

## Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva

*English Speaking Congregation*

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Ministers of Music: Terry MacArthur, Koko Taylor, Andrew Donaldson

Palm/Passion Sunday + 24 March 2013

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: *China, Hong Kong, Macao*

*We need 2 stools from the sacristy in place in front the altar to hold the box. Palm leaves on the small communion tables for the kids. The box is in the back.*

Welcome

Prelude

Regine Kummer

Greeting

Pastor: *Hereafter designated by P:*

*The people stand*

Innocent,

***blessed,***

Certainly this man was innocent.

***Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.***

The stone, which the builder rejected, has become the chief cornerstone.

***Save us.***

Flute plays a phrase

Every stone shall cry.

***Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven.***

Flute plays a phrase

*Gong*

Jesus:

*from the balcony, just clear enough to be heard Hereafter designated by J:*

Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

Flute plays a phrase

Innocent

***and every stone shall cry***

*(but said softly.) Hosanna.*

Hymn

*Children get in place the last verse of the hymn*

*The people sit*

J: *(from balcony)*

‘Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. 31 If anyone asks you, “Why are you untying it?” just say this, “The Lord needs it.”’

P: The Lord needs it.  
***The Lord needs it.***

Blessing the Palms

The Lord be with you.

***And also with you.***

Let us pray:

Lord, you have need of us,  
not just our coats or colts,  
but our voices, our hearts, our wills.

***Save us from the time of trial.***

Bless these palms

so when we cease our praise, they remind us of your love.

When we lose our way, they call us to worship you,

Jesus Christ, who with the Father and the Spirit is worshiped and glorified, now and forever. Amen.

1: Then they brought [the colt] to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on [it], they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road.

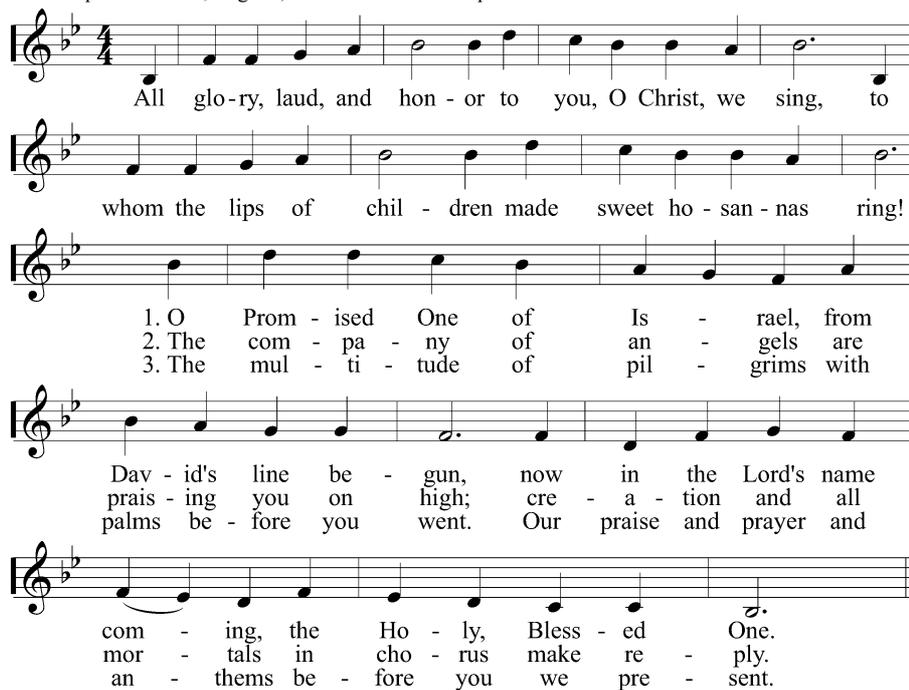
*I'm no more than a colt (The donkey's song)*                      Children's choir  
*Words by Richard Leach, Music by Andrew Donaldson*

P: You are invited to rise and wave the Palm crosses.

1: As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

***‘Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!’***

Hymn **All glory laud and honor**



All glo-ry, laud, and hon - or to you, O Christ, we sing, to  
whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!

