

"Who Do You Say That I Am?"
North Carolina Synod Assembly Worship
Friday, June 2, 2023

NOTE ABOUT WORSHIP

Paraphrasing Jaroslav Pelikan, when asked why faith communities need a creed, he remarks, because praying “To whom it may concern” is too lonely - especially in difficult times. At the heart of Jesus’ question to Peter, “Who do you say that I am?” Jesus invites Peter and the disciples into a deeper relationship with him. Even though Peter names Jesus “the Messiah, the Son of the Living God,” he can only know what this means as he and the other disciples continue to follow Jesus.

Now, Jesus turns to us and asks, “Who do you say that I am?” This question is always much larger than we are, and, thankfully, we do not have to answer by ourselves. The gift of the Church is that the community who has come before us and the community who surrounds us answers this question with us. Through scripture, liturgy, sacraments, hymns and creed, our worship shapes our imagination as we faithfully respond to Jesus’ question. The liturgy of our worship service this evening follows the seasons of the church year. Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Pentecost tell the story of Jesus’ life and our life with Jesus.

Our prayer is that tonight’s service deepens our relationship with Jesus and helps us as we respond together to Jesus’ question, “Who do you say that I am?”

GATHERING

Prelude

The Rev. John Tirro

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Brooke Summerour

Necrology

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| + Rev. Bill Zima | October 8, 1965 – September 6, 2022 |
| + Rev. Robert “Buz” Van Horne | June 5, 1943 – November 4, 2022 |
| + Rev. Matthew Ernst | October 28, 1939 – April 21, 2023 |

Call to Worship

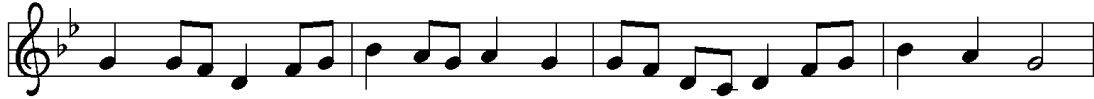
The Revs. Ward Misenheimer and Meghan Richter

Opening Hymns

ELW #254 "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

ELW #296 "What Child is This"

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!

"Born in a Barn Where Cows and Sheep"



1. Born in a barn where cows — and sheep
 2. Thanks be to God for friend - ly beasts
 3. Out in the dark while cat - tle low
 4. Quick with her hand she shades the light
 5. Deep in the soul let star - light cling;



hud - dle in — the fros - ty air, Ma - ry's ba - by falls a -
 that to - night have not been fed so my new - born child at
 Ma - ry hears a - no - ther sound: through the streets the sol - diers
 till the boot steps fade a - way, but they haunt her dreams all
 make each heart a man - ger stall till we live what an - gels



sleep while she lifts her heart in prayer. —
 least has a man - ger for — his bed. —
 go, He - rod's troup pa - trol — the town. —
 night and keep wak - ing her — to pray. —
 sing: Peace on earth good will — to all. —

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, ©2002 Oxford University Press.
 Tune: John Tirro, ©2016 Mondo Zen Music (www.johntirro.com).

Processional Hymn *“What King Would Wade Through Murky Streams”*

1. What king would wade through mur - ky streams and bow be -
 2. Christ gleams with wa - ter brown with clay from land the
 3. Come bow with Christ be - neath the wave. He stands here

neath the wave, ig - nor - ing how the world es -
 pro - phets trod. A - bove him while the clouds give
 at your side and rais - es you as from the

teems the pow - er - ful and brave?
 way de - scends the dove of God.
 grave God raised him cru - ci - fied.

Wa - ter, Ri - ver, Spi - rit, Grace, sweep o - ver me, sweep o - ver me,

re - carve the depths your fing - ers traced in sculpt - ing me.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger
 Tune: John Tirro
 ©2017 Oxford University Press, Inc./Mondo Zen Music (www.johntirro.com)

Thanksgiving for Baptism

The Rev. Jennifer Shimota

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God,
 the fountain of living water,
 the rock who gave us birth,
 our light and our salvation

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
 we are clothed with God’s mercy and forgiveness.
 Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

**We give you thanks, O God,
 for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
 and by your Word you created the world,
 calling forth life in which you took delight.**

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
 Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
 At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
 By water and your Word you claim us as your children,
 Making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

**We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
 and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
 shower us with your Spirit,
 and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace and love.**

To you be given honor and praise
 through Jesus Christ our Lord
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise

"Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory"



1. Swift - ly pass the clouds of glo - ry, Hea - ven's voice, the dazz - ling light;
 2. Glimpsed and gone the re - vel - a - tion, They shall gain and keep its truth,
 3. Lord, trans - fi - gure our per - cep - tion With the pur - est light that shines,



Mo - ses and E - li - jah va - nish; Christ a - lone com - mands the height!
 Not by build - ing on the moun - tain A - ny shrine or sac - red booth,
 And re - cast our life's in - ten - tions To the shape of Your de - signs,



Pe - ter, James, and John fall si - lent, Turn - ing from the sum - mit's rise
 But by fol - low - ing their Sa - vior Through the val - ley to the cross
 Till we seek no o - ther glo - ry Than what lies past Cal - vary's hill



Down - ward toward the sha - dowed val - ley Where their Lord has fixed His eyes.
 And by test - ing faith's re - si - lience Through be - tray - al, pain, and loss.
 And our liv - ing and our dy - ing And our ris - ing by Your will.

