**February 11, 2024–Service of the Word–Email/At Home Missal**

**The ZOOM link for today’s service, which opens at 09.30 am on February 11, 2024, can be found here:**

**Worship February 11, 2024 09:30 am ZOOM room opens; service begins at 10:00 am.**

**Join Zoom Meeting click here:**

[**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84066302102?pwd=ZEQ1V0dhRzRoMUZrcDBlMXF3STJWZz09**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84066302102?pwd=ZEQ1V0dhRzRoMUZrcDBlMXF3STJWZz09)

**Meeting ID: 840 6630 2102 Passcode: 541916**

**You don’t have to have a computer or internet to connect to any of our church Zoom services; you can also just call in on one of these numbers (long distance charges may apply): (All Canadian numbers). You can also access the ZOOM from your telephone by using the “One tap mobile” option:**

**+14388097799,,84066302102#,,,,\*541916# Canada;**

**+15873281099,,84066302102#,,,,\*541916# Canada**

**Dial by your location:**

**+1 778 907 2071 Canada**

**+1 780 666 0144 Canada**

**+1 204 272 7920 Canada
+1 438 809 7799 Canada**

**+1 587 328 1099 Canada**

**+1 647 374 4685 Canada
+1 647 558 0588 Canada**

**Meeting ID: 840 6630 2102 Passcode: 541916**

**Find your local number:** [**https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kMO4FqjTt**](https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kMO4FqjTt)

**Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system. *(until June 16, 2024* *incl.)* Weekly:** [**https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZAtce-rrjkrGta\_4KPUmVjDXGLkWmdZMe15/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGsrj0sGdSXsRmFRpwIAo\_oM-nziHpcjbdco0vOMxVeVAnSDsVuOYVyFOL9**](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZAtce-rrjkrGta_4KPUmVjDXGLkWmdZMe15/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGsrj0sGdSXsRmFRpwIAo_oM-nziHpcjbdco0vOMxVeVAnSDsVuOYVyFOL9)

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**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 11TH, 2024 –FEBRUARY 18TH, 2024:**

**You will find the video for February 4th, 2024, at the following YouTube link:**

[**https://youtu.be/MHH3U8qsWxI**](https://youtu.be/MHH3U8qsWxI)

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**Coming Events** *(save these dates)* ***bold print - events being held here at St. Peter’s***

1. **Feb. 12** Move with Robert*(Free Exercise Class Mondays 1:00 – 2:00 pm, YMCA Certified Fitness Instructor – Wear exercise shoes/bring water/no registration required/ arrive by 12:45 pm – Trillium United Church, Cambridge)*
2. **Feb. 13** Pancake Tuesday Supper*(5:00 – 7:00 pm, pancakes (including gluten free), sausage and dessert. Free will offering (pay what you can). Proceeds to the children & youth ministry outreach - Trillium United Church, Cambridge)*
3. **Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm**

**Feb. 21 Praying the Catechism –** *(Wednesdays at 7pm on Zoom from February 21 to May 15)*

**Feb. 25 Men’s Dessert Event** *(Calling all men to pull out their favorite desert recipe to prepare and be voted on for the best*

 *dessert in 2024. There will be a Chili lunch prior to the main desert event. There is a sign-up list in the*

 *Narthex to help with either providing food items for lunch or help with the clean-up)*

1. **Feb. 28 Praying the Catechism –** *(Wednesdays at 7:00pm on Zoom from February 21 to May 15)*
2. Mar. 9 White Owl Sugarbush Adventure *(10:00 am –12:00 noon - featuring land-based learning with Indigenous Educator Dave Skene & Outdoor Educator Nathan Mantey. Join us at White Owl Sugarbush, 1388 Stauffer Dr. Kitchener. Bundle up & learn on the land. Free. All ages welcome. Families encouraged. Sign-up via Eventbrite or email* *admin@featherandcross.org*
3. Mar. 9 Menno Singers *(at the foot of the cross- cellist BenBolt-Martin; $25 adult,$5 student/child Trillium Lutheran Church Waterloo*
4. **Mar. 17 Annual General Meeting** *(further details coming!)*
5. **Mar. 31 Easter Breakfast** *(further details coming!)*

