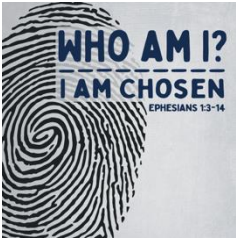


Prairieland Parish

*As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present.
May we together experience the presence of God*

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We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord



Prelude – Welcome - Announcements

Opening Meditation

Ephesians is divided neatly into two halves. The first half, chapters 1-3, provides a theological foundation for the faith in some of the most beautiful language in the Epistles. The second half, chapters 4-6, focuses on the ethical dimensions of the faith: How do we live it out? For the next few weeks, we will be walking our way through Paul's writings to the church of Ephesus.

So, let us begin with these words written by Paul starting in Chapter 1: "3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,." Ephesians 1:3

A Call to Worship

Psalm 24 NRSV

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;

for he has founded it on the seas and established it on the rivers.

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place?

Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.

They will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of their salvation.

Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

PRAYER FOR GRACE

O God our Father, we thank you that today you have called us to worship you and learn of you. You alone know our needs. Satisfy them with your unchanging love. In your presence may we find comfort in sorrow, guidance in perplexity, strength to meet temptation, grace to overcome the fascination of disobedience, and courage to face up to the hostility of this rebellious world. Above all, may we meet Jesus and go out from our worship indwelt by his spirit. This prayer we ask to your glory and in his name. Amen.

Praise Hymn UMH#593 "Here I am, Lord"

Author: Daniel L. Schutte (1981)

Copyright: © 1981, OCP Publications

**I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry**

All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save
I who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night
I will go, Lord
If You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart

I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them
My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide
'Til their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night
I will go, Lord
If You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart
I will hold Your people in my heart

We Hear God's Word

Epistle Reading..... Ephesians 1:3-14

New Revised Standard Version

Spiritual Blessings in Christ

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 just as he chose us in Christ[a] before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. 5 He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight 9 he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11 In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance,[b] having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, 12 so that we, who were the first to set our

hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; 14 this[c] is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The word of God for the People of God, **Thanks Be to God**

Faith Hymn FWS #2272. "Holy Ground" (sing twice)

Author: Geron Davis

Publication Date:2001

Copyright: © 1983 Meadowgreen Music Co./Songchannel Music Co.

CCLI Number: 21198

**We are standing on holy ground
And I know that there are angels all around
Let us praise Jesus now
We are standing in his presence on holy ground**

Message

A SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE II, UMH pgs. 12-15

INVITATION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin
and seek to live in peace with one another.
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will,
we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love toward us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
In the name of Jesus

**Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God. Amen.**

THE GREAT 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 our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
Always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
And so,
with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
You gave birth to your church,
Delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
And make with us a new covenant
By water and the Spirit.
On the night in which he gave himself up for us
He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”
When the supper was over, he took the cup,
Gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and
for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,

until Christ comes in final victory,
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.
Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever.
Amen.

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray: Our Father,

Sharing of the Elements

Joys/Concerns

PRAYER FOR GRACE

O God our Father,
we thank you that today you have called us
to worship you and learn of you.
You alone know our needs. We raise to you today.....whose needs are in your hands.
Satisfy them with your unchanging love.
In your presence may we find comfort in sorrow,
guidance in perplexity,
strength to meet temptation,
grace to overcome the fascination of disobedience,
and courage to face up to the hostility of this rebellious world.
Above all, may we meet Jesus
and go out from our worship indwelt by his spirit.
This prayer we ask to your glory Amen.

Offertory/Doxology/Prayer

Generous and Giving God, you have poured your blessings on us as the rain soaks the sun-parched grass of our lawns. You have lavished us with redemption, forgiveness, and grace. When you send the rain to water the grass, you expect growth in return. Remind us this day, as we make our gifts to you, that we have been blessed for a purpose – that we might be a blessing to others. May we grow in compassion, in mercy, in longing for justice and love, as Christ loved us. In that holy name, we pray. Amen. (Ephesians 1:3-14)

Departing Hymn FWS #2129 “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

author: Anon.

Publication Date: 2001

Copyright: Public Domain

Tune Information

Composer: Anon.

Copyright: Public Domain

**I I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus -
no turning back, no turning back.**

**2 The world behind me, the cross before me,
the world behind me, the cross before me,
the world behind me, the cross before me -
no turning back, no turning back.**

**3 Though none go with me, still I will follow,
though none go with me, still I will follow,
though none go with me, still I will follow—
no turning back, no turning back.**

SENDING FORTH: You are blessed! You are chosen! You are part of the family! What a declaration to offer thirsty people in a desert world of failure and exclusion and neglect. Go and be God's voice to all you meet. Amen