



THE
Table

Winter 2023-2024

Of Land and Seasons Liturgy
Sunday Evening Communion Service

INVOCATION

We gather in the name of God, the Creator of Light; † Jesus, the Light of the World; and the Holy Spirit, the Light who illumines our path. **Amen**

Confession & Forgiveness

In this season of light, let us go before God and confess how our words and actions contribute to the shadows instead of adding to the light.

God of Love and Light,

We confess that we are not always the light-bearers you desire us to be. We shine a spotlight on the sins of others while trying to keep our own sins hidden in shadows. We burn bridges by being impatient, opinionated and judgmental. We inflame others by lashing out in anger. We go through our days enveloped in the gloom of fear and doubt. We let our witness become a smoldering ember until it dies out completely. Forgive us Jesus, the Everlasting Light. Come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel. Teach us to walk as children of light, surrounded by your love, forgiveness and healing. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.

God dwells with us in the Word made flesh, the Babe of Bethlehem, and shows infinite love and forgiveness for all. Your sins are forgiven in the holy name of † Christ who was, who is, and who is to come. **Amen.**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit is with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE (see screen)

HYMN OF PRAISE (see screen)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

Let us pray:

In this Advent season we await the return of Christ.

Light of the World, return in the flesh.

Return for the oppressed and exploited, the despised and rejected.

Return to all in whom the divine image is distorted.

We wait in joyful expectation.

Return, not as a human of power, but in love and compassion,

Return to the outcast – like the shepherds in the fields,

Return to foreigners – like Magi watching from afar,

Return to rich and poor, young and old, male and female,

We wait in hopeful anticipation.

Return to bless all creation with your love,

Return to bring salvation on the earth,

Return to rule with justice and in peace.

Return, Light of the World, illumine our path.

We wait with all the peoples of the earth,

Light of the World, we welcome your return.

+NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth,

of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,

eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God,

**begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;**

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*

**who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

FIRST READING –

Word of God

Word of life

Gospel Acclamation -(See Screen)

The good news according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord,

The good news of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY (See Screen) ELW 244 *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers*

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always

And also with you

Please greet one another with a sign of peace

OFFERING RECEIVED

MUSICAL OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray,

God of Light, our world is a very dark place. Therefore, we offer the gifts our ourselves, our time and our resources, trusting you will use them to set the world aglow with your loving presence. May our offerings continue to shine brightly before others so they may see our good works and give glory to you. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 ... We praise your name and join in
adoring song.

Preface

At the beginning of creation...we now join the saints and angels in a hymn of praise to God, the Everlasting Light

Holy, Holy, Holy (See Screen)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION-*On the Night*

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

These words may be spoken as the presiding minister breaks the bread.
Just as this broken bread was first scattered on the hills, then was brought together and became one, so let your church be brought together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours are the glory and the power through Jesus Christ forever. **Amen**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION SONG (See Screen) ELW 262 *Wait for the Lord*

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Jesus, our bright Morning Star, we give you thanks that you have fed us well through the bread and wine of your Supper. May it enable us to shine brightly in all the dark places of our world with your love, justice and peace. We ask this in your holy name. **Amen**

BENEDICTION

God who spoke light and creation into being,
who dwells with us in Jesus,
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG- (See Screen) ELW 251 *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness*

SHARING OF PEACE

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.
Thanks be to God.