Apr. 5-7 Bishop’s spiritual Retreat for Lay Persons *(Mount Carmel, Niagara Falls)*

Apr. 16 Public Lecture– The Gospel of Peace *(John Dear – Priest/Peace Activist/Author; Nonviolence in the tradition of Gandhi*

 *& Martin Luther King Jr. – No Charge (donations welcome); copies of ‘The Gospel of Peace’ will be available $25 (cash).*

 *All Saints Lutheran Anglican Church, 210 Silvercreek Parkway N. Guelph*

1. **The Life of St. Peter’s for the week of February 11 – February 18, 2024**
2. Monday 6:00 pm TOPS - R.F.F. *(Art Room)*
3. Tuesday 7:00 pm Scouts - R.F.F. *(Scout Room, Art Room, Fellowship Hall)*
4. Wednesday 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service
5. Thursday
6. Friday
7. Saturday **10:00 am Choir Practice** *(Sanctuary)*

Sunday **10:00 am Worship Service** – A passage from **Mark 10:17-31.** *(Rich man is called to sell all he*

 *has and follow Jesus)*

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**Pastoral Visit:** Pastor Laura is available for visits by appointment by calling the church office, 519-653-4721. Whether you have a particular pastoral concern or would just like some one-to-one time to get to know Pastor Laura, she would love to meet with you.

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1. **Prayer List:**  Bill, Don, Tammy, Alice, Don, Lynn, Helen, Sharon, Donald, Shirley, Clara, Jeff, Aaron, MacKenzie, Rhett, Jan Ken, Lee, Maria, Deborah, Fred, Anne, Sherri, Carol.

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1. **We need you to help feed our neighbourhood!** The freedom Centre has joined with Cambridge Community Table to offer a meal to our community twice a month on Tuesday night. We need volunteers: Food Preparation, set up, take down, meet and Greet. Every hour you can give once or twice a month. Call for information 519-591-6518 or email rosemary@freedomcentre.ca.

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Move with Robert(Free Exercise Class Mondays 1:00 – 2:00 pm, YMCA Certified Fitness Instructor – Wear exercise shoes/bringwater/no registration required/ arrive by 12:45 pm – Trillium United Church, Cambridge)

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February 13, 2024Pancake Tuesday Supper(5:00 – 7:00 pm, pancakes (including gluten free), sausage and dessert. Free will offering (pay what you can). Proceeds to the children & youth ministry outreach - Trillium United Church, Cambridge)

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**“Praying the Catechism”** – A season of intentional prayer for Lent & Easter - **Wednesdays at 7:00PM on Zoom** from **February 21 to May 15**. Join Pastor Laura on zoom each Wednesday for conversation and mutual support as we work our way through “Praying the Catechism” this Lenten and Easter seasons.

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**Titanium Spatula Lunch Sunday February 25 after worship** - Calling all men to pull out their their favorite desert recipe to prepare and be voted on for the best desert in 2024. There will be a Chili lunch prior to the main desert event. There is a sign-up list in the Narthex to help with either providing food items for lunch or help with the clean-up.

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March 9, 2024 – 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. White Owl Sugarbush Adventure (featuring land-based learning with Indigenous Educator Dave Skene & Outdoor Educator Nathan Mantey. Join us at White Owll Sugarbush, 1388 Stauffer Dr. Kitchener. Bundle up & learn on the land. Free. All ages welcome. Families encouraged. Sign-up via Eventbrite or email admin@featherandcross.org

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**Saturday, March 9, 7:30pm: Menno Singers with Artistic Director Brandon Leis present *‘At the Foot of the Cross,’***with cellist **Ben Bolt-Martin** and **Menno Youth Ensemble.** The concerts includes Bach’s *Jesu Meine Freude* and works by Morlock, Tavener, Casarrubbios and Carol Ann Weaver. Trillium Lutheran Church (22 Willow St., Waterloo). Tickets $25, Child/Student $5 at [www.mennosingers.com](http://www.mennosingers.com) or at the door.

