

Opening Worship
Monday 2:00 p.m.
"The Rhythm of the Saints"
2022 RMS—Synod Assembly

The Rhythm of the Saints—finding the beat for ministry and service
in post-covidian times

**“Oh, I love to hear the song of creation,
The wind and the rhythm of the rain,
Oh, the thunder it speaks of your power,
But there’s something in the sound of the saints!”**

PRELUDE

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT —*please stand as you are able*

Leader: The Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly wishes to acknowledge and honor the Očhéthi Šakówiŋ (Sioux), Núu-agma-tuvu-pu (Ute) , Tsésthó’e (Cheyenne) , and hinono’eino’ biito’owu’ (Arapaho) peoples on whose ancestral homelands we gather for this Assembly. We acknowledge and honor all our Indigenous siblings who honor and care for the land, and who continue to care for this place—this land—and call it their home.

**Assembly: We honor the legacy of these mighty and diverse people.
We acknowledge the legacy of violence, displacement, and racism which were forced on the tribes.
We pray for all who died by “civilization.”
We acknowledge the bloody battles that raged—here—on this ground in order to subdue the nations and crush their spirits.**

Leader: Lord, have mercy

Assembly: Christ, have mercy

Leader: Lord, have mercy

We remember the children stolen from their families and forced into boarding schools.

We acknowledge the violence of these institutions and the church’s role in fostering them.

We pray for the pain of these lost generations.

Leader: Lord, have mercy

Assembly: Christ, have mercy

Leader: Lord, have mercy

Leader: As we honor the land and the many people who were here before us,
we pray that our commitment will move beyond words to actions and
relationships.

Come, Gracious God+
Come, Great Healer,
Come, Holy Spirit

Assembly: Amen

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

Assembly: And also with you

—please be seated

WELCOME

INTRODUCTIONS

GREETINGS— Bishop Karen Oliveto and Bishop Kym Lucas

READING: Ephesians 4:11-16

*The author pivots from describing all that God has done for the cosmos and the world, to consider the
call of the community.*

¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists,
some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up
the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge
of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

¹⁴We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of
doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵But speaking
the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,
¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it
is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building
itself up in love.

Lector: Word of God, Word of Life

Assembly: Thanks be to God

PSALM 30:2-12—*please stand as you are able to pray and read the psalm responsively*

²O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,

and you have healed me.

³O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol,

restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

⁴Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones,

and give thanks to his holy name.

⁵For his anger is but for a moment;

his favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may linger for the night,

but joy comes with the morning.

⁶As for me, I said in my prosperity,

"I shall never be moved."

⁷By your favor, O LORD,

you had established me as a strong mountain;

you hid your face;

I was dismayed.

⁸To you, O LORD, I cried,

and to the LORD I made supplication:

⁹"What profit is there in my death,

if I go down to the Pit?

Will the dust praise you?

Will it tell of your faithfulness?

¹⁰Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me!

O LORD, be my helper!"

¹¹You have turned my mourning into dancing;

you have taken off my sackcloth

and clothed me with joy,

¹²**so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.**

O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

READING: Isaiah 43:1-7

The prophetic writings of Isaiah 40-55 - the "Second Isaiah" - are written in an effort to convince the reader not with threats, but with encouragement and hope.

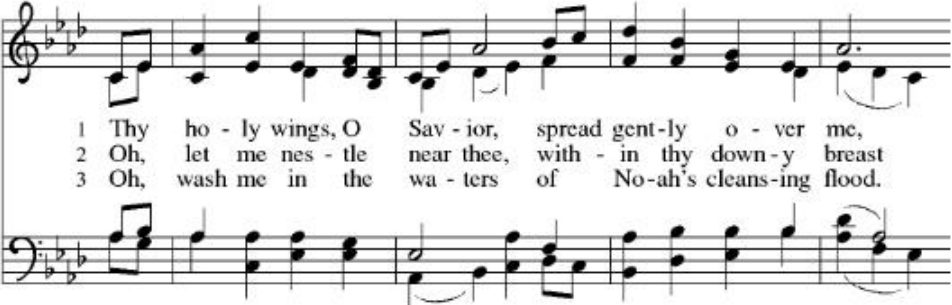
¹But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
³For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
⁴Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
⁵Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
⁶I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth —
⁷everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

Lector: Word of God, Word of Life

Assembly: **Thanks be to God**

SERMON—Pastor Stephanie Lord, Christ the Servant, Louisville, CO

Thy Holy Wings



1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gen - tly o - ver me,
2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down - y breast
3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No - ah's cleans - ing flood.



and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.
where I will find sweet com - fort and peace with - in thy nest.
Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.



Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,
Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,
Oh, take in - to thy keep - ing thy chil - dren great and small,



and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with - in thy grace.
for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.
and while we sweet - ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

READING: John 9:1-12

Jesus' ministry was a ministry of healing.

Lector: The holy gospel according to John.

Assembly: **Glory to you, O Lord**

¹As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

Lector: The gospel of our Lord

Assembly: **Praise to you, O Christ**

HEALING PRAYER —*please be seated*

Leader: "Could you plant
healing words
in my wounds?"

words, safe-touch, water, anointing oil,
incense, prayer,
and the power of community

We all are in need of healing.
As individuals, families, communities,
congregations—
nations and neighborhoods—
the Earth —
All are in need of healing



Leader: We gather in your presence, O God, in our need
Assembly: and bring with us the needs of the world

Leader: We come to you, as we are
Assembly: You know us, O God, you understand

Leader: You know our troubles and our fears
Assembly: You know our loves and our struggles

Leader: We boldly ask for your healing
Assembly: and we believe that all things are possible

Leader: All who thirst, come to the water.
Come, all who are weary;
Come, all who yearn for forgiveness.
Come, all who . . .
May the power of the Holy Spirit infuse this space and this gathering.
Assembly: Come, Holy One, heal us, heal our church, heal the world— Amen

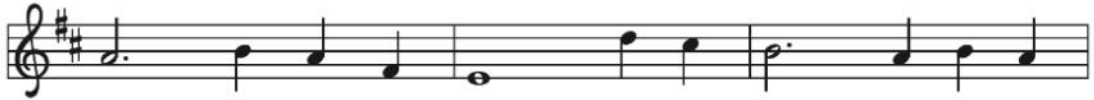
Leader: As we sing and pray, you are invited to come forward to receive a blessing and the laying-on of hands.
You may share a specific concern or kneel in silence.

We pray for all the losses of these last two years.
For all who died from COVID-19.
For our colleagues in ministry who died this year: Timothy Gamelin,
Robert Lorenz, George Lund, Marvin Huth, Lew Meissner,
Edward Strebe, Donald Groskreutz, Richard Froehlig
For ministries that are struggling.
For families separated by governments.
For refugees.
For victims of earthquakes, fires, mudslides, and tsunamis.
For war zones.
For victims of violence, hatred, and racism.
For pain and sickness.
For all who are contemplating suicide.
For all who suffer from addiction.
For . . .
Let us pray . . .

Come to Me, O Weary Traveler



1 "Come to me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler; come to
2 "Do not fear, my yoke is eas - y; do not
3 "Take my yoke and leave your trou - bles; take my
4 "Rest in me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler; rest in



me with your dis - tress; come to me, you heav - y -
fear, my bur - den's light; do not fear the path be -
yoke and come with me. Take my yoke, I am be -
me and do not fear. Rest in me, my heart is



bur - dened; come to me and find your rest."
fore you; do not run from me in fright."
side you; take and learn hu - mil - i - ty."
gen - tle; rest and cast a - way your care."

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

Music: AUSTIN, William P. Rowan, b. 1951

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Music © 1993 Selah Publishing Co., Inc., selahpub.com. All rights reserved.

Before the Waters Nourished Earth

1 Be - fore the wa - ters nour - ished earth or night im -
2 This Love re - mained as time re - vealed the loss of
3 De - spair, so deep it bears no name, or sor - rows
4 The Love that called cre - a - tion good all good - ness

ag - ined morn - ing, a Love con - ceived the
E - den's glo - ry and, griev - ing, holds in
par - a - lyz - ing can - not re - voke Love's
still is bring - ing. This Love turns death a -

u - ni - verse and rev - eled in its form - ing.
mem - o - ry each trag - ic hu - man sto - ry.
faith - ful claim to dwell with - in our dy - ing.
gain to life and si - lence in - to sing - ing.

