



# Call to Worship

Psalm 111:1-3

Rise in body or spirit and join in the Call to Worship.

*One: Shout praises to the Lord!*

**All: With all my heart I will thank the Lord when his people meet.**

*One: The Lord has done many wonderful things!*

**All: Everyone who is pleased with God's marvelous deeds will keep them in mind.**

*One: Everything the Lord does is glorious and majestic,*

**All: and his power to bring justice will never end.**

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Remain upright and sing your

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,”

#37 in the hymnal.

## Opening Prayer

Open our hearts and spirits this day, Lord God Almighty, to hear the great good news of your power and presence. Empower us to rejoice as this is proclaimed in word and song and action. As your Holy Spirit blows through this place, remind us that you are with us, through the breaking of bread and drinking from the cup, that the One who died for us may live in us day by day, until He returns. AMEN.

# Psalm 111:4-8

Please be seated.

Let's listen to the rest of the 111<sup>th</sup> Psalm.

- <sup>4</sup> The LORD God is famous  
for his wonderful deeds,  
and he is kind and merciful.
- <sup>5</sup> He gives food to his worshipers  
and always keeps his agreement  
with them.
- <sup>6</sup> He has shown his mighty power  
to his people  
and has given them the lands  
of other nations.
- <sup>7</sup> God is always honest and fair,  
and his laws can be trusted.
- <sup>8</sup> They are true and right  
and will stand forever.
- <sup>9</sup> God rescued his people,  
and he will never break  
his agreement with them.  
He is fearsome and holy.
- <sup>10</sup> Respect and obey the LORD!  
This is the first step  
to wisdom and good sense.<sup>[a]</sup>  
God will always be respected.

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# With Children

Pastor Pete

I've missed you. It's been over two months since I shared time with you in worship, and I missed you. Maybe you knew I was gone. Maybe you didn't. It's okay if you didn't. You are so busy growing! But know that I remembered you as I recovered from my surgery the day after Thanksgiving.

As you can see, I still have a way to go in recovering from my surgery. This week I "graduated" to being able to use this contraption. It's called a "rollator" because it "rolls" on four wheels, and allows me to walk without putting all my weight on my left leg – like this (show). Do you want to try it?

Three times a week I go to a place where they are helping me to remember how to walk. It's not that my mind has forgotten how to walk, but my muscles have grown weak and need to be strengthened through exercise. It's kind of like my leg muscles have forgotten how to walk. So, I have to train, helped by someone called a "physical therapist."

My physical therapist gives me exercises to do at home to help me remember and grow strong. Let me show you. One of them involves a strap with which I stretch my leg. Do you want to try it? For another exercise, I put this weight on my ankle. Anyone want to see what it feels like?

Soon I will be walking, having "remembered" how to walk. But it takes exercise, and a lot of stretching. Did you know that one reason we get together every week like this is to remember and to stretch?

What muscles do we stretch, you might ask? Well now, how good are you at being quiet? Can you sit still and not talk for 5 minutes? Wow, that's a long time, isn't it. It involves muscles we don't use very often. When we are still and quiet, we can hear things we might not hear otherwise. Our imaginations can imagine Bible stories in our heads, which is kind of like remembering.

Well, I won't ask you right now to see how long you can be still and be quiet, but I will encourage you to exercise your imagination. It's fun, and it's something we can do together... I missed you... Hug? ... See you next time.

Sharing a joy, a concern,  
a word of testimony or praise

## Prayer

We thank you, Lord, for the ways in which you are stretching us, directly or indirectly. Our compassion is widened as we pay attention to the struggles of others, holding them in the light. We trust that you are actively involved in their lives, even through the darkest moments, even before we prayerfully imagine the possibilities of their deliverance. As we confess our doubts that good can prevail, a deeper part of our awareness professes a faith stronger than death itself. You exercise our spirits to trust, and our disciple muscles to follow, seeing only a bit of the Jesus road ahead. Forgive our stumblings in such a way that we become empowered to rise from the ground and keep on keeping on. That is our prayer not only for ourselves, but also for those whose names and/or troubles we have mentioned just now.