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**April 16, 2024 Public Lecture – The Gospel of Peace** (John Dear – Priest/Peace Activist/Author; Nonviolence in the tradition of Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. – No Charge (donations welcome); copies of ‘The Gospel of Peace’ will be available $25 (cash). All Saints Lutheran Anglican Church, 210 Silvercreek Parkway N. Guelph.

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**A special thank you to Helga Morrison and Bonnie Berg for taking on the leadership roles for worship today!**

**Presiding Pastor: Rev. Laura Sauder**

**Organist & Director of Music: Bradley Moggach**

**Worship Leaders: Helga Morrison & Bonnie Berg**

**Welcome remarks**

**Gathering Hymn: ELW # 853 ‘When Morning Gilds the Skies’**

1 When morning gilds the skies,

 my heart awaking cries:

 may Jesus Christ be praised!

 When evening shadows fall,

 this rings my curfew call:

 may Jesus Christ be praised!

2 When mirth for music longs,

 this is my song of songs:

 may Jesus Christ be praised!

 God's holy house of prayer

 has none that can compare

 with "Jesus Christ be praised!"

3 No lovelier antiphon

 in all high heav'n is known

 than "Jesus Christ be praised!"

 There to the eternal Word

 the eternal psalm is heard:

 oh, Jesus Christ be praised!

4 Let all of humankind

 in this their concord find:

 may Jesus Christ be praised!

 Let all the earth around

 ring joyous with the sound:

 may Jesus Christ be praised!

5 Sing, sun and stars of space,

 sing, all who see his face,

 sing, "Jesus Christ be praised!"

 God's whole creation o'er,

 today and evermore

 shall Jesus Christ be praised!

*(Title: When Morning Gilds the Skies; Text:**German hymn, 19th cent.; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844-1930, alt.; Public Domain; Music: Joseph Barnby, 1838-1896; Public Domain; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Land Acknowledgement:**

L: Creator God, you made the earth and all that is in it, and you called all of it good. Open our hearts this morning to the goodness of the land on which we gather. Open our hearts to the presence and witness of our indigenous neighbours who have cared for this land for generations before our own. May the calls for truth and reconciliation take root in the good soil of our hearts.

**Greeting**:

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

***C: And also with you.***

**Hymn of Praise *(ELW Service of the Word page 213)***

Glory to God, glory to God,

glory to God in the highest;

glory to God, glory to God,

and peace to God’s people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,

almighty God and Father,

we worship you,

we give you thanks,

we praise you for your glory.

Glory to God, glory to God,

glory to God in the highest;

glory to God, glory to God,

and peace to God’s people on earth.

Lord Jesus Christ,

only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer.

Glory to God, glory to God,

glory to God in the highest;

glory to God, glory to God,

and peace to God’s people on earth.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Glory to God, glory to God,

glory to God in the highest;

glory to God, glory to God,

and peace to God’s people on earth,

and peace to God’s people on earth.

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**Prayer of the Day:**

Gracious God,

we come together today seeking a moment of respite,

a chance to rest in your reality where everything works together for good,

to be nourished and renewed by your presence that brings clarity to our confusion.

In this time of worship,

surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,

we step once again into the light of your love.

Strengthen us by the whole communion of saints,

energize us by your Holy Spirit,

to go out once again into this world you so love. **Amen.**

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**Gospel Acclamation: *(ELW Service of the Word page 216)***

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

*\*From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress.*

**Reader**: **Mark 8:27—9:8**

**The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 8th chapter.**

***C: Glory to you, O Lord.***

*May we be equipped by these words to walk in love for God, ourselves, our neighbours, all people, and all God’s creation.*

Jesus and his disciples went into the villages near Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?”

