

For God is listening.

Let us pray together:

Blessed God, thank you for blessing us in your myriad ways. Thank you for trusting us to be your people, to shine with your love, and to work for your justice. In this time of worship, guide and strengthen us, that we may go forth to bless your world fully and abundantly. In your blessed name, we pray. Amen.

*HYMN AND NOISY OFFERING **“Lord of the Dance”** #118

*RESPONSIVE LITANY OF CONFESSION

We have received and heard the word of the Lord directing us to go and be a blessing in the world. Yet we often plug our ears and refuse to listen when we don't want to do as God commands. Let us confess our disobedience.

Holy One, when what you ask goes against what we want, forgive our stubbornness. When we hesitate and distrust your commands, soften our hard heartedness. When we build altars that honor rather than condemn the brokenness of nations and peoples, that celebrate injustice and condemnation, remove our unrighteousness. When we close our hands to those seeking mercy and hope, unclench our fists of hatefulness. Call us again to follow you and your ways, for we desire to receive your blessing and live in peace. Amen.

Jesus has come to call us to faithfulness and blessing. When we turn from our sinfulness, we are healed and receive new life. May we hear Jesus say, “Take heart, child; your faith has made you well,” and go on to share his blessing with the world.

*RESPONSE **“Trust and Obey”** Vs. 1 #443

***When we walk with the Lord in the light of his Word, what a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will, he abides with us still,
and with all who will trust and obey.
Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.***

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SPECIAL MUSIC

Blessed Assurance

Sharon Fox

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

pg. 8

MEDITATION

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN

"I Come with Joy"

#706

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONSE

"The Lord's Prayer" (One Amen)

#740

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY *Lord Whose Love Through Humble Service*

*RESPONSE³

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Vs. 1 #72

***Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou has been thou forever will be.
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided—
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!***

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Thank you, Lord, for blessing us with gifts to share. Our offerings are given with joy to take your compassion and mercy to a hurting world, and to be our commitment to following you. Bless our faith and faithfulness, O Lord, for your service. Amen.

INVITATION⁴

Luke, the evangelist, wrote of our risen Savior, who at the table with two of the disciples took bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened, and they recognized the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.

In company with all believers in every time and beyond time, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.

COMMUNION PRAYER

PREPARING AND SHARING THE ELEMENTS

All are invited to the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The inner circle of cups contain white grape juice. The outer circles contain wine. Please hold each element when served in the pews so all may partake together, remembering that in the upper room last supper Jesus said, “take this and divide it among yourselves.” (Luke 22:17b)

*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING⁴

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*HYMN ***“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”*** #719

*POSTLUDE *Go, My Children, with My Blessing (reprieve)*

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We thank Rachel Reynolds for serving as liturgist, and Dee Roethemeyer for serving as greeter.