



Sunday, September 13th,
2020

REMEMBER

Prelude

Call to Worship

May we remember that God created. May we remember that God liberated. May we remember that God fed. May we remember that God is still creating, God is still liberating, and God is still feeding us. Let this be our story. Let this be where we begin. Let us worship holy God.

Confession

Holy God, we admit to remembering the wrong things. We remember worldly lessons like, “Everyone for themselves,” “An eye for an eye,” and “All is fair in love and war.” And yet, we forget to forgive 70 times seven, to love our neighbors as ourselves, to live like the body of Christ.

Release us from our muscle memory and re-center us in a new place, a fresh place, a space grounded in your love. Help us to receive your word anew, and to consider stewardship not with the world’s rules, but with your rules. Help us remember. With hope we pray, **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Triune God, there is something about scripture that stirs us awake. For when we hear of a deep love that made room for everyone at the table, we remember that we are hungry. And when we hear of manna raining down in the desert, we remember that we are lost. So stir us awake, oh God. Remind us that this story starts with love and ends with love. We are hungry, which is to say, we are listening. **Amen.**

First Reading: *Exodus 16:1-18 Manna in the desert*

The whole congregation of the Israelites set out from Elim; and Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. ² The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³ The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the

hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

⁴ Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. ⁵ On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” ⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷ and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?” ⁸ And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.”

⁹ Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’” ¹⁰ And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. ¹¹ The Lord spoke to Moses and said, ¹² “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’”

¹³ In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴ When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵ When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat. ¹⁶ This is what the Lord has commanded: ‘Gather as much of it as each of you needs, an omer to a person according to the number of persons, all providing for those in their own tents.’” ¹⁷ The Israelites did so, some gathering more, some less. ¹⁸ But when they measured it with an omer, those who gathered much had nothing over, and those who gathered little had no shortage; they gathered as much as each of them needed.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: [Luke 22:1-23](#) *The Last Supper*

Now the festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was near. ² The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to put Jesus to death, for they were afraid of the people.

³ Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve; ⁴ he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers of the temple police about how he might betray him to them. ⁵ They were greatly pleased and agreed to give him money. ⁶ So he consented and began to look for an opportunity to betray him to them when no crowd was present.

⁷ Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸ So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and prepare the Passover meal for us that we may eat it.” ⁹

They asked him, “Where do you want us to make preparations for it?”¹⁰ “Listen,” he said to them, “when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house he enters¹¹ and say to the owner of the house, ‘The teacher asks you, “Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’”¹² He will show you a large room upstairs, already furnished. Make preparations for us there.”¹³ So they went and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

¹⁴ When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him.¹⁵ He said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;¹⁶ for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”¹⁷ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves;¹⁸ for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”¹⁹ Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”²⁰ And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.²¹ But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table.²² For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!”²³ Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Prayers of the People

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

We remember your welcome when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We remember your steadfast love when we see the heights of the heavens. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We remember your ways which you make known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. May our leaders be guided by your Spirit, high in purpose, wise in counsel, firm in good resolution, and unwavering in duty, that under them we may be governed justly and guided safely. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We remember your compassion. Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We remember your forgiveness. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember we are yours, whether we live or whether we die. We thank you for those who have shown us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you especially John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, whom we commemorate today. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Offering Prayer

Gracious God, as we offer our gifts to you today, we pray that you would re-center our money narratives. Help us to give out of a desire to participate, as a sign of gratitude. We give because we belong to one another. We give to build a more just and equitable world. We give because we love, and that's what love does.

Take these gifts and remind us that we belong to one another. Remind us that all money narratives are welcome at this table. Remind us that whatever shame or guilt we bring with us will be washed away with your empathy and love. Remind us, and then help us to build that more beautiful world. In hope we pray, **Amen.**

Communion

The Lord be with you

Lift up your hearts

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

And also with you

We lift them to the Lord

It is right to give God thanks and praise

Creator God, Tell us again of how it all began, how you moved over the waters.

Tell us again of the gift of manna in the wilderness, of your presence in time of exile.

