

Prairieland Parish

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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

Humans have a tendency to think about the world and its resources as limited, but the story of the resurrection is the story of God’s limitless power and love.

In the resurrection life, God’s power does not stagnate or diminish the more people it touches. The gifts of the Holy Spirit increase as they are poured out. We are shown an example of this extending of God’s love written in the book of Acts 10:44-47 –

Gentiles Receive the Holy Spirit

“44 While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. 45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the gentiles, 46 for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 47 “Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?”

Cornelius and his household respond to the Spirit with immediate and ecstatic praise. The old barriers of tradition and law no longer separate them. They are now joined together by the stronger bond of God’s Holy Spirit. As a result, this text has been likened to a Gentile Pentecost.1 The gift of the Spirit (Acts 2:4; 10:46) and response of baptism

The call to discipleship has been expanded and All are found with an invitation to the kingdom through the gift of the Holy Spirit. The life of discipleship is possible only through the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit—the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Discipleship, the Christian life, does not work on any other basis. Only as we daily allow him to fill us by consciously yielding ourselves to his presence and direction can we walk as Jesus walked, do the work he has called us to do, and experience transformation into his likeness.

Come Let us praise our Lord!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Easter people, Jesus chose you and calls you friend!

We abide in Christ because Christ abides in us.

Jesus made a home among us to show us how to love.

## **We abide in Love because Love abides in us.**

Jesus invites us in and beckons us to come to the Table to know the joy that comes when we love one another the way God loves us.

## **We abide in Joy because Joy abides with us.**

Easter people, Jesus welcomes you home!

**We come to make our home with God and one another, bound together by Love and enlivened by Joy. Amen.**

### **Opening Prayer**

**Covenant-keeping God, we are thankful that you are faithful, even when we are faithless. We confess that we are easily distracted, and like sheep, we wander due to our limited gaze. Give us your vision to see new, abundant fields of opportunity and new life that you are calling us toward. Empower us to let go of all that would hinder our growth. We come to you this day in the name of our risen Savior, your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### **Praise Hymn FWS #2150**

### **“Lord Be Glorified “**

*Author: Bob Kilpatrick*

*Publication Date: 2001*

*Copyright: © 1978, 1986 Prism Tree Music; assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corp.*

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**In our lives, Lord, be glorified, be glorified**

**In our lives, Lord, be glorified today**

**2. In our homes.... 3. In your church.... 4. In your world...**

## **We Hear God's Word**

### **Gospel Reading ..... John 15:9-17 (NRSV)**

9 As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 I do not call you servants[a] any longer, because the servant[b] does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. 17 I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

### **Faith Hymn UMH #558 "We Are the Church"**

*Author: Richard K. Avery (1972). Author: Donald S. March (1972)*

*Publication Date: 1989*

*Copyright: © 1972 Hope Publishing Co.*

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**[Refrain:]**

**I am the church! You are the church!  
We are the church together!  
All who follow Jesus, all around the world!  
Yes, we're the church together!**

**1 The church is not a building,  
the church is not a steeple,  
the church is not a resting place,  
the church is a people.**

**(Refrain)**

**2 We're many kinds of people,  
with many kinds of faces,  
all colors and all ages, too,  
from all times and places.**

**(Refrain)**

**3 Sometimes the church is marching,  
sometimes it's bravely burning,  
sometimes it's riding, sometimes hiding,  
always it's learning.**

**(Refrain)**

**4 And when the people gather,  
there's singing and there's praying,  
there's laughing and there's crying  
sometimes, all of it saying:**

**(Refrain)**

**5 At Pentecost some people  
received the Holy Spirit  
and told the Good News through the world  
to all who would hear it.**

**(Refrain)**

**\*Meditation\***

### **INVITATION TO THE TABLE (UMH page #6)**

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,  
who earnestly repent of their sin  
and seek to live in peace with one another.  
Therefore, let us confess our sin to God.

### **CONFESSION AND PARDON.**

**Merciful God,  
we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have failed to be an obedient church.  
We have not done your will,**

**we have broken your law,  
we have rebelled against your love,  
we have not loved our neighbors,  
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.  
Forgive us, we pray.  
Free us for joyful obedience,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hear the good news:  
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;  
that proves God's love toward us.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!  
**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!  
Glory to God! Amen.**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
You formed us in your image  
and breathed into us the breath of life.  
When we turned away, and our love failed,  
your love remained steadfast.  
You delivered us from captivity,  
made covenant to be our sovereign God,  
and spoke to us through the prophets.  
And so,  
with your people on earth  
and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:  
And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.  
Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor,  
to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
and to announce that the time had come  
when you would save your people.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.  
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection  
you gave birth to your Church,  
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,  
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.  
At his ascension you exalted him  
to sit and reign with you at your right hand.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,  
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,  
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving  
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,  
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,  
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray: **Lord's Prayer**

## **BREAKING AND SHARING**

**Joys/Concerns**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH – EASTER**

Jesus said, 'If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.' Let us now approach him with confidence.

Risen Lord, you came as a sacrifice for our sin. Give us faith to accept this act of love, so that we turn from all human efforts and drink in the atoning righteousness of your death and resurrection.

You are the true vine and we are the branches. By your Spirit, produce the fruit of love, joy, peace, and patience in us for others to taste and enjoy. Keep us from hanging on to love for ourselves. Prune all selfishness from us and fill us with your love.

Have mercy on your earth and supply its needs. Where people are hungry, give food. Where people are in distress, comfort them. Where people are in trouble, bring order and peace. And turn the whole world to you in faith, repentance and praise.

Lord Jesus Christ, focus our love on people we know with special needs. Heal those who are unwell and others in need whom we now name silently in our hearts . . . (brief silence)

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for hearing us and caring for us in all our needs. Constantly intercede for us before our heavenly Father and open our eyes that we may see him through you. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

### **Offering/Doxology/Prayer**

#### **Offertory Prayer**

God of the far-flung universe and God who is closer than our own heartbeat: we long to dwell in your closeness, abiding in you and you abiding in us. However, the call to abide in other places is strong: to abide in the world of popularity and acceptance or in the world of increasing wealth and power centered around our own wants and desires. As we offer our gifts and ourselves to you, help us turn away from other calls and abide in that place of heart's deepest desire: in your Son, Jesus, and he in us. In Christ, we pray. Amen. (John 15:1-8)

#### **\*Departing Hymn FWS #2130**

#### **"The Summons". (Verses 1, 2, 5)**

*Author(s): David Peacock Graham Maule John L. Bell*

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**Will you come and follow me  
If I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
And never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
Will you let my name be known,  
Will you let my life be grown  
In you and you in me?**

**Will you leave yourself behind  
If I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
And never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare**

**Should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer  
In you and you in me?**

**Lord, your summons echoes true  
When you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
And never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
Where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
In you and you in me.**

**Commission and Benediction**

Go now, and love one another, because love is from God. Proclaim God's salvation to every generation. Remain in Jesus Christ, and like branches of a vine, draw your life from him.

**Postlude**