

Ascension Lutheran Church

Midweek Lenten Worship March 10, 2021

Welcome, All, In the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord!

Light a candle.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Again and again, **We come to this space.**

Again and again, **We gather as a community.**

Again and again, **We move closer to God.**

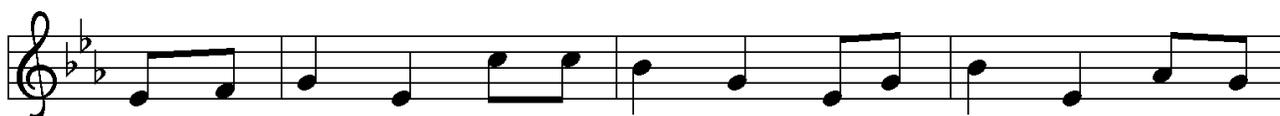
And again and again, **God is here.**

We are met. **We are heard.**

We are shown the way.

So again and again, let us worship holy God.

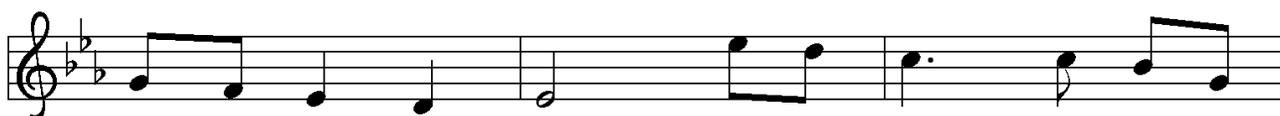
HYMN OF LIGHT #561 "Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory"



1 Joy - ous light of heav'n-ly glo - ry, lov-ing glow of God's own
2 In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the blaz - ing sun of
3 You who made the heav-en's splen - dor, ev-'ry danc - ing star of



face, you who sing cre - a - tion's sto - ry, shine on
dawn, in the light of peace and wis - dom, we can
night, make us shine with gen - tle jus - tice, let us



ev - 'ry land and race. Now as eve - ning falls a -
hear your qui - et song. Love that fills the night with
each re - flect your light. Might - y God of all cre -

⁴ Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.
*Selah*⁵ Happy are those whose strength is in you,
 in whose heart are the highways to Zion.
⁶ As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs;
 the early rain also covers it with pools.
⁷ They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.
⁸ O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! *Selah*
⁹ Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed.
¹⁰ For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.
 I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
 than live in the tents of wickedness.
¹¹ For the LORD God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor.
 No good thing does the LORD withhold from those who walk uprightly.
¹² O LORD of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

READING: Hebrews 12:1-2

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us
 also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run
 with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus the
 pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set
 before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat
 at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

HYMN **“We Look to You, O Jesus”**
 (Tune of ELW 361, “The Day of Resurrection!”)

We look to you, O Jesus — in faith, our Pioneer —
 For you have gone before us and brought your people here.
 You showed us all God's kingdom, you gave us work to do;
 In death you went before us; for life, we turn to you.

Through times of strife and anguish, through times of joy and grace,
 Through conflicts with our culture, you've brought us to this place;
 And still your world is changing, and still we seek to be
 A church reformed, reforming in faithful ministry.

Perfecter of the faith, Lord, we look to you each day;
 We work for peace and justice, we worship, learn and pray —
 And witnesses surround us, a host of saints above,
 As we continue sharing the joy of your great love.

Biblical Reference: Hebrews 12:1-2

Tune: Henry Thomas Smart, 1835 ("The Day of Resurrection")

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REFLECTION

The Rev. Christina Auch

HYMN #723

"Canticle of the Turning"



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat
 Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional
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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a God who knows holy rage—
 A God who stands with the underdog,
 Who passionately protects the suffering,
 And who overturns systems of corruption.

We believe in a God who leads by example—
Feeding the hungry, welcoming the children,
Offering water to the Samaritan, eating with the tax collector,
Healing the sick, preaching from the mountaintop,
And offering second chances.

We believe in a God who knew that we would lose our way,
And still said, “This is my body broken for you.”
We believe in a God who knew our capacity for mistakes,
And still said, “I’m going to prepare a place for you.”

And because of this love,
We believe that God shows us the way,
Again and again and again.
Thanks be to God.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

As you leave this space,
May your mouth speak of God’s goodness.
May your arms hold those in need.
May your feet walk toward justice.
May your heart trust its worth.
May your soul dance in God’s grace.
And may this be your rhythm—
Again and again and again,
Until God’s promised day.
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself,
Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace.

Amen.

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