



RECONCILIATION — THE LOVE OF CHRIST COMPELS US
(2 Corinthians 5:14-20)

Prayer Service
St. John's Lutheran Church
January 18, 2017
7:00 pm

GATHERING

PRELUDE *Prelude and Fugue in C Major, BWV 545* J. S. Bach

RINGING OF THE BELLS Order of St. John

WELCOME & WORSHIP NOTES

As the procession enters, the assembly turns to face the cross.

*CALL TO WORSHIP *Fanfare-Improvisation on "All Are Welcome"* R. ENRIGHT

*INVITATION TO WORSHIP & APOSTLES' CREED

Leader: Almighty God, breathe into us the wind of unity that recognizes our diversity.

***People:* Breathe into us mutual acceptance that welcomes and makes us community.**

Breathe into us fire that unites what is torn apart and heals what is ill.

Breathe into us grace that overcomes hatred and frees us from violence.

Breathe into us life that faces down and defeats death.

Blessed be the God of mercy—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We believe in God,

the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

We believe in Jesus Christ,

God's only Son, our Lord,

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

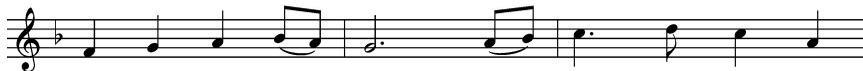
**the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

O come let us sing to the Lord.

Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation!



(All:) 1. Let us build a house where love can dwell And
 (Choir:) 2. Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, And
 (High Voices:) 3. Let us build a house where love is found In
 (Choir:) 4. Let us build a house where hands will reach Be -
 (All:) 5. Let us build a house where all are named, Their



all can safe - ly live, A place where saints and
 words are strong and true, Where all God's chil - dren
 wa - ter, wine and wheat: A ban - quet hall on
 yond the wood and stone To heal and strength - en,
 songs and vi - sions heard And loved and treas - ured,



chil - dren tell How hearts learn to for -
 dare to seek To dream God's reign a -
 ho - ly ground, Where peace and jus - tice
 serve and teach, And live the Word they've
 taught and claimed As words with - in the



give. Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions,
 new. Here the cross shall stand as wit - ness
 meet. (Low Voices) Here the love of God, through Je - sus,
 known. Here the out - cast and the stran - ger
 Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter,



Rock of faith and vault of grace; Here the
 And as sym - bol of God's grace; Here as
 Is re - vealed in time and space; (All:) As we
 Bear the im - age of God's face; Let us
 Prayers of faith and songs of grace, Let this



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 house pro - claim from floor to raft - er:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

*GREETING

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

And also with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

There Is A Balm In Gilead
St. John's Handbell Choir

ARR. S. E. GESCHKE

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS & RECONCILIATION

All are invited to sit or kneel.

In the course of history, there have been many renewal movements in the Church, which are always in need of deeper conversations to her head Jesus Christ. Sometimes these movements have led to unintended divisions. Let us confess our sins and pray for forgiveness and healing for the wound which have resulted from our divisions.

Silence is kept for meditation.

Gracious God, the love of Christ compels us to ask forgiveness for whenever we have failed to love; for our hate and contempt for one another; for denouncing and falsely accusing one another; and for all forms of prejudice and discrimination against one another. We humbly pray:

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Gracious God, the love of Christ compels us to ask forgiveness for persecuting one another; for perpetuating broken communion among our churches; for banishing our brothers and sisters from our common homeland in the past and for acts of religious intolerance today; and for all wars that we have waged against one another in Christ's name. We humbly pray:

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Gracious God, the love of Christ compels us to ask forgiveness for living our Christian lives divided from one another and astray from our common calling for the healing of all creation; for our pride and abuse of power; and for the times when we have isolated ourselves from our Christian sisters and brothers and from the communities in which we live. We humbly pray:

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lord, our God, look upon this division that we have built, which separates us from you and from one another. Forgive us our sins. Heal us. Help us to overcome all walls of division and make us one in you.

Amen.

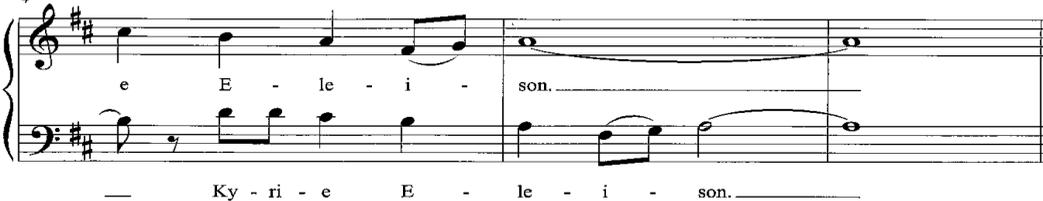
*KYRIE

PULKINGHAM/JOHNSON

Refrain sung 1st time by minister, thereafter in canon by all. Verses sung by minister.

High Voices: 

Low Voices: 



Verses For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Refrain**
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Refrain**
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. **Refrain**
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Refrain**

*PEACE (*John 14:27*)

As Jesus said to his disciples, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

You Raise Me Up
St. John’s Handbell Choir

B. GRAHAM/R. LOVLAND
ARR. P. BETTCHER

WORD

FIRST LESSON

Acts 4:8-13

After the lesson: Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Refrain sung twice at beginning of song; 1st time by cantor, thereafter all. Verses sung by cantor.

I will praise you, Lord, you have res-cued me, I will praise you,
 Lord, for your mer - cy. I will praise you, Lord,
 you have res-cued me: I will praise you, Lord.