They told him, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others one of the prophets.”

He asked them, “And what about you? Who do you say that I am?”

Peter answered, “You are the Christ.” Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then Jesus began to teach his disciples: “The Human One must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and the legal experts, and be killed, and then, after three days, rise from the dead.” He said this plainly. But Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him. Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, then sternly corrected Peter: “Get behind me, Satan. You are not thinking God’s thoughts but human thoughts.”

After calling the crowd together with his disciples, Jesus said to them, “All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me and because of the good news will save them. Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives? What will people give in exchange for their lives? Whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this unfaithful and sinful generation, the Human One will be ashamed of that person when he comes in the Father’s glory with the holy angels.” Jesus continued, “I assure you that some standing here won’t die before they see God’s kingdom arrive in power.”

Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and brought them to the top of a very high mountain where they were alone. He was transformed in front of them,and his clothes were amazingly bright, brighter than if they had been bleached white. Elijah and Moses appeared and were talking with Jesus. Peter reacted to all of this by saying to Jesus, “Rabbi, it’s good that we’re here. Let’s make three shrines—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He said this because he didn’t know how to respond, for the three of them were terrified.

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice spoke from the cloud, “This is my Son, whom I dearly love. Listen to him!” Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. *(CEB)*

The Gospel of the Lord. ***C: Praise to you, O Christ.\****

**Engaging with the Story – Sermon**

**By Rev. Laura Sauder**

**Mark 8:27-9:8**

Today we reach a turning point in the Gospel of Mark. Finally, we get an answer to the question that’s been following Jesus wherever he goes: Who is this guy who heals and feeds people and teaches with authority? People think he might be John the Baptist, or Elijah, or another one of the prophets. No one knows, and everyone seems to have their theory.

In this moment Peter finally gets the right answer. Over the days and weeks spent together, Peter has figured out that Jesus can be none other than the Christ, the Messiah, the one who has been sent to save his people.

Jesus’ true identity is finally revealed to the disciples, but that of course brings another big question: What does it mean to be the Christ? The Messiah? What will this look like for Jesus and his followers?

Jesus has an answer for that question too, but it’s not what the disciples expect. Jesus tells them plainly that the Human One must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and the legal experts, and be killed, and then after three days, rise from the dead.

In short, the Messiah will not achieve glory and power, but suffering and death.

Peter, who was so quick to correctly identify Jesus as the Messiah, is just as quick to reject Jesus’ words about suffering and death. The disciples don’t get it or simply don’t want to believe it. Surely Jesus can’t be telling the truth about what lies ahead for him.

Frankly, Jesus’ answer is not one we want to hear either. Who wants to sign up for a mission that requires you to take up your cross; that symbol of torture and death? Who wants to be a part of a mission that teaches “all who want to save their lives will lose them.” These things sounds scary. Perhaps even worse, they sound like hard work and sacrifice.

That’s not what we come to church on Sunday mornings for, is it? We come to church because we want to be inspired. We want to be fed and have our spirits nourished. Maybe to be challenged a little bit. But to do the hard work of following a suffering Messiah who calls us to say no to our own needs and desires, and instead give of ourselves for the sake of the gospel? No thank you.

It’s a challenging summons, with a high cost. “Come and suffer here” is probably not the best marketing strategy to get more people in the pews.

For six days, the disciples get to dwell on these difficult teachings. Six days to wonder if what Jesus has said will really come to pass. Six days to wonder what it all might mean for them and for their Lord.

And then one morning Jesus asks if they want to take a hike up the mountain with him. I’m sure that Peter, James and John would have been glad for the break from the crowds. To take in the fresh air, burn off their worries with some exercise, and finally get to spend some quality time alone with their teacher. Had this been all that happened that day, it probably would have been enough. But of course, something altogether unexpected and incredible happens next.

