

- Communion table. Were it possible to gather up all the wounds of those victims, both past and present as well as our own, we should bring those wounds here for this is the place of belonging, of nurture and of healing. Jew or Gentile, slave or free, social status or sexual orientation are irrelevant here, only faith in Jesus Christ who became the sacrifice for the sin of all men and women and overcame it with love. Come to the table with thanksgiving that Christ has redeemed us as we claim our place alongside all the rest of God's children who believe. Nothing in this century or any other can separate us from the love of God. Amen.
(lively organ music) (congregation singing)

- The Lord be with you.

- And also with you.

- Let us pray. Most holy God, creator, redeemer and sustainer of all that is, we give thanks to you for the beauty of this day and for this gathering of your people. From the particularities of our lives and our individual histories, we come together as your children, claiming the privilege of worshiping you and glorifying your holy name. As heirs of the risen Christ, we give thanks for the gift of your Son, for his life, death and resurrection by which we come to know ourselves and know how we are meant to live in this world. We remember this morning, holy God that our world is filled with hate, with jealousy, with anger, with war and the rumors of war. In South Africa and Iraq and Iran, in Northern Ireland and in El Salvador, there are political tensions which deny your children peace and safety, for these peoples and others who know injustice, oppression and political tensions, we offer our prayers. In this country and around the world, Lord, there are peoples who went to bed last night hungry and who woke this morning to another day of hunger and physical pain. For the street people of this community and of this country, for those on the continent of Africa who must endure the ravages of drought, for the poor of Mexico and Latin America who know rampant malnutrition, we offer our prayers. We recall too, holy God, those individuals who mourn for the deaths of loved ones, those persons who know loneliness and fear, those men and women who are beset by terminal disease, those individuals who face the waning days of their lives with worry and weakened strength, those who live their lives behind the walls of prisons and those farmers who face foreclosure on their lands. For all persons who suffer physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually, we offer our prayers. As we lift up these persons to you and pray for their well-being, help us, Lord, know in the very depths of our beings that prayer is more than pretty words and kind thoughts, that our prayers, if genuinely offered, compel us into the world as your servants to relieve pain and misery and to work for peace and justice for all peoples. In the name of your Son who offered his life as a prayer to you, and who taught us to pray to you through and by the service of our lives, amen. Because we have received bountifully from the riches of God's world, it is right and a good thing for us to return a portion of our resources to the work of the Lord. Let us now worship God with the offering of our gifts. (tranquil organ music) (choir singing) (lively organ music) (congregation singing) ♪ Hallelujah, Hallelujah ♪ ♪ Hallelujah, Hallelujah ♪ ♪ Hallelujah ♪ ♪ Hallelujah ♪ ♪ Hallelujah ♪ ♪ Amen ♪

- The Lord be with you.

- And also with you.

- Lift up your hearts.

- We lift them up to the Lord.

- It is truly right to glorify you, oh God and to give you thanks for you alone are God, living and true dwelling in light, inaccessible, from before time and forever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and filled them with your blessing. You created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day and beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise, joining with them and giving voice to every creature under Heaven, we acclaim you and glorify your name as we say.

- Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and Earth are full of your glory, Hosannah in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosannah in the highest.

- We remember with joy the grace by which you created all things and made us in your own image. We rejoice that you called a people in covenant to be a light to the nations, yet we rebelled against your will, in spite of prophets and pastors sent forth to us, we continue to break your covenant. In the fullness of time, you sent your only son to save us, incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of your favorite one Mary, sharing our life, he reconciled us to your love. At the Jordan, your spirit descended upon him, anointing him to preach the good news of the kingdom. He healed the sick and fed the hungry, manifesting the power of your compassion, he sought out the lost and broke bread with sinners, witnessing the fullness of your grace. We beheld his glory. On the night before he died for us, Jesus took bread, giving thanks to you, he broke the bread, offered it to his disciples saying, "Take, eat, this is my body "which is given for you. "Do this in remembrance of me." Taking a cup, again he gave thanks to you, shared the cup with his disciples and said, "This is the cup of the new covenant in my blood. "Drink from this, all of you. "This is poured out for you and for many "for the forgiveness of sins." After the meal, our Lord was arrested, abandoned by his followers and beaten. He stood trial and was put to death on a cross. Having emptied himself in the form of a servant and being obedient even unto death, he was raised from the dead and exulted as Lord of Heaven and Earth. Through him, you bestow the gift of your Spirit, uniting your church, empowering its mission and leading us into the new creation you have promised. Gracious God, we celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Grant that in praise and thanksgiving, we may be a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable in your sight that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith.

- Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

- Send the power of your Holy Spirit on us gathered here out of love for you and on these gifts. May the Spirit help us to know in the breaking for this bread and the drinking of this wine the presence of Christ who gave his body and blood for all and may the Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other and one in

service to all the world. Through your son, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

- Amen. 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, the power and the glory forever.

- Amen. The gifts of God for the people of God. (tranquil organ music) (congregation singing) (tranquil organ music) (congregation singing) Let us pray. We give you thanks, Almighty God that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us through this gift in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, amen. (lively organ music) (congregation singing) Go forth from this place, rejoicing in the power of God which makes us one in Christ and in the love of Christ Jesus which is ever renewed at his table, and in the fellowship with each other and all of creation given by the Holy Spirit. May the blessing of God Almighty be with you now and always. Amen. ♪ Amen ♪ ♪ Amen ♪ ♪ Amen ♪ ♪ Amen ♪ (lively organ music) (people murmuring)