



REDEEMER

WINTER HAVEN

To all who are weary and desire rest, to all who mourn and long for comfort, to all who sin and need a Savior, Redeemer opens wide her doors with a welcome from King Jesus the mighty Friend of sinners, the Ally of his enemies, the Defender of the indefensible.



November 23, 2022 – Thanksgiving Service

Season of the Cross: Green for Ordinary Time

Ordinary Time is the long season that takes up three quarters of the church year. This portion of Ordinary Time runs between Pentecost and Advent. Ordinary Time has traditionally been devoted to seeking our Lord in the simple, ordinary day-in and day-out rhythms of life. It is a time in which we are all invited to order our lives around Christ's life and teaching.

Song of Gathering

The people of God always sang as they ascended the hill in Jerusalem up to the temple to worship (Psalm 120-134). We, as well, prepare our hearts, minds, bodies, for worship by singing about the God we serve.

Thank You Jesus

Call to Worship: Psalm 100

We read God's Word, the Bible, together. It reminds us of who God is and what He expects from us.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Confession of Faith:

As an expression of our faith in Jesus Christ in solidarity with his people, we declare the substance of what we believe.

Leader: Good and gracious God, though you have planted us in fruitful ground, we have failed to produce the fruits of your Spirit. Though you care for us as a loving gardener, and tend us with a loving mother's touch, we stand barren in fruitful ground.

People: Forgive us for the things we have done and the things we have left undone that have caused us to wither and wane:

Leader: for the sin of stubbornness and short-sightedness,

People: forgive us, Lord.

Leader: for the sin of selfishness and pride,

People: forgive us, Lord.

Leader: for the sin of ingratitude and entitlement,

People: forgive us, Lord.

Leader: for the other sins we lift up to you in silence,

People: forgive us, Lord...

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: Psalm 103:10-22

We read God's Word together and are reminded that grace and mercy are freely given to all who have faith in Jesus Christ.

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us...

...As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust. As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments. The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all. Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word! Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will! Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!

Greeting

In Jesus, we have not only been reconciled to God, we have also been reconciled to one another. Therefore, we greet one another as brothers and sisters.

Scripture Meditation: Psalm 145:1-6

A small portion of God's Word is explained to us and applied to our lives.

I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.

Song of Thanksgiving

Great Are You Lord

Scripture Meditation: Psalm 145:7-9

A small portion of God's Word is explained to us and applied to our lives.

They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness. The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

Song of Thanksgiving

Goodness of God

Practicing Thanksgiving

Liturgy for Feasting with Friends: Every Moment Holy

Leader: To gather joyfully is indeed a serious affair, for feasting and all enjoyments gratefully taken are, at their heart, acts of war.

People: In celebrating this (Thanksgiving) feast we declare that evil and death, suffering and loss, sorrow and tears, will not have the final word.

Leader: But the joy of fellowship, and the welcome and comfort of family and friends, and the celebration of these blessings of food and drink and conversation and laughter are the true evidences of things eternal, and are the first fruits of that great glad joy that is to come and that will be unending.

People: So let our feasting be joined to those sure victories secured by Christ.

Leader: Let it be to us a delight, and a glad foretaste of his eternal kingdom.

People: Bless us, O Lord, in our feasting.

Leader: Bless us, O Lord, as we linger over our cups, and over our tables laden with good things, as we relish the delights of varied texture and flavor, of aromas and savory spices, of dishes prepared as acts of love and blessing, of sweet delights made sweeter by the communion of those we love... May our shared meals, and our pleasure in them, bear witness against the artifice and deceptions of the prince of darkness that would blind this world to hope.

People: May it strike at the root of the lie that would drain life of meaning, and the world of joy, and suffering of redemption.

Leader: May our feasting fall like a great hammer blow against that brittle night, shattering the gloom, reawakening our hearts, stirring our imaginations, focusing our vision

People: on the kingdom of heaven that is to come

Leader: on the kingdom that is promised

People: on the kingdom that is already, indeed, among us.

Leader: For the resurrection of all good things has already joyfully begun.

People: May this feast be an echo of that great Supper of the Lamb, a foreshadowing of the great celebration that awaits the children of God.

Leader: Now you who are loved by the Father, prepare your hearts and give yourselves wholly to this celebration of joy, to the glad company of saints, to the comforting fellowship of the Spirit, and to the abiding presence of Christ who is seated among us both as our host and as our honored guest, and still yet as our conquering king.

ALL: Amen.

Song of Sending

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Benediction

Because the hand of God's wrath was raised against Jesus, we now receive the hand of God's blessing as we are sent out to live our lives to the glory of God.