

AS WE GATHER: Cantate Sunday or “Singing Sunday” is a day on which we remind ourselves of the Lord’s will that we be a “singing people”, who use our rich heritage of Christian music to praise our God in a Service of Song. May we find joy in the gift of music through which God’s Word comes to us and in which we raise our praises to the Lord of Life and Salvation



OUR WORSHIP TODAY

OPENING HYMN: *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* (LSB 469)

“Christ the Lord is ris’n today!” Saints on earth and angels say;
Raise your joys and triumphs high; Sing, ye heav’ns, and earth, reply.

Love’s redeeming work is done, Fought the fight, the battle won;
Lo! Our Sun’s eclipse is o’er; Lo! He sets in blood no more.

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ hath burst the gates of hell.
Death in vain forbids His rise; Christ has opened paradise.

Lives again our glorious King! Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Once He died our souls to save; Where thy victory, O grave?

Soar we now where Christ has led; Foll’wing our exalted Head.
Made like Him, like Him we rise; Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Hail the Lord of earth and heav’n! Praise to Thee by both be giv’n!
Thee we greet triumphant now: Hail, the resurrection, Thou!

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INVOCATION:

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION:

P As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy.

HYMN: *Lord Jesus, Think on Me* (LSB 610, st. 1, 4-5)

Lord Jesus, think on me And purge away my sin;
From worldly passions set me free And make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me Nor let me go astray;
Through darkness and perplexity Point out Your chosen way.

Lord Jesus, think on me That, when this life is past,
I may the eternal brightness see And share Your joy at last.

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DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS:

P: We know the good news: our God has expressed His love for us through a cross and an empty tomb. For the sake of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, that precious Lamb of God, He has forgiven us, and has given us new life. That is the good news I declare to you in His name, and at His command. Your sins are forgiven. Celebrate His love. Christ is risen!

C: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

PSALMODY: Psalm 150

P: Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens!

C: Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness!

P: Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!

C: Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!

P: Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

C: Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

HYMN OF PRAISE: *Joy to the World (LSB 387)*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Acts 8:26-40

P: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

EPISTLE: 1 John 4:1-11

P: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

CHILDREN'S SERMON:**GOSPEL:** John 15:1-8

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 15th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ!**

CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed

C: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SERMON HYMN: *God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It (LSB 594)*

God's own child, I gladly say it: I am baptized into Christ!
He, because I could not pay it, Gave my full redemption price.
Do I need earth's treasures many? I have one worth more than any
That brought me salvation free Lasting to eternity!

Sin, disturb my soul no longer: I am baptized into Christ!
I have comfort even stronger: Jesus' cleansing sacrifice.
Should a guilty conscience seize me Since my Baptism did release me
In a dear forgiving flood, Sprinkling me with Jesus' blood?

Satan, hear this proclamation: I am baptized into Christ!
Drop your ugly accusation, I am not so soon enticed.
Now that to the font I've traveled, All your might has come unraveled,
And, against your tyranny, God, my Lord, unites with me!

Death, you cannot end my gladness: I am baptized into Christ!
When I die, I leave all sadness To inherit paradise!
Though I lie in dust and ashes Faith's assurance brightly flashes:
Baptism has the strength divine To make life immortal mine.

There is nothing worth comparing To this lifelong comfort sure!
Open-eyed my grave is staring: Even there I'll sleep secure.
Though my flesh awaits its raising, Still my soul continues praising:
I am baptized into Christ; I'm a child of paradise!

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SERMON: How Can I Keep From Singing? - Psalm 66:1-4

OFFERING:

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. For this congregation, that each member would abide in Christ's Word and become spiritually strengthened by God's grace, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For our efforts at telling the good news about Jesus, that our Christian witness may clearly confess God's mighty deeds and that the Holy Spirit would use our Gospel efforts to bring those outside the church into His marvellous kingdom, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this assembly of believers, that Christ's love, manifested through Word and Sacrament, would motivate our members to love one another in thought, word, and deed, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For all parents, that God will give them patience and strengthen them in their Christian vocation as they demonstrate Christ's love to their children, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For church musicians and artists, that the Lord will abide with them and give them joy in their tasks as they lead God's people in experiencing a foretaste of the Lord's beauty which will be fully unveiled in eternal glory, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those celebrating: whether birthdays, wedding anniversaries, graduations, new additions to families or any joyous event, that they would rejoice in the gifts of life and love from God, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those who pray for healing and patience in dealing with afflictions (especially ___), that the Lord would answer their prayers according to His will and grant them faith to accept their present sufferings in full assurance of the glory that will be revealed to them on the Last Day, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those who mourn (especially _), that Jesus' resurrection would comfort them with the assurance that death is no longer the enemy, for Jesus has opened to us the way of everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those who receive Christ's body and blood today, that they would believe that in, with, and under the bread and wine Jesus abides in them and they abide in Jesus, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

Other petitions are offered here

P: Confident that You hear our prayers because they are clothed with Christ's righteousness, we commend all for whom we pray, merciful Father, trusting that You will accomplish Your will in our lives for the sake of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

COLLECT FOR PEACE

P Let us pray. O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: Christ Is Our Cornerstone (LSB 912)

Christ is our cornerstone, On Him alone we build;
With His true saints alone The courts of heav'n are filled.
On His great love Our hopes we place
Of present grace And joys above.

Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we implore,
And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us evermore
Until that day When all the blest
To endless rest Are called away.

△ Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hallowed courts shall ring;
Our voices we will raise The Three in One to sing
And thus proclaim In joyful song,
Both loud and long, That glorious name.

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