

Welcome and Announcement

Opening Prayer

Join us in singing when instructed

Give thanks, with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because we're given, Jesus Christ, Your Son. (repeat)

And now, let the weak say, "I am strong!"

Let the poor say, "I am rich because of what our God has done for us."

And now, let the weak say, "I am strong!"

Let the poor say, "I am rich because of what our God has done for us." Give thanks.

Leader: We gather for worship this morning to celebrate our gifts

Congregation: We are celebrating the gifts we give to this church.

Leader: We give thanks for life and the purpose only we can serve in our families, in this congregation, and in the world

Congregation: Help us to reflect on the awesome wonder of how our individual gifts combine with others to fulfill the mission of our church

Leader: Let us seek new ways to use our body, mind, and spirit to serve this community and, by extension, countless other souls...

Congregation: ...thereby fulfilling God's call to Stewardship.

Leader: We gather this morning, open to hearing the voice of God. Open to feel the breath of God. Open to discern the will of God.

Congregation: We gather this morning to worship. Amen

Opening Song

"O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing"
See next page for lyrics

Out of the Box Moment

Scripture Reading

Acts 16:16-34

See next page for reading

Gathering Song

"In That Great Gittin' Up Mornin' "
See next page for lyrics

Sermon

"Thankful for Challenges and Opportunities"
Rev. Rick Rhen-Sosbe

Song of Reflection

Prayers of the People

(Join us in signing when instructed)

Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the sharing of a common life is like to that above. Before our God we come and pour our ardent prayers;

Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Lord's Prayer

(Join us in signing when instructed)

We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear,

And often for each other flows a sympathizing tear. When we are called to part it gives us inward pain, But we shall still be joined in heart, And hope to meet again.

Offering /Offertory

Doxology

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah! Halle, Halle, Hallelujah! Halle, Halle, Hallelujah! Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah! Halle, Halle, Hallelujah! Halle, Halle, Hallelujah! Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

The Holy One be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to our God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

May we never take this Holy Communion, or this community for granted, as we sing,

Join us in singing

One bread, one body, one Lord of all

One cup of blessing which we bless

And we, though many, throughout the Earth

We are one body in this one Lord.

Words of Institution

Celebrant: The time was early evening, the place a room upstairs; The guests were the disciples, few in number and few in prayers.

REFRAIN: Oh, the food comes from the baker, the drink comes from the vine, the words come from the Savior, "I will meet you in bread and wine."

Celebrant: The company of Jesus had met to share a meal. But he, who made them welcome, had much more to reveal.

(REFRAIN)

Celebrant: "The bread and body broken the wine and blood outpoured, the cross and kitchen table are one by my sign and word.

(REFRAIN)

Celebrant: On both sides of the table, on both sides of the grave, the Lord joins those who love him to serve them and to save.

(REFRAIN)

Celebrant: Oh, Jesus, now among us, confirm our faith's intent, as, with your words and actions, we unite in this sacrament.

(REFRAIN)

Celebrant: And so...

This morning, with faith and hope as your people, we proclaim together that,

All: Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again!

Taste and see, taste and see The goodness of our God

Taste and see, taste and see The goodness of our God!

Closing Song

"I'm Pressing on the Upward Way"

See next page for lyrics

Benediction

Lyrics

“Oh For A Thousand Tongues To Sing”

O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing My Great Redeemer's Praise,
The Glories Ever Echoing The Triumphs Of God's Grace!

My Gracious Savior and My God, Assist Me To Proclaim,
To Spread Through All The Earth Abroad The Honors Of Your Name.

Jesus! The Name That Calms Our Fears, That Bids Our Sorrows Cease
Is Music In The Sinner's Ears, Is Life, And Health, And Peace!

Glory To God, And Love And Praise Be Ever, Ever Given
By All The Saints In Every Age, The Church In Earth And Heaven.

“I will Bless You O God”

I Will Bless You, O God! I Will Bless You, O God!
With A Heart Of Thanksgiving, I Will Bless You, O God!

With My Hands Lifted Up, And My Mouth Filled With Praise,
With A Heart Of Thanksgiving, I Will Bless You, O God!

I Will Bless You, O God! I Will Bless You, O God!
With A Heart Of Thanksgiving, I Will Bless You, O God!

With My Hands Lifted Up, And My Mouth Filled With Praise,
With A Heart Of Thanksgiving, I Will Bless You, O God!

“I'm Pressing On The Upward Way”

Song Leader Sings (Cue: “O Plant Me, God, On Higher Ground.”)

Congregation Sings:

**O Lift Me Up, And I Shall Be By Faith In Heaven Eternally,
A Higher Plane Than I Have Found, O Plant Me, God, On Higher Ground.**

Song Leader Sings (Cue: “My Prayer, My Aim Is Higher Ground.”)

Congregation Sings:

**O Lift Me Up, And I Shall Be By Faith In Heaven Eternally,
A Higher Plane Than I Have Found, O Plant Me, God, On Higher Ground.**

Song Leader Sings (Cue: “God, Lead Me On To Higher Ground.”)

Congregation Sings:

**O Lift Me Up, And I Shall Be By Faith In Heaven Eternally,
A Higher Plane Than I Have Found, O Plant Me, God, On Higher Ground.**

Scripture Reading Acts 16:16-34

Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.” She kept this up for many days.

Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!” At that moment the spirit left her.

When her owners realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. They brought them before the magistrates and said, “These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice.”

The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, “Don't harm yourself! We are all here!”

The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

They replied, “Believe in Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.