Tell us again of the prophets, of leaders who reimagined ways of justice and peace.

Tell us again of the love that changed the world, of the release and restoration that Jesus brings.

Tell us again, because we are forgetful people. It is part of our human nature; that is why we long for this space week after week, that we might be reminded of who we are and whose we are.

Having been anointed by one whom he loved, and about to be betrayed by one whom he loved, Jesus took bread and gave thanks. He broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, “Take, eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. After they had finished eating, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying this cup is the new covenant of my blood, shed for you and for all people. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Pour out your Spirit on this table. Tether your Spirit to our fragile bones. Be with us in these ordinary symbols of extraordinary love and give us the strength to remember your story anew.

As we prepare to eat together as your disciples did, we remember and we speak that truth out loud, praying together.

Lord’s Prayer

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.

Invitation to the table

The dinner table is always a place where we tell stories. We tell stories of growing up and falling in love, of making mistakes and figuring it out. We tell stories that make us laugh, stories that make us cry, and stories that help us remember.

This table is no different. For at this table we tell stories about a God who loves us unconditionally. We tell stories about a man who fed the hungry, washed the feet of his disciples, and said, “This is my body—for you.”

So friends, as we gather around this table, bring your stories— stories about who you are and who you want to be. Stories of shame and disappointment, stories of fear and faith. Bring your money stories, your faith stories, your love and heartbreak stories—bring them all. For no matter the narrative, God welcomes us at this table.

You belong here. There is a seat saved for you. The body of Christ given for you.

Time is given for the sharing of bread among households.

Prayer after communion

Holy God, as we leave this table, help us to remember that with you, all are invited. Help us remember that with you, there is a seat for everyone. Help us remember that with you, there is enough food to go around. Help us remember so that as we go, we can build tables like this in the world. Gratefully we pray, Amen.

Announcements

Blessing

As we kick off Sunday school this week, we close today with a blessing for masks, backpacks, and school supplies, that a new year of education may be blessed by God.

God of learning and growing, bless our brains, our backpacks, our school supplies, our masks, and our technology. Help us learn about the world you have made. Help us learn to care for our neighbors. May students, teachers, staff, parents, and families be held in your safety and care. In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.

Sending

L: Go in peace, share the good news!

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude



Sunday, September 20th,
2020

RELEASE

Prelude

Call to Worship

Through Moses, God said: “Let my people go.” In scripture, the law declares: “In the seventh year, you must cancel all debts.” With grace, Jesus said: “Give one coat away.” With honesty, Jesus taught: “Sell what you have, give that money to the poor.”

Faith has always involved letting go, releasing, setting free, dropping our nets, giving to others, and following. So in this hour of worship, may we release that which binds us. May we worship with open, untamed, and porous hearts, so that we can walk freely with God. Let it be so. **Amen.**

Confession

Gracious God, we admit to holding tight to that which we know and understand. We put you in a box to avoid the shades of gray that come with faith. We put worship in a box to avoid the discomfort of change. We put ourselves and others in boxes labeled “worthy” and “unworthy.” We put all that we have in a box and pray we won’t run out.

In this moment, we confess to holding tight to fear, greed, and worldly structures. Forgive us for missing the point. Open our eyes to a new way— to a holiness found in open boxes, unclenched fists, shades of gray, and holy release. Gratefully we pray, **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, we release our hearts to you. Move in them. Stir us awake. Speak to us now. Release us from our fears, our anxiety, our greed, so that our whole selves may be in sync with you. **Amen.**

First Reading: Deuteronomy 15:1-11 *The year of canceled debts*

Every seventh year you shall grant a remission of debts. ² And this is the manner of the remission: every creditor shall remit the claim that is held against a neighbor, not exacting it of a

neighbor who is a member of the community, because the Lord's remission has been proclaimed.³ Of a foreigner you may exact it, but you must remit your claim on whatever any member of your community owes you.⁴ There will, however, be no one in need among you, because the Lord is sure to bless you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you as a possession to occupy,⁵ if only you will obey the Lord your God by diligently observing this entire commandment that I command you today.⁶ When the Lord your God has blessed you, as he promised you, you will lend to many nations, but you will not borrow; you will rule over many nations, but they will not rule over you.

