

## Order of Worship for 2024 Synod Assembly

### Welcome

*Co-chaplains Jesse Canniff-Kuhn and Josh Kestner invite us into worship.*

### Preparation for Worship

*We center ourselves for worship with a few deep breaths.*

### Opening Litany

Leader (L): Gathered together in this community,  
we bring our life.

**All (A): We bring our life.**

L: In this community where we find belonging,  
we bring our love.

**A: We bring our love.**

L: In this community where we are  
surrounded by reasons to be thankful,  
we bring our joy.

**A: We bring our joy.**

L: In this community where we have  
the strength to be vulnerable,  
we bring our pain.

**A: We bring our pain.**

L: In this community where we  
experience the inexplicable,  
We bring our wonder.

**A: We bring our wonder.**

L: In this community where we meet Christ  
in every person and thing around us,  
we bring ourselves.

**A: We bring ourselves. Amen.**

## **Confession & Forgiveness**

**All: O God, you are rich in mercy and full of kindness. Every day you raise us up from sin and death and make us alive together with Christ.**

**When we are afraid, fill us with courage and empower us to move. When we are complacent, energize us with your justice and grace. When we divide and push each other away, pull us together in humility and empathy. When we lose hope, inspire us with faith and trust in you.**

**Write your word upon our hearts and restore in us the image of your love that, by your Spirit, our way of life may become the way of Christ, through whom we pray. Amen.**

## **Song - Set a Fire / Rest on Us**

There's no place I'd rather be (x3)  
Than here in your love, here in your love.

There's no place I'd rather be (x3)  
Than here in your love, here in your love.

So set a fire down in my soul, that I can't contain and I can't control.  
I want more of you, God; I want more of you, God.

So set a fire down in my soul, that I can't contain and I can't control.  
I want more of you, God; I want more of you, God.

Fire and wind, would you do it again? Open up the gates, let heaven on in.  
Come rest on us, come rest on us.

Fire and wind, would you do it again? Open up the gates, let heaven on in.  
Come rest on us, come rest on us.

There's no place I'd rather be (x3)  
Than here in your love, here in your love.

There's no place I'd rather be (x3)  
Than here in your love, here in your love.

## **Prayer of the Day**

Leader: Almighty God, your Holy Spirit equips the church with a rich variety of gifts. Grant that we may use them to bear witness to Christ in lives that are built on faith and love. Make us ready to live the gospel and eager to do your will, so that we may share with all your church in the joys of eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## **First Reading - 1 Peter 4:7-11**

The end of all things is near; therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

## **A Sung Blessing for the Assembly**

*Musical blessing sung by Aidan and Bennett Donovan*

## **Worship Break**

*At this point, worship will break and other programming will continue.*

*We'll return to worship later in the day.*

## Worship Continues

*We regather for worship, now. We'll hear the words of the psalm that affirms the beauty of God's creation to re-center ourselves.*

### Psalm 104

Bless the LORD, O my soul.

O LORD my God, you are very great.  
You are clothed with honor and majesty,  
wrapped in light as with a garment.  
You stretch out the heavens like a tent,  
you set the beams of your chambers on the waters,  
you make the clouds your chariot,  
you ride on the wings of the wind,  
you make the winds your messengers,  
fire and flame your ministers.

You set the earth on its foundations,  
so that it shall never be shaken.  
You cover it with the deep as with a garment;  
the waters stood above the mountains.  
At your rebuke they flee;  
at the sound of your thunder they take to flight.  
They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys  
to the place that you appointed for them.  
You set a boundary that they may not pass,  
so that they might not again cover the earth.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys;  
they flow between the hills,  
giving drink to every wild animal;  
the wild asses quench their thirst.  
By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation;  
they sing among the branches.  
From your lofty abode you water the mountains;  
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.

You cause the grass to grow for the cattle,  
and plants for people to use,  
to bring forth food from the earth,  
and wine to gladden the human heart,  
oil to make the face shine,  
and bread to strengthen the human heart.  
The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly,  
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.  
In them the birds build their nests;  
the stork has its home in the fir trees.  
The high mountains are for the wild goats;  
the rocks are a refuge for the conies.

You have made the moon to mark the seasons;  
the sun knows its time for setting.  
You make darkness, and it is night,  
when all the animals of the forest come creeping out.  
The young lions roar for their prey,  
seeking their food from God.  
When the sun rises, they withdraw  
and lie down in their dens.  
People go out to their work  
and to their labor until the evening.

O LORD, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.  
Yonder is the sea, great and wide,  
creeping things innumerable are there,  
living things both small and great.  
There go the ships,  
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

These all look to you  
to give them their food in due season;  
when you give to them, they gather it up;  
when you open your hand, they are filled with good  
things.  
When you hide your face, they are dismayed;  
when you take away their breath, they die  
and return to their dust.  
When you send forth your spirit, they are created;  
and you renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the LORD endure forever;  
may the LORD rejoice in his works—  
who looks on the earth and it trembles,  
who touches the mountains and they smoke.  
I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;  
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.  
May my meditation be pleasing to him,  
for I rejoice in the LORD.  
Let sinners be consumed from the earth,  
and let the wicked be no more.  
Bless the LORD, O my soul.  
Praise the LORD!

## Reading - 1 Peter 4:7-11

The end of all things is near; therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

## Sermon

### Song - This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm gonna let it shine.  
Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm gonna let it shine.  
Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

## **The Apostle's Creed**

**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 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.**

## **Milestone Prayers**

*We'll begin our time of communal prayers by offering up a sharing of milestones. You're invited to share milestones from your own life in person or virtually.*

## **Necrology**

*Necrologist, Rev. Rebecca Wicker, leads us in prayers of remembrance for some of our beloved who have died in the past year. This time of reflection and prayer is concluded with the reciting of the following words:*

Leader: Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*We'll finish our time of prayer together with a "popcorn style" prayer. You're invited to participate and make these prayers your own by responding to each prompt (e.g. "We give you thanks for...").*

## **Sharing of Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

*You're invited to share a sign of peace with those around you either in person or virtually.*

## **Offering - Storytelling & Gratitude**

*The offering collected during this synod assembly will be distributed amongst the campus ministries throughout the synod. The gifts shared will be used to help feed students all over the state. Food is one of the most important things that brings these communities of faith together, and it is one of the best ways that we as a synod can show our support for young adults at such a crucial time in their lives.*

*Thank you for your generosity! Take some time now to hear from students how much campus ministry means to them.*

## **Offertory Prayer**

Leader: Gracious God, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ, our friend, our shepherd, and our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## **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.**

## **Benediction**

Leader: God, you have given us everything: our lives, our faith, our world. You created us to be your presence in this world. Empower us to lead with love. Teach us to be curious and kind. Humble us and encourage us to share what we have with those who don't. And heal us with the power of your hope.

Abide with us. Bless us. And fill us with your Spirit today and every day.

**All: Amen.**

## **Sending**

Go in peace, serve the Lord! Thanks be to God!