

## Gathering for God's Word

### Choral Introit

#2015, "Bless His Holy Name"

Bless the Lord, O my soul  
And all that is within me  
Bless His holy name

For He has done great things,  
He has done great things  
He has done Great things  
*Bless His holy name*

### Welcome & Announcements

### Call to Worship

[based on Psalm 98:1-6]

Leader: Sing a new song to the Lord, who has worked wonders, whose right hand and holy arm have brought salvation.

**People: The Lord has made known salvation, has shown justice to the nations, and has remembered truth and love for the house of Israel.**

Leader: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**People: Shout to the Lord, all the earth, sing out your joy.**

Leader: Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the sound of music.

**People: With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord.**

## Preparing for God's Word

### Hymn of Adoration

#12, "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above  
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;  
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
And wither and perish - but naught changeth Thee.

Thou reignest in glory, Thou dwellest in light,  
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;  
All praise we would render; O help us to see  
Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!

Prayer of Confession

**All: Wondrous God, who sets suns and moons above us, mountains and valleys beneath us, and friends and strangers among us: how often have we tried to hide from your presence, how seldom have we looked for your creating face and your fashioning hand! Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Wondrous God, who took upon yourself flesh of our flesh in Jesus our brother, and being found in human form made the ultimate disclosure of yourself in the face of Jesus Christ: how often we have forgotten you, how seldom have we really loved and followed you! Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**Wondrous God, who pours out freely the Holy Spirit: how often have we ignored your promptings, how seldom have we asked for your help or accepted your gifts! Lord, have mercy upon us.**

*[silent personal prayers of confession]*

Leader: And all God's people said,

**People: Amen**

Assurance of Pardon

[based on Colossians 2:13-14]

Leader: Hear the Good News. When you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with Christ.

**People: The Lord forgives us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. Praise God.**

## Hearing God's Word

Children's Message

Hymn of Preparation

#649, "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we first begun.

#### Prayer of Illumination

#### New Testament Reading: Luke 9: 10-17

10 When the apostles returned, they reported to Jesus what they had done. Then he took them with him and they withdrew by themselves to a town called Bethsaida, 11 but the crowds learned about it and followed him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing.

12 Late in the afternoon the Twelve came to him and said, "Send the crowd away so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside and find food and lodging, because we are in a remote place here."

13 He replied, "You give them something to eat."

They answered, "We have only five loaves of bread and two fish — unless we go and buy food for all this crowd." 14 (About five thousand men were there.)

But he said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each." 15 The disciples did so, and everybody sat down. 16 Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to set before the people. 17 They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

#### Sermon

"The Invitation is in the Mail... A Miraculous Party"

## Responding to God's Word

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Commissioning for the Men of Union Church

*[various prayers]*

Leader: Heavenly Father, lift them up,

**People: And may your Spirit act through them, we pray.**

Hymn of Response

#268, "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Crown Him with many crowns,  
The Lamb upon His throne.  
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns  
All music but its own.  
Awake, my soul and sing Of Him  
Who died for thee,  
And hail Him as thy matchless King  
Through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of love,  
Behold His hands and side,  
Rich wounds, yet visible above,  
In beauty glorified.  
No angel in the sky  
Can fully bear that sight,  
But downward bends His burning eye  
At mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of peace  
Whose power a scepter sways  
From pole to pole That wars may cease.  
Absorbed in prayer and praise  
His reign shall know no end  
And round His pierced feet  
Fair flowers of paradise extend  
Their fragrance ever sweet

Crown Him the Lord of years,  
The Potentate of time,  
Creator of the rolling spheres,  
Ineffably sublime.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail!  
For Thou has died for me;  
Thy praise shall never never fail  
Throughout eternity.

Prayers of the People

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

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

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

*[particular prayers]*

Leader: Lord in your mercy

**People: Hear our prayers.**

The Lord's Prayer

**All: 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 today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Anthem

"Hold Me Fast"

Benediction

Benediction Response

#543, "O Christ, Surround Me" vs. 1,4

God be the love to search and keep me  
God be the prayer to move my voice  
God be the strength to now uphold me  
O Christ, surround me, O Christ, surround me

Walking behind to hem my journey  
Going ahead to light my way  
And from beneath, above, and all ways  
O Christ, surround me, O Christ, surround me