

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

September 18 and 21, 2024

*How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire.*

*- James 3: 5-6*



This image symbolizes the fire that words can cause, as is described in the scripture.

# Gathering as the Body of Christ

CENTERING SONG

“CONFITEMINI DOMINO [LLÉNANOS, SEÑOR]”

TAIZÉ

GREETING

PRESIDER

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADER

God has called us to gather together as beloved children.

**We come ready to share our authentic selves, our hearts, with God and one another.**

Wherever we are in our faith journey, God meets us right where we are, calling us out from isolation and fear into a sacred community.

**We come to humbly praise and worship the One who chose vulnerability for the sake of perfect love.**

\*OPENING HYMN

“TU HAS VENIDO A LA ORILLA” (vs. 1,2)

UMH 344

\*CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

W. Leader:

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.

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

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.

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

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

**WORSHIP LEADER**

You are invited to pass the peace to each other in a way comfortable to you and your neighbor if you're gathered together. If you're online please share this greeting in the chat.

Paz de Cristo

**Y Tabién Contigo**

Compartamos esta paz unos con otros.

## *Service of the Word*

**READING [SAT. ONLY]**

**HOW TO TAME A WILD TONGUE**

**GLORIA ANZALDUA**

This passage captures the power that words can have and the ways the world seeks to silence.

I remember being caught speaking Spanish at recess - that was good for three licks on the knuckles with a sharp ruler. I remember being sent to the corner of the classroom for "talking back" to the Anglo teacher when all I was trying to do was tell her how to pronounce my name. "If you want to be American, speak 'American.' If you don't like it, go back to Mexico where you belong."

"I want you to speak English. Pa' hallar buen trabajo tienes que saber hablar el ingles bien. Que vale toda tu educacion si todavia hablas ingles con un 'accent:" my mother would say, mortified that I spoke English like a Mexican.

At Pan American University, I and all Chicano students were required to take two speech classes. Their purpose: to get rid of our accents. Attacks on one's form of expression with the intent to censor are a violation of the First Amendment. El Anglo con cara de inocente nos arranco la lengua. Wild tongues can't be tamed, they can only be cut out.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**WORSHIP LEADER**

Please, join me in prayer. Guide us, O God, by your Word, and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

A reading from the Book of James, chapter 3, verses 1-12.

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will face stricter judgment. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is mature, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of life, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse people, made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth comes a blessing and a curse. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives or a grapevine yield figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

May we hear what the Spirit is saying. **Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON****PASTOR CELSO MESIAS****PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY****WORSHIP LEADER**

Creator God, we thank You for our wondrous diversity, for our cultures, traditions and languages, for all the ways we celebrate our humanity and praise Your divinity.

**We value all peoples, and in this time, we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month.**

May we remember in our churches the leaders, teachers, and theologians that have been part of our Christian faith tradition.

**May we continue to hear from diverse voices that speak the truth of God's love, peace and justice for all peoples.**

Guide us in ways of new understandings to build a more inclusive church.

**In the name of Christ Jesus, our Savior, Redeemer and Friend, we pray.**

**Amen.**

## Service of the Table

OFFERTORY SONG

INSTRUMENTAL

**\*THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**PRESIDER**

Feel free to speak the opening responses in your first language.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you. / Y también contigo.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord. / Los elevamos al Señor.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise. / Es digno y justo darle gracias y alabarle.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty (almighty God), creator of heaven and earth. You have made from one every nation and people to live on all the face of the earth.

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. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

**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.

**COMMUNION SONG****“TASTE AND SEE”****AAHH 680**

*Going Forth as the Body of Christ*

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION [THE LORD’S PRAYER IN SPANISH]****PRESIDER**

**Madre nuestra, Padre nuestro,  
que estás en el cielo,  
santificado sea tu nombre.  
Venga tu reino.  
Hágase tu voluntad  
en la tierra como en el cielo.  
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.  
Perdona nuestras ofensas,  
como también nosotros perdonamos  
a los que nos ofenden.  
No nos dejes caer  
en la tentación y líbranos del mal.  
Porque tuyo es el reino,  
tuyo el poder y la gloria,  
por todos los siglos. Amén.**

**\*CLOSING SONG****“Tú Has Venido a la Orilla” (vs. 3)****UMH 344****\*BENEDICTION****SENDING & POSTLUDE****INSTRUMENTAL**

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

---

**Cover Art:** Woven Bird, Tree and Flower Motif, Artist: William Morris 1834-1896 From collections at Metropolitan Museum of Art <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58451>

**Call to Worship:** New Century Hymnal, 823

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

**Reading:** <https://www.everettsd.org/cms/lib07/WA01920133/Centricity/Domain/965/Anzaldua-Wild-Tongue.pdf>

**Prayer of Illumination:** <https://www.caldwellpresby.org/docs/resources/Prayers%20for%20Illumination.pdf>

**Prayers of the Community:** <https://www.xavier.edu/iesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/hispanic-heritage-month-prayers>

**Communion Liturgy:** Adapted from The Rev. J. David Roberts created this liturgy using the following resources: English sections from The United Methodist Book of Worship, copyright © 1992, The United Methodist Publishing House, pages 72-23. Used by permission. Spanish (ordinary) from Mil Voces Para Celebrar, copyright © 1996 The United Methodist Publishing House, page 16. Used by permission.

**Prayer after Communion:** The Lord's Prayer in Spanish

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

---

**LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY WORSHIP TEAM**

Mark Achtermann, Sean Carter, Equilla Curry, '24, Jenna Duanko, Chynaah Maryoung-Cooke '21,

Stephanie Oelrich '24, Cam Richesson '23, Julia Snyder, and Rev. Dr. Kellie Turner '18.

Rev. Dr. Catherine E. Williams, Advisor

---

**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.*