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

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

Kneel, sit or stand. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy,
loved us even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ.
By grace you have been saved.
In the name of + Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
Amen.

Devotional Music

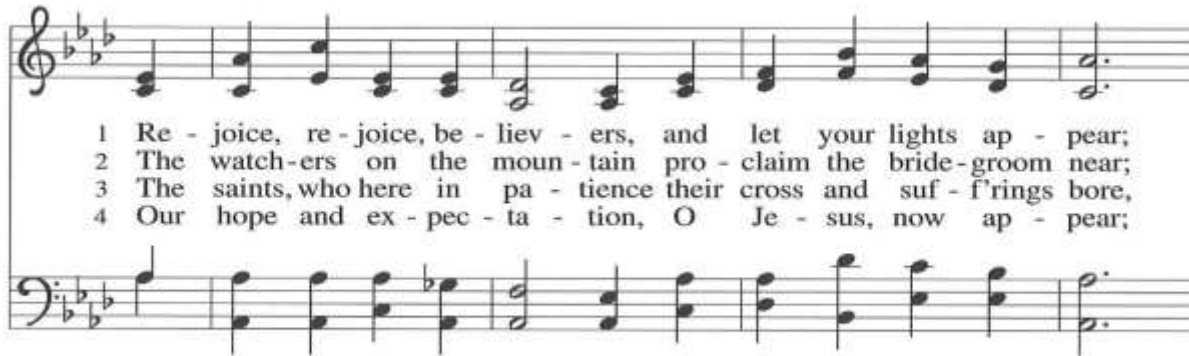
You might now sing or read "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

