

**Saturday, February 11, 2023 & Sunday, February 12, 2023**  
**Therefore**

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**A: And also with you.**

Gathering Song

“Now the Silence”

(ELW 460)

Now the Silence

Now the si - lence Now the peace Now the emp - ty hands up - lift - ed  
Now the kneel - ing Now the plea Now the Fa - ther's arms in wel - come  
Now the hear - ing Now the pow'r Now the ves - sel brimmed for pour - ing  
Now the bod - y Now the blood Now the joy - ful cel - e - bra - tion  
Now the wed - ding Now the songs Now the heart for - giv - en leap - ing  
Now the Spir - it's vis - i - ta - tion Now the Son's e - piph - a - ny  
Now the Fa - ther's bless - ing Now Now Now

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919  
Music: NOW, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929  
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## Hymn of Praise

“Worthy is Christ”

(ELW pages 140-141)

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

## Prayer of the Day

P: O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we need nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **A: Amen.**

## First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

[Moses said to the people:] See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length

of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

The word of the Lord, **A: Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody: Psalm 119:1-8

L: Happy are they whose way is blameless, who follow the teaching of the LORD!

**A: Happy are they who observe your decrees and seek you with all their hearts,**

L: who never do any wrong, but always walk in your ways.

**A: You laid down your commandments, that we should fully keep them.**

L: Oh, that my ways were made so direct that I might keep your statutes!

**A: Then I should not be put to shame, when I regard all your commandments.**

L: I will thank you with a true heart, when I have learned your righteous judgments.

**A: I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human? What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

The word of the Lord, **A: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

P: Alleluia.

**A: You are the light of the world. A city set upon a hill cannot be hid.**

P: Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 5:21-37

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**A: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell

of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell. "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. "Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.' But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one."

The gospel of the Lord,

**A: Praise to you, O Christ!**

Hymn of the Day

“God, When Human Bonds Are Broken”

(ELW 603)

God, When Human Bonds Are Broken



1 God, when hu - man bonds are bro - ken and we lack the  
2 Through that still - ness, with your Spir - it come in - to our  
3 You in us are bruised and bro - ken: hear us as we  
4 Send us, God of new be - gin - nings, hum - bly hope - ful  
5 Give us faith to be more faith - ful, give us hope to



love or skill to re - store the hope of heal - ing,  
world of stress, for the sake of Christ for - giv - ing  
seek re - lease from the pain of ear - lier liv - ing;  
in - to life. Use us as a means of bless - ing:  
be more true, give us love to go on learn - ing:



give us grace and make us still.  
all the fail - ures we con - fess.  
set us free and grant us peace.  
make us stron - ger, give us faith.  
God, en - cour - age and re - new!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

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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.**

#### Prayers Of Intercession

L: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

L: Inspire your church that it may be a sign of life throughout the world. From the exploration of faith with children and new believers to missionaries and bishops, shape lives of faithfulness, so that all find abundant life in your ways. Merciful God,

**A: receive our prayer.**

L: Nourish your creation. Accompany all who plant and water. Bless the work of farmers; provide for subsistence farmers facing drought and climate change. Guide the work of agricultural scientists toward sustainable ways to feed the world. Merciful God,

**A: receive our prayer.**

L: Give growth where there seems to be no hope for life. In nations and regions where reconciliation seems impossible, empower peacemakers with your Spirit. Where death holds sway through violence, disease, and hunger, equip relief workers to bring hope. Merciful God,

**A: receive our prayer.**

L: Nurture all in need. Bring healing to all who experience trauma caused by systems of injustice and destructive relationships. Give courage to those struggling to repent and those seeking reconciliation. Sustain all who work for restoration. Merciful God,

**A: receive our prayer.**

L: Encourage this congregation. Call us to a common purpose and keep us from quarrelling. Turn our hearts toward you and guide our leaders, so that our choices may be lifegiving for all. Merciful God,

**A: receive our prayer.**

L: Thanks be to you for the lives of all who have died in Christ. Teach us to follow them in your ways and gather us with them into the promise of eternal life with you. Merciful God,

**A: receive our prayer.**

L: We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

**A: Amen.**

#### Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**A: And also with you.**

### Offertory Song

“We Are an Offering”

(ELW 692)

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,  
we lift our lives up to you:  
we are an offering.  
Lord, use our voices, Lord use our hands,  
Lord, use our lives, they are yours:  
we are an offering.

All that we have, all that we are,  
all that we hope to be, we give to you,  
we give to you.  
We lift our voices, we lift our hands,  
we lift our lives up to you:  
we are an offering, we are an offering.

### Offertory Prayer

P: God of wonder, you formed us in our mother’s womb, and from mother earth you bring forth this bread and wine. We place them on your table, together with our lives and all that you have made. Open the heavens to us and pour out your Spirit. We wait for your mercy; we long for your peace; we hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ, our banquet of life. A: Amen.

### The Dialogue

P: The Lord be with you.

**A: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**A: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: 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. By the leading of a star, he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan, you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine, he revealed your glory.

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:

(ELW 473, sing 2x)

Holy, holy, holy,  
my heart, my heart adores you.  
My heart is glad to say the words:  
You are holy, God.

### Thanksgiving at the Table

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

### The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**A: 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.**

### Invitation to Communion

P: There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

"Just As I Am, without One Plea"

(ELW 592, verse 3)

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

### Music

"God Is With Us"

By For King and Country

### Music

"Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing"

(ELW 544) as interpreted by Dan Gresh

### Prayer After Communion

P: We thank you, O God, that you have fed us at your banqueting table with bread and wine beyond compare, the very life of Christ for us. Send your Spirit with us now, that we may set the captive free, use your gifts to build one another up, and in everything reflect your glory revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **A: Amen.**

### Blessing

P: God the Creator who delights in you, Jesus the Savior who is born for you, and the lifegiving Spirit who shines on you, ✠ bless you and keep you in hope and peace.

**A: Amen.**

Sending

“Healer of Our Every Ill”

(ELW 612)

## Healer of Our Every Ill

*Refrain*

Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,

give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.

1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your  
2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is  
3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,  
4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your

*Refrain*

peace and glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.  
still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.  
ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.  
way of heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL, Marty Haugen

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Dismissal

P: With faith renewed, hope restored, and loved revived, we go,

**A: to invite every generation on a shared journey to Christian growth.**