

**GATHERING, PRELUDE, CALL TO WORSHIP**      Jesus Loves Me! This I Know      **191**  
Ps 95

O come, let us sing to the Lord;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**For the Lord is a great God,  
and a great King above all gods.**

**HYMN:**      How Firm a Foundation      **529**  
**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**SPECIAL MUSIC:**      **A Patriotic Medley**      Asha and Bob,  
with accompaniment by Ann

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**      by Philip K. Gladden  
*Eternal God, in the Scriptures we read,  
"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction,  
so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures  
we might have hope."*

**As the Scriptures are read and proclaimed,  
give us ears and hearts to hear that we might be encouraged  
and have hope as your children.**

**In Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE:**      Zechariah 9:9–12 and Matthew 11:16–30

**CONFESSION**      by Philip K. Gladden (alt)      via PO  
With full assurance of God's grace and mercy in Jesus  
Christ, let us confess our sin before God and our neighbor.

**Gracious and loving God, forgive us when turn a deaf ear  
to your call in Jesus Christ and  
to the cries of those who need your love and our help.**

**Help us to know and love you with all that we are  
that we may love our neighbors as we love ourselves.**

**We pray for the strength of your Holy Spirit  
to equip us for our calling as followers of Jesus Christ,  
in whom we have our hope and put our trust.  
{silent prayers}**

**ASSURANCE**      Ps. 145:8–9  
Friends, hear the good news, as found in the Psalms:  
God is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,  
showing compassion to all.

**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN:**      Just a Closer Walk with Thee      **2158**  
**SERMON**      The Freedom of the Yoke  
*Keeping in Step with the Spirit.*

**HYMN:**      Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father      **140**

**INTERCESSIONS**

**BRINGING OUR GIFTS**

**DOXOLOGY**      **95**

**PRAYER**      by Philip K. Gladden      via PO

**Accept these gifts we bring, O Lord.  
Give us the wisdom, courage, and love we need  
to use them in ways that please you, spread the gospel,  
and care for our neighbors with the love of Jesus.  
We thank you for your indescribable gift! Amen.**

**HOLY COMMUNION**      Hymnal pages **15-16**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**      **895**

**HYMN:**      Love Divine, All Loves Excelling      **384**

**DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**      **x**

Jesus says, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me.  
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

May we answer Jesus's call and be led, taught, guided,  
and strengthened as we live as his disciples.

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

**Amen**

**POSTLUDE**      Living for Jesus a life that is true      **2149**

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or from Feasting on the Word (eg **FotW** – see also insert)  
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This week the author is Philip K. Gladden

or other sources as noted.  
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