Or, click the following link for audio presentation –

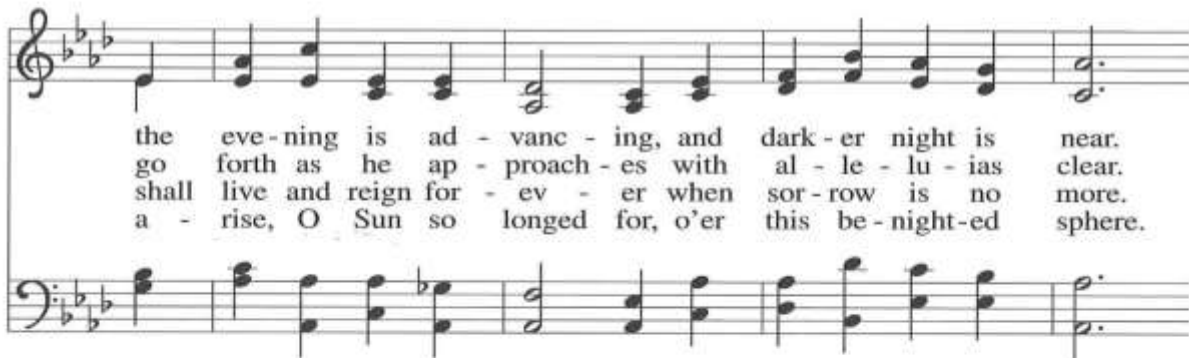
<https://youtu.be/53zKuLAeNoo>

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

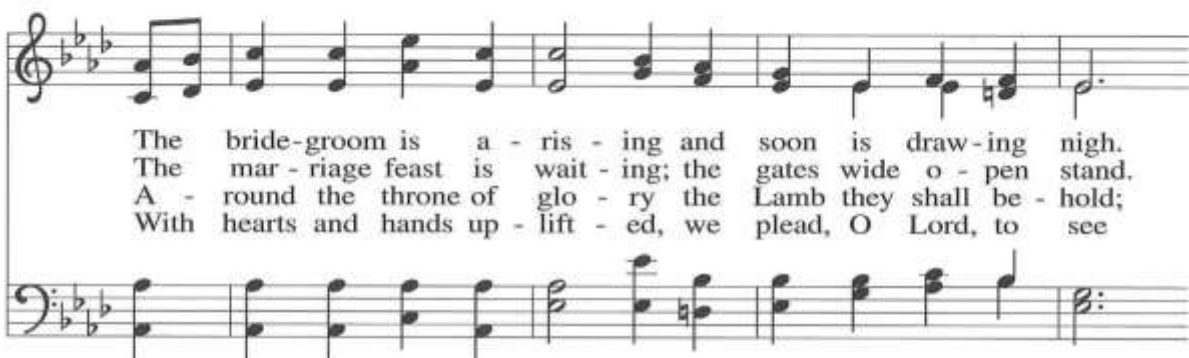
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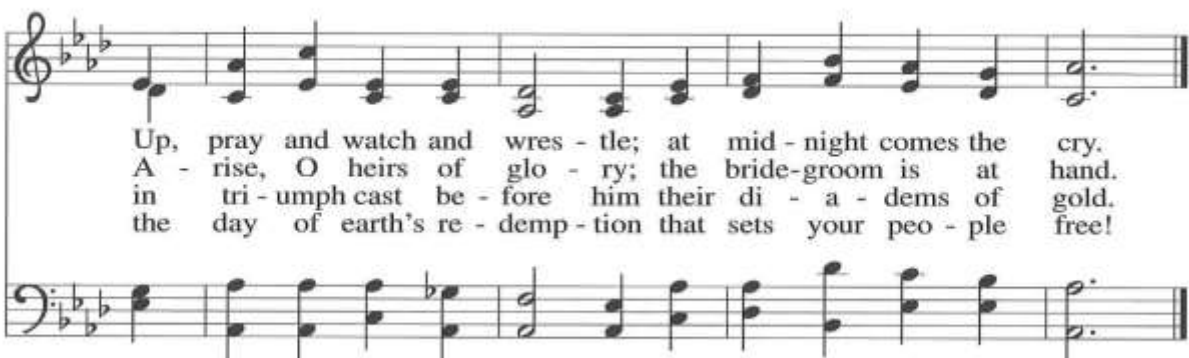
1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f' rings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Kyrie



Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

The Prayer of the Day may be prayed.



Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.



Then the first reading for this Sunday may be read, as follows.

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. ¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm." ¹³Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. ¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. ¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. ¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. ¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

May be sung or read in response to the First Reading.



¹Lord, you have | been our refuge
from one generation | to another.

**²Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the | earth were born,
from age to age | you are God.**

³You turn us back to the | dust and say,
"Turn back, O child- | ren of earth."

**⁴For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past
and like a watch | in the night;**

⁵you sweep them away | like a dream,
they fade away suddenly | like the grass:

**⁶in the morning it is | green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried | up and withered.**

⁷For we are consumed | by your anger;
we are afraid because | of your wrath.

**⁸Our iniquities you have | set before you,
and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance.**

[⁹When you are angry, all our | days are gone;
we bring our years to an end | like a sigh.

**¹⁰The span of our life is seventy years,
perhaps in strength | even eighty;
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,
for they pass away quickly and | we are gone.**

¹¹Who regards the power | of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your | indignation?]

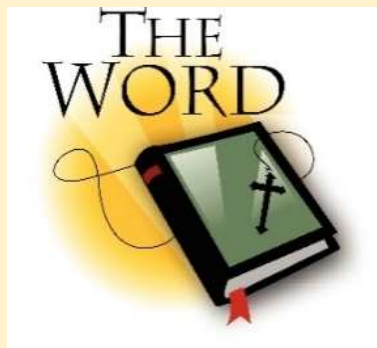
**¹²So teach us to num- | ber our days
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom.**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



Then the gospel reading may be read, as follows.

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

The holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



SERMON—Pastor Ida Iverson

“WHAT TREASURE ARE WE HIDING”

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Many times the first read of the lessons for the week do not excite or bring a feeling of how much a person would want to preach on them. Well honestly, it felt that way this week again. Of course, I had looked ahead last week and knew what I would be looking forward to this week and next week as well...but there is always a bit of wishful thinking that just maybe there would be a change. It does not usually happen that way. So, as I read the Old Testament lesson, not great news there. The Psalm opens with a great first verse, but as it continues, well you might say there is some judgment there on how we have lived our life. The second reading, the epistle to the Thessalonians, now there is something we can hold on to and give us hope. Then we arrive at that gospel, and it ends with one being thrown in outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. So, what can a person preach about, where is the good news in these lessons? Where will I hear it and be able to share it with all of you.