1. O Prom - ised One of Is - rael, from  
2. The com - pa - ny of an - gels are  
3. The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with

Dav - id's line be - gun, now in the Lord's name  
prais - ing you on high; cre - a - tion and all  
palms be - fore you went. Our praise and prayer and  
com - ing, the Ho - ly, Bless - ed One.  
mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.  
an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.

*We sing the refrain and verse 1 and then Regine does something, which keeps the music going, but does not allow the people to continue singing. (So they look up and see)*

*During the singing the kids get into two lines with palms to make an arch for Jesus*

*Jesus walks carrying the big box. He has the red cloth wrapped around him. He puts the box on the stools.*

*When the box is in place we do the refrain, verse 2, refrain, verse 3 but this gets stops just before we sing the refrain*

2: 'Teacher,

*(This must be loud enough to stop the music.)*

Teacher, order your disciples to stop.

*A pause*

J: I tell you,

Flute plays a phrase

J: If these were silent

Flute plays a phrase

J: I tell you, if these were silent,

*The organ comes loud and dissonant and then comes calms down to lead into verse 3, which is maybe also slower than verses 1 and 2.*

Hymn

*J: (Jesus takes off the ribbons off the box. While this is happening a child comes and kneels at the altar and prays. This is to model what we will ask the people to do later.)*

J: 'I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.'

*The child lifts up the palm branch and then puts it gently on the box.*

Child: (*loudly*)

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

Prayer of the day

P: The Lord be with you.

***And also with you.***

Let us pray:

Servant God,

humbling yourself,

taking the form of a slave,

empty of all but love,

draw us into that mystery

in which giving becomes receiving,

treasuring others leads to knowing that we are treasured,

dying becomes life, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn of Praise **My song is love unknown**

*Children may go to Church School and Sunday Play*

P: You may be seated.

Epistle Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

2: Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

P: Praise: the name that is above every name,

self-denial: he emptied himself,

the call to serve: he took the form of a slave,

death: he became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Important themes of Holy Week are wrapped up in a few verses.

St. Paul asks us to have the same mind in us that was in Christ Jesus and Holy Week directs us to the mind of Christ.

Many of us have been practicing the Lenten disciplines of fasting, prayer and almsgiving with the help of a little box made of three strips of paper.

*During the next bit a little box is made from the three strips.*

One strip, our treasures,

one strip, words which are near to us,

one strip the covenant God makes with us holding us together.

Then the box was ready to receive our alms.

At the same time we made a big box for worship. On the sides of the box you see important words from the first Sunday of Lent. Already in the box are prayers we wrote on the third Sunday of Lent. Today this box will become the container for the prayers and alms we bring from home.

*Jesus opens the box so the picture of the Philippine project is showing*

Half of the alms in this box will go to the Kalingap Project in the Philippines teaching peasants sustainable farming methods.

*Jesus opens the box so a picture of the India project is showing.*

The other half will go for scholarships for young girls in Tamil Nadu, India giving them education so they are not trapped into becoming child brides.

Today, we hear what various people say in the St. Luke passion. We are not so much telling the story as inviting us into the dialogue. Words from the cross will be repeated, invading other moments. Voices of judgment will be combined across scenes so we hear what is at stake. The variety of voices in Luke invite us further and further into questions, prayer, affirmations, thanksgiving so that the mind of Christ becomes part of who we are, and, like Christ, we become the servants of love.

*Jesus goes up into the pulpit*

*Gong*

J: 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.'

3: Certainly this man was innocent.

1: Denunciations,  
Pharisees

2: 'We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king.'

1: Scribes:

2: 'He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place.'

1: The crowd:

2: 'Crucify, him!'

1: Casting lots,  
dividing his clothing,  
a cross  
an inscription, This is the King of the Jews.  
Darkness

1: Mockery by leaders

2: 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!'

1: Mockery by soldiers

2: 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!'

1: Mockery by a criminal

2: 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!'

1: Another criminal

3: 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.'

