

Prairieland Parish

As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present. Whether you are joining us virtually or physically. May we together experience the presence of God

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We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord



Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

OPENING MEDITATION

We are people on a journey of transformation, and it isn't always easy.

Today, we acknowledge the hard work of becoming disciples and of setting aside the weight that clings so closely, of handing over the reins of our lives so that we can be led into wholeness so we can proclaim wholeness to the broken world around us.

With this thought to center us comes foundational questions we must also bring forth:

“Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?”

What are some ways we stand against evil in our society and in ourselves?

How does the freedom and power God gives us relate to our ability to resist evil, injustice, and oppression?

Friends, it is only through God's power that we experience freedom over these other forces. We cannot do so on our own power.

Therefore, let us come together in His name this day and grow in our faith, find strength in our unity and power in our voices. Let us join in our opening litany and praise Him!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Brothers and sisters in Christ, what hopes do you bring to worship?

We bring hope for health and wholeness.

What afflictions do you bring to worship? Physical pain?

From illness and injury.

Emotional pain?

From sad and scary life situations.

Mental pain?

From dis-ease of many kinds.

With all of these afflictions, it's a miracle that any of us have made it to worship this morning! But, where else would we be?

We yearn to know God's powerful love and to know that wholeness is possible.

So come, let us enter into union with God offering our whole selves

—hopeful, afflicted and bold—

Come, let us worship!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Un-stop our ears, O God, that we may hear your Word proclaimed this day.
Open our minds and hearts to be changed. Free us from the unclean spirits of worry,
fear, destruction, and pride. Teach us, Lord, that we may follow you more faithfully.

***Praise Hymn FWS #2004. "Praise the Source of Faith and Learning"**

Author: Thomas H. Troeger

Copyright: © 1987 Thomas H. Troeger

**Praise the source of faith and learning
that has sparked and stoked the mind
with a passion for discerning
how the world has been designed.
Let the sense of wonder flowing
from the wonders we survey
keep our faith forever growing
and renew our need to pray.**

**God of wisdom we acknowledge
that our science and our art
and the breadth of human knowledge
only partial truth impart.
Far beyond our calculation
lies a depth we cannot sound
where your purpose for creation
and the pulse of life are found.**

**May our faith redeem the blunder
of believing that our thought
has displaced the grounds for wonder
which the ancient prophets taught.
May our learning curb the error
which unthinking faith can breed
lest we justify some terror
with an antiquated creed.**

**As two currents in a river
fight each other's undertow,
till converging they deliver
one coherent steady flow,
blend, O God, our faith and learning
till they carve a single course,
till they join as one, returning
praise and thanks to you, the Source.**

We Hear God's Word

Gospel Reading..... Mark 1:21-28

The Man with an Unclean Spirit

21 They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. 22 They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. 23 Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, 24 and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." 25 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet and come out of him!" 26 And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. 27 They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He[a] commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." 28 At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The word of God for the People of God, **Thanks Be to God**
Children's Message

***Faith Hymn UMH #176. "Majesty, Worship His Majesty" (Sing twice)**

Author: Jack W. Hayford (1981)

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**Majesty, worship his majesty;
Unto Jesus
Be all glory, honor, and praise.
Majesty, kingdom authority,
Flow from his throne
Unto his own;
His anthem raise.
So exalt, lift up on high
The name of Jesus.
Magnify, come glorify
Christ Jesus, the King.
Majesty, worship his majesty,
Jesus who died,
Now glorified,
King of all kings.**

Message

JOYS/CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Most holy Friend, Saviour of those who call on you, please give us more of the compassion and authority of Jesus. Embolden us to heal the multiple diseases that afflict humanity and drive out the demons that afflict our contemporary world. Hear us, O God. Loving God, in your abundant grace, hear our prayers

Send your agents to lands that lie under darkness and oppression; where justice is rare, abuse is tolerated, and the weak and the poor have nowhere to turn for hope.

Send your messengers to situations where diseases are reaping a grim harvest. Please give authority to people of disciplined compassion, to provide help, nursing care, and health education that will give understanding and clear vision.
Lord we raise to you this day... (name those shared during joys and concerns)

Send your servants into places where food is scarce and crops are poor. Please strengthen the authority of those local leaders and outside advisers, who seek to empower the people to conserve water, dig new wells, plant trees, grow new food start new cottage industries, and obtain better prices for their goods.

Send your human angels of mercy into situations, both here and abroad, where there is neglect, illness, sorrow, frustration and anger. Please give some of the compassionate authority of Jesus to chaplains in hospitals and prisons, to nurses and ambulance offices, physicians and surgeons, social workers and foster parents, police officers and counsellors.

Send your gifts of comfort and great joy among the many congregations of your church. May more of the spiritual authority of Jesus empower every ordinary church member, and the wisdom and compassion of Christ enlarge the ministries of lay leaders and ordained pastors. By the grace of Christ, may our deeds more adequately match our creeds, and our love expand to embrace those misfits who appear lonely and unlovable.

God, our most holy Friend, in your mercy may we go from strength to strength in things of the spirit and become the lovers and the agents of that holy awe which is the beginning of true wisdom. And let us be led by Christ Jesus our Lord whom we love and adore and who has taught us to pray saying...

Offertory/Doxology/Prayer

God of justice, mercy, and compassion; we bring our tithes and offerings to your altar and pray they will be used to make your amazing love known to all. Then, most often we leave and return to our weekday lives, expecting someone else to make that happen. Remind us that your prophets, your leaders, your missionaries, were called and raised up from "among the people." Help us open our lives and our minds to the possibility that we might be the ones you would call and send. We pray this in the name of Christ, our teacher and our redeemer. Amen. (Deuteronomy 18:15-20, Mark 1:21-28)

***Departing Hymn FWS #2170. "God Made from One Blood"**

Author: Thomas H. Troeger

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**God made from one blood all the families of Earth.
The circles of nurture that raised us from birth.
Companions who join us to walk through each stage,
of childhood and youth, adulthood and age.**

**We turn to you, God, with our thanks and our tears.
For all of the families we've known through the years.
The intimate networks on whom we depend,
of parents and partner and roommate and friend.**

**We learn through our families how closeness and trust,
increase when our actions are loving and just.
Yet, families have also distorted their roles,
mistreating their members and bruising their souls.**

**So, give, Lord, each family in conflict and storm,
a sense of Your wisdom and grace that transform.
Sharp anger to insight which strengthens the heart
and makes clear the place where rebuilding can start.**

**Then, widen that wisdom and grace to include,
the races and viewpoints our families exclude.
'Til peace in each home bears and nurtures the bud,
of peace shared by all you have made from one blood.**

BENEDICTION

Go forth...

...replenished by the grace and mercy of God,

...blessed by the healing love of Jesus,

...energized by the limitless power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.