Sunday, February 14, 2021

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Prelude: Fugue #9 in E Major from The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book 2 | Johann Sebastian Bach

Confession and Forgiveness

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the leader begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
you search us and know us.
You are acquainted with all our ways.
We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.
We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love.
We distrust those who are not like us.
We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come.
Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone.
Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them;
receive them in your divine mercy.
Amen.

How vast is God’s grace!
Through the power and promise of + Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away
and we are claimed as God’s own beloved.
Indeed, we are forgiven.
In the wake of God’s forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ’s justice and the Spirit’s reconciling peace.

Amen.
Gathering Hymn: How Good, Lord, to Be Here!

1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glory fills the night;
2 How good, Lord, to be here, your beauty to behold
3 Fulfiller of the past and hope of things to be,
4 Before we taste of death, we see your kingdom come;
5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not remain;

your face and garments, like the sun, shine with unborrowed light.
where Moses and Elijah stand, your messengers of old.
we hail your body glorified and our redemption see.
we long to hold the vision bright and make this hill our home.
but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858-1933, alt.
Music: POTSDAM, W. Mercer, The Church Psalter and Hymn Book, 1854

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.
Song of Praise: Glory to God

Refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God’s peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, heav’n-ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we
worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. Refrain

2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;
you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. Refrain

3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the
Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the
Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.
A - men, a - men.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth
shines from the mountaintop into our hearts.

Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.
First Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12

A reading from Second Kings.

1Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. 2Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent.”

3Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.”

4Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

5When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. 11Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.
Psalm 50:1-6

1 The mighty one, God the Lord, has spoken;  
calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.  
2 Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, 
   God shines forth in glory. **REFRAIN**

3 Our God will come and will not keep silence;  
   with a consuming flame before, and round about a raging storm.  
4 God calls the heavens and the earth from above  
   to witness the judgment of the people.  
5 “Gather before me my loyal followers,  
   those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice.”  
6 The heavens declare the rightness of God’s cause,  
   for it is God who is judge. **REFRAIN**

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

A reading from Second Corinthians.

3 Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled  
to those who are perishing. In their case  
the god of this world has blinded the  
minds of the unbelievers, to keep them  
from seeing the light of the gospel of  
the glory of Christ, who is the image of  
God. For we do not proclaim ourselves;  
we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and  
ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake.  
4 For it is the God who said, “Let light  
shine out of darkness,” who has shone  
in our hearts to give the light of the  
knowledge of the glory of God in the face  
of Jesus Christ.

Word of God, word of life.  
**Thanks be to God.**
The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: Mark 9:2-9

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

Children’s Sermon | Elizabeth Hood

Sermon | Pastor Matt Smuts
The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

**Hymn of the Day: Beautiful Savior**

1 Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
   Son of God and Son of Man!

2 Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
   Robed in flow’rs of bloom-ing spring;

3 Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
   Bright the spar - kling stars on high;

4 Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
   Son of God and Son of Man!

Truly I’d love thee, truly I’d serve thee,
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer,
Glory and honor, praise, ad-o-ra-tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown,
he makes our sor-rowing spir-it sing.

Text: Geziangebi, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1833–1904
Music: SCHÖNSTE HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.
Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

After each petition:

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Peace

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

The assembly is seated.

meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Offering

Options for giving:

• Txt2Give (mobile phone)
  Text GIVE to 650.262.6880
  or use QR code shortcut, then follow prompts

• gracepa.org (online)
  Click this link if viewing digitally:
  give now

• mail your check to:
  Grace Lutheran Church
  3149 Waverley St
  Palo Alto, CA 94306
Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies | Rachel Aarons

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true and only light,
Sun of righteousness, arise, triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return, till thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiancy divine, scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day. (CHARLES WESLEY)

The assembly stands.

[ELW 407] Offertory Hymn: O Living Breath of God

O living Breath of God, wind at the beginning up on the waters;
O living Breath of God, by whose pow'r the Son came to birth among us;
O living Breath of God, bearing us to life through baptismal waters;
O living Breath of God, bearing the creation to wondrous birth:
O living Breath of God, who to the creation gives life anew:
O living Breath of God, sighing with creation for freedom's birth:

Refrain

Come now, and fill our spirits; pour out your gifts abundant.

O living Breath of God, Holy Spirit, breathe in us as we pray.

Offering Prayer

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

Amen.
Great Thanksgiving
The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

The Lord be with you.
   And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
   We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
   It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God.
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who, sharing our life, lived among us to reveal your glory and love,
that our darkness should give way to your own brilliant light.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

\[
\text{Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might,}
\text{heaven and earth are full of your glory.}
\text{Hosanna in the highest.}
\text{Blessed is he who}
\text{comes in the name of the Lord.}
\text{Hosanna in the highest.}
\]
The presiding minister continues with a prayer of thanksgiving, concluding:

Our Father in heaven,
  hallowed be your name,
  your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
  as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
  and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
  and the glory are yours,
  now and forever. Amen.

Communion
The assembly is seated.

Blessing
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.
[ELW 867] In Thee Is Gladness

1 In thee is gladness amid all sadness, Jesus, sunshine of my heart. By thee are given the gifts of heaven, thou the death. He sees and blesses in worst distresses; he can change them with a breath. Wherefore the story tells of his

2 Jesus is ours! We fear no powers, not of earth or sin or true redeemer art. Our souls thou wakest; our bonds thou breakest. Who trusts thee surely has built securely and stands forever: Alleluia! Our hearts are in him forever: Alleluia! We shout for pinning to see thy shining, dying or living, gladness, triumph o’er sadness, love him and praise him to thee are cleaving; naught can us sever: Alleluia! and still shall raise him glad hymns for ever: Alleluia!

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549–1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: IN DIR IST FREUDE, Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, 1556–1622

Drive Through Communion TODAY | 11:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.

Following coffee hour, TODAY, we will be offering Drive Through Communion from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Enter the parking lot using the driveway closest to the sanctuary. In addition to receiving communion, you will also receive materials to observe Ash Wednesday, Lent, and Holy Week in your home. We look forward to seeing you there!