Verses I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.
 O Lord, you have raised my soul from the dead,
 restored me to life from those who sink into the grave. **Refrain**
 Sing psalms to the Lord, you who love him, give thanks to his holy name.
 His anger lasts but a moment; his favor through life.
 At night there are tears, but joy comes with dawn. **Refrain**
 The Lord listened and had pity. The Lord came to my help.
 For me you have changed my mourning into dancing;
 O Lord my God, I will thank you for ever. **Refrain**

SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 10:1-5

After the lesson: Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia

S. ANGRISANO

Refrain sung by all at beginning of song. Verse sung by cantor.

Refrain: All
 Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 lu - ia. lu - ia!

Verse Let your heart rejoice in the Lord. Let your word proclaim his deeds.
 Let your voice sing out to the world that our God has come to save. **Refrain**

Before the reading: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

*GOSPEL

Matthew 16:13-19

After the reading: The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION REPRISE (See previous page; refrain only)

SPECIAL MUSIC

California Conference Choir, AME Zion

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Maxwell E. Johnson

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE

As children of God, aware of our dignity and mission, let us raise our prayers and affirm our desire to be a holy people of God.

Take, oh, take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be;
set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself. May your Spirit awaken in every community a hunger and thirst for unity in you.

Gracious God, where faith is corrupted, purify it; where people go astray, redirect them; where they fail to proclaim your Gospel, reform them; where they witness to what is right, strengthen them; where they are in need, provide for them; and where they are divided, reunite them. ***Sung prayer response***

Creator God, look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred that infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love so that every people and nation may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne.

Holy Spirit, Giver of Life, awaken in each of us in your compassion and love. Give us strength and courage to work for justice in our neighborhoods, to create peace within our families, to comfort the sick and the dying, and to share all we have with those who are in need. For the transformation of every human heart, let us pray to the Lord. ***Sung prayer response***

Lord Jesus Christ, being made one with you in baptism, we unite our prayers to yours in the words you taught us, in the language known in our hearts:

Our Father who art in heaven...

OFFERING

As the monetary gifts are received, an offering of music is given.

Today's offering will support Loaves & Fishes benefiting our homeless brothers and sisters in need of shelter and food.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Offertory

St. John's Choir

J. N. BECK

Based on Micah 6:6-8

With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings,
Shall I come before Him with yearling calves?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil?
Shall I give Him my firstborn for my transgressions, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
He has shown you, O man; He has shown you what is good.

And what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

*CANDLELIGHTING

A lighted candle symbolizes Christ, the light of the world. As ambassadors for Christ we will carry this light into the world, into the dark places where fighting, discord and division impede our united witness. May Christ's light effect reconciliation in our present thoughts, word, and deeds.

Verses



1. Long-ing for light, — we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
 2. Long-ing for peace, — our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
 3. Long-ing for food, — man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
 4. Long-ing for shel-ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
 5. Man - y the gifts, — man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



1. truth, — we turn to you. Make us your own, —
 2. hope, — man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone —
 3. wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread, —
 4. warmth, — man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 5. hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



1. your ho - ly peo-ple, light for the world to see.
 2. has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 3. bro - ken for oth-ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 4. shel - ter - ing oth-ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 5. to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.



Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath-ered to-day.

SENDING***BENEDICTION**

Take the Light of Christ and carry it into the dark places of our world. Be ministers of reconciliation. Be ambassadors for Christ. And may the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit come upon you and remain with you forever.

Amen.

Please extinguish your candle. Following the service, please return your candle to a basket.



1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, Joy of heav'n, to
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-'ry
 3 Come, Al-might-y, to de-liv-er; let us all thy
 4 Fin-ish then thy new cre-a-tion, pure and spot-less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing, all thy
 trou-bled breast; let us all in thee in-her-it; let us
 life re-ceive; sud-den-ly re-turn, and nev-er, nev-er-
 let us be; let us see thy great sal-va-tion per-fect-



faith-ful mer-cies crown. Je-sus, thou art all com-pas-sion,
 find thy prom-ised rest. Take a-way the love of sin-ning;
 more thy tem-ples leave. Thee we would be al-ways bless-ing,
 ly re-stored in thee! Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry,



pure, un-bound-ed love thou art; vis-it us with
 Al-pha and O-me-ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a-bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-'ry trem-bling heart.
 its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.
 with-out ceas-ing, glo-ry in thy per-fect love.
 crowns be-fore thee, lost in won-der, love, and praise!

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Live God's love in the world!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

California Conference Choir, AME Zion

Following the service, you are invited to meet and greet with the clergy in the narthex.

THE REV. MAXWELL E. JOHNSON, PhD, is Professor of Theology (Liturgical Studies) at the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN, a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and is licensed as a supply priest in the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Indiana. With a special focus in early Christian worship, the rites of Christian Initiation, and the Liturgical year, he is the author, co-author, and editor of over 20 books and 70 book chapters and articles in scholarly journals. His most recent book is *The Church in Act: Lutheran Liturgical Theology in Ecumenical Conversation* (Fortress Press, 2015).

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher	Rev. Dr. Maxwell E. Johnson, <i>Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)</i>
Presider	Rev. Frank Espegren, <i>ELCA</i>
Ushers	Bill Sailer, Charlene Singley
Director of Worship & Music	Steven Johnson, <i>St. John's Lutheran Church</i>
Organist	Dr. Ryan Enright, <i>St. John's Lutheran Church</i>
Musical Ensembles	California Conference Choir, <i>African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church</i> St. John's Choir & Handbell Choir, <i>St. John's Lutheran Church</i>

North State Ecumenical Conference Active Membership Churches

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
American Baptist Churches of the West
Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church
Assemblies of God
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Church of the Brethren
Episcopal Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Greek Orthodox Church

Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod
Nazarene, Church of the
Presbyterian Church USA
Reformed Church in America
Roman Catholic Church
Ukrainian Catholic Church
United Church of Christ
United Methodist Church