When they reach the top of the mountain, right there in front of them, Jesus is transformed. He dazzles and shines brighter than any white they’ve ever seen, blinding them. And then Moses and Elijah appear.

The three disciples don’t know how to respond. Peter, who’s always quick with his words, acts on his feelings of awe by offering to build three shrines. He wants to do something, anything, to express what he can’t put into words. Something to honour this moment of spiritual awe and wonder.

But before Peter can make another move, God speaks: This is my son, whom I dearly love. Listen to him.

And then, as quickly as it began, it’s all gone. It must have felt like a dream, and yet those feelings of awe and wonder and grace remained in their hearts, and they knew they had been in the presence of God. They knew they were standing on holy ground.

From Mark’s Gospel we have these two very different stories side by side: Jesus’ teaching about how much it costs to follow him and God meeting the disciples on the mountain top. They are two very different stories, but they share something important in common. Both stories tell us something about what it means to follow Jesus.

Following Jesus the Christ involves self-sacrifice and suffering. Following Jesus asks us to centre our ministry on service and compassion and justice.

But following Jesus the Christ also involves moments of awe, wonder, and spiritual transformation. Following Jesus asks us to ground our ministry in worship, prayer, and communion with one another and with God.

Both self-sacrifice and wonder are what make up the life of faith. Following in the way of the cross will bring times of wonder and of self-sacrifice. And both of these pieces are needed.

And so for any who are still worried about your reasons for coming to worship, it must be said that it’s okay to come to worship to be inspired, fed, and nourished. This is an important part of faith. It’s really hard to do the other stuff – the service, compassion, and justice work – when we’re spiritually drained.

This week we begin the season of Lent, which is a time when we’re asked to go a little deeper; to spend time reflecting on the ways we fall short of loving God and loving our neighbours well. Lent naturally matches up better with our first story – it’s a lot more about taking up your cross and self-sacrifice. But perhaps this Lenten season we might also make some space for wonder.

Can we find space to pay attention each day, each week, to those moments where God is present; where God meets us. And these don’t have to be big, mountaintop moments. Just pay attention to the moments when you feel joy and peace and love and hope. To those moments when you witness kindness and compassion and courage.

The way of Jesus the Christ is not an easy way. It involves self-denial, self-sacrifice, and service. And yet, we are promised that God goes with us, shining glimpses of glory and wonder along the way to strengthen and encourage us for this journey of faith. May it ever be so. AMEN

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

**Hymn of the Day: ELW # 815 ‘I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light’**

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.

 I want to follow Jesus.

 God set the stars to give light to the world.

 The star of my life is Jesus.

**Refrain**

 **In him there is no darkness at all.**

 **The night and the day are both alike.**

 **The Lamb is the light of the city of God.**

 **Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

2 I want to see the brightness of God.

 I want to look at Jesus.

 Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,

 and show me the way to the Father. **Refrain**

3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.

 I want to be with Jesus.

 When we have run with patience the race,

 we shall know the joy of Jesus. **Refrain**

*(Title: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light; Text & Music: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934; Text & Music © 1970, 1975 Celebration.All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Apostles’ Creed**

L: Together, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles’ Creed:

***C: 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.***

**Prayers of Intercession:**

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God’s blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God-with-us, you refuse to stand apart, to hover above, or to step back from your beloved creation. We thank you for your presence in our midst, and for your insistence that we who bear your name be present in the midst of all that goes on in the world. Transform your church in your way of self-giving and sacrifice. God of grace, **C: receive our prayer.**

You are here with us, walking the journey of life through the shadowed valleys, the nights of weeping, the hurts, and disappointments. Bless those who suffer, with comfort and joy, dawning with the morning light. We pray especially for Jeff, Carol, each beloved child on our prayer list, and those we name before you now aloud or silently in our hearts… God of grace, **C: receive our prayer.**

