This morning’s worship is offered by members of Grace Episcopal Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING HYMN 51  We the Lord’s People

1 We the Lord’s people, heart and voice uniting, praise him who called us out of sin and darkness into his own light, that he might appoint us a royal priesthood.

2 This is the Lord’s house, home of all his people, school for the faithful, refuge for the sinner, rest for the pilgrim, haven for the weary; all find a welcome.

3 This is the Lord’s day, day of God’s own making, day of creation, day of the Spirit, sign of heaven’s banquet, day for rejoicing.

4 In the Lord’s service bread and wine are offered, that Christ may take them, bless them, break, and give them to all his people, his own life imparting, food ever lasting.

Title: We the Lord’s people, heart and voice uniting Meter: 11.11.11.5 Words: John E. Bowers (b. 1923), alt. Music: Decatur Place, Richard Wayne Dirksen (b. 1921)

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OPENING SENTENCE

God is Spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and in truth. John 4:24

CONFESSION OF SIN

Officiant  Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept. Officiant and People together, all kneeling

God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
Through our Savior Jesus Christ,
That we may abide in your love
And serve only your will. Amen.

The Priest alone stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep you in eternal life. Amen.

All
Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Priest
The Holy One is in our midst: O come let us worship.

Venite  Psalm 95:1-7
Come, let us sing to the Lord;
    Let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before the God’s presence with a thanksgiving
    and raise to the Lord a shout with psalms.
For you are a great God;
    you are great above all gods.
In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
    and the heights of the hills are yours also.
The sea is yours, for you made it;
    and your hands have molded the dry land.
Come, let us bow down and bend the knee,
    and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For you are our God,
    and we are the people of your pasture and the sheep of your hand.
Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!

Psalm 67
1 May God be gracious to us and bless us
   and make his face to shine upon us,
    Selah
2 that your way may be known upon earth,
   your saving power among all nations.
3 Let the peoples praise you, O God;
   let all the peoples praise you.
4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
   for you judge the peoples with equity
   and guide the nations upon earth.
    Selah
5 Let the peoples praise you, O God;
   let all the peoples praise you.
6 The earth has yielded its increase;
   God, our God, has blessed us.
May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

All
Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

The Lessons

First Reading: Isaiah 56: 1,6-8

Thus says the Lord:
Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.
And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant—
these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt-offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.
Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

The Word of the Lord.

People    Thanks be to God.

Canticle G    A Song of Ezekiel   Ezekiel 36:24-28

I will take you from among all nations;
and gather you from all lands to bring you home.
I will sprinkle clean water upon you;
and purify you from false gods and uncleanness.
A new heart I will give you
and a new spirit put within you.
I will take the stone heart from your chest
and give you a heart of flesh.
I will help you walk in my laws
and cherish my commandments and do them.
You shall be my people,
and I will be your God.
Second Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel? for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Canticle R A Song of True Motherhood Julian of Norwich

God chose to be our mother in all things
  and so made the foundation of his work,
  most humbly and most pure, in the Virgin’s womb.

God, the perfect wisdom of all,
  arrayed himself in this humble place.

Christ came in our poor flesh
  To share a mother’s care.

Our mothers bear us for pain and for death;
  our true mother, Jesus, bears us for joy and endless life.

Christ carried us within him in love and travail,
  until the full time of his passion.

And when all was completed and he had carried us so for joy,
  still all this could not satisfy the power of his wonderful love.

All that we owe is redeemed in truly loving God,
  for the love of Christ works in us;
  Christ is the one whom we love.

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, ‘Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.’ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, ‘Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.’ He answered, ‘I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.’ But she came and knelt before him, saying, ‘Lord, help me.’ He answered, ‘It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.’ She said, ‘Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.’ Then Jesus answered her, ‘Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.’ And her daughter was healed instantly.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

The Rev. John Greve
The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People together, all standing

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 again 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.

The Prayers

The People stand or kneel
Priest    God be with you.
People    And also with you.
Priest    Let us pray.

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 your, now and for ever. Amen.

V.   Help us, O God our Savior;
R.   Deliver us and forgive us our sins.
V.   Look upon your congregation;
R.   Give to your people the blessing of peace.
V.   Declare your glory among the nations;
R.   And your wonders among all peoples.
V.   Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;
R.   Never forget the lives of your poor.
V.   Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;
R.   And your favor to those who are true of heart.
V.   Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
R.   So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

The Collect

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.
O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn 469  There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy

1 There’s a wideness in God’s mercy like the wideness of the sea; there’s a kindness in his justice, which is more than liberty.

2 There is no place where earth’s sorrows are more felt than up in heaven; there is no place where earth’s failings have such kindly judgment given.

3 For the love of God is broader than the measure of the mind; and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were for the sinner, and more graces for the good; there is mercy but more faithfulness, we should take him at his word; and our life would

with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.

all the members in the sorrows of the Head. be thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.
A Prayer for Social Justice

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer for the Sick

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that those (or N., or NN.) for whom our prayers are offered may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A Prayer of Self-Dedication

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to thee, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly thine, utterly dedicated unto thee; and then use us, we pray thee, as thou wilt, and always to thy glory and the welfare of thy people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord,

Thanks be to God.
Hymn 537  Christ for the World We Sing!

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.  Ephesians 3:20,21

Learn more about Grace Episcopal Church by visiting https://www.crgraceepiscopal.org

We invite you to join us online next week for worship offered by St. Mark’s in Fort Dodge, Iowa at 10:00am.

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