

PrairieLand Parish

*As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present.
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

Today as we dive into the book of James, we will notice that he doesn't like all this hanging around waiting for stuff to happen. He wants to get to work. James is a doer, a worker. And he says if we are going to fill ourselves up with something, if we are going to occupy ourselves with something, it might as well be the right things. There are the heavy things, says James, the things that weigh you down, the things that are never satisfying, never enough, the things that always make you want more, that measure your worth not by what you have but by what you don't have, or by what someone else has.

Or, James says, praise be to God, we can make peace; we can sow peace. We can work peace, says James – the peace that says I am not the center of the universe, even the universe of my own understanding and experience; the peace that says while I am loved and valued, I understand that best when I love and value others; when I act out of respect and hospitality; when I cede center stage so that I might applaud another; when I give aid and comfort; when I bind up and heal; when I mentor and teach; when I pour myself out in the name of God into lives of those I love around me. A commitment to a partnership with the Spirit and with the community of faith that will see us through whatever might come.

A Call to Worship

Who among you is seeking the wisdom of God?

We long to hear God's Word spoken to our hearts.

Who among you is seeking God's bright and holy truth?

We long to learn the ways of wisdom and righteousness.

Who among you is seeking a Spirit-filled life?

We long to live lives of holiness and light.

God grants God's wisdom generously to all who ask.

Come near, people of God!

Let us worship in wisdom and truth.

Prayer

Lord, the storms of life are raging, and we need you to stand by us. The winds are trying to toss us to and fro, and we need you to stand by us. We want to be prosperous, like the tree planted by the streams of water the psalmist talked about.

We, too, want to yield fruit, but life is threatening our productivity. Some of us are so stressed that our leaves are starting to wither. God, we need you to order our steps and give us the strength to handle whatever is on the path that you have assigned. Show us your grace and your favor. In your Son Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Praise Hymn UMH #402. "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"

Adapter and Arranger: William Farley Smith (1986)

Copyright: Adapt. and arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

**1 Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.**

**2 Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.**

**3 Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.**

**4 Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.**

We Hear God's Word

New Testament Reading..... James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

(New Revised Standard Version)

Two Kinds of Wisdom

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. 15 Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. 16 For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. 18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for[a] those who make peace.

Friendship with the World

4 Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? 2 You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet[b] something and cannot obtain it; so you engage

in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

The word of God for the People of God, **Thanks Be to God**

Children's Message

Faith Hymn UMH #432. "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love".

Author: Tom Colvin (1969)

Publication Date: 1989

Copyright: © 1969, 1989 Hope Publishing Co.

Refrain:]

**Jesu, Jesu,
fill us with your love, show us how to serve
the neighbors we have from you.**

**1 Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them.
(Refrain)**

**2 Neighbors are rich and poor,
neighbors are black and white,
neighbors are near and far away.
(Refrain)**

**3 These are the ones we should serve,
these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbors to us and you.
(Refrain)**

**4 Loving puts us on our knees,
serving as though we are slaves,
this is the way we should live with you.
(Refrain)**

**5 Kneel at the feet of our friends,
silently washing their feet,
this is the way we should live with you.
(Refrain)**

Meditation

Joys/Concerns

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Father, we pray for your holy Church; That we all may be one. Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble; And those we name before you today...
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.
We come before you with our prayers as we unite in the prayer our loving Son taught us to pray...

Offertory/Doxology/Prayer

Gracious God, grant us the grace to be extravagant in the gifts we give to you. Help us be wise and just in how we live with the resources we keep. Guide us in the way to lives that bear the fruit that is pleasing to you: lives full of mercy and compassion. Free us from envy and selfish ambition that leads us away from you, that we might draw near to you. We pray in the love and hope that is Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

Departing Hymn FWS #2149. "Living for Jesus". (Verses 1 & 3)

Author: T. O. Chisolm

Publication Date: 2001

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**1 Living for Jesus a life that is true,
striving to please him in all that I do,
yielding allegiance glad-hearted and free,
this is the pathway of blessing for me.**

Refrain:

**O Jesus, Lord and Savior,
I give myself to thee;**

**for thou in thy atonement
didst give thyself for me.
I own no other master,
my heart shall be thy throne,
my life I give, henceforth to live,
O Christ, for thee alone.**

**3 Living for Jesus wherever I am,
doing each duty in his holy name,
willing to suffer affliction or loss,
deeming each trial a part of my cross. [Refrain]**

Benediction

As we leave this place of sanctuary, let us go out into the world with the understanding that we are not to judge those who are not like us. We will no longer make distinctions like saints and sinners, but we will consider everyone blessed because we all are children of the Almighty God.