Hymn #360

“Break thou the bread of life”

Guide our remembering of the good news story we have received, of the One who broke and shared bread by the sea – both food for the physical body, and truth for the spiritual body. Where we there long ago, when Jesus healed and taught and fed and shared bread and cup, and lived and died and rose from the grave? No, but by faith we remember, and in our remembrance He lives in this body gathered here in His name today. It is in this name, which is above every name, that we pray just now. Amen

## Luke 22:14-20

<sup>14</sup> When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table.<sup>15</sup> And he said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. <sup>16</sup> For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.”

<sup>17</sup> After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, “Take this and divide it among you. <sup>18</sup> For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”

<sup>19</sup> And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”

<sup>20</sup> In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.

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## Returning our Tithes and Offerings

What we have, we have received from God. Yes, we have added our sweat-equity to it. We have “earned” this, our daily bread. But, in truth, it flows from the One who created us. We return our offerings this hour – not to buy anything from the Lord, nor to pay back what we owe (which we could not). We simply break open our figurative piggy banks to add the “loaves and fishes” Jesus has already shared with us to the ongoing gospel story we are living out together as His body. This is part of the fruit we bear. Won’t you join in this exercise of faith?

Ushers, come assist in our giving.

## Offertory

# 1 Corinthians 11:17-26

<sup>17</sup> Now in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. <sup>18</sup> For, to begin with, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you; and to some extent I believe it. <sup>19</sup> Indeed, there have to be factions among you, for only so will it become clear who among you are genuine. <sup>20</sup> When you come together, it is not really to eat the Lord's supper. <sup>21</sup> For when the time comes to eat, each of you goes ahead with your own supper, and one goes hungry and another becomes drunk. <sup>22</sup> What! Do you not have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you show contempt for the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What should I say to you? Should I commend you? In this matter I do not commend you!

<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, <sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." <sup>25</sup> In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." <sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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Message

Sue Ellen Wheatley

# Unison Prayer to Prepare

Hymnal #781

How can we discern our errors, O God?

Clear us from hidden faults.  
Let the words of our mouths  
and the meditations of our hearts  
be acceptable in your sight,  
O Lord, our rock and redeemer.  
Look graciously on our remorse;  
help us to turn from evil.  
We offer you ourselves,  
body and soul, to be cleansed.

As we drink the cup,  
give us assurance of forgiveness  
through the blood of Christ.  
Accept our promise to be true to you  
and give us power to fulfill it.  
Let us find strength in the breaking of the bread  
to live and to die,  
for Jesus' sake. AMEN

from Johann Wickert's prayer book  
translation & adaptation  
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Distributing the Bread

(organ interlude)

# Responsive Blessing

Hymnal #785A

Leader: Blessed are you, O God.  
You made bread to strengthen us.  
You set aside this bread  
as a sign of your Son's broken body.  
In breaking it, may we participate  
in the reconciliation of Christ.

**People: May Christ's body be the bread of our souls,  
to give us strength to continue our pilgrimage,  
being made worthy to sit with all the redeemed  
at the marriage feast of the Lamb.**

*ALL: Hear us, O God, through our mediator,  
Jesus Christ. AMEN*

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Take and eat.

## Distributing the Cup

*(organ interlude)*

# Responsive Blessing

Hymnal #785B

Leader: Blessed are you, O God.  
You made the vine to strengthen us.  
You set aside this cup  
as a sign of your Son's shed blood.  
In drinking the cup,  
may we participate in the blood of Christ.

**People: May Christ's blood make us strong  
to drink the cup of suffering  
without complaint, for Jesus' sake,  
in the hope that we shall drink new wine  
in your kingdom.**

*ALL: Hear us, O God, for the sake  
of your eternal love. AMEN*

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Take and drink.

*(after pause:)*

Now rise, as you able, and join in singing our final hymn.

Hymn #478

“Sent forth by God’s blessing”

# Unison Benediction

Hymnal #789

Add your voice to our closing prayer, a Benediction.

Almighty and loving God,

we thank you that through your great love  
you have fed us from our Lord's table  
and have assured us

that your goodness to us never fails.

We give you thanks that we are members

of the body of Christ,

heirs with Christ, and brothers and sisters

in your family.

By your grace assist us in our pilgrimage

that we may go forth strong and faithful in our witness,

through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN

*from The Pastor's Manual*

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## Postlude