



ALTERED
on the edge
of belonging

Christians in Action Worship @ Trinity Lutheran Church
Jamestown, ND
www.NDChristiansAct.org
Wednesday, March 20, 2024

PASTOR'S WELCOME

Opening Hymn– Bless Now, O God, the Journey #326

- 1 Bless now, O God, the journey that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence, the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters, the road where faith is found.
- 2 Bless sojourners and pilgrims who share this winding way;
your hope burns through the terrors, your love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom while often we are bound;
together we are seeking the road where faith is found.
- 3 Divine eternal lover, you meet us on the road.
We wait for land of promise where milk and honey flow,
but waiting not for places, you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written on roads, as faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993; Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission from One License with license #A-711313

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

In the Holy Trinity, you show us belonging and inclusion in perfect balance. Made in your image, we long for community, yet we retreat into rigid categories and binary thinking, as if excluding others could protect us from being left out. In you, there is no inside or outside; in you, there is no us or them. Embolden and equip us to work towards this expansive kinship, which is only possible through the love of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*CONFESSION OF SIN–

Holy God, We confess that we have rejected the refuge you offer.

We try to hide behind self-sufficiency and pride, but you see us, and love us still.

We confess that we have chosen strife over peace; we want to be right more than we want to be in right relationship.

Forgive us for the ways we have rebelled against you and harmed our neighbors in action, thought, or indifference.

We confess that we have settled for convenient comforts, for palm-sized imitations of mercy and justice.

Your mighty hands break the bow and topple the throne, yet also gather and shelter us like a mother hen.

We confess that you know what we need and gladly provide it.

Grant us the courage, patience, and trust to receive and share your love. Amen.

Hear this, beloved children of God:

God rejoices when you turn and return.

Search, that you may find. Find, that you may be found.

Loosen your grip, that you may be more tightly held,
more warmly comforted, and more tenderly nourished.

Your stony heart will soften like the river's frozen mouth.

Your stiff neck will relax as you accept God's love,
allowing you to see more of the world around you.
God forgives your sins and remembers them no more.
In the name of the Creator, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
receive this divine peace. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading: Acts 8:26-40

SERMON— Rev. Susan Haukaas

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Thematic Litany:

Children of God, you are enough.
You are lovable as you are,
and God will love you as you change and grow.

Where there is fear, give us courage.

Where there is doubt, give us faith.

Children of God, your neighbors are enough.
They are lovable as they are,
and God will love them as they change and grow.

Where there is fear, give us courage.

Where there is doubt, give us faith.

Children of God, your enemies are enough.
They are lovable as they are,
and God will love them as they change and grow.

Where there is fear, give us courage.

Where there is doubt, give us faith.

Children of God, the Creator has been, and will be.
There is no test to pass, no score to keep, no border to cross;
you have already arrived, and you can rest here.

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.**

BENEDICTION

People of God,
May you be disrupted ...
altered...
and transformed
As you pursue the Holy Spirit
out ahead of you.
May the power of the Holy Trinity +
bless you
this day and every day.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN - I Want Jesus to Walk With Me #325

- 1 I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
- 2 In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
when my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
- 3 When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual. Public Domain



- ◇ *Prayer of the Day, Confession and Forgiveness, and Litany for the Imposition of Ashes written by Andy and Rev. Elise Pokel*
- ◇ *Benediction written by: Rev. Tessa Moon Leiseth, Bishop, Eastern North Dakota Synod, ELCA*