

"Celebration of Christian Community"

ENTRANCE HYMN

INVOCATION:

Leader: We come this day to acknowledge and to celebrate the God who has created us and the communities in which we live, who has redeemed us and returned us to communities from which we have been separated and who has filled us with presence especially where two or three are gathered in God's name.

People: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Leader: So be it.

People: Amen.

LITANY FOR COMMUNITY

L: Father, we assemble in this place conscious of the people around us.

P: You have made us to live together.

L: Though You care for each person as though each alone existed.

P: You did not make us to stand alone,

L: You have formed us into communities

P: Where we can grow, serve, and love.

L: We thank you for these communities;

P: Families and relatives;

L: Neighbors and friends;

P: Playmates and schoolmates;

L: Business associates and community groups;

P: Church members and student bodies.

L: We thank You that You care enough

P: to give us one another.

L: We confess to You that we have formed some of our communities for selfish reasons.

P: We join them to satisfy ourselves.

L: Help us to realize and practice true community as you intended.

P: Help us to live for others and not ourselves;

L: to serve others and not ourselves;

P: to care for others and not ourselves.

L: May we experience Your Spirit in our communities, especially this Christian community.

P: You have brought us together with a special purpose.

L: May we as a Christian Community shine Your light.

P: So all people can see the vision Your Gospel proclaims.

PRAYER OF THE COMMUNITY (Everyone)

O God, the life of all the generations of people: look with favor upon the homes of our land; enfold husbands and wives, parents and children, neighbors, cities and nations, into the bonds of Your peace and love. Bless us wherever and whenever we come to form the communities of humanity. Make our homes shelters for the defenseless, bulwarks for the tempted, refreshment for the weary, and a kind of foretaste of our everlasting home in the promises of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN

THE LESSON

SHARING

THE CREED (Everyone)

We believe that we cannot by our own understanding or effort believe in Jesus Christ our Lord, or come to Him. But the Holy Spirit has called us through the Gospel, enlightened us with the Spirit's gifts, and sanctified and kept us in the true faith. In the same way the Holy Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it united with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church day after day God fully forgives our sins and the sins of all believers. On the last day God will raise us and all the dead and give us and all believers eternal life. This is most certainly true.

OFFERTORY PRAYER (Everyone)

Make me a new person, O God, and give me a new way of life.
Stay with me wherever I go, and use me to do Your will.
Restore my joy in Your love and uphold me with Your power.

PRAYER FOR THE LIFE OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

L: Almighty God, who accepts us as persons, help us to accept one another.
P: and give glory and praise to You.
L: We thank you for showing us true humanity
P: in Jesus Christ, Your Son.
L: We thank you that Jesus showed us how to practice love,
P: the highest form of faith in You.
L: We thank You for the Church, the Christian Community, to which You have given
Word and Sacraments,
P: so we can grow in faith.
L: We thank You for our history, recorded in Holy Scripture, which bears witness
to Your will for humankind,
P: so we can grow in knowledge of Your will.
L: Fill with the zeal of the Spirit of love all who came together
P: so we can grow in love.
L: We pray that the Spirit of affection found in this Christian Community
P: can be realized in our homes.
L: May Your love give us strength to do the day to day tasks,
P: and our loving deeds proclaim Your glory.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE BENEDICTION

L: The blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you every day.
P: Amen.

DEPARTING HYMN

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"Service of Affirmation of the Baptismal Covenant"

Song

Scripture: John 3:1-15

LEADER: These persons desire to make public affirmation of their baptismal covenant. (Leaders read names of members of their group.)

LEADER: Dear friends, we rejoice that you desire to profess your faith and to renew your commitment to the life and mission of the church.

LEADER: Brothers and sisters in Christ: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his church. From God's Word you have learned God's loving purpose for you and for all of his creation. Together we share life, nourished by God's sustaining grace.

Now, therefore, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, those thoughts and deeds which deny freedom, the devil, and all his empty promises?

