

*As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present.
May we together experience the presence of God*

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We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord



Prelude – Welcome – Announcements

Opening Meditation

As we gather today, I would like us to begin our worship with the words written in 1 John 3:1-7 “1 See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 3:2 Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. 3:3 And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. 3:4 Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. 3:5 You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. 3:6 No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. 3:7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.”

Come Let us Praise our Loving God!

CALL TO WORSHIP

When we are confused

Lord, give us peace.

When we are afraid

Lord, give us peace.

When we are lost in grief

Lord, give us peace.

O God, meet us in this space

And grant us peace!

OPENING PRAYER

God of glory and God among us, help us to “grab hold and see” the vision of abundant life you offer us now, the belief that this world is not the end, that our relationship with the Triune God will extend past the grave into all eternity, the hope you give us to encounter your abiding presence of peace. We look forward to experiencing the abundance, justice, and righteousness of your coming realm. Amen.

Praise Hymn #732 Come, We That Love the Lord

Author: Isaac Watts (1707)

Composer: Aaron Williams

**1. Come, we that love the Lord,
and let our joys be known;
join in a song with sweet accord,
and thus surround the throne.**

**2. Let those refuse to sing
who never knew our God;
but children of the heavenly King
may speak their joys abroad.**

**3. The hill of Zion yields
a thousand sacred sweets
before we reach the heavenly fields,
or walk the golden streets.**

**4. Then let our songs abound,
and every tear be dry;
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground,
to fairer worlds on high.**

We Hear God's Word

Gospel Reading.....Luke 24:36b-48

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

36 While they were talking about this, Jesus[a] himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." [b] 37 They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. 38 He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see, for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." 40 And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. [c] 41 Yet for all their joy they were still disbelieving and wondering, and he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, [d] 43 and he took it and ate in their presence.

44 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 46 and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah[e] is [f] to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses [g] of these things.

The word of God for the People of God, **Thanks Be to God**

Children's Message

Faith Hymn #2248 Baptized in Water

Author: Michael Saward

Publication Date: 2001

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Tune Information

Harmonizer: Carlton R. Young

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**1 Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King;
heirs of salvation, trusting his promise,
faithfully now God's praises we sing.**

**2 Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ, our King;
one with his rising, freed and forgiven,
thankfully now God's praises we sing.**

**3 Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ, our King;
born of one Father, we are his children,
joyfully now God's praises we sing.**

Meditation

Joys/Concerns

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Lord Jesus Christ, the light of your love shines on, illuminating the places where you are present. As the bewildered disciples pondered the stories of your appearance, you penetrated the darkness of their fear and doubt with your word of peace. You showed them the appalling marks of evil pierced on your hands and feet. You opened their minds to understand why you had to die to defeat such evil and death. Increase our understanding, we pray, and open our minds and hearts to receive you . . .

Lord, hear our prayer . . .

Bring to us O God, the sense of your living presence as we go into this new week. Renew in us the faith you want us to have, the faith that is not afraid to reach out in your name and to share the treasure you have given us, that treasure which is greater than silver and gold . . . Lord – you know our hearts, you know our needs, and you know the hearts of those around us and their needs. We lift ourselves and them before you at this time . . .

Lord, hear our prayer . . .

Finally, O Lord, we ask that you bless us at Racine and Sumner Center with vision for the future and reverence for the past. Guide us each day as we minister to one another and to world for which you gave yourself. Help us each day to bear witness to your name and to do that which you would have us do. We ask it through Christ Jesus our Lord who taught us to pray...

Offertory – Doxology (UMH #95). Prayer

Mighty God who brings life and hope out of death and despair, help us hear the invitation Christ offered to the disciples, "Touch me and see!" Make us bold to grab hold of the risen Christ – not for this day but for all our days. May we offer our gifts this morning not to the church historical—the church that was—but to a church that is becoming, that is still being born, that Christ will bring into the future. May our eyes and ears and hearts continue to hold on to him as we help Christ lead his church forward! In his name, we pray. Amen. (Luke 24:36b-48)

Departing Hymn #378 Amazing Grace (Verses 1-3)

Author (st. 1-5): John Newton (1779)

Author (st. 6): Anon.

Publication Date: 1989

Tune Information

Harmonizer: Edwin O. Excell (1900)

**1. 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.**

**2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.**

**3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**

BENEDICTION: Go now as God's chosen witnesses to testify that Christ has been raised and that we are raised with him. Do not look for him among the dead but be glad and rejoice in his salvation. . . . In the name of Christ. Amen.

Postlude