

Stories That Shape Us
Opening Worship
ELCA Ohio Rostered Minister Gathering 2024
January 23, 2024

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” – Acts 1:8

Prelude music:

As the assembly enters the worship space they are invited to take a stone and hold it.

Call To Worship

L: O God our help in ages past.

C: our hope for years to come.

Welcome

The assembly stands.

Gathering Song - All Are Welcome (ELW 641)

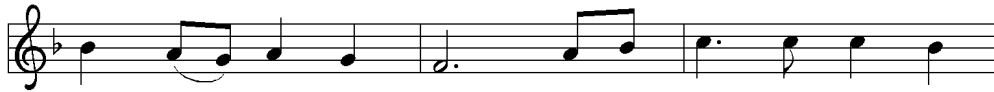
All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
claim the faith of Je - sus:
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
end to fear and dan - ger:
claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen
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Greeting

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Assembly Sings - Sacred Ground



As we stand in the pre-sence of God, We stand on sa-cred ground.
Stand-ing on the shoul-ders of those who've gone be-fore.
With a fu-ture vast and wide and jus-tice as our guide,
How will we hon-or this sac-red ground to-day and for-ev-er-more?

L: Sacred Ground, you are both place and source. You welcome us with cleansing water and nourish us with your word.

You gift us with community. Those who have come before and those who will come after.

C: “We will Honor this Sacred Ground”



We will hon-or this sa-cred ground.

L: In these coming days, we will remember the stories that have shaped us, and, in humility, give voice to stories we have missed, voices from the margins with a past deeper than our own.

C: “We will Honor this Sacred Ground”

L: Teach us to welcome all to this Sacred Ground, to share your water and your Word.

C: “We will Honor this Sacred Ground”

A Time of Repentance and Inclusion

As we recite this litany, hold the stone within your hand as you pray, respond to each petition with the words, "We will honor and make space on this sacred ground."

L: In the hallowed spaces we inhabit, we recognize the historical and ongoing injustices faced by marginalized communities. We confess our active and passive roles in perpetuating these harms.

C: We will honor and make space on this sacred ground.

L: We voice deep regret for the times when our silence allowed injustice to prevail, instead of using our voices to champion equality. We repent for our failures in challenging discrimination and exclusion.

C: We will honor and make space on this sacred ground

L: We commit to meaningful actions grounded in prayer, education, and repentance, reflecting the diverse tapestry that shapes Ohio synods and our communities. We pledge to actively work towards creating spaces within our congregations that honor diversity, promote inclusion, and uphold justice.

C: We will honor and make space on this sacred ground.

L: In seeking reconciliation, we strive for a world where power is shared, and every person can thrive. We envision our synods and congregations as sacred spaces where all are welcomed, all are valued, and all can contribute.

C: We will honor and make space on this sacred ground.

L: As we journey forward, we remember that fostering inclusivity is not a one-time act, but a continuous process of learning, unlearning, and reimagining. Inspired by hope, guided by love, and sustained by our commitment, we strive to create a more equitable and just world.

C: We will honor and make space on this sacred ground.

L: In the spirit of unity and community, we recognize the strength found in our diversity, and we commit to embracing this diversity fully. May we be a beacon of God's love, reflecting God's embrace of all humanity in our actions and our ministries.

C: We will honor and make space on this sacred ground.

L: I now call upon each of us to enter into a moment of quiet reflection and prayer. As you hold this stone in your hands, ponder upon the ways we have both knowingly and unknowingly contributed to the harm of others. Let this stone you hold be a concrete reminder of the promises made in your prayers today - a symbol of your commitment to bring about change, unity, and healing.

(Instrumental music plays while this quiet meditative prayer is recited. Assembly is silently holding their stones.)

Response: In the quiet stillness of this moment, I invite you all to take a deep, cleansing breath. As you exhale, allow your body to relax, releasing any tensions that may have found a home within you. You may choose to close your eyes or soften your gaze, allowing your focus to turn inwards as you hold your stone. Perhaps place your hands in a position that feels comfortable and calming to you.

As we stand in the presence of God, let us remember that we are standing on sacred ground. This is hallowed earth that has been blessed by the footsteps of countless souls who've journeyed before us. We are standing on the shoulders of those who've gone before, those who have sown seeds of faith, hope, and love, paving the way for us to continue their journey.