I announced last Sunday that I would be out of the office on Monday and Tuesday as I was going to attend my Society of the Holy Trinity Retreat. With the prediction of heavy rain and winds on Monday I decided to take the option to arrive on Sunday night. There were about a half dozen others who also were there, and some of our discussion was around the virus and the closing of businesses and especially the closing churches. How churches became nonessential, and I must admit I never felt that the church was nonessential at any time and if anything, I feel it is even more essential for our wellbeing in times like we are experiencing right now.

That might be what led me to see the gospel in a new light after the retreat and some of what transpired there. As I read the lesson, my first question that came to mind for me was “What treasure are we hiding?” That led to my next question, “What are we afraid of losing?” The person who buried the one talent given to him was afraid that if he did not give back to the master at least what he had been given in the first place, he would have to deal with

the wrath of the master. Really the outcome was the same, and like the master said at least he could have invested and gained interest for him instead of burying it and just giving back exactly what he had been given.

Did you notice that the master did not give any instruction to the three as to what they were to do with what had been given them? Can that be our problem as well; we are not quite sure what it is that we are called to do?

On Monday I was asked to read the lesson and a short reading at worship. The first time I read through I did not know if I could read it aloud or not. I read it again and felt the same way. When it came time to read it at worship, I had to pause more than once to get through

it and I may have to pause again here today as I read it for you. It is a reading from Markings Whitsunday 1961 by Dag Hammarskjöld. *"I don't know Who – or what put the question, I don't know when it was put. I don't even remember answering. But at some moment I did answer Yes to Someone – or Something – and from that hour I was certain that existence is meaningful and that, therefore, my life, in self-surrender, had a goal. From that moment I have known what it means "not to look back," and "to take no thought for the morrow." Led by the Ariadne's (most holy) thread of my answer through the labyrinth of Life, I came to a time and place where I realized the Way lead to a triumph, which is a catastrophe, and to a catastrophe which is a triumph, that the price for committing one's life would be reproach and that the only elevation possible to man lies in the depths of humiliation. After that, the word "courage" lost its meaning, since nothing could be taken from me. As I continued along the Way, I learned, step by step, word by word, that behind every saying in the Gospels stands **one** man's experience. Also behind every prayer that the cup might pass from him and his promise to drink it. Also behind each of the words from the Cross."*

As I read that and put it in context with the gospel it seemed like even those who had been given the talents were not given any instructions on what they were to do with them, two said "Yes" putting them to good use while the one did not say "Yes". Could it have been out of fear of humiliation, that he would not do good enough?

On Tuesday at worship the epistle lesson was from Romans 8 the last two verses 38 and 39 were highlighted in the sermon: ***"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."***

Out of all those items listed that cannot separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord...fear is not listed. Fear is the one thing that can

separate us from that love. It was fear that led the man to bury the one talent given to him. It is fear that has paralyzed not only our nation but the world that we are all going to die from Covid-19. Well in case you have never heard this before, WE ARE ALL GOING TO DIE SOMEDAY, WE JUST HAVE NO IDEA WHEN OR HOW, BUT WE ARE ALL GOING TO DIE! As Christians we believe in not only in the life and death of Jesus Christ, but more importantly of his resurrection and that we too will be raised to new life with him. That is the hope that we live in! Fear is what stops us from living out the calling we have answered yes to, in the here and now.

Fear stops us from doing so many things in our lives. I'll be honest with you all, if we are told we need to close the doors of the church again, I will be here I will not let fear stop me from proclaiming this wonderful message, that when we use the talents, the gifts that are given to us they grow. When we think outside the box and trust me, we have been doing that around here quite a bit lately, we will be shining the light the world needs so much right now. The last three verses from the epistle lesson say it the best: ***“For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.”*** This place, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and each one of you are essential. Essential because we are called to not look back...and that is part of next week's lesson, but for today, we are to look forward, to go forward, to be strengthened by and allow no fear to separate you and me from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Shortly you

will come forward and you will put out your empty hands and receive the Body of Christ and you will receive a portion of his blood and Jesus literally becomes a part of you in that action. Let the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ fill you with his light and his life. May it give you strength to drive away the fear that the world wants to fill you and me with to take away the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Remember those first two questions I had? “What treasure are we hiding?” “What are we afraid of losing?” Here is my answer. The treasure is Jesus Christ our Lord and there is no hiding him and we never have to fear that we will lose him because we have been named and claimed in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit forever...yesterday, today, tomorrow, and eternally. Amen.

