



God's People Gather

August 28-29, 2021

Worship Welcome

Today we celebrate the privilege of being together as brothers and sisters in Christ. In song, scripture, sermon, and sacrament we are reminded of the wonderful blessings that are ours when God's People Gather.

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

(congregation sings CW#532 v.1 after brief musical introduction)

**God is here! As we his people Meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure What it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, All our varied skills and arts
Wait the coming of his Spirit Into open minds and hearts.**

P: I was glad when they said to me,

C: Let us go to the house of the Lord!

P: That you would allow us to gather in worship not out of duty but
with joy and delight,

C: We praise you, Lord!

P: That you would bring us to a place where you promise to meet
your people,

C: We praise you, Lord!

P: For the blessing of seeing the sacred symbols of your house
and the mutual encouragement found in seeing one another,

C: We praise you, Lord!

P: For being with us in all places and through all situations, and
bringing us together as members of one body of Christ,

C: We praise you, Lord!

(congregation sings CW#532 v.2)

Here are symbols to remind us Of our lifelong need of grace.

Here are table, font, and pulpit;

Here the cross has central place.

Here, in honesty of preaching, Here, in silence as in speech,

Here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

Confession / Absolution

P: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and
confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus
Christ to forgive us.

C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.

For faithless worrying and selfish pride,

For sins of habit and sins of choice,

For the evil I have done and the good

I have failed to do,

You should cast me away from your presence forever.

O Lord, I am sorry for my sins.

Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

P: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his
great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were
dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called
servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father
and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

(congregation sings CW#532 v.3)

Here our children find a welcome

In the Shepherd's flock and fold;

Here, as bread and wine are taken,

Christ sustains us as of old.

Here the servants of the Servant Seek in worship to explore

What it means in daily living To believe and to adore.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord Jesus Christ, bless this family of believers gathered together in your name with your never-failing mercy. Preserve us from that which would keep us apart. Bind us together with the bond of your love. Help us avoid whatever is harmful and wicked. And guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(congregation sings CW#532 v.4)

**Lord of all, of Church and Kingdom,
In an age of change and doubt,
Keep us faithful to the gospel;
Help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication, All we have to give, receive;
We who cannot live without you, We adore you! We believe!**

MESSAGES

First Message: Psalm 27

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid? ² When evildoers advance against me to eat my flesh, when my foes and my enemies come against me, it is they who will stumble and fall. ³ If an army lines up against me, my heart will not fear. If war rises against me, even then I will keep trusting.

⁴ One thing I ask from the LORD. This is what I seek: that I live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD, and to seek him in his temple. ⁵ Yes, he will hide me in his shelter on the day of trouble. He will hide me in his tent. He will set me high on a rock. ⁶ Then my head will be lifted up above the enemies who surround me. I will offer sacrifices at his tent with a joyful shout. I will sing and make music to the LORD.

⁷ Hear me, O LORD. With my voice I call. Be merciful to me and answer me. ⁸ When you say, "Seek my face," my heart says to you, "Your face, LORD, I will seek." ⁹ Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger. You have been my help. Do not reject me or forsake me, O God who saves me. ¹⁰ If my father and my mother abandoned me, the LORD would take me in.

¹¹ LORD, teach me your way, and lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors. ¹² Do not give me up to the desire of my foes, because false witnesses rise up against me, and so do those who breathe out violence.

¹³ Unless I was confident to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living*—¹⁴ Wait for the LORD. Be strong and take heart, and wait for the LORD!

**As it stands, the Hebrew text is an incomplete sentence which calls for a conclusion such as "I would have lost hope." As the text stands, the construction breaks off and jumps to a positive affirmation. Some Hebrew manuscripts omit the initial word unless and have a positive statement: I am confident that I will . . .*

God's people love to gather in his house to worship him.

Hymn Response: CW234 (1,2,5) – Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear Now to his temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration!**

**Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen All that is needful has been
Sent by his gracious ordaining?**

**Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before
him!
Let the Amen Sound from his people again;
Gladly forever adore him!**

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-80; tr. composite.

Second Message: Hebrews 10:23-25

²³ Let us hold on firmly to the confession of our hope without wavering, since he who promised is faithful.

