

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 – Joys/Concerns



Opening Meditation

How do we deal with conflict? Well, we can go down the all to familiar route of quarreling and testing which are common human experiences and we in the church certainly do not claim freedom from that. Or we can find our way to common ground through the love for others that we have been taught. The parable today from Matthew asks us to pay attention to whether our words match our deeds. Do we live out the faith that we profess? Do we approach even those with whom we disagree with grace and love?

To find our way back onto God’s path of grace and love we must first acknowledge that we have fallen short of the ideals we profess. This acknowledgment then leads us to opportunities for a renewed commitment that is more congruent with our faith. There are many ways we can signal our intention to walk in the light we see, even as we seek more light. Also, to hear the forgiveness that is offered and accept the assurance that we are indeed surrounded by God’s grace for the long haul.

As we gather to worship His name this day may we move to claiming the vision of who we are called to be. Let us sing of our mission, of the promise to move out into the world living out the hope that is within us. And let us be filled with His grace as we are sent out with encouragement to live out our faith in the world of our everyday living. This is how we endure for the long haul.

A Call to Worship

Come! Now is the time to worship!

We come to worship God who loves us.

When the Israelites grumbled and quarreled when there was no water to drink, God miraculously produced water to show them God’s faithfulness and love.

When we question and accuse God, God responds by showing us love.

When the chief priests and elders questioned Jesus’ authority, Jesus answered them with a story about the righteousness of doing God’s will instead of paying lip service to God’s will.

When we test and interrogate God, God responds by pointing us back to love.

By answering our quarrelling and questioning with love, God teaches us how to love God, neighbor, self, and all creation.

When we love as God loves, we respond to testing and accusing by living the faith and sharing God's love.

Come! Now is the time to worship!

We come to worship God who loves us for the long haul.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Living Water. (inspired by Exodus 17: 1-7)

In the dry wildernesses of our lives,
in the days of heat and thirst,
you offer us living water,

Thank you, gracious and generous God.

When we begin to doubt your presence,
and grumble that your love is unreliable,
you offer us living water,

Thank you, gracious and generous God.

When life's regrets and the bad choices we have made
leave us feeling excluded and unworthy,
you offer us living water,

Thank you, gracious and generous God.

When circumstances, or the inhumanity of others,
have left us alone and wounded,
you offer us living water,

Thank you, gracious and generous God.

We thank you and praise you, O God,
that how ever we may thirst,
what ever we may need to satisfy our souls,
you offer it freely and abundantly in Christ;

**So, we drink deep of the living water
and, as we draw from your wells,
we seek to pass the cup to others,
who, like us, are thirsty for your grace.**

Amen

Praise Hymn FWS #2196

"We Walk by Faith"

Author: Henry Alford (alt.)

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**1 We walk by faith, and not by sight;
with gracious words we hear
of him who spoke as none e'er spoke,
but we believe him near.**

**2 We may not touch his hands and side,
nor follow where he trod;
yet in his promise we rejoice,
and cry, "My Lord and God!"**

**3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief,
and may our faith abound;
to call on you when you are near,
and seek where you are found:**

**4 That when our life of faith is done
in realms of clearer light
may we behold you as you are,
in full and endless sight.**

**5 We walk by faith, and not by sight;
with gracious words we hear
of him who spoke as none e'er spoke,
but we believe him near.**

Gospel Reading..... Matthew 21:23-32 (NRSV)

The Authority of Jesus Questioned

23 When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" 24 Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. 25 Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?'" 26 But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." 27 So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

The Parable of the Two Sons

28 "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' 29 He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. 30 The father[a] went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. 31 Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. 32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.

This is the Word of God, for the people of God, **Thanks be to God!**

Faith Hymn UMH#732 "Come, We That Love the Lord"

Author: Isaac Watts (1707)

Composer: Aaron Williams

**1. Come, we that love the Lord,
and let our joys be known;
join in a song with sweet accord,
and thus surround the throne.**

**2. Let those refuse to sing
who never knew our God;
but children of the heavenly King
may speak their joys abroad.**

**3. The hill of Zion yields
a thousand sacred sweets
before we reach the heavenly fields,
or walk the golden streets.**

**4. Then let our songs abound,
and every tear be dry;
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground,
to fairer worlds on high.**

Message

INVITATION TO THE TABLE (UMH #6 begins on page 8)

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin
and seek to live in peace with one another.
Therefore, let us confess our sin to God.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

In the act of confession, we acknowledge how we have missed the mark, and we call upon God to save us from the destruction of sin and turn us back toward life. Let us now confess our sin before God and one another.

CONFESSION AND PARDON.

**Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love toward us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God! Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image
and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed,
your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity,
made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through the prophets.

And so,

with your people on earth

and all the company of heaven

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
and to announce that the time had come
when you would save your people.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

At his ascension you exalted him
to sit and reign with you at your right hand.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

Lord's Prayer

BREAKING AND SHARING

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.**

**Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Offertory/Doxology

Offertory Prayer

Holy God of infinite patience and grace, we bring our offerings today knowing that our actions too often don't live up to our intentions and aspirations. When calling ourselves Christians, we announce ourselves as followers of Christ, knowing how many times our choices have made us unrecognizable as his disciples. Yet you wait patiently for us to find our way back to the path. May our giving this day and our living reflect our desire to be on the path that would be recognized as faithful to the Savior, in whose blessed name we pray. Amen. (Matthew 21:23-32)

Departing Hymn UMH 536 "Precious Name" (verses 1 & 4)

Author: Lydia Baxter (1870)

Composer: William H. Doane (1871)

**1. Take the name of Jesus with you,
child of sorrow and of woe;
it will joy and comfort give you;
take it then, where'er you go.**

Refrain:

**Precious name, O how sweet!
Hope of earth and joy of heaven.
Precious name, O how sweet!
Hope of earth and joy of heaven.**

**4. At the name of Jesus bowing,
falling prostrate at his feet,
King of kings in heaven we'll crown him,
when our journey is complete.
(Refrain)**

BENEDICTION

We gathered to worship God who responds to our grumbling with grace-filled, sustaining love. So now go from this time and place guided by our loving God who leads you to respond to the quarreling and questioning of the world with a living faith and abundant love. Amen.

Postlude