Call to Worship

L: We have chosen to be here, where God remembers us.

P: God comes to us, the One who was and is and is to come.

L:  Like leaves skipping over the carpet of grass:

P:  God comes to us, the One who was and is and is to come.

L:  Like the first glimpses of the sun peeking over the horizon:

P:  God comes to us, the One who was and is and is to come.

L:  Like the moon lighting our way on a cloudless, autumn night:

P:  God comes to us, the One who was and is and is to come.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God:

from the beginning of time

to the end of eternity,

you have chosen

to use your power and majesty

to love us,

to redeem us,

to shape us as your people.

King of Kings

and Lord of Lords:

you became weak

so you could confront

the strength of sin and death,

confounding their ridicule

with your resurrection.

Spirit of God,

resting upon us:

may your power enflame us

with your peace;

may your peace touch us

with your grace;

may your grace fill us

with your hope;

may your hope lead us

into your Kingdom.

God in Community, Holy in One,

may your word be on our lips,

as we pray together as Jesus

has taught us, saying,

Our Father . . .

Call to Reconciliation

While there are many with power in our world - power to hurt us, power to hire or fire us, power to control us - only God has the power to forgive us and make us new people. Let us confess how we fear the power of the world, and welcome the power of God's grace.

Unison Prayer of Confession

  The choices we make, Mighty God, reveal who we are. Choosing the lies of the world, your Word has not been on our lips. Choosing independent and isolated lives, we do not reflect your Spirit in our actions towards others. Choosing to exalt the powerful of our day, we are unable to follow the One whose weakness gives us life.

  Forgive us, God who became weak for our sake. Do not turn your face from us, but help us to face ourselves honestly. Free us from our captivity, so we may faithfully follow Jesus Christ, our King, our Lord, our Savior.

Silence is kept.

Assurance of Pardon

L:  Shout for joy, children of God! The God who was and is and is to come loves you, forgives you, and renews you.

P:  God's Spirit rests upon us, grace and peace are the gifts of our loving God. Amen.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

L:  May the Rock of our lives be with you!

P:  And also with you!

L:  People of God, open your hearts to the One who loves us.

P:  We will not turn away from the God of grace.

L:  Children of God, lift your voices in thanksgiving to the One who has freed us from sin.

P:  Our souls rejoice in the One who is, who was, who is to come.

You entered the headquarters

of chaos, Mighty One,

casting aside the shadows

so that the sun might shine

on that cloudless first day,

the morning rain glistening

off the verdant grass.

Humanity was clothed in righteousness,

to listen to your voice, to be your people.

Yet, we moved into death's dwelling place,

resting our feet on sin's comforting stool.

Having made an everlasting covenant with us,

you sent the prophets, your words

springing from their lips,

but we would not listen to their voices.

Then you sent Jesus to us,

the One who loves us

and frees us from our bondage.

We lift our voices in glad song to you,

joining our voices with those around us,

and all your servants in heaven:

P:  Holy, holy, holy, God of amazing imagination.

All creation echoes with cries of wonder.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who is, who was, who is to come.

Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you, God of every age,

and blessed is the favorite of your heart, Jesus Christ.

For this, he was born,

that we might be swaddled in mercy;

for this, he came to us,

that we might follow him

into that kingdom which is forever;

for this, he went to the cross

testifying to the truth

that sin has no power over us,

that death cannot defeat your love.

Remembering all the hardships he endured,

praising you for the gift of new life in the resurrection,

we tell of that mystery we call faith:

P:  Dying, Christ was our salvation;

rising, Christ is our new life;

returning, Christ is to come to bring us home.

Turn your face towards us,

and pour out your Spirit

upon this Table of grace,

and your children gathered around it.

As we eat of the bread,

we will open our souls

to listen to your voice,

which sends us to speak out

for the misused and oppressed of our time.

As we drink from the cup,

we will open our hearts,

so we might go into the world,

to speak truth to those

who have only known lies,

to serve all whom the world has forgotten.

And when the time comes and Christ reigns forever,

over sin, over death, over all creation,

we will gather at the feast you have prepared for us,

our hearts overflowing with joy

as we sing your praises forever and ever,

God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

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