

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

### WELCOME & OPENING SENTENCES

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

### PRELUDE

*Amazing Grace, J.M. Michel*<sup>1</sup>

### CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 103

Leader: People of God, bless the Lord,

**People: bless God's holy name.**

Leader: For as the heavens are high above the earth,

**People: so great is God's steadfast love for us.**

### PRAYER OF ADORATION

#### \*HYMN 435

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy, In Babilone*<sup>2</sup>

### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Loving God, we confess that we have failed to live in harmony  
with our sisters and brothers.

We have been self-righteous in our attitudes,  
closed-minded in our beliefs,  
and judgmental in our opinions.

We have shunned those whose ways we do not understand,  
and we have despised those who do not  
endorse our convictions.

Forgive our sins of discord and conceit,  
and heal our divisiveness and quarreling.

Help us to be charitable in our regard for others  
that we may dwell in peace with Christ, who is Lord of all (*continue with silent  
confession*). Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Friends, the Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**People: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

## \*ACCLAMATION HYMN 585

*Glory to God, Machu-Pichu<sup>3</sup>*

*When indicated, please echo each phrase the cantor sings.*

**Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory in the highest!**

**Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to Christ Jesus!**

**Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to the Spirit!**

**To God be glory forever!**

**Alleluia, Amen! Alleluia, Amen! Alleluia, Amen!**

## \*PASSING THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Please turn to the back wall and wave to our online worshippers, offering them the peace of Christ and then greet each other.

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 50:15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

### NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me,

how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

## SERMON

*Hold On and Letting Go*

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### \*HYMN 445

*God, How Can We Forgive, Leoni<sup>4</sup>*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

### PRAYER RESPONSE HYMN 71 (refrain)

*Surely, It Is God Who Saves Me, First Song<sup>5</sup>*

**Surely, it is God who saves me,**

**I will trust and not be afraid.**

**For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,  
and God will be my savior.**

## CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

## OFFERTORY SENTENCES

## OFFERTORY

*Like As a Father, A. Lovelace*<sup>6</sup>

**\*DEDICATION HYMN 694** (verse 1) *Great God of Every Blessing, Aurelia*<sup>7</sup>  
Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care, you are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share. How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start; sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

**Almighty God, receive these gifts that we offer with grateful hearts and use our lives for the ministry of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

## BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

**\*HYMN 316** *Where Charity and Love Prevail, Twenty-Fourth*<sup>8</sup>

## \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

*Fugue in C Minor, J.S. Bach*<sup>9</sup>

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### Leaders Today:

Pastor: Rev. Scott Anderson

Liturgist: Linda Moss

Minister of Music: Joe Chrisman

AV/Tech: John Tarr

The Chancel Choir

Ushers/Greeters: Abe & Carrie Aberle, Dorothy Hujik, Karen Stephens (Deacon)

