

January 23, 2022, 11:00 am
Third Sunday after Epiphany



Seeking God in Prayer

“Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.”

(Psalm 105:4)

One constant that rises from the pages of both Hebrew testament and Christian witness alike is God’s call to prayer. Individually and communally, in times of danger and despair, in times of joyful celebration, at the top of our lungs, and in the intimacy of silence, God invites and encourages us to pray. Paul understands this as a “constant” spiritual discipline:

“Pray without ceasing ... for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

(1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)

This gift of communion is there for all who will seek God in prayer.

Abiding Love Lutheran Church

(512) 892-4040

info@abidinglove.org

www.abidinglove.org



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PRELUDE

“All the People Said, Amen”

CALL TO WORSHIP

“Come as You Are”

Come out of sadness from wherever you've been
Come broken-hearted let rescue begin
Come find your mercy O sinner come kneel
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal

Chorus

So lay down your burdens lay down your shame
All who are broken lift up your face
O wanderer come home you're not too far
So lay down your hurt lay down your heart
Come as you are

There's hope for the hopeless and all those who've strayed
Come sit at the table come taste the grace
There's rest for the weary rest that endures
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't cure *Repeat Chorus*

Come as you are
Fall in his arms come as you are

There's joy for the morning O sinner be still
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal *Repeat Chorus*

Come as you are, Come as you are, Come as you are

WELCOME

LITANY OF THE LIGHT

At the dawning of the day, we lift our voices in praise to the Lord of Light.

Send out your light and your truth, O Lord; let them lead us; let them bring us to
your holy hill and to your dwelling place. (*Psalm 43:3*)

Your word is like the light of morning, like the sun rising on a cloudless day, gleaming from the rain on the grassy land.

Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. (*Psalm 119:105*)

Light dawns for the weary and wandering. Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart.

Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path. Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness; make your way straight before me. Amen. (*Psalm 27:11, 5:8*)

SONG OF CELEBRATION

“Lord I Need You”

Lord I come I confess
Bowing here I find my rest
without you I fall apart
You're the one that guides my heart

Chorus

Lord I need you, oh, I need you
Every hour I need you
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need you

So teach my song to rise to you
When temptation comes my way
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on you
Jesus, you're my hope and stay
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on you
Jesus, you're my hope and stay *Chorus*

My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need you

Where sin runs deep your grace is more
Where grace is found is where you are
And where you are, Lord, I am free
Holiness is Christ in me
Where you are, Lord, I am free
Holiness is Christ in me *Chorus*

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The love and affection of the angels, the love and affection of the saints, the love and affection of heaven, and the blessing of God Almighty be with you.
And also with you.

Gracious God, in this season of Epiphany call us into prayer. Give us the faith and the courage to open our hearts and minds to you in this communion of spirit. May we find you when we seek you with all our hearts in prayer. **Amen.**

1 KINGS 8:27-30

²⁷ "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! ²⁸ Regard your servant's prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; ²⁹ that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, 'My name shall be there,' that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. ³⁰ Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive.

And the Word was with God. **And the Word was God.**

A LITANY OF PSALM VERSES ON PRAYER

**ANTIPHON (Sung): Let my prayer rise up, like incense before you,
the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.**

I call upon you, O Lord, come quickly to me; O hear my voice when I call to you.

**Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth,
to the longings of my heart.**

By day the Lord rules in steadfast love; at night his song is with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

Be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you I lift up my soul.

**Hear my prayer, O Lord; hear my supplications in your faithfulness;
answer me in your righteousness.**

Truly God has listened and has given heed to the words of my prayer.

**Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer
or removed his steadfast love from me.**

**ANTIPHON (Sung): Let my prayer rise up, like incense before you,
the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.**

JAMES 5:13-18

¹³ Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. ¹⁷ Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

And the Word was with God. **And the Word was God.**

Please stand as you are able for the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Child of God"

**I know God's with me no matter where I am
I know God hears me and listens to my prayers
I know God loves me, I have a special name
A child of God, I'm a child of God Repeat**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

MATTHEW 6:1-6

¹ "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ² "So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵ "And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

TIME OF REFLECTION

SONG OF THE DAY

"Sweet Hour of Prayer"

- 1 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer
That calls me from a world of care
And bids me at my Father's throne
Make all my wants and wishes known
In seasons of distress and grief
My soul has often found relief
And oft escaped the tempter's snare
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer.**
- 2 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer
Thy wings shall my petition bear
To him whose truth and faithfulness
Engage the waiting soul to bless
And since he bids me seek his face
Believe his word and trust his grace
I'll cast on him my ev'ry care
And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer**
- 3 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer
The joys I feel the bliss I share
Of those whose anxious spirits burn
With strong desires for thy return
With such I hasten to the place
Where God my Savior shows his face
And gladly take my station there
And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer**

PROFESSION OF FAITH FOR THE MODERN WORLD

We believe in God,

**The Creator of all that is,
All that has been,
And all that will be;**

We believe in the Living Christ,

**The embodiment of God in our world
Come to create a world of Love and Compassion:
The Fellowship of God's New World residing within us all;
Who sacrificed his life for the sake of this world,
His body broken and risen again,
Who continues to live today through his teachings
And the works of all—the Body of Christ—
Who strive to live by those teachings
And who work to carry out that mission;**

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

**The breath of life and creation,
Carrying God's love throughout the world;**

We believe in the Grace of God,

**The blessing of love and peace,
Given freely with no qualifications, restrictions, or requirements
To all of God's creation and to all the Peoples of this world. Amen**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

"A Mother's and Father's Prayer"

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, in wisdom you provide every gift needed to build up your people and your church. By the power of your Spirit, you continually call us to ministry in your name. The light of your Christ shines like a star, guiding us in the way and truth that leads to life in you.