1: Then the criminal said,

3: 'Jesus,

*The guitar flows right off the words*

Guitar plays a phrase of Jesus Remember me

*The person with the cross strip comes to the altar and kneels in prayer.*

P: Let us pray:

Saving God,

***when I am lost and don't know which way to turn,***

3: Jesus, remember me

*Guitar plays the phrase which follows.*

Suffering God,  
***When the foundations shake and I no longer know where to stand,***

3: Jesus, remember me, when you come into your Kingdom

Sung response

Promising God,  
***when I feel alone, without hope, without courage to face tomorrow,***

3: Jesus,

Sung response

*The person comes to the box and reads from the cross-strip*

Person: Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

*The person puts the cross-strip gently in the box.*

J: You are those who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom,  
***For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and forever.***

J: so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.  
***Your will be done on earth as in heaven.***

Sung Response

J: ‘Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat,<sup>32</sup>but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.’

1: Peter

3: ‘Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison  
and to death!’

J: ‘I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you have denied three times that you know me.’  
***Save us from the time of trial.***

‘When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?’

1: They said, ‘No, not a thing.’

J: 'But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and likewise a bag. And the one who has no sword must sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you, this scripture must be fulfilled in me, "And he was counted among the lawless"; and indeed what is written about me is being fulfilled.'

3: 'Lord, look, here are two swords.'

J: 'It is enough.'

P: Let us pray:

Is it enough, God?

***enough to bring about justice?***

***enough to heal the wounds?***

***enough to hold the addicted, listen to an angry young man?***

***enough to stand against violence towards women?***

***enough to welcome the illegal immigrant?***

***enough to do your will, to enact your love?***

***How could we be enough,***

***enough hands, enough strength, enough energy, enough courage?***

***Save us.***

Sung response

1: Mount of Olives

J: 'Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.'

1: A stone's throw away.

Flute plays a phrase

*During this a person goes and prays.*

J: Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.

***Save us from the time of trial.***

1: An angel from heaven gives him strength.

More earnestly he prays.

His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground,  
his disciples, sleeping because of grief,  
because of grief, asleep.

J: 'Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.'

Prayer

P: Let us pray:

Save us, God.

***Save us from the time of trial.***

***Save us from the slow years between dementia and death.***

***Save us from the loss of family or friends.***

***Save us from the weight of unsatisfying work***

***or the desperation, which comes from seeking work.***

***Save us from the sudden accident, the unexpected test result, the stupid mistake.***

***Save us from the time of trial.***

*The person with the strip goes to the box and holds it for a moment, then says,*

Person: Save us from the time of trial.

*The person puts the strip gently in the box.*

1: Suddenly a crowd, Judas, a kiss

J: With a kiss, Judas?  
Is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?  
1: The other disciples  
3: 'Lord, should we strike with the sword?'  
1: The right ear of a slave, gone,  
J: 'No more of this!'  
1: And he touched his ear and healed him.

*Guitar plays a phrase of Jesus remember me*

J: 'Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? 53 When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!'

Sung Response

1: Peter, courtyard, fire, servant girl  
2: 'This man also was with him.'  
1: Peter denied it  
3: 'Woman, I do not know him.'  
1: Another one said  
2: 'You also are one of them.'  
3: 'Man, I am not!'  
1: Still another  
2: 'Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean.'  
3: 'Man, I do not know what you are talking about!'  
1: The cock crowing, a look, the tears.

Prayer

P: Let us pray  
We do not know you, Christ,  
***with too many of our thoughts, too much of our time, too many of our wishes we do not know you.  
Our heart, our strength, our mind seek treasures other than loving you,  
treasures other than loving our neighbors as ourselves.  
Too often we act as if we were not part of you.  
Forgive us.  
Turn us to following you. Amen.***

Sung Response

1: Jesus beaten, mocked, blindfolded  
2: Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?  
1: The assembly of the elders, chief priests and scribes  
2: 'If you are the Messiah, tell us.'  
J: 'If I tell you, you will not believe;

***I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.***

J: and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.'

***I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose again.***

***He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.***

2: 'Are you, then, the Son of God?'

J: 'You say that I am.'

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

2: 'What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!'

The flute plays a phrase

*Gong*

J: 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.'

3: This man was innocent.

The flute plays a phrase

1: Pilate

3: 'Are you the king of the Jews?'

