

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

September 15 and 16, 2023



"The night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light." - Romans 13:12

The night is nearly over;
the day is almost here.
So let us put aside the deeds of
darkness and put on the armor of light

Romans 13:12

Gathering as the Body of Christ

CENTERING SONG

JESUS CALLS US (Vs. 1, 3)

URW 56

GREETING

PRESIDER

*CALL TO WORSHIP

STUDENT MINISTER

Come with confidence before our God.

For nothing can separate us from the love of God.

Can hunger?

No!

Can hardship?

No!

Can people who are against us?

No!

Can death?

No!

Can anything in all creation?

No! Then let us worship this most amazing God.

*OPENING HYMN

MAKE US HOLY, MAKE US WHOLE

URW 160

*CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

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

Presider: O God, We live in the midst of great and abiding love, but also in the midst of deceit and lies. May we be found faithful in all we do.

ALL: May we speak the truth in love and live lives of love each day. Too often we seek you in the spectacular and otherworldly.

St Minister: May we see the many inbreakings of your kingdom in the everyday, ordinary things of life: in mustard seeds, yeast, treasures in fields, and fish gathered in nets.

ALL: May we be able to answer with a full-throated yes when asked if we have understood your teachings and your call.

(Silent Confession)

Presider: In all that we do, we are assured in this: that the Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words and that no matter what, nothing, absolutely nothing can ever separate us from God's presence and God's 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]

I AM NOT ALONE

GABRIELA MISTRAL

This poem describes the presence of God as it encourages the reader.

The night, it is deserted
from the mountains to the sea.
But I, the one who rocks you,
I am not alone! The sky, it is deserted
for the moon falls to the sea.
But I, the one who holds you,
I am not alone! The world, it is deserted.
All flesh is sad you see.
But I, the one who hugs you,
I am not alone!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

STUDENT MINISTER

Creator of all things great and small, open our ears, our hearts, and minds, to understand your message, Amen.

(Spanish) *Por favor, únase a mí en oración.* Creador de todas las cosas grandes y pequeñas, abre nuestros oídos, nuestros corazones y mentes, para entender tu mensaje, Amén.

SCRIPTURE READING

ROMANS 13:8-14

NRSV

A reading from the Book of Romans, chapter 13, verses 8 through 14.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

Let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Holy wisdom, holy Word. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

PASTOR ARMANDO IRAHETA

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

STUDENT MINISTER

Heavenly God, you gather us together in our faith journey trusting in you, we join one another as a community; a community of faith on a journey. We grow ever deeper in our faith, in our love, in our desire to long for you.

Along the way, remind us of your Love, of your sacrifice for us, of your ever mindful presence. Let us never lose hope along the way. Help us to be strong, strong in faith, strong in love.

Help us to be strong in our desire to be ever mindful of your presence. For it is in your strength and love and the graces you bestow upon us, that we can go out and share in your love and faith with people in our community. As we think of our communities we lift up their needs before you and name them aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

(In this pause you may mention specific needs in your community aloud or in the silence of your heart)

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

It is in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever, AMEN.

Service of the Table

OFFERTORY SONG

ESTE ES MI CUERPO (THIS IS MY BODY)

URW 421

***THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Presider: God is with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us open our hearts.

People: We open our hearts to God and one another.

Presider: Let us give thanks.

People: We thank God with joy.

St. Minister: O God, Ancient of Days, Your love brought galaxies into being, summoned water and sky, earth and all creatures, and made us in your image. Through the ages You have cared for all You created. When we wandered, you called us to return to You. In the fullness of time, Jesus came to teach the Law of Love. He lived what He taught and loved His enemies and everyone he encountered. In wonder, we remember the life Jesus lived, laid down, and took up again for us.

Presider: Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this meal of bread and wine, so that we may be the communion of the body of Christ. Send your Holy Spirit upon us, so that we can live, conformed anew to Christ, who teaches us daily that loving God and neighbors is the fulfillment of the law.

Presider: El Señor Jesus, la noche que fue entregado, tomó pan y habiendo dado gracias, lo partió, y dijo, “Tomen, coman; esto es mi cuerpo que por ustedes es partido; hagan esto en memoria de mi.”

Asimismo, tomó También la copa, después de haber cenado, diciendo: “Esta copa es el nuevo pacto en mi sangre; hagan esto todas las veces que la beban, en memoria de mi.”

Presider: Come with your faith and your doubts, with your hopes and your questions, with your joy and your sadness. You belong here. This is the table of Jesus who welcomes all in great love to this feast. Whoever you are, wherever you come from, come, for you belong here together with the saints present and past as we receive nourishment for our souls!

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.

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. 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.

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

PUES SI VIVIMOS (WHEN WE ARE LIVING)

UMC 356

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

PRESIDER

God of all love, we lift our hearts to you. God of all comfort, we thank you for your blessing. In this holy meal we have tasted your goodness and affection. Through your Holy Spirit, renew us in your likeness and hold us with your love. When all things are made new, gather us with all your children at that heavenly banquet where we shall see you face to face. Amen

***CLOSING SONG**

MAKE US HOLY, MAKE US WHOLE (REFRAIN)

URW 160

***BENEDICTION**

SENDING & POSTLUDE

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

Cover Art: <https://seekgrowlove.com/2018/11/09/notes-from-paul/>

Call to Worship: Joanne Carlson Brown. <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/5164/worship-elements-july-26-2020>

Confession/Words of Assurance: Confession & Words of Assurance:
<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/5164/worship-elements-july-26-2020>

Prayers of the Community: Prayers of the Community: Anonymous. <https://www.praywithme.com/prayer-for-the-community.html>

Poem: <https://hiplatina.com/poems-iconic-latinx-writers/> Accessed Jun 17, 2023

Prayer for Illumination:

Communion Liturgy (adapted): Sarah Kathleen Johnson, ed., Voices Together: Worship Leader Edition, First edition (Harrisonburg, Virginia: MennoMedia, 2020), 229,248,252

Prayer After Communion: Sarah Kathleen Johnson, ed., Voices Together: Worship Leader Edition, First edition (Harrisonburg, Virginia: MennoMedia, 2020), 238

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.