In gratitude, we offer our gifts to support the mission and ministry of this congregation, and of the church at large in the wider world. May they be signs of our whole lives committed to share your goodness and grace with a world in need. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

W.P.Sterneman III

The grace of God be with you. **And al - so with you.**____

Lift up your hearts. **We lift up our hearts to God.**____

Let us give thanks to God. **It is right to give thanks and praise**

The musical notation is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 3/8. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff ends with a fermata over the final note. The second staff begins with a whole rest for the first measure. The third staff ends with a double bar line.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

W.P. Sterneman III

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God of love and light,____

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry!____ Ho - san - na

in____ the high - est! Bless - ed is the one____ who comes to

share Your love!____ Ho - san - na in____ the high - est!

The musical notation is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 3/8. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff ends with a fermata over the final note. The second staff ends with a fermata over the final note. The third staff ends with a fermata over the final note. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION

All are welcome to celebrate communion at Abiding Love. Hold out your hands to receive the bread. Take a cup of wine (red) or grape juice (white) from the tray. Children and adults not communing are welcome to receive a blessing. Please follow the direction of the ushers.

COMMUNION SONG

"Holy Spirit"

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Holy Spirit living Breath of God
Breathe new life into my willing soul
Bring the presence of the risen Lord
To renew my heart and make me whole
Cause your word to come alive in me
Give me faith for what I cannot see
Give me passion for your purity
Holy Spirit breathe new life in me</p> | <p>3 Holy Spirit from creation's birth
Giving life to all that God has made
Show your power once again on earth
Cause your church to hunger
for your ways
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise
Lead us on the road of sacrifice
That in unity the face of Christ
Will be clear for all the world to see</p> |
| <p>2 Holy Spirit come abide within
May your joy be seen in all I do
Love enough to cover every sin
In each thought and deed and attitude
Kindness to the greatest and the least
Gentleness that sows the path of peace
Turn my strivings into works of grace
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do</p> | |

COMMUNION SONG

“The Heart of Worship”

When the music fades
All is stripped away
And I simply come
Longing just to bring
Something that's of worth
That will bless Your heart

I'll bring You more than a song
For a song in itself
Is not what You have required
You search much deeper within
Through the way things appear
You're looking into my heart *Chorus*

King of endless worth
No one could express
How much You deserve
Though I'm weak and poor
All I have is Yours
Ev'ry single breath

I'll bring You more than a song
For a song in itself
Is not what You have required
You search much deeper within
Through the way things appear
You're looking into my heart *Chorus*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of life and all creation, you prepare a table for us in the midst of the world and bid us come. In the gift of this Sacrament, you reveal your Christ present with us, nurturing us and strengthening us for the days ahead.

Help us to live in the light of Christ. Help us to walk in the way and the truth he reveals. Lead us forth into the world, blessed to share the gift of your love and grace and forgiveness. Amen.

Chorus
I'm coming back
To the heart of worship
And it's all about You
All about You Jesus
I'm sorry Lord
For the thing I've made it
When it's all about You

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

“Open the Eyes of my Heart”

Open the eyes of my heart Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see you
I want to see you

Open the eyes of my heart Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see you
I want to see you

Open the eyes of my heart Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see you
I want to see you

To see you high and lifted up,
Shining in the light of your glory
Pour out your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy

To see you high and lifted up,
Shining in the light of your glory
Pour out your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
I want to see you

Open the eyes of my heart Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see you
I want to see you

PROCLAIMING OUR MISSION AND SHARING GOD’S PEACE

We go forth together, **sharing God’s love!**

TRAVELING MERCIES *Sung together*

Go in peace, live in grace
Trust in the arms that will hold you
Go in peace, live in grace
Trust God's love

POSTLUDE

“A Heart Like Yours”

ABIDING LOVE CALENDAR

Visit abidinglove.org for a full calendar of events.

SERVING SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 2022

Preaching and Presiding Minister: Pastor Brad Highum

Altar Guild: (8:30) Di Brophy, Greta Rymal (11:00) Denise Alaimo

Assisting Minister: (8:30) Joyce Flachmeier (11:00) TBD

Communion Assistants: (8:30) Jan Haas (11:00) TBD

Lector: (8:30) TBD (11:00) Lacye Odam

Music Leaders: (8:30) Gus Sterneman, Stephanie Morrison (11:00) Mixed Blessings

Ushers: (8:30) Karin and Lloyd Matthys (11:00) Kurt Armstrong, Steve Essinger

Tech: Karl Sterneman

SETTING AND SAFETY MEASURES

Abiding Love will continue to hold on-site worship at 8:30 and 11:00 am every Sunday. To protect your fellow worshippers, **we strongly encourage masking, social distance, and frequent hand-washing and sanitizing, especially for those who are not vaccinated.** Those not worshipping in person may join us via livestream, available at abidinglove.org.

Godly Play classes will not meet onsite Sunday mornings through January. Links to a Godly Play story and song will be in the Saturday email and at abidinglove.org.

Submerge will not meet onsite Sunday mornings through January. They will meet via Zoom on 1/30.

Confirmation and High School students will not meet onsite Sunday mornings through January but will meet via Zoom.

Adult Forum and Bible Boosters will meet as scheduled. Other Abiding Love and community groups will meet as scheduled, observing these same health and safety protocols.

The Abiding Love staff and council will continue to monitor and adjust what we do and communicate updates as quickly as possible. We wish all the best for everyone this new year and encourage all to worship and gather in a way you feel comfortable and safe.