J: 'You say so.'

3: 'I find no basis for an accusation against this man.'

1: Off to Herod, who was hoping to see a sign.

No sign,

not even a word,

more accusation,

the mockery of an elegant robe,

back to Pilate.

3: 'You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him.'

2: Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!'

3: 'Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.'

1: But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified;

and their voices prevailed.

So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted.

1: Simon of Cyrene, carried the cross,  
women beating their breasts.

J: 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, "Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed." Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us"; and to the hills, "Cover us." For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?'

Prayers of Intercession

Gracious God, we weep for Jerusalem, divided city. We pray for those imprisoned behind a wall, unable to get to hospitals or to see family. We pray for those whose religion seems to make them callous to the suffering of others. God in your mercy,

*hear our prayer.*

Sung response **Lord, have mercy**

With the ecumenical prayer cycle we pray for the people of China, Hong Kong and Macao. We weep for those who hunger for rice, who hunger for freedom, for the Tibetans struggling against long oppression, for those in the labor camps, for the poorly paid workers who make the tools of modernity on which others become rich, for those without breath because the air has become thick.

We give thanks for the many Christians who have endured great difficulties to spread your Gospel. Breathe your enlivening Spirit into your churches, so they might proclaim in word and deed the fullness of your love. God in your mercy,

*hear our prayer.*

Sung response **Lord, have mercy**

We pray for xxxxx who have their birthdays this week. We pray for xxx and xxx who celebrate their anniversary. Renew the bonds that hold them together. God in your mercy,

*hear our prayer.*

Sung response **Lord, have mercy**

We pray for all those who are sick, who weep, who struggle. The congregation is invited to name those we pray for this morning.

Silence

God in your mercy,

*hear our prayer.*

Sung response **Lord, have mercy**

The prayers of the congregation are invited.

*The prayers from the people*

Sung response **Lord, have mercy**

*Gong*

J: Father, into your hands I commend my Spirit.

P: Into your hands, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

I: The place of the Skull, Golgatha, crucifixion,

J: Father, forgive them,

Prayer

P: Let us pray:

Father, forgive us.

*We know what we do, and still we do it.*

P: Father, forgive us.

*We do what we know, missing what more love might do.*

P: Father, forgive us.

*We do not do what we know, and could be doing.*

P: Father, forgive us.  
*We do not know what we do.*

### Sung Response

*While we sing a woman goes and prays at the altar.*

J: Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.  
*Jesus puts the red cloth slowly down in front of the parament and leaves it there.*

### Words of Assurance

These words are only in Luke and then not in all the ancient manuscripts. Why would it be intentionally left out? What was going on in the early church that someone might have needed to add it? But in any case, it is remembered, and its memory spreads a remarkable grace. The soldiers don't ask for forgiveness, neither Pilate, neither the crowds, neither the chief priests and scribes, but they are forgiven. These words remain. Regardless of the condition of our soul, the murmurings of our heart, Christ forgives. You and I are made whole through Christ Jesus and we are graced with life eternal. Amen.

1: And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

### Response to the word

P: The women are there also, watching. The ordinary folk use the old ritual, they beat their breasts. The acquaintances of Jesus, the text doesn't even call them friends or disciples, just acquaintances, don't know what to do. They only know that the old rituals don't work any more. More is demanded than beating ones breast and cries of defeat.

*A woman comes and puts a little box in the big box.*

Woman: For the girls of Tamil Nadu.

### Hymn Ah holy Jesus

Johann Heermann. English Robert Bridges

Johann Crüger: Germany

For me kind Je - sus was thine in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal  
sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of  
an - guish and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.

*During the hymn the person goes to pray.*

J: But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table.

***His hand is on the table.***

For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!’  
***woe.***

I: Who among them would do this?

A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest.

J: ‘The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table?’

But I am among you as one who serves.

*A person comes and puts a little box in the big box.*

Person: For the Malingap demonstration farm, that peasants and farmers might learn how to protect the land and the water.

Response to the Word

Some of you have brought boxes, treasures of prayer, special words, money for the projects in the Philippines and India. While we sing, you can offer the box you have been preparing this Lent and place it in the big box.