You are here, witnessing the power struggles, the greed and self-centeredness, the brokenness of the systems that shape our thinking, and the seeming impossibility of change. Bless us with imagination to allow your new thing to spring forth and the political will to seek the common good. God of grace, **C: receive our prayer.**

You are here, showing us what love looks like in action. Inviting us into relationship. Teaching us how to be in community with one another. Insisting on truth and reconciliation rather than judgment and fear. Bless those whose relationships struggle, and those who are isolated and lonely, with the nurturing wholeness of your gracious presence. God of grace, **C: receive our prayer.**

You are here, though the ways of the world would rather you weren’t. Though the temptation to sequester ourselves somewhere safe with you is strong, though the path ahead will not be easy, we pray you would bring us with you as you head down the mountain again, into the fray, bringing your love and peace and justice to all. Revealing your kingdom coming with power among us, even now. God of grace, **C: receive our prayer.**

All these things and more we ask in the name of the Son who shines as Light of the World, Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

*Adapted from: Source: © 2024 Teri Peterson. Usage rights granted to BibleWorm subscribers at any level (*[*https://patreon.com/biblewormpodcast*](https://patreon.com/biblewormpodcast))

**Share the peace of Christ:**

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**Thanksgiving**

**Offering**

**Offering Hymn: ELW # 692 ‘We Are an Offering’**

**Chorus 1**

We lift our voices

We lift our hands

We lift our lives up to You

We are an offering

Lord use our voices

Lord use our hands

Lord use our lives they are Yours

We are an offering

**Bridge**

All that we have

All that we are

All that we hope to be

We give to You

We give to You

**Chorus 2**

We lift our voices

We lift our hands

We lift our lives up to You

We are an offering

We are an offering

*(Title: We Are an Offering; Text & Music: Dwight Liles, b. 1957; © 1984 Word Music, LLC. All rights reserved. Used By Permission.*

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**Offering Prayer:**

L: Blessed are you, Holy One,

for all good things come from you.

In bread and cup you open heaven to us.

Meet us at this table,

that we receive what we seek

and follow your Son, Jesus,

in whose name we pray.

Amen.\*

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**Canticle of Thanksgiving (ELW Service of the Word page 219)**

**Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb**

**forever and ever.**

**Great and wonderful are your deeds, O God of the universe;**

**just and true are your ways, O Ruler of all the nations.**

**Who can fail to honor you, Lord,**

**and sing the glory of your name?**

**Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb**

**forever and ever.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,**

**and blessed is the one whose name is the Word of God.**

**All praise and thanks to you, holy God!**

**Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb**

**forever and ever.\***

**Thanksgiving for the Word**

L: Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

***C: we give you thanks and praise.***

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God, ***C: we give you thanks and praise.***

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God, ***C: we give you thanks and praise.***

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.\***

**The Lord’s Prayer:**

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us,

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

**Blessing:**

Go down the mountain today,

oriented toward the God of life,

to shine the light of love into the world wherever you go,

whoever you meet,

whatever you encounter.

And as you do, the blessing of God who names you,

Christ who claims you,

and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,

☩ be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.\*

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**Sending Hymn: ELW # 843 ‘Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness’**

1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness

 with a liberating light;

 praise the One who frees the pris'ners,

 turning blindness into sight.

 Praise the One who preached the gospel,

 healing ev'ry dread disease,

 calming storms and feeding thousands

 with the very bread of peace.

2 Praise the One who blessed the children

 with a strong yet gentle word;

 praise the One who drove out demons

 with a piercing, two-edged sword.

 Praise the One who brings cool water

 to the desert's burning sand;

 from this well comes living water

 quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

3 Praise the one true love incarnate:

 Christ, who suffered in our place;

 Jesus died and rose for many

 that we may know God by grace.

 Let us sing for joy and gladness,

 seeing what our God has done.

 Praise the one redeeming glory;

 praise the One who makes us one.

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**Dismissal:**

*L: Go in peace to love and serve God and our neigbours.*

***C: Thanks be to God.***

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