There Is a Balm in Gilead

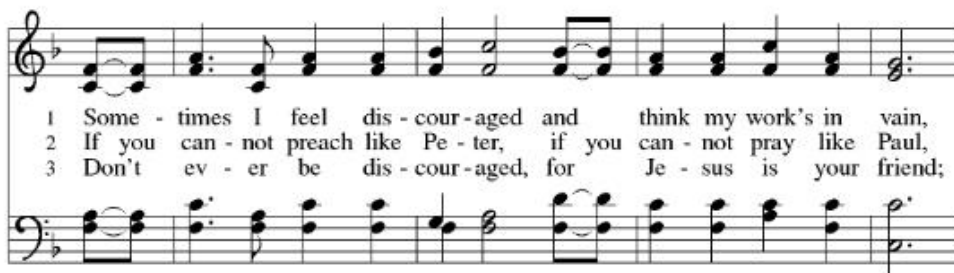
Refrain



There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;



there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.



1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged and think my work's in vain,
2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,
3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

Refrain



but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."
and if you lack for knowl-edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

Dona nobis pacem

1 *Canon*



Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

2



Do - na no - bis pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

3



Do - na no - bis pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

Text: Traditional
Music: DONA NOBIS PACEM, traditional

OFFERING

We will not “pass” the offering plate today. Offering baskets are scattered throughout the room and online giving is available — Scan the QR code and give from you seat!

The offerings for this Assembly will benefit Betela Seminary in Madagascar and the RMS Disaster Response Fund

For many years, the Rocky Mountain Synod and the Lutheran synods in northern Madagascar have accompanied one another in deepening relationships, prayer, and ministry together as Companion Synods. The funds sent to Madagascar will be designated for Betela Regional Seminary for the training of Lutheran leaders. The RMS Disaster Response Fund provides immediate funding for disasters that occur in the region. Currently these funds are being used for the individuals and congregations affected by the Marshall Fire.

Offerings may be designated specifically for each ministry. Undesignated offerings will be divided equally between the two ministries.

Cash, check, and online donations are all welcome

Thank you for your generosity!



PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: And also with you.

The assembly is invited to greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

GREAT THANKSGIVING—*please stand as you are able*

Presider: The Lord be with you

Assembly: and also with you

Presider: Lift up your hearts

Assembly: We lift them to the Lord

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

Assembly: It is right to give our thanks and praise

Presider: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
you have brought us this far along the way.
In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,
but guided us into the path of love and light.
In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will
for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry;
our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.
In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good
news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised,
and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin

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.

Presider: For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes

**Assembly: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Presider: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus!
And let the church say, Amen

Assembly: Amen

Presider: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of Freedom!
And let the church say, Amen.

Assembly: Amen.

Presider: We pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us:

**Assembly: 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 this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever - Amen.**

Presider: Come to the banquet—all is ready

DISTRIBUTION—please be seated

Welcome to Christ's table. Whatever happens, you can't do it incorrectly.

Gluten-free, corn-free, and non-alcoholic options are available.



God of Promise, Let These Signs of Grace

Refrain

God of prom - ise, let these signs of grace

kin - dle in our hearts a song of praise.

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | Life - giv - ing wa - ter | soak - ing our dry - ness, |
| 2 | Word of pro - claim - ing, | breath on the wa - ter, |
| 3 | Oil of a - noint - ing, | fra - grant with pow - er, |
| 4 | Bright light of Eas - ter | cleav - ing the dark - ness, |
| 5 | Robe of a - dop - tion | grow - ing God's fam - 'ly, |

drown - ing our sin each day, mak - ing us new—
 plant - ing your prom - ise— the voice from a - bove:
 nam - ing us ho - ly while hold - ing our pain—
 shin - ing up - on and with - in us to - day—
 wrap - ping our bro - ken - ness in the di - vine—

mer - cy come stream - ing from you.
 "This is my child, my be - loved."
 mark of the life that we gain.
 bea - con of hope on the way.
 love be - come sym - bol and sign.

