

Prairieland Parish

As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present.  
May we together experience the presence of God

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**We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord**



**Prelude – Welcome - Announcements**

This week we give thanks for our relationships.

We celebrate the life of the community, in fellowship, in learning together and serving together. We rejoice in our reach, which is always greater together than separately. There is an African proverb that says if you want to go fast go alone; but if you want to go far, then go together.

We are in this for the long haul, all the way to the kin-dom of God. And along the way, we live by kin-dom rules, we show kin-dom values, we rejoice in kin-dom priorities, which sometimes means we set aside our personal preferences for the good of the whole.

But more often than not, we realize that our personal good is fulfilled by the good of the whole community.

So, today let us sing of the church and the joy that we have in communion and fellowship.

Let us pray for the healing of broken relationships and misunderstandings so that our witness can be stronger.

Let us give thanks for our leaders and teachers and pillars who have sacrificed much to help us be the church we are.

And let us continue to look for ways to be open - to invite - and include those who are not yet a part of the fellowship of the church.

*Come, let us worship our Lord...*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

The God of all creation makes us one in the flesh.

**Let us join hearts and voices in praise.**

In Jesus Christ, we are made one in the Spirit.

**Let us be united in truth through the same one Spirit.**

We practice our faith in many different ways.

**Yet we confess one Lord Jesus Christ.**

We render different forms of ministry.

**Yet our calling is one because Christ is undivided.**

Rejoice, people of God: The Risen Christ is among us, calling us together at his one Table.

**Praise the Lord!**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Heavenly Father, you have called us in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ to continue his work of reconciliation and reveal you to the world: forgive us the sins which tear us apart; give us the courage to overcome our fears and to seek that unity which is your gift and your will; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

***We Hear God's Word***

**Gospel Reading..... Matthew 4:12-23**

**New Revised Standard Version**

***Jesus Begins His Ministry in Galilee***

*12 Now when Jesus[a] heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. 13 He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:*

*15 "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—  
16 the people who sat in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
light has dawned."*

*17 From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." [b]*

***Jesus Calls the First Disciples***

*18 As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. 19 And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 21 As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.*

***Jesus Ministers to Crowds of People***

*23 Jesus[c] went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news[d] of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.*

The Word of God for the People of God, **Thanks be to God!**

## Children's Sermon

### FAITH HYMN

#### "Message"

#### Joys/Concerns

#### PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

God of all creation,  
who called every being into life,  
who is mindful of humankind in all its diversity,  
who embodies us with dignity,  
granting different gifts and talents to shape life in this world,  
we ask for your Spirit to unite us  
And in silence, we lay before you the burdens of our hearts as we name those we raise to  
you this day.

O Lord, we ask for your Spirit to unite us  
wherever fear prevents us from caring for our neighbor,  
this day we bring to you the brokenness of human relationships.

God of all creation, in Christ, we are reconciled, and so we ask for your uniting Spirit  
to help us overcome all our divisions that we may live in peace.  
– in the name of the servant Christ, who taught us to pray...Our Father...

#### Offertory (UM Hymnal 95) Doxology

#### Offertory Prayer

Holy God, as we present our offerings in worship, we know we come from a world that is  
tearing itself apart due to division. We need to be reminded that you desire unity and one  
mind from your children –We dedicate not just our gifts but our minds to the work of  
your unifying love. In Christ, we pray. Amen. (1 Corinthians 1:10-18)

### Departing Hymn

#### Chorus

#### Benediction

Let us go from here today secure in the knowledge that we are not lacking in any spiritual  
gift. We go into our world surrounded by the blessing of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus  
Christ, and the equipping of the Spirit, to live and work as disciples who make disciples for  
the transformation of the world. Amen.

#### \*POSTLUDE