

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

We are a pilgrim people; we have a destination in mind as we move forward in our journey of faith. It may seem at times that we are just wandering aimlessly, doing our best to stay clean in an increasingly messy world. But the deeper truth is that we are heading somewhere. We are on a quest toward the kingdom of God. Sometimes we call it a kin-dom as a reminder that this is a corporate journey; it is a community vision. But whatever we call it, it is the vision that Jesus shared again and again with images both powerful and subtle.

Is it heaven? Well, yes, we are on our way to heaven, but not as traditionally described. Instead, it is the new heaven and the new earth of which we get a glimpse in Revelation, a new way of living and being in the presence of God always. It is affirmation and transformation. We are reminded that we are loved and called into new life and new hope and into a community of mutual support and encouragement.

This end, this goal, this hope is in sight because we are living it out every day. Every time we act as the church in the work of discipleship and reconciliation and joy, we reflect this hope; we glimpse this destination. We are a people who live with the end in sight. What a blessing we are given. So in this blessing let us come together today to praise Him who loves us so.

A Call to Worship

We gather today to remember and proclaim that we are God's people.

We are God's people! God's presence is among us!

Like Moses, we seek an encounter with God's goodness.

God, show us your goodness that we may glorify you in all that we do.

God's goodness passes by us every day in the gracious gifts of creation and in the faces of our neighbors.

God, help us notice your goodness in everything and everyone that we meet.

When we notice God's goodness all around us, we recognize this truth: all things are God's.

Let us give to God the things that are God's! Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Loving, living God, be among us now. Show us your ways.

Guide our steps. Live in us, that we may be people of steadfast hope and powerful giving. Help us hear your words, challenging us to give you all the things that are yours.

Help us remember that all we are and all we have are gifts from you, gifts to be shared in service and love. Holy One among us, help us be a holy people who receive your word with joy and live your message with love. Amen.

Praise Hymn UMH #420 "Breathe On Me, Breath of God"

Author: Edwin Hatch (1878)

Composer: Robert Jackson (1888)

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.

2. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will,
to do and to endure.

3. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
till all this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.

4. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.

Gospel Reading..... Matthew 22:15-22 (NRSV)

The Question about Paying Taxes

15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. 16 So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. 17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" 18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. 20 Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" 21 They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." 22 When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

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

Children's Sermon

Faith Hymn UMH#103 “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” (verses 1-3)

Author: Walter Chalmers Smith (1867)

Adapter: John Roberts

**1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

**2. Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**3. To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.**

Message

Prayers of the People

Most loving and merciful God we come to you this day asking for prayers of your people throughout the world; for our Bishop; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.
(Silence)

We ask for prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.

(Silence)

We ask for prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble. (*name those mentioned during joys and concerns*)
(Silence)

We ask for prayers for our members of this congregation, help our faith to remain strong and steadfast to your service.

Today we unite to praise your name and to honor your Son, our savior, who taught us to pray, Our Father...

Offertory/Doxology/ Offertory Prayer

Holy God, source of every good gift: the offerings we bring to you are simply a token of our desire to walk more closely beside you. We give, knowing that “rendering unto you what is yours” would mean leaving everything at your altar – all we have and all we are. We are not there yet, but with your help, we are on the road to getting there. Bless what we give; may it speak words of compassion, mercy, and love as it empowers your mission and ministry. We pray this in the powerful name of Jesus, whose light we seek to follow. Amen. (Matthew 22:15-22)

Departing Hymn UMH # 671 “Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing”

Author: John Fawcett (1773)

**1. Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing;
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, thy love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us,
traveling through this wilderness.**

**2. Thanks we give and adoration
for thy gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of thy salvation
in our hearts and lives abound;
ever faithful, ever faithful
to the truth may we be found.**

SENDING FORTH

Go now as those who have found favour in the sight of God.
Be imitators of Jesus Christ
and an example to all of the life of faith.
To the world in which you live, give your love and service,
and to God, give all that you are and all that you shall be. Amen

Postlude