

Closing Worship  
The Assembly Hall – Mountain Holly/Pinyon Pine  
Saturday, April 27 at 11 a.m.



Closing Worship -- **SLIDES**

Jim, presider

Diana, Worship Assistant

Clair, preacher

Steve & Peter, choir & musicians

We'll have 9 intinction sets for communion (1 for leaders and 8 stations)

No offering per se (QR code throughout Assembly)

**Prelude**

### **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### **ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (JIM)**

*An order for confession and forgiveness may be used before this service.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,

who looks upon us in compassion,

forgives our sin,

and heals our lives.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.*

Have mercy, O God,

**against you, you alone,  
we have sinned.**

**In your compassion,  
cleanse us from our sin  
and take away our guilt.**

**Create in us a new heart  
and give us a steadfast spirit.**

**Do not cast us away,  
but fill us with your Holy Spirit  
and restore your joy within us.**

**Amen.**

As tender as parent to child,  
so deep is God's compassion for you.

As high as heaven is above earth,

so vast is God's love for you.

As far as east is from west,

so far God removes your sin from you,  
renewing your life through Jesus Christ.

Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.

**Blessed be God forever.**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP (DIANA)**

This is the day that the Lord has made;

**we will rejoice and be glad in it!**

The Lord is my strength and my song.

**The Lord has become my salvation.**

Open to me the gates of righteousness;

**I will go through them and praise the Lord.**

I shall not die, but live,

**and declare the works of the Lord.**

This is the day that the Lord has made;

**we will rejoice and be glad in it!** (*Psalm 118:14, 17, 19, 24*)

**Opening Hymn – The Feast is Ready – ELW 531**

**GREETING (JIM)**

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

**And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (JIM)**

Let us pray ...

Gracious and glorious God, with joy we celebrate this day that you have made. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our way together through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**FIRST READING (DIANA) -- Ecclesiastes 4:9-12.**

A reading from Ecclesiastes

<sup>9</sup>Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their toil. <sup>10</sup>For if they fall, one will lift up the other, but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. <sup>11</sup>Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? <sup>12</sup>And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL (CLAIR) – Matthew 18:15-20**

The holy gospel according to Matthew

**Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>15</sup> "If your brother or sister sins against you,<sup>[h]</sup> go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup> But if you are not listened to, take one

or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup> If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup> Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup> Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup> For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ**

**Sermon** – Vicar Clair Minson

**Hymn of the Day – Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us, ELW 789**

**Installation of need-to-be-installed deans and newly elected officers (JIM)**

*Those to be installed are invited forward.*

*The leader addresses the assembly:*

*A reading from Romans: As in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. (Romans 12:4-8)*

*The leader addresses those being installed.*

Will you assume the office to which you have been *elected/appointed/selected*, and will you endeavor to carry out its duties faithfully, to the glory of Christ our Lord and in service to the one holy church?

*Response:* I will, and I ask God to help me.

*The leader addresses the assembly.*

People of God, will you support and pray for these leaders in this work?

**We will, and we ask God to help us.**

*The leader addresses those being installed.*

This ministry is committed to you

in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### **Prayer and Blessing**

*The leader continues with prayer.*

Let us pray.

Gracious God, you call your people to service  
and give them varied tasks in the world and in your church.

Grant these leaders grace and strength,  
that *they* may serve you faithfully to the glory of your name;  
through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The leader addresses the newly installed.*

The God of peace,  
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
the great shepherd of the sheep,  
by the blood of the eternal covenant,  
make you complete in everything good  
so that you may do God's will,  
working in you that which is well-pleasing in God's sight;  
through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

**Amen.**

### **Prayers of the People (DIANA & JIM ALTERNATING)**

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

### **Peace (JIM)**

The peace of Christ be with you always

**And also with you**

I invited you to share God's peace with one another.

**MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**Offering (JIM)**

Our offerings this morning will again go to the Rocky Mountain Synod "Seeds of Hope" fund that will allow four presidents from the Malagasy synods to visit the Rocky Mountain Synod this fall. The RMS "Seeds of Hope" fund also provides support for Batela Regional Seminary, for its mission of training leaders theologically for work in the Malagasy Lutheran Church. [Video from Batela Seminary](#)

**Offertory Prayer (DIANA)**

God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

**Amen**

**Great Thanksgiving (JIM)**

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**It is right to give our thanks and praise**

**Preface**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### Holy, Holy, Holy – ACS Setting 12



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and  
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.  
Your mercy is everlasting  
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

All creation sings your praise.  
Sun, moon, and stars reflect your glory.  
Mountains, lakes, and forests declare your wonders.

With Sarah and Abraham we go out in faith, trusting your promise.  
With Miriam and Moses we celebrate our deliverance from bondage.  
With Naomi and Ruth we bind ourselves together in covenant love.

With Jonathan and David we delight in the gift of deep and abiding friendship.  
With Mary and Elizabeth we welcome your presence in the birth of Jesus,  
the Holy One.  
With Lazarus, Martha, and Mary we give thanks for the blessings of family.  
With disciples and followers we marvel at the reign of God come near.  
With saints through the ages we ponder the mystery of Christ's dying and rising.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With hearts full of memories and hopes,  
we break this bread and share this cup,  
remembering the death and resurrection of Christ,  
and his promise to be with us always  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

O Divine Lover, you are the breath within us.  
You are our heart's desire.  
You are our priceless treasure.  
You are the garden of paradise.

Come down, O Love divine.  
Come among us, O passionate Fire.  
Come within us, O Spirit of unity.  
Come, Holy Spirit.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Bless us, O Lord, and these your gifts,



which we are about to receive from your bounty.

Bless our table and the feast we share.

Bless us with gladness of heart.

Come, Holy Spirit.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

At this table make us your body.