Hymn of The Day

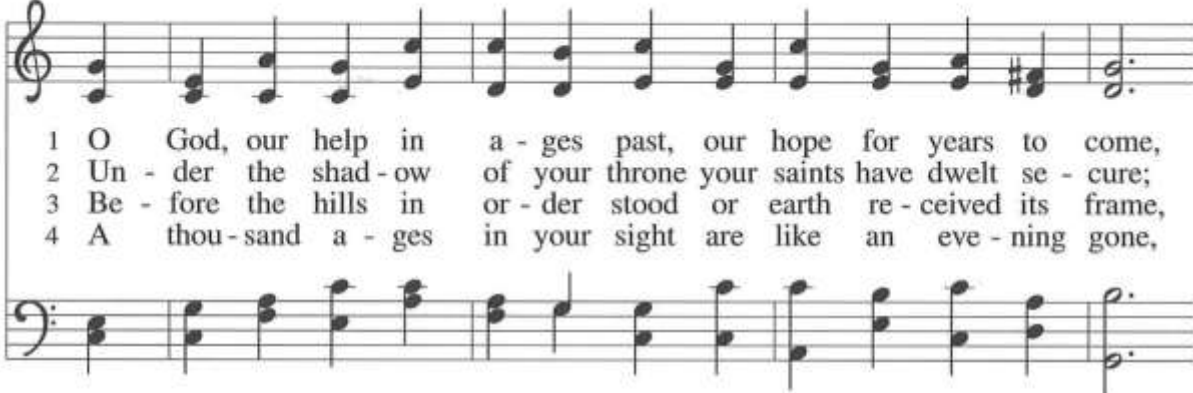
You might now sing or read “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

Or, click the following link for audio presentation –


<https://youtu.be/N-hN740J6qA>

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

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1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: William Croft, 1678–1727

ST. ANNE
C.M.

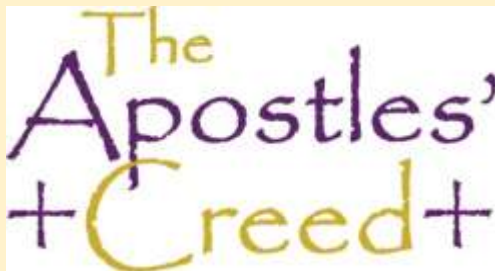
Apostles Creed

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 sin, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

The logo for 'The Apostles' Creed' features the word 'The' in a small, gold, serif font at the top. Below it, 'Apostles'' is written in a large, purple, serif font. At the bottom, 'Creed' is written in a large, gold, serif font, flanked by two gold crosses. The entire logo is set against a white background.

The
Apostles'
+ Creed +

You may remain standing, kneel or be seated

Then read the prayers of intercession, as follows.



Prayers of Intercession

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Lord of the church, ignite your people with the passion of your love. By the fire of your Holy Spirit, unify us across ministries, congregation, and denominations, and refine us to participate in your activity throughout the world.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of creation, we stand in awe at the works of your hands and praise you for the beauty of nature. Bless the earth for your glory and restore it integrity where abuse or natural disaster has caused harm.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of the nations, sound forth your justice in the ears of all leaders. Increase concern for those who are most vulnerable and open pathways to safe and sustainable work for the people in all nations.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of all in need, search out all who cry to you in distress. Scatter the heavy clouds of depression, chronic illness, unemployment, and loneliness with your radiant light. Send us as encouragement and signs of your healing. We ask you to especially guard and keep these we name before you either silently or aloud: Loretta Foster, David Dupree, Agnes Woleshin, Leon Cole, Donna Cormier, Anne Marie and Kim Cole, Rosalie Wessel, Clay Chaffee, Lucy Creel, all those who serve in the military, Donna and Orv Lind, Lloyd Cotner, Jo Kruer, Tammy & Greg Olive, Baby William, Judy Harris, Elmer Wessel, Milton Wilford, those dealing with the Covid-19 in any way, Tanya Adin and family at the death of her father Claude Sebastian

