Song of Gathering

*O How Glorious, Full of Wonder*

The Word of God

Presider  Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People  And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

*The Presider may say*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Glory to God

Words and music by Sharon Anway, 2003

Chorus:  Glory to God in the highest, and peace, peace to all God's people;
        Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth. (repeat)

        Holy God, Most High, Source of light and goodness,
        We will worship you and praise you forever!  Chorus
        Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior, Lamb of God,
        You take away our sins and lead us to God.  Chorus

The Collect

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.
First Reading  

Jonah 3:10-4:11

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145:1-8

1 I will exalt you, O God my King, *  
and bless your Name for ever and ever.  
2 Every day will I bless you *  
and praise your Name for ever and ever.  
3 Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *  
there is no end to his greatness.  
4 One generation shall praise your works to another *  
and shall declare your power.  
5 I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty *  
and all your marvelous works.  
6 They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, *  
and I will tell of your greatness.  
7 They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; *  
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.  
8 The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, *  
slow to anger and of great kindness.
The Epistle

Philippians 1:21-30

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God’s doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn

Enter the Realm of God

lyrics: Levon Bayler, 1994

Music: folk tune from the Philippines

Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Nicene Creed  

all say

We believe in one God,
  the Father, the Almighty,
  maker of heaven and earth,
  of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
  the only Son of God,
  eternally begotten of the Father,
  God from God, Light from Light,
  true God from true God,
  begotten, not made,
  of one Being with the Father.
  Through him all things were made.
  For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
  by the power of the Holy Spirit
  he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
  and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
  he suffered death and was buried.
  On the third day he rose again
    in accordance with the Scriptures;
  he ascended into heaven
    and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
  He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
    and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
  Who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
  Who has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
  and the life of the world to come. Amen.
Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray.

**Lord’s Prayer** all say  

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.

**Confession of Sin**  
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

**Absolution**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of your Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.  
Amen.
Prayers of the People

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud or in the chat space below.

Beloved God, we thank you for giving us power through your Spirit to reveal your life to the world: strengthen, bless, and guide us to make you known by word and example.

Silence

We are your Church, O God.

Guide us in your grace.

We thank you for your creation, and pray for the earth you have given us to cherish and protect: Nourish in us your love for all you have made.

Silence

We are your Church, O God.

Guide us in your grace.

Guide and bless us in our work and in our play, and shape the patterns of our political and economic life that all people may share in the fulfillment of your creative work.

Silence

We are your Church, O God.

Guide us in your grace.

Awaken our hearts to your presence in all people; in those we love easily and those with whom we struggle, in those different from us and those familiar to us.

Silence

We are your Church, O God.

Guide us in your grace.

We thank you for calling us to a glorious heritage as your holy people. Free us from lack of vision, from inertia of will and spirit. By your life-giving Spirit, lead us out of isolation and oppression, redeem and restore us.

Silence

We are your Church, O God.

Guide us in your grace.

We thank you for the gift of life, with all its blessing and sorrows. Shield the joyous, comfort and strengthen those in any need or trouble. Bless those who will be born today and those who will die, that joining with the company of all your saints we may rejoice in one unending song of praise to the marvels of your creation.

Silence

We are your Church, O God.

Guide us in your grace.
Concluding Collect    all say

O God, who brought all things to birth in creation and gave us grace to become your daughters and sons: Draw us together that we may live in harmony with all of life and in the Spirit as the family of Christ in the ages to come. Amen.

Passing of the Peace
The peace of the Lord be always with you.  And also with you.

Blessing

Song of Sending    O Jesus, I Have Promised    Hymn #655

Dismissal

We give special thanks to The Rev. Liane Nichols for presiding today; as well as our talented musicians Janet Sanders and Sharon Anway for their musical offerings today. Thank you, Jen Rasmussen for managing the technical portions of our worship!

The Rt. Rev. Alan Scarfe, Bishop of Iowa
The Rev. Elizabeth Duff Popplewell, Rector
The Rev. Liane Nichols, Deacon    The Rev. Ruth Ratliff, Deacon
Ms. Sharon Anway, Music Director & Composer-in-Resident    Janet Sanders, Organist

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