

by Jan Richardson



Grace Episcopal Church
23rd Sunday after Pentecost
Oct. 28, 2018 | 8 and 9:30am
Ministers | All of Us
Rector | Wren Blessing
Preacher | Catherine Close
Music | Darden Burns
Tribe | Rhododendron

"... he regained his sight and followed him on the way." Mark 10:52

We travelers, walking to the sun, can't see
Ahead, but looking back the very light
That blinded us shows us the way we came,
Along which blessings now appear, risen
As if from sightlessness to sight, and we,
By blessing brightly lit, keep going toward
That blessed light that yet to us is dark.

*by Wendell Berry
from Given: New Poems*

A bell rings. We listen to the longing in our hearts. We remain seated.

Gathering Song | Bless the Lord My Soul

Text: Psalm 103 | Music: Jacques Berthier

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

A Call to Worship

After the gathering song, the Celebrant invites us to stand.

Celebrant Open our hearts.

People New every morning are your mercies.

Celebrant Set free our voices.

People New every morning is your song.

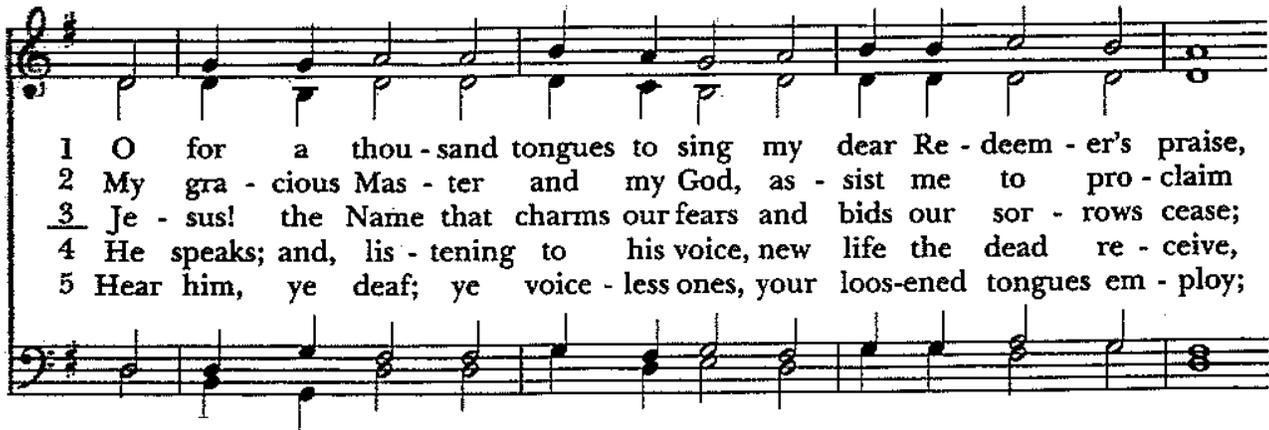
Celebrant Guide our feet.

People New every morning is your faithfulness. Amen.

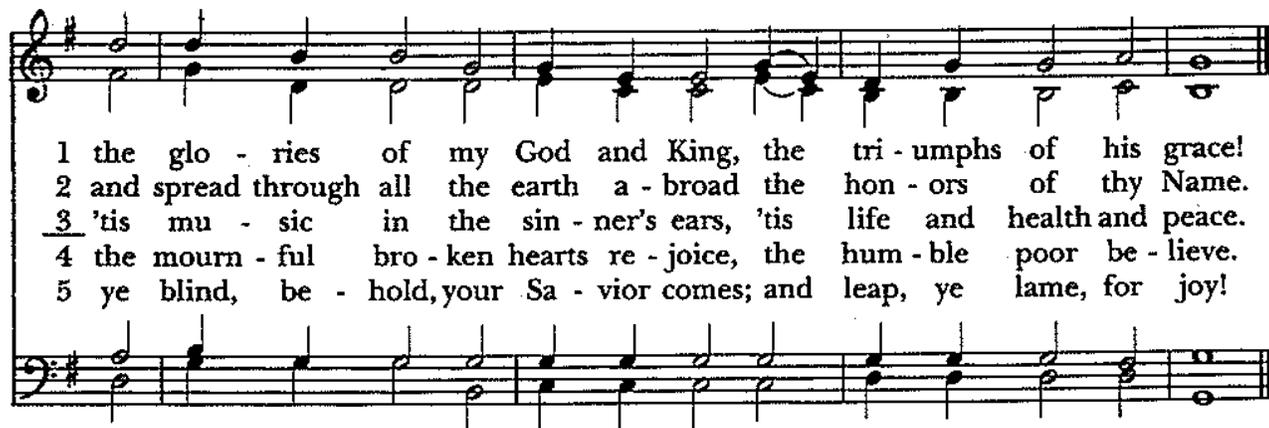
We remain standing and sing together.