⁷ If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbor.⁸ You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be.⁹ Be careful that you do not entertain a mean thought, thinking, "The seventh year, the year of remission, is near," and therefore view your needy neighbor with hostility and give nothing; your neighbor might cry to the Lord against you, and you would incur guilt.¹⁰ Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake.¹¹ Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, "Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land."

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 19:16-22 *A wealthy man seeks eternal life*

Then someone came to [Jesus] and said, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?"¹⁷ And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments."¹⁸ He said to him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness;¹⁹ Honor your father and mother; also, You shall love your neighbor as yourself."²⁰ The young man said to him, "I have kept all these; what do I still lack?"²¹ Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me."²² When the young man heard this word, he went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Prayers of the People

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

We release our hesitancy. Generous God, you make the last first, and the first last. Where this gospel challenges the church, equip it for its works of service. Strengthen all expressions of your church, that we may be signs of your love in the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We release our disregard for creation. Sun and wind, bushes and worms, cattle and great cities—nothing in creation is outside your concern, creator God. In your mercy, tend to it all. Give us a spirit of generosity toward all you have made, that we may be faithful stewards. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We release our obstinacy. Where we find envy and create enemies, you provide enough for all. Bring peace to places of conflict and violence. Inspire leaders with creativity and wisdom. Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers, and development workers. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We release our unfaithfulness. Even beyond our expectations, you choose to give generously. Grant life, health, and courage to all who are in need (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We release our worries and fears. We praise you for the generations that have declared your power to us. Give us faithfulness to follow them, living for Christ, until you call us to join them in the joyful feast that has no end. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Offering Prayer

Holy God, though it can take work for us to practice release, we trust that you can take these gifts—however freely or reluctantly given—and use them to build a more beautiful world. For that is who you are. You are forever building castles out of sand, disciples out of people, and new life out of cautious gifts. We believe; help our unbelief. In Christ's name we pray, **Amen.**

Communion

The Lord be with you

Lift up your hearts

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

And also with you

We lift them to the Lord

It is right to give God thanks and praise

On the first day, God released love and creativity over a void, forming mountains and rivers, sunsets and starry nights. Through Israel, God released God's people from the grips of slavery, liberating us from oppression and fear. In Jesus Christ, God laid down with death and was released from its grip, knowing suffering and freeing us from empty life.

Having been anointed by one whom he loved, and about to be betrayed by one whom he loved, Jesus took bread and gave thanks. He broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take, eat, this

is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. After they had finished eating, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying this cup is the new covenant of my blood, shed for you and for all people. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Send now, we pray, the Holy Spirit to release our fears, to let go of assumptions, to throw open doors, and walk closer to love.

Together, we pray the words that Jesus taught us.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Invitation to the table

Friends, as you come to this table, bring your stories— stories about who you are and who you want to be. Stories of shame and disappointment, stories of fear and faith. Bring your money stories, your faith stories, your love and heartbreak stories—bring them all. For no matter the narrative, God welcomes us at this table.

You belong here. There is a seat saved for you. The body of Christ given for you.

Time is given for the sharing of bread among households.

Prayer after communion

Holy God, as we leave this table, release us from that which holds us captive. Free us to be your people of love and justice in the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Announcements

Blessing

May God bless you and keep you

May God shine upon you with grace and mercy

May God look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

Sending

L: Go in peace, share the good news!

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude



Sunday, September 27th,
2020

REIMAGINE

Prelude

Call to Worship

Can you imagine unfettered love? Free and bold, wild and true, the kind of love that changes you? Can you imagine a home—safe and bright, with impromptu dancing, meals around table, and laughter late into the night? Can you imagine faith like a compass that guides the way you shop and vote, the way you love and hope; that asks questions and yet still believes, even despite uncertainty? Can you imagine a world where trees, bees, and all living things grow wild and free? Where peace is the narrative and hope the currency? A world where news stories are testimonies and funerals are far between? Can you imagine?