²⁴ Let us also consider carefully how to spur each other on to love and good works. ²⁵ Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have the habit of doing. Rather, let us encourage each other, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

God's people love to gather to encourage one another.

Hymn Response: CW494 – Blest Be the Tie that Binds

**Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.**

**Before our Father's throne
We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares.**

**We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.**

**When here our pathways part,
We suffer bitter pain;
Yet, one in Christ and one in heart,
We hope to meet again.**

**From sorrow, toil, and pain
And sin we shall be free
And perfect love and friendship reign
Through all eternity.**

Text: John Fawcett, 1740-1817, abr., alt.

Third Message: Acts 4:32-37

³² The whole group of believers was one in heart and soul. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they held everything in common. ³³ The apostles continued to testify about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ with great power, and abundant grace was on all of them. ³⁴ There was not a needy person among them. For from time to time those who were owners of lands or houses sold them, brought the proceeds received from what was sold, ³⁵ and laid it at the apostles' feet. It was distributed to each one according to what anyone needed.

³⁶ Joseph, who was called Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated "son of encouragement"), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, ³⁷ sold a field that belonged to him. He brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

***God's people love to gather to serve one another and
alongside one another.***

Music Hymn Response: *Oh, How Good It Is* (Getty)



1 Oh, how good it is when the fam - 'ly of God
2 Oh, how good it is on this jour - ney we share
3 Oh, how good it is to em - brace his com - mand



dwells to - geth - er in spir - it, in faith and u - ni - ty.
to re - joice with the hap - py and weep with those who mourn.
to pre - fer one a - noth - er, for - give as he for - gives.



Where the bonds of peace, of ac - cep - tance and love
For the weak find strength, the af - flict - ed find grace
When we live as one we all share in the love



are the fruits of his pres - ence here a - mong us.
when we of - fer the bles - sing of be - long - ing.
of the Son with the Fa - ther and the Spir - it.

Refrain



So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord; and with one heart we'll



live out his Word. Till the whole earth sees the Re - deem - er has



come for he dwells in the pres - ence of his peo - ple.

Fourth Message: Matthew 26:26-28 –

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples. He said, “Take, eat, this is my body.” ²⁷ Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the new testament, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

God’s people love to gather to receive the Lord’s Supper.

Prayer of the Church

P: Almighty and eternal God, we give you humble and sincere thanks for the many blessings that you have bestowed on us. You have joined us to a family of believers in faith and love. We praise you especially for preserving us during this pandemic and gathering us together again today. We give you thanks for the blessings we share as members of this church, for your gracious Word, for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, and for fellowship with believers. Keep our congregation faithful to your Word and renew in us an eagerness to do your work. Guide our leaders and help us join them to serve and support the mission of your Church. For these great gifts...

C: We thank and praise you, O Lord.

P: Gracious Heavenly Father, you give us the gift of family and loved ones. Hear the prayers of those who call to you in every need. Let love and patience rule between husbands and wives, parents and children. Look with kindness on those who are homebound or remain isolated. Protect them and turn them from their fears in this world toward your Son in faith and hope. Restore our spirits each day by the power of the gospel, so we do not lose heart. Because you left behind the lasting legacy of your peace, sustain our homes with it and give safety to those under our roofs. For these great gifts...

C: We thank and praise you, O Lord.

P: Dear Christ our Savior, thank you for the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of your very body and blood for us Christians to eat and to drink in bread and wine, that we obtain in faith what you won and declared: the forgiveness of sins. Keep us close to your table and to one another as we now receive your true body and blood. For these great gifts...

C: We thank and praise you, O Lord.

P: Holy Spirit, as we live life as strangers and pilgrims on earth, bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly. And when our last hour comes, support us by your power and receive us into your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Prayers & Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Words of Institution

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (+) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (+) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

For our Visitors: "May I receive the Lord's Supper here today?"

The Lord's Supper is a priceless medicine for the soul. We do everything we can to encourage its proper use. We also recognize from God's Word (1 Corinthians 11:23-32) that this medicine is a prescription item. Used for the wrong reasons by someone who does not understand it correctly, receiving the Lord's Supper can actually cause spiritual harm. For that reason we, like the corner druggist, do not dispense it over-the-counter. Out of concern for each individual's spiritual welfare, we try to ensure that communion will be properly used by all in accord with our Lord's own will. We ask that if you have not received this sacrament here before, to please refrain from communing until you have had an opportunity to talk with one of our pastors. If you would prefer, there is a non-alcoholic, lighter-color wine available in the center of the tray.