Opening Song | O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Words: Charles Wesley | Music: Azmon, Carl Gotthilf Glaser; adapt and arr. Lowell Mason



1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my dear Re - deem - er's praise,
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim
3 Je - sus! the Name that charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease;
4 He speaks; and, lis - tening to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive,
5 Hear him, ye deaf; ye voice - less ones, your loos-ened tongues em - ploy;



1 the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace!
2 and spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy Name.
3 'tis mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
4 the mourn - ful bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.
5 ye blind, be - hold, your Sa - vior comes; and leap, ye lame, for joy!

6 Glory to God and praise and love
be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above,
the Church in earth and heaven.

The Collect

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

God of mercy, thank you for hearing us when we cry out. As we enter unfamiliar landscapes, help us to know that you are near. Guide us to walk with you in friendship, that we might know and be transformed by your love. **Amen.**

WE TELL THE STORY

We are seated for the reading.

The First Reading | Job 42:1-6, 10-17

Job answered the Lord:

“I know that you can do all things,
and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.
‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’
Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.
‘Hear, and I will speak;
I will question you, and you declare to me.’
I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear,
but now my eye sees you;
therefore I despise myself,
and repent in dust and ashes.”

And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job when he had prayed for his friends; and the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. Then there came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and they ate bread with him in his house; they showed him sympathy and comforted him for all the evil that the Lord had brought upon him; and each of them gave him a piece of money and a gold ring. The Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; and he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand donkeys. He also had seven sons and three daughters. He named the first Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch. In all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job’s daughters; and their father gave them an inheritance along with their brothers. After this Job lived for one hundred and forty years, and saw his children, and his children’s children, four generations. And Job died, old and full of days.

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

We stand and say the Psalm responsively.

Psalm | 34:1-8

I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.

**I will glory in the Lord;
let the humble hear and rejoice.**

Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord;
let us exalt his Name together.

**I sought the Lord, and he answered me
and delivered me out of all my terror.**

Look upon him and be radiant,
and let not your faces be ashamed.

**I called in my affliction and the Lord heard me
and saved me from all my troubles.**

The angel of the Lord encompasses those who fear him,
and he will deliver them.

**Taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are they who trust in him!**

We are seated for the second reading.

The Second Reading | Hebrews 7:23-28

The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; but Jesus holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

All

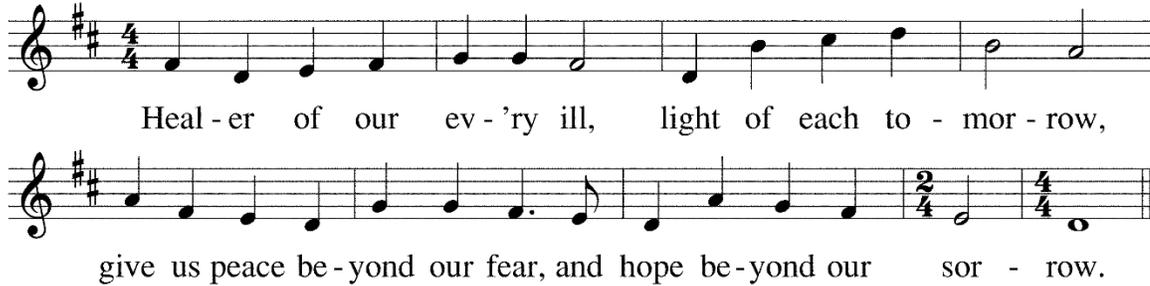
Thanks be to God.

We stand together and sing

Gospel Song | Healer of Our Every Ill

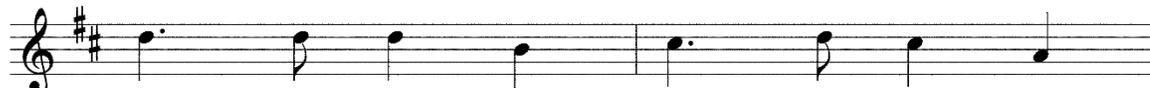
by Marty Haugen

Refrain



Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,
give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.