Today in worship, dare to dream. Dare to imagine what could be. And pay attention, for God is here, in wandering thoughts, hopes, and prayers. Let us worship holy God, that great unfettered love. **Amen.**

Confession

God of grace, you invite us to dream of a better world, but instead we bury our heads in the sand. We are afraid to recognize how much must change. We are afraid, because if we know the truth, then don't we have a job to do? So instead, more often than not, we maintain the status quo. We passively allow things to stay the same. We don't speak out; we don't imagine a new day. We don't dream of a world without racism, sexism, bigotry, or shame. Instead we allow ourselves to believe that some things will never change. Forgive us. Show us the way. Teach us to dream. Teach us to imagine again. Humbly we pray, **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, clear the roadblocks that keep us from you. Blow the dust out of our ears. Thaw out the frozen parts of our hearts. Breathe fresh air into our lungs and fill our minds with endless possibilities. May we see what you see. May we reimagine this life we're living. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

First Reading: Leviticus 19:9-10; 25:8-12 *The year of Jubilee*

When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰ You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God.

²⁵ ⁸ You shall count off seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so that the period of seven weeks of years gives forty-nine years. ⁹ Then you shall have the trumpet sounded loud; on the tenth day of the seventh month—on the day of atonement—you shall have the trumpet sounded throughout all your land. ¹⁰ And you shall hallow the fiftieth year and you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you: you shall return, every one of you, to your property and every one of you to your family. ¹¹ That fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you: you shall not sow, or reap the aftergrowth, or harvest the unpruned vines. ¹² For it is a jubilee; it shall be holy to you: you shall eat only what the field itself produces.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Mark 12:38-44 *The widow's mite*

³⁸ As [Jesus] taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, ³⁹ and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! ⁴⁰ They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

⁴¹ He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴² A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. ⁴³ Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. ⁴⁴ For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Prayers of the People

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Reimagine the church and give us unity. Inspire all the baptized with the mind of Christ. Where the church is powerful and where it struggles, shape us with humility and obedience so that your love may be at work in us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Reimagine the universe. Your Son took on all of bodily life in our world, even to death. Preserve and keep your creation, O God. Mend and redeem places that are polluted and damaged, so that all of creation confesses you as Lord. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Reimagine the nations and turn them toward life. Where our ways are unfair, give us new hearts and new spirits. Where sin permeates our cultures and institutions, change our minds and teach us to trust your authority. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Reimagine our lives. Relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit. Defend the lives and welfare of children who are abused or neglected, hungry or exploited, bullied or lonely. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Reimagine this congregation. Turn us away from our own interests toward the interests of others. Fill us with your compassion and sympathy. Bless ministries of care in our community; make us into signs of your mercy and justice for our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Reimagine the kingdom. Thank you for those who have gone ahead of us—scribes and widows, tax collectors and prostitutes, likely and unlikely, obedient and slow to learn. By their witness, teach us to confess Jesus Christ as Lord in life and in death. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Offering Prayer

Jesus of Nazareth, in scripture we hear of a woman who gave her last coin away. You pointed her out, but you did not say, “Go and do likewise.” So we cannot help but wonder—did you point her out to ask, “Why does this one have so little when others have so much?” Did you point her out to help us see the injustice that led to her suffering?

For her, and for you, and for every person who cannot afford to give to God and put food on the table, we offer our gifts. We pray that you would use them for your good. Right what is wrong. Balance the systems of injustice. Use these gifts to build the world that we can only imagine but you can bring forth. In hope we pray, **Amen.**

Communion

The Lord be with you

Lift up your hearts

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

And also with you

We lift them to the Lord

It is right to give God thanks and praise

Blessed are you, God the Creator, who, like a painter with a canvas, imagined creation and breathed it into being. Blessed are you, Holy Spirit, who prods us and pulls, leads and guides, carries and loves all God's faithful into new life. Blessed are you, Jesus Christ, who walked this hurting world and showed us a new way to love.