PEOPLE: I do.

LEADER: Do you believe in God the Father?

PEOPLE: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

LEADER: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

PEOPLE: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

LEADER: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

PEOPLE: 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.

LEADER: Let us pray for all the baptized everywhere and especially we who are affirming the covenant of our baptism that all baptized may be redeemed from all evil and rescued from the way of sin and death. Lord, in your mercy.

PEOPLE: Hear our prayer.

LEADER 1: That the Holy Spirit may open our hearts to your grace and truth. Lord in your mercy.

PEOPLE: Hear our prayer.

LEADER 2: That we may be kept in the faith and communion of your holy church. Lord, in your mercy.

PEOPLE: Hear our prayer.

LEADER 3: That we may be sent into the world in witness to your love. Lord, in your mercy.

PEOPLE: Hear our prayer.

LEADER 4: That we may brought to the fullness of your peace and glory. Lord, in your mercy.

PEOPLE: Hear our prayer.

LEADER: That we may understand and use our freedom to serve those not free. Lord, in your mercy.

PEOPLE: Hear our prayer.

LEADER: Into your hands, Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

PEOPLE: Amen.

LEADER: You have made confession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:

PEOPLE: I do and I ask God to help and guide me.

LEADER: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, through water and the spirit you have made these people your own. You forgave them and brought them to newness of life. You have given them freedom to live in the world but not of the world. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit and daily increase in them your gifts of grace: the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and power, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, and the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence: through Jesus Christ, your Son, Our Lord.

PEOPLE: Amen.

(People will come forward, each passing by a font to receive the blessing.)
The Blessing

LEADER: (name), the Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, strengthens you in the gift of the Holy Spirit, to deepen your faith, to direct your life, to empower you for service, to give you patience in suffering, and to bring you to everlasting life.

PEOPLE: (Each person answers individually) Amen.

Song(s): (During blessing, some singing can take place)

LEADER: (Comments)

Sharing of the Peace

Song:

PASTOR/LEADER: Go in peace and freedom!

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"Keeping God's World"
A Confessional Service

Prayer: God we come in this moment
Praying,
Praying that you may give us
Open ears and eyes
To listen
To observe
And to become
More aware of the world,
Your will for the world,
and our place in it..

Litany

Leader: In the beginning
God created
The heavens and the earth;
People: And God saw that it was good
Leader: There stood the light . . .
Day and night
There lay the earth,
Black in its new birth.
Waters around it,
Heavens above it.

People: And God saw that it was good.

Leader: Days slipped by;
Seeds in the ground,
Lights in the sky,
Fish in the water,
Birds soaring high,
Then low to the ground
Where animals roamed
And creeping things crept
And crawled all around.

People: And God saw that it was good.

Leader: And in the end
God
Made masterpieces
Man and Woman.

People: And God saw that it was good.

Leader: And the man and the woman were happy and said
"It is very, very good!"

People: It is very, very good!

Scripture: Psalm 19

Dedication:

(Place a small wastebasket on the worship table. All persons then bring items which are pollutants or which symbolize garbage found in their lodging facilities, on the grounds, or elsewhere. As each one places an item in the basket on the table, he or she speaks the following words of commitment in relation to keeping God's world. Each individual inserts his or her own words.)

Dear God, help me not to . . .
But instead I will . . .

Closing Song: "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

"A Day for the Prince of Peace"

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: Our Lord comes. Our Lord comes to bring to light the things now hidden in darkness.
People: Our Prince of Peace comes. He comes to bring a peace which shall have no end.
Leader: Lord, darkness is all around us. Stockpiles of weapons surround us. We pretend that we are protected. We allow more weapons to be built, yet we say that we do not intend to use them.
People: O Lord come. Bring light to this darkness. O Prince of Peace come. Bring your peace that will never end. Amen.