Imagine the vastness of the future that lies before us. It is a landscape wide and expansive, filled with endless possibilities. Let justice be our compass, guiding us along the winding paths of this vast expanse. Each step we take, each decision we make, contributes to the legacy we leave behind for those who will follow in our footsteps.

As we stand on this sacred ground, let us reflect on how we can honor it, today and every day. How can our actions, our words, our thoughts, align with the values of love, peace, and compassion? How can we contribute to the sanctity of this ground, enhancing its sacredness with our own acts of faith and kindness?

I invite you to hold these reflections in your heart, as we contemplate our role in honoring this sacred ground and the stories that rest upon it, today and forever

more. In the silence that follows, listen for the whispers of wisdom that echo from the depths of your soul, guiding you towards your own unique ways of honoring this holy space.

Together let us release this prayer as we say...

C: We will honor and make space on this sacred ground. Amen.

First Reading – Psalm 104:1-9, 24,35b

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul.
O LORD my God, you are very great.
You are clothed with honor and majesty,
²wrapped in light as with a garment.
You stretch out the heavens like a tent,
³you set the beams of your chambers on the waters,
you make the clouds your chariot,
you ride on the wings of the wind,
⁴you make the winds your messengers,
fire and flame your ministers.
⁵You set the earth on its foundations,
so that it shall never be shaken.
⁶You cover it with the deep as with a garment;
the waters stood above the mountains.
⁷At your rebuke they flee;
at the sound of your thunder they take to flight.
⁸They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys
to the place that you appointed for them.
⁹You set a boundary that they may not pass,
so that they might not again cover the earth.
²⁴O LORD, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
³⁵Let sinners be consumed from the earth,
and let the wicked be no more.
Bless the LORD, O my soul.
Praise the LORD!

L: Word of God, word of Life

A: Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 10: 23-2

L: The holy word according to Hebrews

A: Glory to you, O Lord

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

L: The word of the Lord

A: Praise to you, O God.

Sermon

Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy

Hymn - Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song (ELW 808)

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

Jésus, je voudrais te chanter

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The piano accompaniment consists of block chords and simple rhythmic patterns. The lyrics are provided in French, English, and a third language (likely German or Dutch) for the first system. The second system contains French and English lyrics. The third system contains French and English lyrics. The fourth system contains French and English lyrics. The fifth system contains French and English lyrics. The sixth system contains French and English lyrics. The seventh system contains French and English lyrics. The eighth system contains French and English lyrics. The ninth system contains French and English lyrics. The tenth system contains French and English lyrics. The eleventh system contains French and English lyrics. 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The seventy-sixth system contains French and English lyrics. The seventy-seventh system contains French and English lyrics. The seventy-eighth system contains French and English lyrics. The seventy-ninth system contains French and English lyrics. The eightieth system contains French and English lyrics. The eighty-first system contains French and English lyrics. The eighty-second system contains French and English lyrics. The eighty-third system contains French and English lyrics. The eighty-fourth system contains French and English lyrics. The eighty-fifth system contains French and English lyrics. The eighty-sixth system contains French and English lyrics. The eighty-seventh system contains French and English lyrics. The eighty-eighth system contains French and English lyrics. The eighty-ninth system contains French and English lyrics. The ninetieth system contains French and English lyrics. The hundredth system contains French and English lyrics.

1 *Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te;*
1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;
2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,
4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;

Jé - sus, je vou - drais t'an - non - cer à mes voi - sins par - tout,
I'll tell ev - 'ry - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go:
May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.
to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.
but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.

car toi seul es la vie et la paix et l'a - mour:
you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.
And with all of the fam - 'ly you saved by your love,

Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te.
Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.
Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.
we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

Text: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community; tr. Stephen Somerville, b. 1931
Music: LES PETITES SOEURS, Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community
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Four Directions Prayer

A Four Direction Prayer comes from a way that many Native American people pray to connect deeply with both God and all creation. There are many different tribes of Native people, and many ways that people say this prayer. But that is what makes this prayer special. No matter how this is prayed, the most important part is that you pray from deep in your heart. This is a great way to start and end each day.

L: Creator, the strength of the people, we honor you. Listen to the thoughts of your people. We respect the truth of your spirit and care for your Creations to the east, to the south, to the west and to the north. We honor you by deeds and not words. We live by the ways you have entrusted to us within the circle of life. Come Great Spirit as we gather in your name.

