

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

There are some experiences or some people who can make us feel small, who make us feel insignificant, make us feel unloved. It is a common human experience.

Who hasn't had that experience? Who hasn't felt that fear grip them at a weak or a painful moment? It is part of the human condition that there are times when we feel disconnected, diminished, and unloved. There might be tragic circumstances to cause such a feeling, or it may be the result of our own failures. Or it may be a misunderstanding. There are a million things, a million moments that can drive a wedge between us and the world, or between us and those we want to love, or between us and God.

So, what is the antidote? How do we continue in those moments when we are a long way from where we long to be? We listen. We remember. And sometimes we lament.

We need to know love like Christ offers. We need to cling to that love, to that hope when we walk through those valleys. We also need to be in the business of loving like that. All around us at any given time there are those who feel disconnected, those who feel as though no one cares, no one is there for them.

Knowing and sharing Jesus' love, flowing through us, each of us, as we deal with one another—in the midst of success and failure—is the antidote. It doesn't matter how much you've messed up, he still wants to gather you as a hen gathers her brood. So, come home. Be gathered up by Jesus. The one who longs to wrap his wings around you is waiting, and offering, and hoping. It may seem like a long way, but it isn't. It's as close as a prayer.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ashes have been smeared and sins have been confessed...

We follow our faithful Lord.

These times, they are troubling. This journey, it is hard...

We follow our faithful Lord.

It is God who sustains, not the temptations of this world...

We follow our faithful Lord.

In the Lord is our trust, our protection from harm...

We follow our faithful Lord.

Come, let us worship the One whom we serve...

We follow our faithful Lord.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

LEADER: O God, whose loving knows no ending, still you long to gather us under your wings. For the words of hatred we have spoken and the words of love we have withheld:

PEOPLE: O God, forgive us and gather us under your wings of mercy.

LEADER: For the walls we have built up and the barriers we have refused to take down,

PEOPLE: O God, forgive us and gather us under your wings of mercy.

LEADER: For the greed that makes us frantic and the gifts we pass by without seeing,

PEOPLE: O God, forgive us and gather us under your wings of mercy.

LEADER: For what we have done and for what we have left undone,

PEOPLE: O God, forgive us and gather us under your wings of mercy.

LEADER: Sisters and brothers, God's promise of mercy is sure: you are forgiven and loved as you are. Come now and rest under God's sheltering wings and know that you are home.

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

We Hear God's Word

Gospel Reading..... Luke 13:31-35

New Revised Standard Version

The Lament over Jerusalem

31 At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." 32 He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me,[a] 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. 33 Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' 34 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! 35 See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when[b] you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FAITH HYMN UMH

"Message"

Joys/Concerns

PASTORAL PRAYER/Lord's Prayer

Jesus, as a mother you gather your people to you;
You are gentle with us as a mother with her children;
Often you weep over our sins and our pride;
tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgement.

You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds;
in sickness you nurse us,
and with pure milk you feed us.

Jesus, by your dying, we are born to new life;
By your anguish and labour, we come forth in joy.

Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness;
through your gentleness, we find comfort in fear.

Your warmth gives life to the dead;
your touch makes sinners righteous.
Lord Jesus, in your mercy, heal us;
in your love and tenderness, remake us.
In your compassion, bring grace and forgiveness;
for the beauty of heaven, may your love prepare us.
We come before you this day, many voices sharing
one prayer, the prayer your beloved Son taught
us to pray, our Father...

Offertory/Doxology/Prayer

Generous God, as we travel this Lenten journey, allow us to walk beside Jesus as he makes his journey into Jerusalem. As we offer our gifts this morning, may it be our way of saying we won't turn away from the problems and conflicts of this world; but like Jesus, we will walk toward them. All we take for the journey is the compassion, mercy, and sacrifice that he carried—moving toward what waited in the Holy City. We journey in Christ's steps and pray in Christ's holy name. Amen. (Luke 13:31-35)

Departing Hymn FWS

BENEDICTION

Like an eagle lifting up her weary children, God will carry you.
Like a mother hen gathering her brood, Jesus Christ will shelter you.
"Like the murmur of the dove's song," the Holy Spirit will dwell with you.
Do not be afraid. Go forth in God's peace. Amen.

*POSTLUDE