Before offering the box you are invited to pray here at the altar. How is Christ calling you to be a servant?

The language of servant is not popular in our times. We are told that we need to be richer, more powerful, higher up. Very little in our cultures prepares us for choosing to be a servant. But this morning we have the chance to hear an ancient voice, which speaks of the mind of Christ, serving, emptying, giving up our place at the table. Then offer your gifts and prayers so girls in India might learn, and farmers in the Philippines might take better care of the land.

If you have forgotten your box at home, or are visiting us for the first time, don’t worry. You are still invited to come and pray, or you remain in your place and support those who come with your voice in song. Come and pray, offering the Lenten box of treasures, offer your life to God.

Hymns

**When I survey the wondrous cross**

**LBW 482**

**Alas and did my Savior bleed**

**LBW 98**

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you

***And also with you.***

Gathering of Gifts

choir

Words and music by Andrew Donaldson, Canada

*1. He took upon himself the form of a servant  
born in human likeness, he humbled himself,  
and became obedient unto death even to death on a cross.*

*Refrain: Therefore God has exalted him, given him a name above all names;  
that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord.  
Jesus is Lord. Jesus is Lord to the glory of God the Father.*

2. *Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;  
for God works among you to do his good pleasure,  
and take the mind of Jesus who poured out his life as a servant.*

Offertory hymn

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.  
***And also with you.***  
Lift up your hearts.  
***We lift them up to the Lord.***  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

Preface

P: Creator of all that is,  
Maker of life, humanity.  
***I trust in you, O Lord, I say, 'You are my God.'***  
With a lamb, you kept Abraham from slaying his son.  
***My times are in your hand***

Gong

J: Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.  
P: With a sacrificial lamb you took away the sins of your people.  
***Let your face shine upon your servant.***  
J: Today, you will be with me in paradise.  
P: As prophesied, a servant would give his back to those who struck him, and his cheeks to those who pulled out his beard.  
***Save me in your steadfast love.***  
J: 'I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;  
P: We give you thanks and praise, gracious God, and join the unending hymn of praise.

Sanctus

Eucharistic Prayer

J: for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.'  
P: The kingdom of God. Yes, we give thanks he told of the coming and yet present kingdom of God.

1: Joseph of Arimathea took down the body of Jesus and wrapped it in a linen cloth,

J: This is my body, which is given for you Do this in remembrance of me.

P:

*lifts the bread*

This is my body, which is given for you Do this in remembrance of me.

1: Joseph laid the body in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid.

J: 'Take this [cup] and divide it among yourselves; <sup>18</sup>for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.'

P: Certainly this man was innocent.

J: 'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

P:

*lifting the chalice*

And Jesus did the same with the cup after supper, saying, ‘ ‘This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

Christ within us,

**Christ with us,**

Christ before us,

**Christ behind us,**

Christ beside us,

**Christ around us.**

Christ in quiet,

**Christ in danger,**

Christ in hearts of all that love us,

**Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.**      *adapted from St. Patrick's breastplate*

Christ teaching, healing, restoring, lifting up, suffering.

**Christ, dying, rising, coming again.**

J: Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.

P: Christ in bread, Christ in wine.

**Christ for us, for all people, for all time.**

Come Holy Spirit,

shine your face upon your servants

so we see Christ revealed at this table, as one who serves,

feeding us so we can serve each other in serving the distressed, the wasted, the grieving, the sorrowful,  
the sighing, all those Christ loves.

Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all glory and honor are yours,

now and forever.

**Amen.**

Lord's Prayer *in our many languages*

Agnus Dei

Communion

*(Because this is the table of Jesus Christ, all people are welcome and invited to his feast. Communion is continuous. Please come forward, beginning with the center section, and form one circle around the altar.*

*Receive the bread in your hands. Take the chalice from the server or help yourself to one of the small, individual glasses. Please return to your seat after receiving communion.)*

Songs during communion

Sending forth

Into your hands, we commend our spirits, God,

for you have hands ample enough to feed your hungry people,

welcoming enough to receive us back home,

strong enough to give us life.

Send us out with hands open to serve in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

Benediction

Introduction of Visitors and Announcements