We give thanks for all the prayers you have answered by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of the stranger, stir up holy restlessness in us to extend love to those at the margins. Release our desire for control and open us to learn from the perspectives of others.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of joy, be with Roy Cook, John Michael Angil and Sigrid Ivanovic this week on their birthdays along with Nick & Sigrid Ivanovic on their anniversary.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of the living and the dead, we give you thanks for all the saints at rest from their labors, especially Claude Sabastian. Rouse us to live by their example, that saints yet to come may also know your love.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

Amen

Let us pray as Jesus taught us,



Lords 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;
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.**

Blessing

Then speak the Blessing:

The blessing of the living God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
surround and sustain you,
keep you from harm,
and fill you with courage.

Amen.



Sending Hymn

“Blessed Assurance”

Click the following link for audio presentation that includes the verses to sing

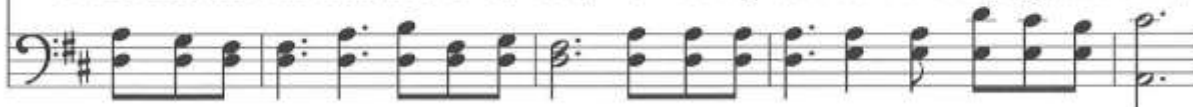
<https://youtu.be/yuyf1YQvcwY>

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Blessed Assurance



1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



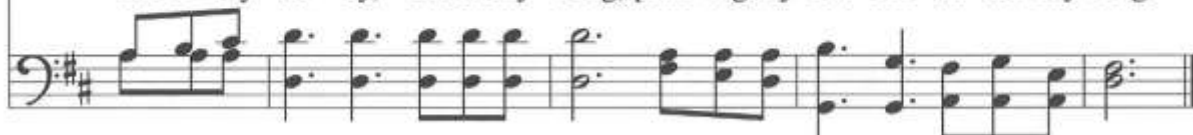
Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.



Dismissal

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage;
hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honor all people;
Go in peace to love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

Readings of the Week:

Sunday after Pentecost Leviticus 1:7, 12-18, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, Matthew 25:14-30

Christ The King Sunday Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24, Ephesians 1:15-23, Matthew 25:31-46

Reflection material: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw

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IN NEED OF PRAYER

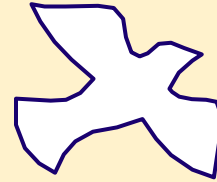
We give thanks to you, O Lord, for all the prayers you have heard and answered and the peace you have given, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Osprey Village

Lloyd & Jane Cotner - Room 3106
Katherine Holmberg- Room 101

Savannah Grand

Jo Kruer - Room 332
Mary Jordan- Memory Care Unit



At Home

Emmy Lou Sorum / Billy Foster / Gertie Schreffler / Michele Pester / Clay Chaffee / Dorothy Schwager/ Ted Wessel / Lloyd Cotner/ Orv Lind / Donna Lind / Lloyd Cotner / Jo Kruer / Lucy Creel / Judy Harris / Sue Whitman / Ann Marie Cole / Donna Cormier / Leon Cole / Loretta Foster

Tanya Adin & Family at death of father Claude Sebastian



Lt. Tim Cassel, Coast Guard, Valdez, AK (son of Glen & Norma Beyer)
Lt. J.G. Eric Strommel, Kings Bay, Subbase, GA
Lt. Col. Laura Laskowski, Air Force Intelligence, stationed in Maryland at Ft. Meade (daughter of Sue Whitman)

Components of an Effective Prayer

<u>"A"</u> ADORATION	Worship of God, First for who He is, Second for all His benefits
<u>"C"</u> CONFESSION	If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive and cleanse us from unrighteousness
<u>"T"</u> THANKSGIVING	Gratitude to GOD for His blessings
<u>"S"</u> SUPPLICATION	Expressing our petitions to GOD for individual and specific needs and desires

Keeping Our Prayer List Up to Date ...

*Call our Church Office to add friends and family to our prayer list.
We often can all use as many prayers as we can get.*