

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

October 18 and 21, 2023



"O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure." - Isaiah 25:1



Mary's Tears, detail from Descent from the Cross

Gathering as the Body of Christ

CENTERING SONG

DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE

URW 145

GREETING

PRESIDER

*CALL TO WORSHIP

STUDENT MINISTER

O Lord, You are our God, and we praise You!

You have been a refuge to the poor and the needy in their distress.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, You subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled.

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines.

And the Lord will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, that is spread over all nations;

The Lord will swallow up death forever.

Then God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of God's people will be taken away from all the earth, for God has spoken.

Let us worship in hope of God's salvation! Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

O DAY OF PEACE (vs. 1 & 2)

URW 140

*CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

[All are invited to turn toward the Baptismal Font.]

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts:

Cleanse us from all offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son, Amen.

(Silent Confession)

Friends of God, we are forgiven. Let us now walk in the light of God's eternal love. **Amen.**

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

STUDENT MINISTER

You are invited to pass the peace to each other in a way comfortable to you and your neighbor. Be mindful that some of our siblings may prefer non-contact ways of passing the peace, so kindly ask before hugging or shaking hands.

Peace be with you! **And also with you!**
Let us share this peace with one another.

Service of the Word

POEM [SAT. ONLY] THE PRAYER OF SHANTIDEVA (ADAPTED BY KAREN G. JOHNSTON)

This pastoral prayer is adapted from *The Prayer of Shantideva*, an 8th century Buddhist monk and major source of inspiration to the Dalai Lama, who references the original prayer often.

May I be a guard for those who need protection; when I seek protection, may I find it and share it.

For those who wish to cross to a further shore, may I be a boat, a raft, a bridge. May I be open to the companionship of others as I make my way to places still before me.

May I be a lamp in the darkness for all who seek it; may that light be never extinguished from my own sight and my own heart.

May I be a resting place for the weary and be healing medicine for all who are sick; may I know the salve of others for my own afflictions, whether of the body or of the mind, or of the heart.

Where others see scarcity, may I see a vase of plenty, a tree of miracles.

As part of the boundless multitudes of living beings, may I bring sustenance and awakening, freedom from sorrow, and may I delight in our common existence.

Holding most tenderly those with broken hearts, let us sit together in stillness.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

STUDENT MINISTER

Creator God, as we receive Your word, may we understand what You have called us to do. We live to fulfill Your purpose so we can see Your kingdom. Illuminate our hearts and reveal to us Your glory. **Amen.**

Reader A reading from the Book of Isaiah, chapter 25, verses 1 through 9.

Reader O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt.

St. Minister Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled.

Reader On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever.

St. Minister Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Reader Hear what God is saying to the people. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON**DR. DARRYL STEPHENS****PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY****STUDENT MINISTER**

Sovereign God, You have commanded us to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Help us to do that in community and beyond.

Help us understand the problems our fellow siblings are going through and find ways to help them in ways they need it most. We name these concerns now, aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

[Pause for silent prayer.]

Help us to love one another especially in our differences.

Allow us to receive their love as well. Let us not permit grievances to block giving or receiving love, in Your name we pray, Amen.

Service of the Table

OFFERTORY SONG

INSTRUMENTAL

***THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Presider: God be with you!

People: And also with you!

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to our God.

Presider: Let us give thanks to the living God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, God of all creation. You are the Source of all mercies and the Wellspring of love beyond our wildest imaginations. We open our hearts in adoration to you and bring to you our whole selves whom you formed in the image of love in the world.

Amazingly, when we distort that image, you call us back again and again, forgiving us, delivering us from sin and death, feeding, healing, reconciling, making covenant, and setting before us the way that leads to life. Therefore, with your people in all ages, in communion with the saints, and with the whole company of heaven, we join the glad song of unending praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of grace and glory. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you and blessed be your name, gracious God, for you gave us Jesus, who showed us what the kin-dom of God looks like. He fed the hungry, healed the afflicted, and ate with the scorned and forgotten of this world. He washed his disciple's feet and gave a holy meal as a feast of his ever-present love.

On the night before he died, he took bread, blessed and broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it to his disciples, saying: “Drink from this, all of you; for 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.”

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us gathered here and on these gifts of bread and juice, that they may be for us his body and blood. Feed and nurture us with his grace so that, in union with Christ, we may become a living offering to you.

Call to our minds the faith of all our ancestors, from ancient times all the way up to the present. In these moments, with the visions clear in our minds of those who are with us, who stand behind us encouraging us to stand firm in our faith and trust in you and to walk with boldness in the ways you lead us forward. Transform us into the likeness of Christ as we faithfully serve others and as we look forward to that day when we will feast together with all the saints gathered as one at your table.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRESIDER

We have a few COVID related options for those who wish to partake. If you wish to receive from the ministers, take an empty cup from the stack on the aisle table and approach the minister, who will place a piece of bread in your open hand. All bread is gluten free.

A minister will pour grape juice into your cup. Eat, drink, and dispose of the cup in the waste baskets at the side aisles as you return to your seat. Or you may take one of the sealed celebration cups with the wafer on top and juice beneath; hold them out to the minister for a blessing.

If you are unable to come forward, please signal the ministers and we will come to you at your seat. Those who prefer not to partake in Communion are invited to a different kind of divine encounter through an interfaith prayer of blessing. If this is your preference, we invite you to meet the minister at the baptismal font.

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here at this table where Christ is the host.

COMMUNION SONG

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

UMH 620

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

PRESIDER

God of mystery and wonder, at this and every table you dissolve the distance between the ordinary and the holy; you break the barrier separating the common and the sacred. We thank you for this thin place, this holy space, this well of grace that has satisfied us this day. **Amen.**

*CLOSING SONG

O DAY OF PEACE

URW 140 (v. 3&4)

*BENEDICTION

SENDING & POSTLUDE

*May our prayers be never ceasing.
May our hope lead to us new beginnings.*

Cover Art: Weyden, Rogier van der, 1399 or 1400-1464. Mary's Tears, detail from Descent from the Cross, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55988> [retrieved June 21, 2023]. Original source: [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Weyden,_Rogier_van_der_-_Descent_from_the_Cross_-_Detail_women_\(left\).jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Weyden,_Rogier_van_der_-_Descent_from_the_Cross_-_Detail_women_(left).jpg).

Call to Worship: Adapted by Rev. Dr. Todd Thomason. Viaexmachina.com. <https://viaexmachina.com/call-to-worship-adapted-from-isaiah-25-o-lord-you-are-our-god-and-we-praise-you/>

Confession/Words of Assurance: Book of Common Worship, Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993

Prayers of the Community: Editor in Chief. <https://connectusfund.org/15-powerful-prayers-for-our-community>

Poem: <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/quote-reading/shantideva-quote>

Prayer for Illumination: Editor in Chief. <https://connectusfund.org/13-compelling-prayers-for-illumination>

Communion Liturgy: Elise S. Eslinger and Upper Room (Publisher : Nashville, Tenn.), eds., Upper Room Worshipbook: Music and Liturgies for Spiritual Formation (Nashville: Upper Room Books, 2006), 46–47.

Prayer After Communion: Sarah Kathleen Johnson, ed., Voices Together: Worship Leader Edition, First edition (Harrisonburg, Virginia: MennoMedia, 2020), 253

Sending:

**The worship planning team creates all other parts of the liturgy except where noted.*

LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY WORSHIP TEAM

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THE WORSHIP TEAM SEEKS:

*To serve the universal church of our Creator.
To minister to the unique and diverse needs of the seminary community.
To foster an expansive culture of worship that values difference and challenges the normative.*