Verses



1. You who know our fears and sad - ness,
2. In the pain and joy be - hold - ing,
3. Give us strength to love each oth - er,
4. You who know each thought and feel - ing,



Grace us with your peace and glad - ness,
How your grace is still un - fold - ing,
Ev - 'ry sis - ter, ev - 'ry broth - er,
Teach us all your way of heal - ing,



Spir - it of all com - fort: fill our hearts.
Give us all your vi - sion: God of love.
Spir - it of all kind - ness: be our guide.
Spir - it of com - pas - sion: fill each heart.

D.C.

The Celebrant then introduces the Gospel by saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

The Gospel | Mark 10:46-52

Jesus and his disciples came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.” So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.” Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

After the Gospel the Celebrant will say

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

The Homily

Affirmation of Faith

We stand and say

**We believe in God above us,
maker and sustainer of all life,
of sun and moon,
of water and earth,
of all humanity.**

**We believe in God beside us,
Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,
Born of a woman's womb, servant of the poor,
he was tortured and nailed to a tree.
Knowing full passion and deep sorrow, he died forsaken.
He descended into the earth to the place of death.
On the third day he rose from the tomb.
He ascended into heaven to be everywhere present,
and his Kingdom will one day be known.**

**We believe in God within us,
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the Church.
She is the Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of resurrection and of life everlasting. Amen.**

We gather in prayer.

The Prayers of the People

Gathering

Leader “A blind beggar, sitting by the roadside, shouted, ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me! Let me see again.’”

All **Loving God, what would you have us see with new eyes?**

Relationships

Leader “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.”

We pray for the gift of kind relationships with children, families and all persons including those who are estranged, alone, or in danger this day.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts.

Leader Loving God,

All **hear our prayers.**

Prayer Requests

Leader “Look upon God and be radiant, and let not your faces be ashamed. I called in my affliction and the Lord heard me and saved me from all my troubles.”

We offer prayers for those on our prayer list and those we carry in our hearts.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts.

Leader Loving God,

All **hear our prayers.**

Environment

Leader “Then Job answered the LORD: ‘I know that you can do all and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.’”

God inspire us to hold your earth and its creatures sacred.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts.

Leader Loving God,

All **hear our prayers.**

World and Faith Leaders

Leader “Taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are they who trust in God!
O God, may all who carry authority and responsibility worldwide lead with your
wisdom and love.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts.

Leader Loving God,
All **hear our prayers.**

Gratitude

Leader “Then Jesus said to him, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’”
God, in all your ways, thank you for loving us.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts.

Leader Loving God,
All **hear our prayers.**

Closing

Leader “Jesus said to him, ‘Go; your faith has made you well.’ Immediately he regained
his sight and followed him on the way.”

All **In this bountiful harvest season, O God, open our hearts: to love, to give,
to serve.**

The Peace

We conclude these prayers with the sharing of God’s peace.

Celebrant We turn to one another with outstretched arms, saying: the peace of the Lord
be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

After the peace, we are seated.

Offertory Song | What a Wonderful World *Offered by Holly White*

by George David Weiss, George Douglas, & Bob Thiele

I see trees of green, red roses too
I see them bloom for me and you
And I think to myself what a wonderful world

I see skies of blue and clouds of white
The bright blessed day, the dark sacred night
And I think to myself what a wonderful world

The colors of the rainbow so pretty in the sky
Are also on the faces of people going by
I see friends shaking hands saying how do you do
They're really saying I love you

I hear babies crying, I watch them grow
They'll learn much more than I'll never know
And I think to myself what a wonderful world
Yes I think to myself what a wonderful world

THE CELEBRATION OF OUR SACRED MEAL

We are invited to stand as the table is set with the gifts of our hearts and hands.

Celebrant faces them and says

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant continues

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon and stars; earth, wind and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away. And yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity lifting our voices to you as we sing:



Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus, the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again he gave thanks to you, gave it to them and said: "Drink this, all of you. And whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now, gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet of the world.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ. By him and with him and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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,

for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

We are now invited to share the gifts of Communion.

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast! Alleluia!

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Please know that at Grace Church all are invited to receive the bread and wine. This sacrament is God's free gift. Assist the Chalice Bearers by tipping the cup from the base. Please tell your server if you prefer a wafer that is free from gluten, soy, and dairy.

Music during Communion | Air in D Major by J.S. Bach

Offered by Darden Burns

You are the Center

by Margaret Rizza

8
14
21
28

You are the cen - ter, you are my life, You are the cen - ter, O Lord of my
life. Come Lord and guide me, Lord of my life, Send me your
Spi - rit Lord of my life. You are the cen - ter Lord of my life.
Give me your spi - rit and teach me your ways, Give me your peace Lord and set me free..
1. You are the cen - ter, you are my life. D.C. 2. You are the cen - ter,
you are my life, You are the cen - ter, O Lord of my life.

