

Sing: JOYFUL JOYFUL WE ADORE THEE

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day!

GREETING

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

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

READING

Romans 6:12-23 (NRSV)

Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to

which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

89:1-4, 15-18

Your love, O Lord, forever will I sing;

from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever;

you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.

“I have made a covenant with my chosen one;

I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

‘I will establish your line forever,

and preserve your throne for all generations.’ ”

Happy are the people who know the festal shout!

They walk, O Lord, in the light of your presence.

They rejoice daily in your name;

they are joyful in your righteousness.

For you are the glory of their strength,

and by your favor our might is exalted.

**Truly, our shield belongs to the Lord;
our king to the Holy One of Israel.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL
(NRSV)

Matthew 10: 40-42

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 10th chapter: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the twelve:]“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

REFLECTION

OFFERING

God of goodness and growth,
all creation is yours,
and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.
With your grace we are here today,
Nourish us through these gifts that we place before you:
our talents, our support for your church on earth and our hearts,
that we might proclaim your steadfast love
in our communities and in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

God of companionship, encourage our relationships with our siblings in Christ. Bless our conversations. Shape our shared future and give us hearts eager to join in a festive shout of praise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of abundance, you make your creation thrive and grow to provide all that we need. Inspire us to care for our environment and be attuned to where the earth is crying out. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, your grace is poured out for all. Inspire authorities, judges, and politicians to act with compassion. Teach us to overcome fear with hope, meet hate with love, and welcome one another as we would welcome you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of care, accompany all who are in deepest need. Comfort those who are sick, lonely, or abandoned. Strengthen those who are in prison or awaiting trial. Renew the spirits of all who call upon you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of community, we give thanks for this congregation. Give us passion to embrace your mission and the vision to recognize where you are leading us. Teach us how to live more faithfully with each other. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of love, you gather in your embrace all who have died. Keep us steadfast in our faith and renew our trust in your promise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

Sing & Dance: LOVE THE LORD

Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
And all your soul and all your mind,
And love all humankind as you would love yourself.

Love-----the Lord your God---
With all your heart--Tick tick tick boom
And all your soul and mind,
And love all humankind.

We've got Christian lives to live,
We've got Jesus' love to give,
We've got nothing to hide because in God we abide by...

Milk! Drink that milk glug, glug, glug,
Read that word read, read, read,
To get stron-ong-er.

Mr. Postman gave it to me,
sha-na-na-nah,
Copy of the NIV,
sha-na-na-nah,
Read the Bible to get stronger,
I don't want to wait any longer!

Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
And all your soul and all your mind,
And love all humankind as you would love yourself.

Love-----the Lord your God----

With all your heart--Tick tick tick boom,
And all your soul and mind,
And love all humankind.

We've got Christian lives to live,
We've got Jesus' love to give,
We've got nothing to hide because in God we abide by...Love!

BLESSING

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
God, the creator, ☩ Jesus, the Christ,
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Service modified from Sugar Creek Lutheran Church, Elkhorn, WI. 's bulletin, reflection by Vicar Lily Brellenthin