Refrain

Text: Paul Damico-Carper, b. 1981
 Music: STELLAN, Paul Damico-Carper
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Let Us Break Bread Together

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in B-flat major. The treble staff contains the vocal melody with lyrics. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are: 1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees; 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees; 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees. let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees. let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain

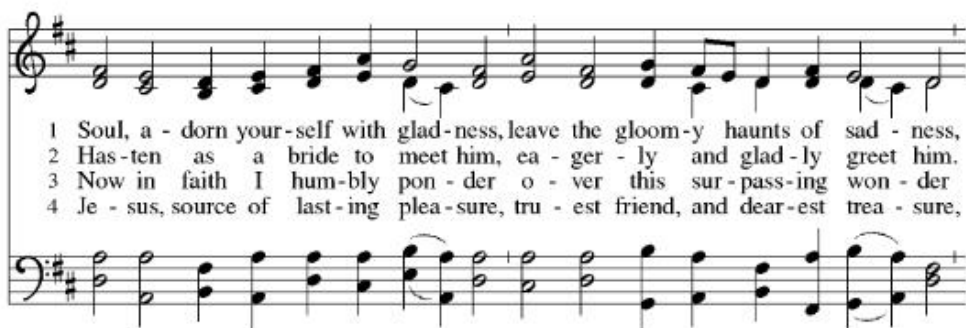
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

The Refrain section begins with the word 'Refrain' in italics. The music consists of a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are: When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

The final system of music concludes the piece. The lyrics are: sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

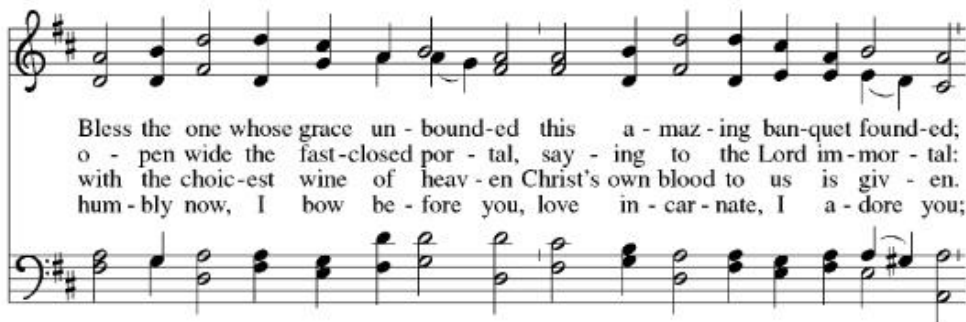
Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness



1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, leave the gloom - y haunts of sad - ness,
2 Has - ten as a bride to meet him, ea - ger - ly and glad - ly greet him.
3 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der o - ver this sur - pass - ing won - der
4 Je - sus, source of last - ing plea - sure, tru - est friend, and dear - est trea - sure,



come in - to the day - light's splen - dor, there with joy your prais - es ren - der.
There he stands al - read - y knock - ing; quick - ly, now, your gate un - lock - ing,
that the bread of life is bound - less though the souls it feeds are count - less;
peace be - yond all un - der - stand - ing, joy in - to all life ex - pand - ing:



Bless the one whose grace un - bound - ed this a - maz - ing ban - quet found - ed;
o - pen wide the fast - closed por - tal, say - ing to the Lord im - mor - tal:
with the choic - est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to us is giv - en.
hum - bly now, I bow be - fore you, love in - car - nate, I a - dore you;



Christ, though heav' - n - ly, high, and ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
"Come, and leave your loved one nev - er; dwell with - in my heart for - ev - er."
Oh, most glo - rious con - so - la - tion, pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion.
wor - thi - ly let me re - ceive you, and, so fa - vored, nev - er leave you.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER —*please stand as you are able*

Presider: Compassionate God,
 you have fed us with the bread of life.
 Be with us as we meet and work together as your church.
 May this time move us forward in your mission and ministry.

Assembly: Amen

BLESSING

Leader: You are children of God,
 Anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey.
 May God—motherly, majestic, and mighty + bless you
 today and always

Assembly: Amen

POSTLUDE

CREDITS

Cover Art—*The Dancing Saints* icon written by Deacon Mark Dukes with the people of St. Gregory's of Nyssa Episcopal Church, San Francisco, CA. The saints, ranging from traditional figures like King David, Teresa of Avila, and Frances of Assisi to unorthodox and non-Christian people like Malcolm X and Anne Frank, represent musicians, artists, mathematicians, martyrs, scholars, mystics, lovers, prophets, and sinners from all times - from many faiths and backgrounds. As the congregation dances around the altar, the saints dance above, proclaiming a sweeping universal vision of God shining through human life - used with permission from Deacon Mark Dukes and St. Gregory's of Nyssa E.C.

Poem at the beginning of the Healing Prayer Liturgy by Alexandra Visiliu

Text Introductions, Land Acknowledgment, and Healing Prayer Liturgy by Deacon Sarah Bjernebo

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