(We turn our bodies to the Four Directions as we pray the following prayers. Begin by turning toward the East and continue to turn, with each prayer, in a clockwise direction.)

L: We face East: To your symbol color gold, The place of dawning, there is beauty in the morning, there the Seeker finds new visions as each sacred day is born. All who honor life around them, all who honor life within, shall shine with light and glory when the morning comes again. And we pray, **C: Come Holy Creator's Spirit, Come**

L: We turn to the South: To your symbol color red, In the South, the place of growing there is wisdom in the earth, Both the painful song of dying and joyful song of birth. As the earth gives up her lifeblood so her children's hearts may beat. We give back to her our reverence for the holy ground beneath our feet. And we pray, **C: Come Holy Creator's Spirit, Come**

L: We turn to the West: To your symbol color black, The place of seeing, the birth of visions of the of the servants, who proclaimed the Gospel to us. Guide us at the end of each day and fill us with your peace. And we pray, **C: Come Holy Creator's Spirit, Come**

L: We turn to the North: To your symbol color white, We look to God our Creator who cleanses our earth with snow, wind, and rain. Creator who fills us with the wideness of mercy and grace and lovingly embraces all the people. And to the Spirit who comes to inspire us. And we pray, **C: Come Holy Creator's Spirit, Come**

Sharing of the Peace

L: May the peace and tranquility of this sacred ground, blessed by the Lord, be with you all.

C: And with your spirit, may it too find peace in this hallowed place.

Please share a sign of peace with those around you in a manner that is comfortable for you.

Great Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give thanks and praise.

L: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, to stand open in the presence of God and one another as thankful people, lifting our voices in chorus, with those who have gone before us and with people throughout the world today, singing:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy (ELW 762)

Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy

Santo, santo, santo, santo

Refrain/Estrillo



San - to, san - to, san - to, san - to, san - to, san - to es nues - tro Dios,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is our God,



Se - ñor de to - da la tie - rra. San - to, san - to es nues - tro Dios.
God, the Lord of earth and heav - en. Ho - ly, ho - ly is our God.



San - to, san - to, san - to, san - to, san - to, san - to es nues - tro Dios,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is our God,

End/Fin



Se - ñor de to - da la his - to - ria. San - to, san - to es nues - tro Dios.
God, the Lord of all of his - t'ry. Ho - ly, ho - ly is our God.



Que a - com - pa - ña a nues - tro pue - blo, que vi - ve en nues - tras lu - chas,
Who ac - com - pa - nies our peo - ple, who lives with - in our strug - gles,



del u - ni - ver - so en - te - ro el ú - ni - co Se - ñor.
of all the earth and heav - en the one and on - ly Lord.



Ben - di - tos los que en su nom - bre el e - van - ge - lio a - nun - cian,
Blest are they who in the Lord's name an - nounce the ho - ly gos - pel,

Refrain/Estrillo



la bue - na y gran no - ti - cia de la li - be - ra - ción.
pro - claim - ing the good news that our lib - er - a - tion comes.

Text: Guillermo Cuéllar, b. 1955; tr. Linda McCrae
 Music: CUELLAR, Guillermo Cuéllar
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L: O God triune, how majestic
is your name in all the earth.
Over the eons your merciful might
evolved our home, a fragile tree of life.
Here by your wisdom
are both life and death,
growth and decay,
the nest and the hunt,
sunshine and storm,
darkness and light.
Sustained by these wonders,
we creatures of dust join in the ancient song:
The earth is full of your glory.
C: The earth is full of your glory.

L: O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer.
In Christ you bring life from death;
we remember his cross,
we laud his resurrection.
Broken like bread, he enlivens our body.
Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness.
Receiving this mystery,
we mortals sing our song:
The earth is full of your glory.
C: The earth is full of your glory.

L: We praise you for the heart of Jesus,
so filled with your love for this earth.

L: In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered around this table,
we your children unite in this song:
The earth is full of your glory.

C: The earth is full of your glory.

L: O God triune, you create the worlds,
you uphold the living,
you embrace the dead.
Send forth your Spirit
and renew the face of the earth.
Strengthen us for our journey with this meal,
the body and blood of Christ.
Give us a future that trusts in you
and cares for your earth.
Empowered by your promises,
we rise from our deaths
to praise you again:
The earth is full of your glory.