*Following Communion we share silence with one another.
The quiet will last a few minutes and will begin and end with a bell.*

Song after Communion | We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder

African American Spiritual

1. We are climbing Ja-cob's lad-der, We are climbing Ja-cob's lad-der

The first system of musical notation is for a piano accompaniment. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

9 We are climb-ing Ja-cob's lad-der, Bro-thers, sis-ters, all.

The second system of musical notation continues the piano accompaniment. It also consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature and time signature remain the same. The melody continues in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The system ends with a double bar line.

2. Every round goes higher, higher (repeat 2x) Brothers, sisters, all.
3. We are dancing Sarah's circle ...
4. Every round a generation ...

GOING OUT INTO GOD'S WORLD

Our Prayer after Communion

We stand and say together

**Eternal God,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Blessing

The Celebrant offers a blessing.

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever he may lead you.

May God guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.

May God bring you home rejoicing at the wonders God has shown you.

May God bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors.

And the blessing, the peace, and the strength of the Triune One be upon you and remain with you now and always. **Amen**

Closing Song | Can't Be Long

by Barbara Hall



1. Well I think I'll go down to the river and let that water wash over me,
5 Yes I think I'll go down to the river and let that water wash over me,
10 'Cause it can't be long, no it can't be long, un-til my Lord remembers me.

2. Well I think I'll go into the forest and let that darkness rush over me.
Yes I think I'll go into the forest and let that darkness rush over me.
'Cause it can't be long, no it can't be long until my Lord remembers me.
3. Well I think I'll go into the mountains and let that cold wind cut through me.
Yes I think I'll go into the mountains and let that cold wind cut through me.
'Cause it can't be long, no it can't be long until my Lord remembers me.
4. Well I think I'll go into the valley and let that green grass grow over me.
Yes I think I'll go into the valley and let that green grass grow over me.
'Cause it can't be long, I hope it won't be long until my Lord remembers me.
'Cause it can't be long, I hope it won't be long until my Lord remembers me.

Birthday and Anniversaries

Announcements

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

The Beautiful Changes

One wading a Fall meadow finds on all sides
The Queen Anne's Lace lying like lilies
On water; it glides
So from the walker, it turns
Dry grass to a lake, as the slightest shade of you
Valleys my mind in fabulous blue Lucernes.

The beautiful changes as a forest is changed
By a chameleon's tuning his skin to it;
As a mantis, arranged
On a green leaf, grows
Into it, makes the leaf leafier, and proves
Any greenness is deeper than anyone knows.

Your hands hold roses always in a way that says
They are not only yours; the beautiful changes
In such kind ways,
Wishing ever to sunder
Things and things' selves for a second finding, to lose
For a moment all that it touches back to wonder.

by Robert Wilbur

Tasting Heaven

Some people say that every poem should have
God in it somewhere. But of course Wallace Stevens
Wasn't one of those. We live, he said, "in a world
Without heaven to follow." Shall we agree

That we taste heaven only once, when we see
Her at fifteen walking among falling leaves?
It's possible. And yet as Stevens lay dying
He invited the priest in. There, I've said it.

The priest is not an argument, only an instance.
But our gusty emotions say to me that we have
Tasted heaven many times: these delicacies
Are left over from some larger party.

by Robert Bly

from Eating the Honey of Words: New and Selected Poems by Robert Bly.

Beginning

The moon drops one or two feathers into the field.
The dark wheat listens.
Be still.
Now.
There they are, the moon's young, trying
Their wings.
Between trees, a slender woman lifts up the lovely shadow
Of her face, and now she steps into the air, now she is gone
Wholly, into the air.
I stand alone by an elder tree, I do not dare breathe
Or move.
I listen.
The wheat leans back toward its own darkness,
And I lean toward mine.

by James Wright

Song for Autumn

In the deep fall

don't you imagine the leaves think how
comfortable it will be to touch

the earth instead of the
nothingness of air and the endless

freshets of wind? And don't you think
the trees themselves, especially those with mossy,
warm caves, begin to think

of the birds that will come—six, a dozen—to sleep

inside their bodies? And don't you hear
the goldenrod whispering goodbye,

the everlasting being crowned with the first
tuffets of snow? The pond

vanishes, and the white field over which
the fox runs so quickly brings out

its blue shadows. And the wind pumps its
bellows. And at evening especially,

the piled firewood shifts a little,
longing to be on its way.

by Mary Oliver

from New and Selected Poems Volume Two