WAITING IN DARKNESS:

Nation Against Nation

God, we are at it with the sword again
Nation has gone against nation
The land and the soil erodes away
Still, barren and lifeless
...Only twisted minds.

And Then There Were None

Many bled
Many dead

A world safe for democracy
But not for life
Rather funny
In an unfunny sort of way

And the Bible said
That when He came
Everyone was dead
No one left to claim

Many bled
Many dead

Yea as I walk through the valley of death
I shall fear no evil
For the valleys are gone
and only death awaits

And I am the evil

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

We wait restlessly, God, expecting to survive. But when we examine our world we feel the darkness of potential human suicide. War and death confront us. There are nuclear bombs, sophisticated weapons of destruction, methods of torture, systems of pollution.

These things mock your love. We feel that we cannot change swords into plough shares, establish zero nuclear weapons, stop the arms race, and fund human needs. We feel we live constantly in the shadows of darkness.

God, you have made us co-creators with you in the continuing act of building shalom. Enable us to be creators with the Prince of Peace and the Lord of Light. Enable our vision to dwell in the light of the Prince of Peace. Open our minds to waiting in the light. Make us co-workers of the Peacemaker and let us live in the light of love.

WAITING IN LIGHT:

Isaiah 65:21-25 -- RSV

John 1:5 -- Phillips

PRAYER OF WAITING WITH HOPE:

O Lord, we continue to wait. We are waiting for the Prince of Peace. Sometimes we seem to wait only in the darkness surrounded by events like arms fairs. Sometimes we seem to never build houses expecting to live in them. God, call us to wait understanding that the light of the Prince of Peace shines in all darkness. Let us hear the peaceful word as people waiting in the light of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Isaiah 62:10-12

Luke 3:2b-6

I Corinthians 4:1-5

MEDITATION:

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT:

We commit ourselves to building the highway of peace and hope, and on it we will walk with the Prince of Peace. We will walk with brothers and sisters. Together, we will reflect the light of the Prince in the darkness of an arms bazaar. The Light will not be put out.

WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Description: Many of the participants are familiar with the order of worship, but probably do not understand it.

Bible Texts: I Corinthians 12:1-11

Process:

Invocation Teach the participants to make the sign of the cross. Luther says this is to be done upon rising and going to bed . . . Select a song that celebrates the presence of the Holy Spirit. Explain that the Invocation is an affirmation and a confession of the presence of God-near and God-at-work.

Confession of Sins Participants suggest various things they are sorry for, incidents in particular in which the environment has been mistreated, items for which we should seek forgiveness. Instruct the participants to respond to each suggestion with either "Father, we are sorry for our sins" or "Father, forgive us".

Absolution Invite the participants to offer the message of forgiveness to each other with words such as "God forgives you for all your sins".

Announcement of Theme

Kyrie Teach the participants the Greek phrase from which this word comes "Kyrie Eleison". Prepare several types of bids and have the participants respond singing Kyrie Eleison.

Gloria in Excelsis Introduce this portion with the idea that we usually sing a song of praise to God. However, in this instance we are going to ask how various natural objects praise God. How do they praise God? Ask participants to select various items: animals, rocks, trees, etc. They are then to act out, non-verbally, how the object praises God. Conclude with the idea that God gives gifts and talents to everyone and everything. The one gift that God gives to all creation are the necessary skills to praise God.

Prayer of the Day Remind the participants that this is a prayer that collects the thoughts for the day. Suggest concerns for which to pray in a "collected prayer".

Lesson I Corinthians 12:1-11.

Song

Homily Some brief comments about how the Spirit gives gifts to us. Ask the participants to help generate a list of talents. What talents are necessary in the life of the Church?

Creed

Say together the Apostles' Creed.

Offertory

Explain that this portion of the service is an opportunity for the participants to respond to the message of Jesus Christ. We usually contribute money as a fact or symbol of our response to God. In this service the participants write on a piece of paper what they individually feel their particular talent to be that God can use, i.e., what gift or gifts of the Spirit have they received? Paper can be dedicated in some way.

Prayer of the Church

This is the time we think beyond ourselves. Thus, we contemplate people and situations outside of the camp community that need our prayers. The leader introduces the prayer with "O Lord, our heavenly Father, this day we pray for....Participants then complete the sentence.

Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn

Benediction

Use original words of blessing

"Mass for Peace"

ENTRANCE HYMN

Leader: In the name of the Creator, and of the Redeemer, and of the Holy Spirit,
People: Amen.
Leader: May the love and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.

CONFESSION

Leader: In the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ who came to serve everyone and bring us peace, let us humbly confess our sins.
For our insensitivity to the suffering of peoples in need and our slowness in going to their aid,
People: Lord have mercy.
Leader: For our failure to welcome all people as brothers and sisters and to use our wealth and power for the restoration of human dignity,
People: Christ have mercy.
Leader: For our lack of personal effort in building peace we pray,
People: Lord have mercy.
Leader: May the almighty God have mercy on us, forgive our sins and bring us to everlasting life.
Let us pray.

God, you have told us that peacemakers shall be called your children.
Help us, then, to work tirelessly for that justice which alone can bring true and lasting peace. This we ask through Jesus Christ, your son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

READING - Ephesians 2:11-18

PERIOD OF SILENCE

READING - Matthew 5:38-48

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

1. That the Church may faithfully proclaim the gospel of peace and put itself still more at the service of all people, let us pray to the Lord...
Response:
God (the) Creator, hear our prayer. Hear us, God (the) Redeemer. Holy Spirit, hear our prayer. Mercy on Your people, Lord.
(May be sung to "Greensleeves" or first two phrases of "Rock of Ages, Let Our Song")
2. That all those who govern peoples may seek the good of all people and be not guided by personal ambition or the desire for power, let us pray to the Lord ...
Response:
3. That all people of good will may work together for justice, liberty and peace, let us pray to the Lord...
Response:
4. That all those who are suffering from any form of oppression may receive from Christians understanding and support, let us pray to the Lord....
Response:
5. That our Christian faith and love may be shown in a more concrete effort to bring about universal peace, let us pray to the Lord....
Response:

CELEBRANT: God, our Creator, you are yourself our peace. The spirit of discord can find no place in your presence nor can vengeance gain your favor. Preserve the hearts of the peaceful; heal the hearts of the wayward by driving evil from their minds. This we ask through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen. (said or sung)

OFFERTORY SONG: "Simple Gifts"

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God, these gifts are symbols of our commitment to peace and unity. May they enable the establishment of justice and growth of goodwill among all peoples. This we ask through Christ our Lord.

WORDS OF THE INSTITUTION

CONCLUDING WORDS

When we eat this bread and this blood we proclaim Your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory. Until you come in glory.

COMMUNION SONG: "We Are One in the Spirit"

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, we pray that you may give us the spirit of love. May we, who are nourished by the body and blood of your only Son, foster that peace among people which he gave us. This we ask through Christ our Lord.

RECESSIONAL

A Devotion on Options, Growing, and Surprises

INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of the God who is, who came in Christ our Lord, and who is with us now.
People: God, our King, Comforter, Spirit, who shows us the right, who is everywhere at all times, the source of all good; who, by his love, let us live; be in us, cleanse us, and save us.

A LITANY OF RECONCILIATION

"Father Forgive"

People: All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.
Leader: The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class:
People: Father forgive.
Leader: The covetous desires of people and of nations to possess what is not their own:
People: Father, forgive.
Leader: The greed which exploits the labor of men and women, and lays waste the earth:
People: Father, forgive.
Leader: Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others:
People: Father, forgive.
Leader: Our indifference to the plight of the homeless and the refugee:
People: Father, forgive.
Leader: The lust which uses for ignoble ends the bodies of men and women:
People: Father, forgive.
Leader: The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves, and not in God:
People: Father, forgive.
Leader: Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

PSALM 100

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands!
People: Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!
Leader: Know that the Lord is God! It is he that made us, and we are his.
People: We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!
People: Give thanks to him, bless His name!
Pastor: For the Lord is good;
People: His steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

REFLECTIONS - On Options, Growing, Surprises

+ Compassion is not quantitative. Certainly it is true that behind every human being who cries out for help there may be a million or more equally entitled to attention. But this is the poorest of all reasons for not helping the person whose cries you hear. Where, then, does one begin or stop? How to choose? How to determine which one of a million sounds surrounding you is more deserving than the rest? Do not concern yourself in such speculations. You will never know; you will never need to know. Reach out and take hold of the one who happens to be nearest. If you are never able to help or save another, at least you have saved one. To help put meaning into a single life may not produce universal regeneration, but it happens to represent the basic form of energy in a society. It also is the test of individual responsibility. (Human Options, Norman Cousins)

+ Real Living

"All real living is meeting,"

said Martin Buber,

and meeting is an art.

It is losing and finding,

giving and receiving,

offering and surrendering.

In meeting, persons are changed

without frontal intent or strategy,

for meeting is enjoyment,

appreciation of personhood,

uniqueness and difference.

Deeper than any level of dialogue

is enjoyment of another person.

We are not friends

until we have deliberately

"wasted" time together.

Then intertwining growth takes place,

and we are human together.

But such meeting cannot be measured.

It can only be experienced

and explored. (Bless My Growing, Gerhard E. Frost)

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew
22:39)

+ Lord I Like To Live

Lord, I like to live.

I have a lot of feeling for things and people.

There's a lot going on I don't seem to see.

I need to know where the real life is,

where the joy is,

where the need is,

where the peace is.

I want to get all I can out of life;

and I want to give it back.

Keep me curious in all my senses.

Don't let me quit having a lot of feeling for what's going on,
here and anywhere.

Make me more aware as I get older.

Increase my feelings.

Bring me to my senses, Jesus. (Surprise Me, Jesus, Herbert F. Brokering)

"If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and
take up his cross and follow me." (Mark 8:34)

+ Lord, It Is Time To Celebrate

Lord, it is time to celebrate.

There is life,

and there are the signs of life

above, around, below, and inside.

There is life in the movements

of the leaves and the branches,

in the movements

of the birds in flight, finding food, and resting.

There are the movements

of the beast and every running and crawling thing.

There is life in the motion

of muscles on the move,

"Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40)

+ Human beings must be judged by the challenges they define for themselves. So far, they have attached more importance to the challenge of adventure than to the challenge of compassion, more importance to the challenge of technological grandeur than the challenge of human growth, more importance to the challenge of war than the

challenge of peace, more importance to the challenge of productivity than the challenge of perspective, more importance to the challenge of the scientific intelligence than the human spirit. (Human Options, Norman Cousins)

"Whoever seeks to gain his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will preserve it." (Luke 17:33)

+ We justify the gift of life in many ways: by our awareness of its preciousness and its fragility; by developing to the fullest the sensitivities and potentialities that come with it; by putting the whole of our intelligence to work in sustaining and enhancing the conditions that make it possible; by cherishing the human habitat; and by removing the obstructions in our access to and trust in one another.

(Human Options, Norman Cousins)

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." (Luke 4:18-19)

+ We Live On Glimpses

We live on glimpses,
fleeting glimpses in the forest;
this is its beauty,
this its charm.
A bit of furry fluff
disappearing behind a log,
the flash of a many-colored wing
telling us that a bird is hiding in the bush.
Wild things always in flight,
leaving us wishing for more,
more time to examine and admire,
more to hold in the hand.

We live on glimpses and wish for time-exposure;
but perhaps this is best:
to see wild things in the open,
untamed and free,
not caged or constrained, but free to go away.
For beauties are enhanced when they are fleeting;
they leave us hungry still.

We live on glimpses of great truths,
wild truths, like the fact of God's saving love.
To teach is never to tame or domesticate;
it is to acquaint each other
with truth on the wing,
unpredictable, unmanageable,
truth that seeks and seizes,
and will not be captured or contained. (Bless My Growing, Gerhard E. Frost)

"If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."
(John 8:31-32)

of minds on the move,
of masses on the move.

It is alive here.

Lord of life,

I celebrate all this life
with my own life.

I wish a happy birthday to the world, Jesus.

(Surprise Me, Jesus, Herbert F. Brokering)

"God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in
spirit and truth." (John 4:24)

LET US GIVE THANKS

Leader: Let us give thanks this moment:
for the sturdy fact of God's continuing love,
for mercies which go before us

People: and follow after us,
for those free gifts
which cost God so much.

Leader: Let us give thanks:
for memory and expectation,
for the good that we have known

People: and know today in Jesus Christ,
for the Spirit's brooding presence
in our nights and in our days.

Leader: Let us give thanks:
for pleasures which comfort
and pains which force our growth

People: and keep us at the Shepherd's side,
for deep meanings revealed
and mysteries, mercifully concealed,
for the image of God within us,
the capacity to inquire and adore.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE BENEDICTION

Leader: Go forth in peace, have courage; hold onto what is good; return no one
evil for evil; support the weak; help the suffering; honor all people;
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

People: And may Almighty God bless you, the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Holy
Spirit.

All: Amen!

Children of the Covenant: "Celebration of Rainbows"

ENTRANCE HYMN: "Children of the Heavenly Father"

INVOCATION

Leader: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen!

CONFESSION OF SINS

Leader: Brothers and sisters in Christ, Let us admit before God, our Father, who is the Source and Provider of all things, that we have failed Him and not lived up to our promise to be His children and do what He wants. We have followed our own desires.

People: Our Father, we have forgotten our place before you, turning to our own desires and devices, pretending to be beyond the needs and demands of others, and doing little to bear your love in our lives to the world.

Leader: Father, forgive us.

People: Father, forgive us and free us from our past mistakes and failures. Father, free us for the new life in Christ.

ABSOLUTION

Leader: God forgives us. Now no condemnation hangs over the heads of those who are in Christ Jesus. For the new life in Christ lifts us out of the old vicious circle of sin and death. For if a person is in Christ, that person becomes a new person altogether. The past is finished and gone; everything has become fresh and new.

People: Thanks be to God!

HYMN: "Angels Praise Him"

INTRODUCTION TO THEME (Introit?)

HYMN: "The Rainbow in the Sky" (Sung to "Sunshine on My Shoulders")

THE LESSONS

Reader: Exodus 19:3-8

Leader: To praise the God of the covenant let us sing/read Psalm 105.

People: "Psalm 105"

Leader: Let us Pray

God, our Father, through the death and resurrection of your Son you have fulfilled the promise to Abraham, Joseph, and Moses to redeem the world from slavery and to lead us into the promised land. Grant us living water from the rock and break from heaven, that we may survive our desert pilgrimage and praise you forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

Leader: God promised a new covenant, a covenant not signed by a rainbow, not written on stone. He promised a covenant that would be signed in the hearts of people.

Reader: Jeremiah 31:31-34

HYMN: "Print Thine Image Pure and Holy"

Reader: Romans 3:19-28

John 8:31-36

Leader: Let us Pray

Almighty God, gracious Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit upon your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the

Church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
People: Amen.

THE REFORMATION HYMN: "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

THE HOMILY AND DIALOGUE: "A Definition of Freedom"

THE CREED Luther's Explanation to Article II

We believe that Jesus Christ -- true God, Son of the Father from eternity, and true man, born of the Virgin Mary -- is our Lord. At great cost he has saved and redeemed us, lost and condemned persons. He has freed us from sin, death, and the power of the devil -- not with gold or silver, but with his holy and precious blood and his innocent suffering and death. All this he has done that we may be his own, live under him in his Kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

HYMN: "Amazing Grace"

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY AND LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: "All You People, Clap Your Hands"

"A Banquet for All"

CALL TO WORSHIP:

The hungry person needs bread and the homeless person needs a roof; the dispossessed needs justice and the lonely need fellowship. The undisciplined need order and the slave needs freedom. To allow the hungry person to remain hungry would be blasphemy against God and one's neighbors. It is for the love of Christ which belongs as much to the hungry person as to myself that I share my bread with each one and that I share my dwelling with the homeless. (D. Bonhoeffer Ethics)

CONFESSING OUR INACTION:

Leader: I was hungry,
People: and you formed a study group to discuss my hunger.
Leader: I was malnourished,
People: and you gave money to feed me after part of my brain had died.
Leader: I was starving
People: and you marketed infant formula that I could not afford.
Leader: I needed grain
People: and you played on the futures market and withheld grain until your price was right.
Leader: I ate grass and dirt to stay alive,
People: and you said food was a weapon to be used in the foreign policy of "detente."
All: We ate, and you died of a disease caused by hunger or from outright starvation; we prayed for you, but we know that we have blasphemed against God and you when we denied you the life substance of God's Earth.

THE CALL TO ACTION;

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

HEARING THE WORD: (Deuteronomy 24:17:22)

I suggest that we are thieves in a way. If I take anything that I do not need for my own immediate use, and keep it, I thief it from somebody else... In India we have got three millions of people having to be satisfied with one meal a day,... You and I have no right to anything that we really have until those three millions are clothed and fed better. You and I, who ought to know better, must adjust our wants, and even undergo voluntary starvation in order that they may be nursed, fed, and clothed. (Mahatma Gandhi All Men Are Brothers)

"Jesus said: A man had guests, and when he had prepared the meal, he sent his servant that he might feed the guests. He went to the first and told him: "My lord invites you." He said: "I have money (to collect) from merchants. They are coming to see me tonight, and I shall go and give them instructions. I beg to be excused from the meal." He went to another and told him: "My lord has invited you." He said to him: I have bought a house and it requires a day's attention. I shall have no time." He came to another one and told her: "My lord invites you." She said to him: "My friend will marry, and I shall take care of the feast. I shall not be able to come; I beg to be excused from the meal." He went to another one and said: "My lord invites you." The person replied: "I bought a village and am going out to collect the rent. I shall not be able to come. I beg to be excused from the meal." The servant returned and told the master: "Those whom you have invited to dinner, have given excuses." The master told the servant: "Go out into the streets and bring in whom you will find, that they may take part in my banquet." The buyers and the merchants will

not enter the places of God." (Gospel of Thomas)

INTERPRETING THE WORD:

The people of the congregation should role-play this parable. Let one person be the servant and one the banquet giver. Let the others be the manager of a shopping mall, a realtor, the head of the reception committee at the church, and a farm manager.

Let someone who has participated in the role-play read Luke 14:15-24.

ENACTING THE WORD:

Having been commanded to go into the streets and alleys, the highways and hedges and invite the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame to a banquet and having been instructed to leave a part of our harvest for the sojourner, the widow and the orphan, begin to do this by participating in the following action: Discuss how you as individuals, small groups, a congregation, and a city can feed the people of the Third and Fourth World. Begin the thought process by hearing these words:

Never has so severe a problem (the world hunger crisis) had more technical means and human skills available to eliminate it." (Dean Freudenberger, Claremont School of Theology)

THE BENEDICTION:

We need good bread; good bread rises and satisfies our needs. Go forth seeking to be as good bread which can rise to the occasions where response is needed and satisfactory solutions provided. Good bread is manna; manna comes from God the provider and Christ the liberator. Amen.

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Songs

Spirit. Spirit of Gentleness.