Having been anointed by one whom he loved, and about to be betrayed by one whom he loved, Jesus took bread and gave thanks. He broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take, eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. After they had finished eating, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying this cup is the new covenant of my blood, shed for you and for all people. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Together, we pray the words that Jesus taught us.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Invitation to the table

When we gather around this table, we remember that all are welcome here. When we gather around this table, we release the worldly narrative that only those with status or wealth deserve to be fed. When we gather around this table, we can reimagine what could be—what a world could look like when all belong.

Come to the table. Come, eat and be filled. The body of Christ given for you.
Time is given for the sharing of bread among households.

Prayer after communion

Holy God, fill us with the power of imagination, a gift that allows us to dream dreams, create anew, start over, try again, and live lives of hope. Together, as your church, may we dare to dream. May we strive to love. May we try to imagine a new day. May we walk together, all with your help. In the name of the Triune God we pray, Amen.

Announcements

Blessing

May God bless you and keep you
May God shine upon you with grace and mercy
May God look upon you with favor and give you peace.
Amen.

Sending

L: Go in peace, share the good news!

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude



Sunday, October 4th,
2020

RESTORE

Prelude

Call to Worship

In worship we tell a story: a story of an unfettered love that changed the world.

In worship we tell a story: a story of how we live and how we long to live.

In worship we tell a story: so may we remember who we are.

May we release the narratives that trap us. May we reimagine this world to see what God sees.

And may we work toward restoration, right relationship, reconciliation.

Let us worship holy God. **Amen.**

Confession

God of Grace, today we bring our hearts back to you, our thoughts back to love, and our prayers back to peace. We try to stay in this place, but we confess, it's never been that easy for us. We flirt with reconciliation and then back away. We come face-to-face with an opportunity for justice, but get scared. We are offered an opportunity to re-write our story, but we lose our way. Bring us back to your story of grace and forgiveness. Restore us. Forgive us. Gratefully we pray, **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, we cannot do the work of restoration without your Word. We cannot do the work of remembering, releasing, or reimagining without your Word. We come to you in prayer to ask that you breathe new life into us. Grant us the clarity needed to hear your Word anew. And as you do, restore us to your breath. Restore us to your Word. Restore us to one another. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

First Reading: *Genesis 33:1-17 Esau forgives Jacob*

Now Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming, and four hundred men with him. So he divided the children among Leah and Rachel and the two maids. ² He put the maids with their children in

front, then Leah with her children, and Rachel and Joseph last of all. ³ He himself went on ahead of them, bowing himself to the ground seven times, until he came near his brother.

⁴ But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. ⁵ When Esau looked up and saw the women and children, he said, “Who are these with you?” Jacob said, “The children whom God has graciously given your servant.” ⁶ Then the maids drew near, they and their children, and bowed down; ⁷ Leah likewise and her children drew near and bowed down; and finally Joseph and Rachel drew near, and they bowed down. ⁸ Esau said, “What do you mean by all this company that I met?” Jacob answered, “To find favor with my lord.” ⁹ But Esau said, “I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself.” ¹⁰ Jacob said, “No, please; if I find favor with you, then accept my present from my hand; for truly to see your face is like seeing the face of God—since you have received me with such favor. ¹¹ Please accept my gift that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have everything I want.” So he urged him, and he took it.

¹² Then Esau said, “Let us journey on our way, and I will go alongside you.” ¹³ But Jacob said to him, “My lord knows that the children are frail and that the flocks and herds, which are nursing, are a care to me; and if they are overdriven for one day, all the flocks will die. ¹⁴ Let my lord pass on ahead of his servant, and I will lead on slowly, according to the pace of the cattle that are before me and according to the pace of the children, until I come to my lord in Seir.”

