



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Winchester, Virginia

Welcome to Morning Prayer at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Winchester, VA, whether you are joining us from here locally or somewhere else.

During this time when we aren't singing together because of COVID-19, we are reminded how important singing together is to us, especially in worship. But there is one good thing during this time; we are singing more in our own homes as we worship virtually. Our voices are being raised in song together, filling our homes and our daily lives with music, even if we are physically separated.

In Morning Prayer this morning, we give thanks for God's gift of music, both sacred and secular.

We also give thanks for the gift of technology, which has brought so much music into our homes and hearts during this time, through YouTube and the like, including favorite songwriters recording from home, and virtual choirs from around the world singing blessings for all humanity.

This service also serves as the opening devotion for the women of our congregation gathering in retreat tomorrow by Zoom. The theme of the retreat is "A Song to Sing".

SONG *SING A NEW SONG*

Refrain: Sing a new song unto the Lord,
let your song be sung from mountain high.
Sing a new song unto the Lord, singing alleluia.

Yahweh's people dance for joy, O Come before the Lord.
And play for him on glad tambourines, and let your trumpet sound.

Rise, O children, from your sleep; your Savior now has come.
He has turned your sorrow to joy, and filled your soul with song.

Glad my soul for I have seen the glory of the Lord.
The trumpet sounds; the dead shall be raised. I know my Savior lives.

Text: Psalm 98; Dan Schutte. Music: Dan Schutte. 1972, Daniel I. Schutte, North American Liturgy Resources.

DIALOGUE AND DOXOLOGY

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, O God,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
Praise to the blest and holy Trinity, one God,
who gives us life, salvation, and resurrection. Alleluia.

PSALMODY *(Spoken)*

Come, let us sing to the Lord:

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

**Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.**

**For you, Lord, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.**

Come, let us sing to the Lord:

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

**In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
the heights of the hills are also yours.**

**The sea is yours, for you made it;
and your hands have molded the dry land.**

Come, let us sing to the Lord:

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

Come, let us worship and bow down;

let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

**For the Lord is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture
and the sheep of God's hand.**

Come, let us sing to the Lord:

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

READING

EPHESIANS 5:18B-20

...Be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

SONG

MY LIFE FLOWS ON IN ENDLESS SONG

ELW # 763



1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
 What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain

No storm can shake my in - most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

PRAYERS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Mighty God of mercy, we thank you for the resurrection dawn, bringing the glory of our risen Lord who makes every day new.

Especially we thank you—

for the sustaining goodness of your creation . . . for the beautiful fall foliage, for pumpkins and the harvest of farms and gardens,

for the gift of music in all its variety, musicians, and especially singing....

for the new creation in Christ and all gifts of healing and forgiveness . . .

for the gifts of relationship with others . . . for the women who will gather for the fall retreat tomorrow, and for those who will not be with us, but who are in our hearts...

for the communion of faith in your church . . .

and other things for which we are thankful.....

Merciful God of might, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord.

Especially we pray—

for those who govern nations of the world, our own country and community . . .
for the people in countries ravaged by strife or warfare . . .
for all who work for peace and international harmony . . .
for those who work for the healing, wholeness, and protection of others, especially during
this time of a pandemic, the unrest of racism, and the suffering of poverty and
homelessness....
for all who strive to save the earth from carelessness and destruction . . . for those who are
in the path of natural disasters, storms and wildfires....
for the church of Jesus Christ in every land . . .
and for our neighbors of other faith traditions...

Almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome in adversity. In all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us.

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 yours, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Almighty God, the Father, ⁺ the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
bless and preserve us.

Amen.



SONG

Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices

ELW # 833



1 Oh, that I had a thou - sand voic - es to praise my
 2 Let ev - 'ry pow'r in me im - plant - ed a - rise, keep
 3 You for - est leaves so green and ten - der that dance for
 4 All crea-tures that have breath and mo - tion, that throng the
 5 Cre - a - tor, hum - bly I im - plore you to lis - ten



God with thou - sand tongues! My heart, which in the Lord re -
 si - lence now no more; put forth the strength that God has
 joy in sum - mer air, you mead - ow grass - es, bright and
 earth, the sea, the sky, come, share with me my heart's de -
 to my earth - ly song un - til that day when I a -



joic - es, would then pro - claim in grate - ful songs to all, wher -
 grant - ed! Your no - blest work is to a - dore! O soul and
 slien - der, you flow'r's so fra - grant and so fair, you live to
 vo - tion, help me to sing God's prais - es high! My ut - most
 dore you, when I will join the an - gel throng and raise to



ev - er I might be, what great things God has done for me!
 bod - y, join to raise with heart - felt joy your mak - er's praise!
 show forth praise a - lone. Join me to make God's glo - ry known!
 pow'r's can nev - er quite de - clare the won - ders of God's might!
 you with joy - ful cry ten thou - sand hal - le - lu - jahs high!

Text: Johann Mentzer, 1658–1734; tr. composite

Music: O DASS ICH TAUSEND ZUNGEN HÄTTE, Johann B. König, 1691–1758

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Leader

Pastor Martha Miller Sims

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