

GOD GATHERS US FOR WORSHIP

Greeting and Call to Worship

From All That Dwell Below The Skies (LUYH 570)

From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator's praise arise: Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the Redeemer's name be sung through every land, in every tongue.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

In every land begin the song, to every land the strains belong: Alleluia! Alleluia!
In cheerful sound all voices raise and fill the world with joyful praise.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Eternal are thy mercies, Lord; eternal truth attends thy word: Alleluia! Alleluia! Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore, till suns shall rise and set no more.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

10,000 Reasons (LUYH 559)

Refrain:

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; worship his holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship your holy name.**

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning; it's time to sing your song again.
Whatever may pass & whatever lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes.

Refrain

You're rich in love, and you're slow to anger. Your name is great, and your heart is kind.
For all your goodness, I will keep on singing—
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

Refrain

And on that day when my strength is failing, the end draws near, and my time has come;
still, my soul will sing your praise unending—
ten thousand years and then forevermore!

Refrain

LENT: What Is It?

People think of the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness and take that example as we walk through 40 days leading up to Easter –not including Sundays. Jesus spent time apart in the desert, he faced temptation with scripture and he left that desert likely stronger and more prepared for his ministry. What is our work, our ministry? How can participating in Lent make us stronger for that work? Since today is the First Sunday in Lent, let's have a conversation about Lent.

One: Just as the Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness, the Spirit sends us into places of uncertainty where we confront our weakness and insecurities. Here we are taught to pay attention to those whom others discard.

ALL: Jesus insists that God is revealed in unlikely people.

One: Jesus offered living water to the Samaritan woman at the well who was the wrong religion, the wrong gender, and had the wrong marital status.

ALL: We, too, are a gathering of nobodies, yet Jesus claims us as somebodies who all have a place.

One: In Christ, there is neither insider nor outsider, invited nor shunned, accepted nor rejected. We are called to share living water with any who are thirsty.

ALL: Let our gatherings be a place for those who have been told they don't belong.

Children's Blessing

Blessing on children Grade 3 and under as they leave for their Faith Group.

GOD GIVES US HIS WORD

Scripture: Matthew 9:9-13

Message: Give it Up: Religion That Forgets People

Song of Response:

Help Us Accept Each Other (LUYH 318)

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love,
to practice your acceptance until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness, and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;
renew us with your Spirit, Lord, free us, make us one!

Prayer of Confession and Belhar Confession

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Prayers of the People

Offering: Resonate Global Mission – Karen Lubbers-Odel

GOD SENDS US OUT TO SERVE

Benediction

Benediction Song:

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service (LUYH 928)

Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed,
we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart,
consecrating to your purpose every gift that you impart.

Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,
use the love your Spirit kindles still to make your people whole.

Called through worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show.
Hope and health, goodwill and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know, and live.