

05 February 2023 ~ Communion / PWS&D Sunday

Welcome / Announcements / Land Acknowledgement

We recognize that the land where we gather for worship belongs to God, as does all of creation. We also know that this is the unceded territory of the Lkwungen and WSÁNEĆ people. As we pray, reflect, and celebrate in this place, we do so as guests lamenting the injustice in our history. We ask that the God of love and justice lead us along the path of reconciliation, bringing accountability and healing. May we be inspired to forge new relationships of respect and solidarity.

Celebrations / Joys & Concerns

*God's blessing on you. God's blessing on you.
God's blessing, dear friends. God's blessing on you.*

Call to Worship

Just as sunrise breaks through the darkness each day,

so God's grace, mercy and justice shine forth.

We gather together, with devotion and doubt, with weariness and wonder;

trusting that God's peace and love are present here.

Come and worship as you are, knowing you are loved.

We come, rejoicing, to praise God's holy name.

➤ *For mornings bright (verses 1 and 4)*

† Gathering Prayer and Words of Hope

Holy One, Light of the world, in the sparkle of the snowflake, we see your beauty. In frosted treetops, we delight in your splendour. Even in the cold of winter, your creation amazes us. We praise you for blessing the world with such beauty and giving us a place within it. Just as months of winter renew creation for springtime growth, renew us with your Spirit in this time of worship to grow in faithfulness and service. Grant that our lives can shine the light of Christ into these challenging times.

Holy One, we confess we have often taken your creation for granted. We squander its resources as if they were only for us. We consume whatever we want, often selfishly and carelessly. Forgive us, we pray. Shine your light on us so we see the ways of your wisdom more clearly and follow the path Jesus sets before us with more humble hearts. **Amen**

Christ is the first born of creation, shining a redeeming light into our brokenness In him we are forgiven, restored and made new. Thank God, we can make a fresh start today.

➤ *Arise, your light is come*

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† Prayer for Understanding

Holy God, your mysteries surround and astound us each day. Send your Holy Spirit to open the mysteries of scripture for us so that our understanding is refreshed and our courage to follow Christ is renewed. Amen

Scripture

Exodus 16: 1-8, 13-21 [OT 62]

The whole congregation of the Israelites set out from Elim and came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord."

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?"[a] For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat. This is what the Lord has

commanded: Gather as much of it as each of you needs, an omer per person according to the number of persons, all providing for those in their own tents." The Israelites did so, some gathering more, some less. But when they measured it with an omer, those who gathered much had nothing over, and those who gathered little had no shortage; they gathered as much as each of them needed. And Moses said to them, "Let no one leave any of it over until morning." But they did not listen to Moses; some left part of it until morning, and it became wormy and rotten. And Moses was angry with them. Morning by morning they gathered it, as much as each needed, but when the sun grew hot, it melted.

John 6: 1-15 [NT 97]

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias.[a] A large crowd kept following him because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place, so they[b] sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Message **Manna Matters** <https://youtu.be/KVvbRWtdJ0g>

➤ *'All who hunger, gather gladly*

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The prophet Isaiah issued a call to feed the hungry, cloth the naked and house the homeless. We give in response to this call, praying that every gift accomplishes more than we can ask or imagine through the power of God at work in us and through us.

Lord Jesus Christ, your love makes us salt for the earth and light for the world. Bless our gifts so that they bring light into dark days and salt to flavour the earth with your justice and mercy. Amen

The Apostles' Creed

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I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I 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.

I 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

Invitation to the Lord's Table

We have heard about God, who loved confusion into order and gave each creature a divine image, making the world.

We have heard about Jesus, a poor man whose banquet feeds the world, a healer whose wounds give life, a teacher whose wisdom traces love's order in the world, finding the divine in each of us.

We have heard how Jesus died, and how, for those who loved him, he rose again.

We have heard about the Holy Spirit, who breaks the bonds of race and class, of gender and creed, to show God's love for everyone.

And we have heard that love makes all things new. We come to this table asking for the bread of such blessings.

These miracles begin with simple human gestures, bits of bread in a basket, tongues that talk, souls that yearn. And so we bring bread and wine, prayers and our own yearning, that the miraculous may begin in us today.

➤ *Let us break bread together*

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† Celebrating Together with Thanksgiving
God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is good to give God thanks and praise.

Gracious God, we praise your holy name, giving thanks with our lips and our lives. Through the words of your prophets you gave us hope by promising a Redeemer. And now we rejoice that in Jesus Christ, the Saviour has come and will come again in power and glory making all things new.

When we were nothing, you made us something. When we had no name and no faith and no future – you called us your children...

When we lost our way, or turned away, you did not abandon us. In Jesus, the Word became flesh, giving us a vision of your glory that all people might be brought out of darkness into your marvelous light. Therefore, with all your faithful people from every time and place we join the angels to sing with joy...

O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space. All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace. Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise. And blessed is the one who comes and bears your name always!

And now, in case we believe that our song alone fulfils your purpose, we fall silent and remember the one who came because words were not enough... **[Silence]**

Faithful God, we offer you our praise and thanks as we return to you these holy gifts of bread and wine remembering that on the night of his arrest Jesus sat down to eat with friends. During the meal, he took the bread, said a prayer, broke it and shared it with everyone at the table, saying: *"This is my body which is for you. Do this to remember me."*

At the end of the meal, he took a cup of wine and raised it, saying: *"This is God's new covenant, made possible because of my death. Drink this all of you, to remember me."*

We ponder, O God, the mystery of his promise that in this meal we are joined to him and to one another as a holy people.

We celebrate with great joy the resurrection of our Lord, his presence with us in this feast, and his promise of a new creation as we affirm the mystery of faith...

***Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!
Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!***

Hear us, O Lord, and breathe your Spirit upon us and upon this bread and wine. May they be for us your body – vibrant with your life, renewing and making us whole.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, almighty God, for ever and ever and so we sing...

***Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and amen!
Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and amen!***

Sharing Bread and Cup

The one who was first held by Mary, is held for us in this bread.

The one whose body was laid in a manger, is cradled in this cup.

The bread of life – the cup of grace – we remember and share with thanksgiving.

Come and share in these gifts. In them God comes to us so that we may come to God.

*Please come forward to receive Holy Communion – everyone is welcome at this table.
If you are unable to come to the front, please signal an elder who will come and serve you.*

*We use gluten and dairy-free bread. Both juice and wine are available.
Pre-packaged elements are provided on request.*

† Prayer after Communion

Holy One, we praise, worship and adore you for the food received at your table. We thank you we are not alone – that you are with us. Help us to proclaim your presence in our lives and in the world to all around us. Help us all to know and recall the difference walking with you makes – and to share that with others out of the depths of our own being – so that they may know too where hope and help is to be found – so that they may know where to find the food that we have found.

Trusting in you, we offer all our quiet thoughts and prayers into your care. We pray for this congregation as we seek to live out our faith and struggle to be authentic. May we go from here, strengthened, refreshed, and empowered by your Spirit to be true and joyful witnesses to Jesus Christ – living to your glory in all we do. We sing our prayer together...

➤ ***Our Father in heaven*** (*The Lord's Prayer – no repeats*) **469**

Blessing

Go in faith to be salt for the earth and light for the world in Jesus' name. May God's love restore you – Christ's teaching inspire you – and the Holy Spirit equip you to serve in a world that is ready to receive you, Amen

➤ ***We are marching*** (*repeat*) **636**