Form us to be people of justice and peace.

Fill us with gratitude and generosity

that we may bear the fruit of love in word and deed.

Come, Holy Spirit.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Praise to you, Author of creation.

Praise to you, O Beloved One.

Praise to you, O Giver of all good things.

Praise to you, blessed and holy Trinity,

one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The Assembly is invited to speak the Lord's Prayer in any language or version*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from a time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever -- Amen**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

## LAMB OF GOD – ACC Setting 12



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Servers – 6 stations/12 servers/2 sacristans

Communion Hymns (please order as you wish with some extra congregational hymns)  
470 participants to commune

### Choral Anthem –

Hymn ideas:

**One Bread, One Body - ELW 496**

**You Are Holy – ELW 525**

**Eat this Bread, Drink this Cup – ELW 492**

**In the Singing – ELW 466**

**United at the Table – ELW467**

**As we Gather at Your Table – ELW 522**

**Blessing after communion (JIM)**

**Prayer after communion (DIANA)**

We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation. Shine the light of Christ on our path, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Blessing of Ending for Bishop Gonia – (Ruth Hoffman & Susan Starkey)**

Leader: A Church Becoming embraces constant change. Community loved ones come to the end of their lives. Individuals and families come and go in our life together. Roles within the community change. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today, as the Rocky Mountain Synod, we acknowledge your twelve years of faithful service as our bishop.

During your time of call, you have provided pastoral care and leadership for Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Ministers of Word and Service, and the congregations and specialized ministries of this synod.

You have exercised the church's power to ordain and have provided for the installation of rostered ministers.

You have fostered support and commitment to the mission of the church, better together.

You have served as the chief ecumenical officer of this synod.

We are grateful for the gospel you have preached for us, in word, in deed, and through your beautiful gift of photography that celebrates God's divine presence in creation.

*Bishop Jim: I thank you, the people of the Rocky Mountain Synod, for the love, kindness and support shown to me these last twelve years. I thank you for accepting my leadership. I recall with joy the many things we have been able to accomplish together, and with sadness the things we were not able to do. I ask your understanding and forgiveness for the mistakes I've made and the times I've let you down.*

**Assembly: We receive your thankfulness, and we offer our forgiveness for any failures. We accept that you will end your service with us as bishop on July 31, 2024. Your influence on us will not leave us, even though you depart from this role. We express gratitude for your time among us and ask your forgiveness for our shortcomings and sometimes flagging faith.**

*Bishop Jim: I forgive you your failures and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to the Christ we are all called to serve.*

Leader: Let us pray

**Assembly: God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future, which rests in your care. During our time together, we have experienced laughter and tears, hopes and disappointments. Guide us as we carry these cherished memories with us in new directions until the time when we are completely one with you and one another. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen**

Leader: I invite you all to raise a hand in blessing as we send Bishop Jim forth with these words by Jan Richardson.

It is a strange thing to be so bound and so released all in the same moment,  
to feel the heart open wide and wider still even as it turns to take its leave.  
On this day, let us say this is simply the way love moves in its ceaseless spiraling,  
turning us toward one another, then sending us into what waits for us  
with arms open wide to us in welcome and in hope.

On this day, in this place where you have poured yourself out,  
where you have been emptied and filled and emptied again,  
may you be aware more than ever of what your heart has opened to here,  
what it has tended and welcomed here,  
where it has broken in love and in grief,  
where it has given and received blessing in the unfathomable mystery  
that moves us, undoes us, and remakes us finally for joy.

This day may you know this joy in full measure.

This day may you know this blessing that gathers you in and sends you forth  
but will not forget you.

O hear us as this day we say grace;  
this day we say grateful;  
this day we say blessing;  
this day we release you in God's keeping  
and hold you in gladness and love.

Leader: Go now, Bishop Jim, surrounded by our love, with the promises of God, the presence of Jesus Christ, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Litany of Farewell is adapted from and used by permission of the Interim Ministry Network,  
Baltimore, Maryland

This Day We Say Grateful © Jan Richardson. janrichardson.com.

## **Blessing for Transition Team, Staff, and both Bishops (?)**

*Those to be blessed are invited forward*

As spring unfolds the dream of the earth,  
We are reminded that to live is to change and to be change,  
That we, as the earth itself, are ever in a rhythm of endings and new beginnings.

As we enter this time of transition, may we recognize and honor that which has ended this day,  
in confidence that from this ending, we start anew.

May we trust in the abiding presence of the Spirit

- as we leave familiar places and people and patterns;  
**Come Holy Spirit**
- as the world we know is dismantled and reassembled for new purpose;  
**Come Holy Spirit**
- as we lose the old ways of defining ourselves and the confidence we have in what we offer the world;  
**Come Holy Spirit**
- as we discover the world as we knew it is no longer real and our future is unclear.  
**Come Holy Spirit**

May we settle in the silent emptiness of the time between dreams, ready for the transformation of your purpose, **Oh God. Help us surrender to your will within us.**

Help us honor the in-between time as sanctuary, taking the opportunity to discover Your will O Living One, and to be open to a new integrity of your making. Be with us as we struggle with what needs to die and release in us the freedom to be bearers of your new birth.

May we be given the patience and the trust to let chaos come and trust the gifts of discernment to see what true beginnings are emerging;

Keep us dreaming and paying attention to vision, guided by our deep longings, that You may walk with us on the way to what we can do with resolve and empower us to share the treasure of gifts of your grace for the sake of this world

May our going out and our coming in be embraced by Your love that holds all endings and beginnings in steadfast mercy.

**In your holy name, Amen**

**Blessing for all (JIM)**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**Amen**

**Closing Hymn – Sent Forth by God's Blessing, ELW 547****Sending (DIANA)**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

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