C: The earth is full of your glory.

L: Amen, and amen.

C: Amen, and amen.

The Lord's Prayer

The assembly is invited to pray in the many languages in which we have been blessed.

Communion

L: Come to the table, for all is now ready.

The assembly is seated. Communion distribution will take place at two stations in front of the altar. The bread is gluten free, and there is red wine and white grape juice available.

Communion Hymns

One Bread, One Body, One Lord of All (ELW 496)

All Who Hunger Gather Gladly (ELW 461)

Come Let Us Eat (ELW 491)

One Bread, One Body

Refrain



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



1	Gen - tile	or Jew,	ser - vant	or free,
2	Man - y	the gifts,	man - y	the works,
3	Grain for	the fields,	scat - tered	and grown,

Refrain



wom - an	or man,	no	more.
one in	the Lord	of	all.
gath - ered	to one	for	all.

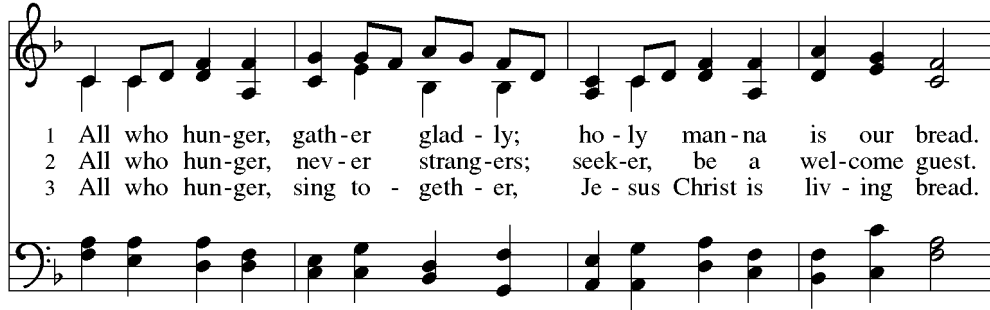
Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939

Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, SJ

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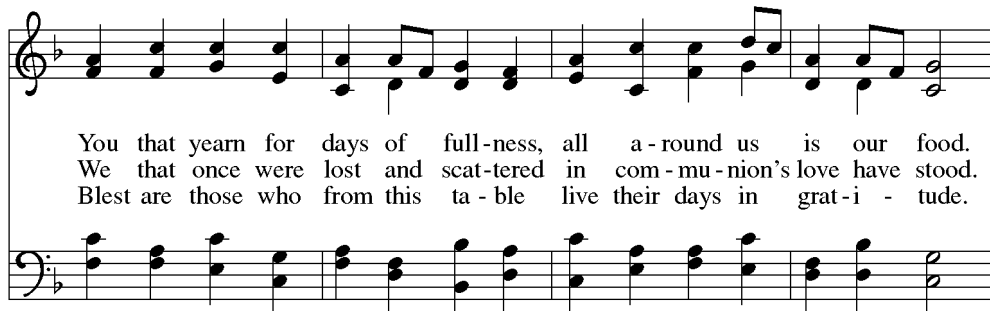
All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly



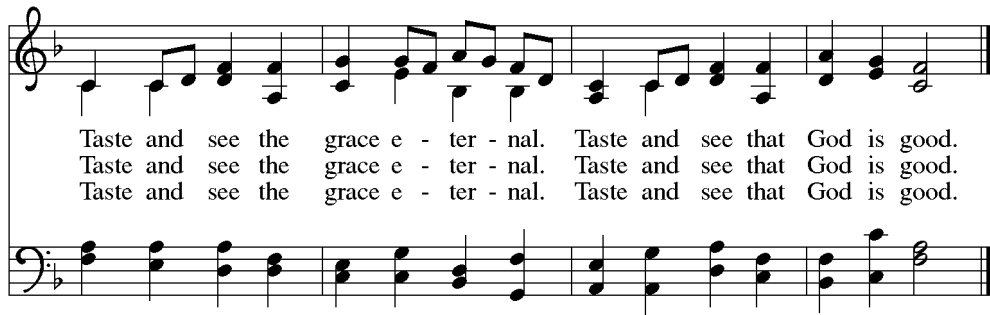
1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na is our bread.
 2 All who hun-ger, nev - er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
 3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil-der - ness and wan - d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
 Come from rest-less - ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.
 Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a - round us is our food.
 We that once were lost and scat-tered in com - mu - nion's love have stood.
 Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat-i - tude.



Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993
 Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825; arr. hymnal version
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Come, Let Us Eat

Leader or All



1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
3 In Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest,
4 Rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word,

All



come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
in Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest.
rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word.

Leader or All



Our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er,
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er,
In the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er,
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom,

All



our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er.
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er.
in the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er.
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom.

Text: Billema Kwillia, b. 1925, sts. 1–3; Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930, st. 4, alt.; tr. Margaret D. Miller, b. 1927, sts. 1–3, alt.

Music: A VA DE, Billema Kwillia, adapt.

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Post Communion Prayer

The assembly stands.

L: God of all creation, we thank You for this sacred ground upon which we gather and the stories that are attached to it. We thank You for the gift of communion, a symbol of Your unending love and sacrifice for us.

As we partake in this holy sacrament, we are reminded of our connection to You and to each other. We have shared in the body and blood of Christ, united in His love, bound together in this sacred act of remembrance.

As we leave this sacred ground, may we carry the spirit of this holy place with us. May each step we take be a prayer, each word a hymn of praise, each action a testament to Your love.

Help us to treat all ground as sacred, recognizing Your presence in all places and all people. May we honor You in our actions, reflect Your love in our relationships, and serve You with grateful hearts.

Bless us, O Lord, as we depart from this holy communion. Keep us close to You, guide us in Your ways, and bring us back together on this sacred ground.
In Jesus' name, we pray.

C: Amen.

Blessing

L: May each foot that steps upon this sacred earth resonate with peace, harmony, and divine blessings for you.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn - Blessed Assurance (ELW 638)

Blessed Assurance

1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,

Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
 an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
 watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain

This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:

this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
 Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

Sending

L: As you leave this sacred ground, may its tranquility and wisdom continue to guide and bless your journey.

C: Thanks be to God!

Stories That Shape Us
Closing Worship
ELCA Ohio Rostered Minister Gathering 2024
January 25, 2024

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” – Acts 1:8

Call to Worship

L: The Spirit of God be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Four Directions Prayer

A Four Direction Prayer comes from a way that many Native American people pray to connect deeply with both God and all creation. There are many different tribes of Native people, and many ways that people say this prayer. But that is what makes this prayer special. No matter how this is prayed, the most important part is that you pray from deep in your heart. This is a great way to start and end each day.

L: Creator, the strength of the people, we honor you. Listen to the thoughts of your people. We respect the truth of your spirit and care for your Creations to the east, to the south, to the west and to the north. We honor you by deeds and not words. We live by the ways you have entrusted to us within the circle of life. Come Great Spirit as we gather in your name.

(We turn our bodies to the Four Directions as we pray the following prayers. Begin by turning toward the East and continue to turn, with each prayer, in a clockwise direction.)

L: We face East: To your symbol color gold, The place of dawning, there is beauty in the morning, there the Seeker finds new visions as each sacred day is born. All who honor life around them, all who honor life within, shall shine with light and glory when the morning comes again. And we pray, **C: Come Holy Creator’s Spirit, Come**

L: We turn to the South: To your symbol color red, In the South, the place of growing there is wisdom in the earth, Both the painful song of dying and joyful song of birth. As the earth gives up her lifeblood so her children's hearts may beat. We give back to her our reverence for the holy ground beneath our feet. And we pray, **C: Come Holy Creator's Spirit, Come**

L: We turn to the West: To your symbol color black, The place of seeing, the birth of visions of the servant of the servants, who proclaimed the Gospel to us. Guide us at the end of each day and fill us with your peace. And we pray, **C: Come Holy Creator's Spirit, Come**

L: We turn to the North: To your symbol color white, We look to God our Creator who cleanses our earth with snow, wind, and rain. Creator who fills us with the wideness of mercy and grace and lovingly embraces all the people. And to the Spirit who comes to inspire us. And we pray, **C: Come Holy Creator's Spirit, Come**

Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

The assembly is invited to pray in the many languages in which we have been blessed.

Blessing

Great Spirit, our Creator God, look upon these faces gathered in holy community together and send them anywhere you would have them go. Walk with them so that they may face the winds of change and walk the good road.

Enlighten them. Sustain them. May God our Creator be with you this day and always. **Amen.**