

PRELUDE "Walking in Jerusalem"

1. Oh, John, oh, John, now what did you say?

Walkin' in Jerusalem just like John.

I'll meet you there at the break of day.

Walkin' in Jerusalem just like John.

Chorus:

I'm gonna be ready, I wanna be ready,

I wanna be ready, Lord.

Walkin' in Jerusalem just like John. (repeat)

2. Oh, some come a walkin' and some come lame.

Walkin' in Jerusalem just like John.

Some come a walkin' in Jesus' name.

Walkin' in Jerusalem just like John.

Chorus:

3. Well, if he gets there before I do.

Walkin' in Jerusalem just like John.

Tell all my friends that I'm a comin', too.

Walkin' in Jerusalem just like John.

Chorus:

4. Well, you're carryin' your load upon your shoulder.

Walkin' in Jerusalem just like John.

I'll meet you there at the first crossover.

Walkin' in Jerusalem just like John.

Chorus:

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. **Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Reconciling God,

**we confess that we do not trust your abundance,
and we deny your presence in our lives.**

**We place our hope in ourselves
and rely on our own efforts.**

We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.

We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.

**We fear difference and do not welcome others
as you have welcomed us.**

We sin in thought, word, and deed.

By your grace, forgive us;

through your love, renew us;

and in your Spirit, lead us;

so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

Beloved of God,

by the radical abundance of divine mercy

we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus,

through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.

Our sins are forgiven.

Let us live now in hope.

For hope does not disappoint,

because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

READING

Romans 8:12-25 (NRSV)

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

PSALM

86:11-17 (NRSV)

Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth;

give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,

and glorify your name forevermore.

For great is your love toward me;

you have delivered me from the pit of death.

The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks my life;

they have not set you before their eyes.

But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,

slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

Turn to me and have mercy on me;

give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.

Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame;

because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43(NRSV)

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th chapter: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

REFLECTION

Special Music "Jesus, Lover of My Soul"

Verse:

Jesus, lover of my soul,

Jesus, I will never let You go;

You've taken me from the miry clay,

You've set my feet upon the rock and now I know.

Chorus:

I love You, I need You,

Though the world will fall, I'll never let You go;

My Savior, my closest Friend,

I will worship You until the very end.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

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

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

God of the harvest, you sow the good seed of the gospel of Jesus Christ into your field. Help your church throughout the world to be both diligent and patient, full of resolve and gentleness, that our witness may be faithful to your intentions. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of all space and time, your whole creation groans in labor pains, awaiting the gift of new birth. Renew the earth, sky, and sea, so that all your creation experiences freedom from the bondage of decay. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of the nations, teach us your ways, that we may walk in your truth. Mend the fabric of the human family, now torn apart by our fearful and warring ways. Guide us by your mercy, grace, and steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of hope, you accompany those who suffer and are near to the brokenhearted. Open our hearts to your children who are lonely and abandoned, who feel trapped by despair, and all who suffer in any way. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of the seasons, in the midst of summer, give us refreshment, renewal, and new opportunities. We pray for the safety of those who travel. We pray for those who cannot take the rest they need. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of life, those who have died in you shine like the sun in your endless kingdom. We remember with thanksgiving the saints of all times and places and saints close to us. Gather us with them on the day of salvation. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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.**

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.

POSTLUDE "Cry of My Heart"

Chorus:

It is the cry of my heart to follow You.

It is the cry of my heart to be close to You.

It is the cry of my heart to follow all of the days of my life.

1. Teach me Your holy ways, Oh Lord,

So I can walk in Your truth.

Teach me Your holy ways, Oh Lord, and make me wholly devoted to You.

Chorus:

2. Open my eyes so I can see the wonderful things that You do.

Open my heart up more and more and make me wholly devoted to You.

Chorus:

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