¹⁵ So Esau said, “Let me leave with you some of the people who are with me.” But he said, “Why should my lord be so kind to me?” ¹⁶ So Esau returned that day on his way to Seir. ¹⁷ But Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built himself a house, and made booths for his cattle; therefore the place is called Succoth.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: John 21:1-19 *Jesus appears to the disciples*

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. ² Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³ Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” They answered him, “No.” ⁶ He said to them, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

⁹ When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” ¹⁹ (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Prayers of the People

With confidence in God’s grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Restore your church, holy God. You call us to work for peace and justice in your vineyard. Refresh us with your life, that we may bear fruit through work and service. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Restore the cosmos, creator God. Thank you for the abundant harvest of the earth. Bless and care for those whose hands bring the fruits of the earth to the tables of all who hunger. May we be inspired by your servants who cared deeply for your creation especially Francis of Assisi, whom we commemorate today. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Restore justice, wise God. Curb the impulses of greed and pride that lead us to take advantage of others. Grant that world leaders seek the fruits of the kingdom for the good and welfare of all people. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Restore life, healing God. Sustain all who suffer with the promise of new life. Assured of your presence, heal our pain and suffering, and equip us to embrace all bodies aching for wholeness of

mind, body, and soul. We call to mind those who are struggling today (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Restore vocation, generous God. We pray for all managers in our community and for all who seek employment. Give hope and a future to those who lack meaningful work, those who have been marginalized or abused in the workplace, and those who desire new opportunities. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Restore your kingdom, loving God. Thank you for the saints who teach us to live faithfully in your vineyard especially Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society. May our chorus join theirs until our labor is complete. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Offering Prayer

Holy God, you planted a garden and dreamed of Sabbath—and it was good, very good. However, when we look around today, we know that we have lost our way. This world is not what you intended it to be. Today we bring our hearts, minds, and money back to you in hopes that you will sow good. This is the work of restoration, for we want to be a restoration people. Use these gifts for your hurting world. Restore us to you, oh God and to one another. **Amen.**

Communion

The Lord be with you

Lift up your hearts

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

And also with you

We lift them to the Lord

It is right to give God thanks and praise

Restoring God, you have always been in the business of beginning again with us. First you breathed life into dust. Then you guided brother back to brother after years apart. You sent prophets when the people lost their way. You fed the hungry and healed the sick. You let the little children come to you. You forgave us from the cross, and then you returned to remind us of our call. You have always been in the work of restoration—of seeing us, claiming us, loving us, and inviting us to return to you.

Having been anointed by one whom he loved, and about to be betrayed by one whom he loved, Jesus took bread and gave thanks. He broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, “Take, eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. After they had finished eating, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying this cup is the new covenant of my blood, shed for you and for all people. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Holy God, you have always been in the business of beginning again with us. We trust that you hear our prayer. We trust that you are with us in this ordinary meal of bread and cup, giving us a glimpse of what restoration looks and feels like. For we believe that a restored world will be a

world where all are welcome at the table, where all are fed and where all belong. A restored world will be on earth as it is in heaven. So we lift our voices together in prayer, speaking the words Jesus taught us:

Lord's Prayer

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.

Invitation to the table

When we gather around this table, we remember that all are welcome here. When we gather around this table, we release the worldly narrative that only those with status or wealth deserve to be fed. When we gather around this table, we can reimagine what could be—what a world could look like when all belong.

And so we gather around this table as an act of restoration, as an act of resistance, as an act of faith. So, come. Come with your dreams and your memories. Come with your full authentic self—scars and all. Come with your questions, your wonderings, your hopes, and your prayers. Come—not because you have to, but because you can. Come because this is a moment of restoration. Come, eat and be filled. The body of Christ given for you.

Time is given for the sharing of bread among households.

Prayer after communion

Gracious God, we are not sure what restoration for this world will look like, but we're pretty sure it'll feel like this— a meal where all are fed, a place where all are welcomed, and a table with a seat saved for each and every one of us. Remind us of this truth in the coming day, and continue to restore all of us to you. In the name of the Triune God we pray, Amen.

Announcements

Blessing

May God bless you and keep you
May God shine upon you with grace and mercy
May God look upon you with favor and give you peace.
Amen.

Sending

L: Go in peace, share the good news!
C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude