

LUTHERAN OUTDOOR MINISTRIES CENTER
P. O. Box 239 - Oregon, IL 61061
Phone: 815/732-2220

CHILDREN OF THE COVENANT
"A CELEBRATION OF RAINBOWS"

ENTRANCE HYMN - "Children of the Heavenly Father"

Children of the heav'nly Father Safely in his bosom gather;
Nestling bird or star in heaven Such a refuge ne'er was given

God his own doth tend and nourish, In his holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things he spares them, In his mighty arms he bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever From the Lord his children sever;
Unto them his grace he showeth, And their sorrows all he knoweth.

Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely To preserve them pure and holy.

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.

"A Celebration of Rainbows" (continued)

HYMN - "Angels Praise Him"

Angels praise him, heavens praise him, waters praise him,
Hallelujah!
Powers of the lord all praise him for evermore

Sun praise him, moon praise him, stars praise him
Hallelujah!
Showers praise him, dews praise him, for evermore

Winds praise him, fire praise him, heat praise him
Hallelujah!
Winter praise him, summer praise him for evermore

Nights praise him, days praise him, light praise him,
Darkness praise him,
Lightnings praise him, clouds praise him for evermore

Earth praise him, mountains praise him, hills praise him,
Hallelujah!
Green things praise him, wells praise him for evermore

Seas praise him, floods praise him, creatures of the
Waters praise him,
Birds, beasts, and cattle praise him for evermore

Nations praise him, churches praise him, saints praise him,
Hallelujah!
All his people join to praise him for evermore.

INTRODUCTION TO THEME (Introit ?)

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

Refrain:

The rainbow in the sky is one of God's great signs.
It's just not sun rays shining through the rain.
The rainbow tells the world the Lord God promises
That He will never flood the world again.

In the day of Noah evil filled the world,
'Twas not much different than it is today.
God was grieved that wickedness should so prevail;
He sent a flood to wash it all away. Refrain

God commanded Noah to go build an ark,
For Noah walked with God, and he was good.
He built the ark for family and for creatures all,
To save them at the time God sent the flood. Refrain

"A Celebration of Rainbows" (continued)

HYMN (Con'd.) "The Rainbow in the Sky"

The water gushed upon the earth for many days.
The water covered mountains and was dark.
All the living creatures were destroyed on earth,
Except for passengers upon the ark. Refrain

The flood did end and water dried up from the land,
The ark did settle down and into place.
The occupants came out and swarmed all o'er the earth.
Noah built an altar to God's praise. Refrain

When we think about this tale of long ago,
And look up in the sky to see the bow.
We recall that God has made His promises
To every living creature here below. Refrain

Refrain:

The rainbow in the sky is one of God's great signs.
It's just not sun rays shining through the rain.
The rainbow tells the world the Lord God promises
That He will never flood the world again.

THE LESSONS

Reader: Exodus 19:3-8

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

People: "Psalm 105"

Give thanks to the Lord and call up/on his Name;
make known his deeds a/mong the peoples.

Sing to him, sing prais/es to him,
and speak of all his/marvelous works.

Glory in his/holy Name;
let the hearts of those who seek the/Lord rejoice.

Search for the Lord/and his strength;
continually/seek his face.

Remember the marvels/he has done,
his wonders and the judgments/of his mouth.

O offspring of Abra/ham his servant,
O children of Jac/ob his chosen.

"A Celebration of Rainbows" (continued)

PSALM 105 (continued)

He is the/Lord our God;
his judgments prevail in/all the world.

He has always been mindful/of his covenant,
the promise he made for a thousand/generations:

The covenant he/made with Abraham,
the oath that he/swore to Isaac,

Which he established as a sta/tute for Jacob,
an everlasting cove/nant for Israel.

Saying, "To you will I give the/land of Canaan
to be your allot/ed inheritance."

When they were/few in number,
of little account, and sojourners/in the land,

Wandering from na/tion to nation
and from one kingdom/to another,

He let no/one oppress them
and rebuked kings/for their sake,

Saying, "Do not touch/my anointed
and do my pro/phets no harm."

Then he called for a famine/in the land
and destroyed the sup/ply of bread.

He sent a/man before them,
Joseph, who was sold/as a slave.

They bruised his/feet in fetters;
his neck they put in an/iron collar.

Until his prediction/came to pass,
the word of the Lord/tested him.

The king sent/and released him;
the ruler of the peoples/set him free.

He set him as a mastor o/ver his household,
as a ruler over all/his possessions,

To instruct his princes according/to his will
and to teach his/elders wisdom.

"A Celebration of Rainbows" (continued)

PSALM 105 (con'd.) Part II

Israel came/into Egypt,
and Jacob became a sojourner in the/land of Ham.

The Lord made his people exceed/ingly fruitful;
he made them stronger/than their enemies;

Whose heart he turned, so that they hat/ed his people,
and dealt unjustly/with his servants.

He sent Mo/ses his servant,
and Aaron whom/he had chosen.

They worked his/signs among them,
and portents in the/land of Ham.

He sent darkness, and/it grew dark;
but the Egyptians rebelled a/gainst his words.

He turned their waters/into blood
and caused their/fish to die.

Their land was over/run by frogs,
in the very chambers/of their kings.

He spoke, and there came/swarms of insects
and gnats within/all their borders.

He gave them hailstones in/stead of rain,
and flames of fire through/out their land.

He blasted their vines/and their fig trees
and shattered every tree/in their country.

He spoke, and the/locust came,
and young locusts/without number,

Which ate up all the green plants/in their land
and devoured the fruit/of their soil.

He struck down the firstborn/of their land,
the firstfruits of/all their strength.

He led out his people with sil/ver and gold;
in all their tribes there was not/one that stumbled.

Egypt was glad/of their going,
because they/were afraid of them.

"A Celebration of Rainbows" (Continued)

PSALM 105 (Con'd.)

He spread out a cloud/for a covering
and a fire to give light in/the night season.

They asked, and/quails appeared,
and he satisfied them with/bread from heaven.

He opened the rock, and/water flowed,
so the river ran in/the dry places.

For God remembered his/holy word
and Abra/ham his servant.

So he led forth his peo/ple with gladness,
his chosen with/shouts of joy.

He gave his people the lands/of the nations,
and they took the fruit of/other's toil,

That they might/keep his statutes
and observe his laws./
Hallelujah!

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 bread 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"

Print thine image pure and holy On my heart, O Lord of Grace;
So that nothing high or lowly Thy blest likeness can efface.

Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,
And the Lord of all creation, Be my refuge and salvation. Amen.

Reader: Romans 3:19-28
John 8:31-36

"A Celebration of Rainbows" (continued)

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"

A mighty fortress is our God, A sword and shield victorious;
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod And wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe Has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might He arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight, Whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.

Though hordes of devils fill the land All threat'ning to devour us,
We tremble not, unmoved we stand; They cannot overpower us.
Let this world's tyrant rage; In battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail; God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

God's Word forever shall abide, No thanks to foes, who fear it;
For God himself fights by our side With weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house, Goods, honor, child, or spouse,
Though life be wrenched away, They cannot win the day.
The Kingdom's ours forever!

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.

"A Celebration of Rainbows" (continued)

THE CREED (Con'd.)

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"

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me; His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY AND LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

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

Refrain: All you people, clap your hands and shout for joy:
The Lord has made all mankind one, so raise your voices high!

All creation shows the glory of the Lord:
The earth proclaims his handiwork; The sky cries out his word.
Night and day sing out the glories all about,
So praise the Lord with shouts of joy. Refrain

The strength of God is great; He rules from sea to sea,
And all creation knows the might and glory of his deeds.
So ev'ry queen and king, join in now as we sing,
And praise the Lord with shouts of joy. Refrain

The king of all the earth has made his message known,
That we should offer him ourselves and ev'rything we own.
We do this by the way we live through ev'ry day,
So live each day in peace and joy. Refrain

Let ev'ry man alive remember your command,
That ev'ry day in ev'ry way we love our fellow man.
If this command be done, the vict'ry will be won,
And we'll all live in peace and joy. Refrain