

October 18, 2009, 9:15 am - Fresh Spirit Worship - 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

As we gather for worship,  
please introduce yourself to those around you.  
There are no strangers in God's house.

CALL TO WORSHIP *Come, Thou Fount* Arr. Ruth Elaine Schram  
Covenant Choir; Katherine Campe, director

Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace.  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed up on it, mount of thy redeeming love.  
Come, thou Fount, Come, the Fount, tune my heart to sing thy grace.

O to grace, how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be.  
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love,  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.  
Come, thou Fount, Come, the Fount, tune my heart to sing thy grace.

WELCOME

REFLECTION FOR PEACE

GATHERING THE PEOPLE

One: Like the sun that is far away and yet close at hand to warm us,  
so God's Spirit is ever present around us.

**All:** *Come Creator into our lives.  
We live and move and have our very being in you.  
Open now the windows of our souls.*

One: Let us worship God!

OPENING SONG (see insert) *Come, Now is the Time to Worship* B. Doerksen

RENEWING THE COVENANT

One: When we fail to live as God's people, we naturally look for places to  
hide. But God seeks us out, not to condemn or punish, but to comfort,  
to forgive, and to bring us home. Let us stop playing hide-and-seek,  
with God, as we confess our sins together:

**All:** *I've tried to hide from your searching gaze,  
I've climbed mountains, I've gone deep within caverns,  
I've flown to the farthest edges of my soul.  
And wherever I go—you are waiting for me.  
Even in the dark recesses of my heart, your light shines on me.  
Lost—I am found;  
Afraid to speak of my sinfulness—  
you hear my stumbling words before I shape them;  
unable to help myself—  
you redeem me through the love and grace  
of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior.*

----time for silent reflection----

One: In our deepest sorrow, God comforts us;  
in our darkest moments, God forgives us;  
in our greatest joy, God is with us.

**All:** *The One who knows us at our worst, loves us best. We trust that  
God will hold us close, this day and forever.  
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.*

PASSING THE PEACE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE READING Hebrews 5:1-9 CEV

Every high priest is appointed to help others by offering gifts and sacrifices to God because of their sins. A high priest has weaknesses of his own, and he feels sorry for foolish and sinful people. That is why he must offer sacrifices for his own sins and for the sins of others. But no one can have the honor of being a high priest simply by wanting to be one. Only God can choose a priest, and God is the one who chose Aaron.

That is how it was with Christ. He became a high priest, but not just because he wanted the honor of being one. It was God who told him, "You are my Son, because today, I have become your Father!"

In another place, God says, "You are a priest forever just like Melchizedek." God had the power to save Jesus from death. And while Jesus was on earth, he begged God with loud crying and tears to save him. He truly worshiped God, and God listened to his prayers. Jesus is God's own Son, but still he had to suffer before he could learn what it really means to obey God. Suffering made Jesus perfect, and now he can save forever all who obey him.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS BACK TO GOD

OFFERING SONG *Praise His Holy Name* Keith Hampton (b.1957)  
Youth Choir; Brian Potts, director

**Refrain**  
Sing till the power of the Lord come down.  
Shout Hallelujah! Praise His Holy name!

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me;  
I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind, but now I see.  
Jesus, Jesus, how I love Thee! Shout Hallelujah!  
Praise his Holy name!

**Refrain**  
Must Jesus bear the cross alone and all the world go free?  
No, there's a cross for ev'ryone and there's a cross for me.  
Jesus, Jesus, how I love Thee! Shout Hallelujah!  
Praise His Holy Name!

**Refrain**  
Hallelujah! Praise His Name! Let us Praise His Name, Hallelujah, Lord!  
Praise His Holy Name! Hallelujah Oh, oh-  
Praise High Holy Name!  
Praise Him!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 10:35-45 The Living Bible

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came over and spoke to him in a low voice. "Master," they said, "we want you to do us a favor."

"What is it?" he asked.

"We want to sit on the thrones next to yours in your kingdom," they said, "one at your right and the other at your left!"

But Jesus answered, "You don't know what you are asking! Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of sorrow I must drink from? Or to be baptized with the baptism of suffering I must be baptized with?"

"Oh yes," they said, "we are!"

And Jesus said, "You shall indeed drink from my cup and be baptized with my baptism, but I do not have the right to place you on thrones next to mine. Those appointments have already been made."

When the other disciples discovered what James and John had asked, they were very indignant. So Jesus called them to him and said, "As you know, the kings and great men of the earth lord it over the people; but among you it is different. Whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant. And whoever wants to be greatest of all must be the slave of all. For even I, the Messiah, am not here to be served, but to help others, and to give my life as a ransom for many."

SERMON Rev. Jana Reister

FOCUS SONG (see insert) *Who Am I* Mark Hall

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING SONG (see insert) *Go Make A Difference* *Angrisano/Tomaszek*

BLESSING THE PEOPLE

**Sources for today's liturgy:** Gathering - Adapted from *Gifts of Many Cultures, Gathering Words and Invocations*; Renewing the Covenant - Thom Shuman, *Lectionary Worship Aids*, Series VIII, Cycle A.

**Thanks to** Elise Hinger, Anne Knellinger and Mitch Deck for serving as liturgists this morning.

**If you feel called** to serve God by researching, writing or speaking liturgy in future services, please feel free to talk with any of the worship leaders or drop a note in the offering plate.

**Fresh Spirit Prayer Request** cards and offering envelopes are available in the black fellowship pad folders. If you have a prayer request, concern or joy you wish to share, please fill out a card and place it in the offering bags. All concerns and joys are welcome!

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