Distribution Hymn: CW 311 v.1, 5-7 –

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

**Soul, adorn yourself with gladness;
Leave behind all gloom and sadness.
Come into the daylight's splendor;
There with joy your praises render
Unto him whose grace unbounded
Has this wondrous supper founded.
Though he reigns above most holy,
Deigns to dwell with you most lowly.**

**Human reason, though it ponders,
Cannot fathom these great wonders,
That Christ's body must be boundless
Since the souls it feeds are countless,
And that he his blood is giving
With the wine we are receiving.
These great mysteries unsounded
Are by God alone expounded.**

**Lord, by love and mercy driven,
You have left your throne in heaven
On the cross for me to languish
And to die in bitter anguish,
To forgo all joy and gladness
And to shed your blood in sadness.
By this blood redeemed and living,
Lord, I praise you with thanksgiving.**

**Jesus, Sun of life, my Splendor,
Jesus, Friend of friends most tender,
Jesus, Joy of my desiring,
Fount of life, my soul inspiring-
At your feet I cry, my Maker:
Let me be a fit partaker
Of this blessed food from heaven
For our good, your glory, given.**

Text: Johann Franck, 1618-77, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, st. 1-2, 4, alt.;
The Lutheran Hymnal, St. Louis, 1941, st. 3, 5-6, alt.

Closing Prayer

P: For faith that has been fed and for grace that has been given,

C: We thank you, Lord!

P: For unity among God's people and giving us purpose in serving each other,

C: We thank you, Lord!

P: For gathering us today and encouraging us to keep doing so until your return,

C: We thank you, Lord!

P: For the benefits today has brought to our lives as we look forward to reaping the blessings in store for us in heaven,

C: We thank you, Lord!

P: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

Congregation and Choir: CWS 773 – In Unity and Peace (Sun.)

(Choir introduces refrain, then congregation joins together in the refrains. Choir sings verses)



Refrain

How good it is and how pleas - ant to

live in u - ni - ty and peace. How

good it is and how pleas - ant to

live to - geth - er in one Lord. Lord.

1-3 To verses Last time

Verses



1 In the name of our Lord Je - sus Christ, a -
 2 Live a life that is wor - thy of your call; be
 3 Share the love that has joined us as one; u -



gree in ev - 'ry - thing you say.
 hum - ble, gen - tle, and pa - tient.
 nite in spir - it and i - deals.



May there be no di - vi - sions a - mong you, but
 Bear with each oth - er in ways that are lov - ing; pre -
 Nev - er be ri - vals; do not be con - ceit - ed, but



be u - ni - ted in one mind.
 serve the u - ni - ty of faith. For there is
 look to oth - ers in their need.



one Lord, one faith, one



God of us all.

To Refrain

Hymn 318 – *Sent Forth by God's Blessing* (Saturday)

Sent forth by God's blessing, Our true faith confessing,

The people of God from his dwelling take leave.

The supper is ended; Oh, be now extended

The fruits of this service in all who believe.

The seed of his teaching, Receptive souls reaching,

Shall blossom in action for God and for all.

His grace did invite us; His love shall unite us

To work for God's kingdom and answer his call.

**With praise and thanksgiving, To God ever-living,
The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, In love ever caring,
Embracing his children of each tribe and race.
With your feast you feed us;
With your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living With praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.**

Text: Omer Westendorf, b. 1916, alt. © 1964 World Library Publications, Franklin Park, IL, www.wlpmusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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In Unity and Peace: Text (refrain): Psalm 133:1; alt
Text (verses): 1 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:1-3,5,6; Philippians 2:2-4, alt.
Tune: IN UNITY AND PEACE (Irregular) James J. Chepponis, b.1956 © 1997 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



SERVING US TODAY:

Pastor Benjamin B. Wessel and Pastor Thomas W. Kneser
Keyboard: Dee Ann Techlin

Thank you to all those who volunteered to plan and carry out this year's church picnic. It's a blessing to worship and serve together as God's people.