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 Tune: John Tirro, ©2013 Mondo Zen Music.

TRANSFIGURATION
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Prayer of Illumination

The Rev. Ben Kifer

Let us pray. God of all creation, we praise you for coming to us in your Son Jesus Christ. When the word of your prophets went unheard and when their message was rejected, you spoke your creative word once more, bringing order out of chaos again – this time not to bring a world into being, but to bring your being into the world, the very essence of your love taking on our flesh. As we prepare to listen to the words of scripture:

Open our ears that we may hear.

Open our minds that we may be renewed.

Open our hearts that we may be transformed.

Amen.

WORD

The First Reading

Acts 4:8-12

The Rev. Jack Russell

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are being asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.’ “There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

“To You All Hearts Are Open”

To You, all hearts are o - pen, to You, all de - sires known. To
You, there are no se - crets. Al - migh - ty God, we come to You.

Text: *The Book of Common Prayer*, adapt. by John Tirro

Tune: John Tirro

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Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn of the Day

"Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud"



1 Source and Sove-reign, Rock and Cloud, For - tress Foun - tain, Shel - ter, Light,
2 Word and Wis - dom, Root and Vine, Shep - herd, Sa - vior, Ser - vant, Lamb,
3 Storm and Still - ness, Breath and Dove, Thun - der, Tem - pest, Whirl-wind, Fire,



Judge, De - fend - er, Mer - cy, Might, Life whose life all life en - dowed:
Well and Wa - ter, Bread and Wine, Way who leads us to I AM:
Com - fort, Coun - selor, Pre - sence, Love, En - er - gies that ne - ver tire:



May the church at prayer re - call that no sing - le ho - ly name



but the truth that feeds them all is the God whom we pro - claim.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, ©1994 Oxford University Press, Inc.

Tune: John Tirro, ©2023 Mondo Zen Music (johntirro.com)

Installation of the Rev. Alfredo Oviedo, Assistant to the Bishop, NC Synod

Creed

The Rev Ethan Overcash

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the Faithful

“Bring Your Best to Their Worst”

All:

Bring your best to their worst, bring your peace to their pain, God of Love, heal your

One:

peo - ple. 1 That none who cry a - loud may cry in vain, —
 2 That all who doubt may find a deep - er faith, —
 3 That all who fear may feel your shelt - 'ring hand, —
 4 That guil - ty ones may know they are for - given, —
 5 That we may be your hands to heal the world, —

Text: Iona Community
 Tune: Iona Community
 ©1998 GIA/Iona Community/WGRG

Sharing of the Peace

Marvelous Dwanah

On that first Easter evening, Jesus came to his disciples and showed them his hands and his side. In the wounds of Christ, we find healing. In the words of Christ, we receive peace. The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

Offering

Audacious—Every Youth Registered!

The offering for this evening will help meet the goal to pay for every NC Synod youth's registration fee for the upcoming 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering.

Offertory Song

“Shalom, Salaam”

Cantor:

There is no God but God.
The Lord your God is one.
One God and Father of all.

Refrain (All):

The musical notation consists of two staves of music in treble clef. The first staff contains the lyrics: "Sha-lom, Sa-laam, Peace be with you. Sha-lom,". The second staff contains the lyrics: "Sa-laam, Peace be with you.".

Cantor:

Let us live, live in peace.
Lord, our God, grant us peace.

Refrain (All)

Cantor:

In the bread, in the wine, in the body and the blood,
All that keeps us apart is consumed in heaven's love.
No division remains, we are gathered into one.
Love alone is the law, let God's will be done.

Refrain (All)

Words & Music: Dwight Liles and John Tirro
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MEAL

Table Prayer

Deacon Holly Shipley

Let us pray. The table of bread and wine is now made ready. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Jesus became fully human. So come to the table, all who have much faith and all who would like to have more; all who have been here often and all who have not been in a long time; all who have tried to follow Jesus, and all who have fallen short. Come. It is Christ who invites us all to meet him here.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Rev. Alfredo Oviedo

We invite you participate in the Eucharistic liturgy in the language of your heart.

El Señor sea con ustedes.

Y también contigo.

Elevemos los corazones.

Al Señor los elevamos.

Demos gracias al Señor nuestro Dios.

Es justo darle gracias y alabanza.

En verdad es digno, justo y saludable que en todo tiempo y en todo lugar te demos gracias y alabanza, oh Señor, Padre santo, todopoderoso y eterno Dios. Pero aún más, debemos alabarte por la gloriosa resurrección de nuestro Señor; porque él es el verdadero Cordero Pascual que se entregó para quitar nuestro pecado, que muriendo, destruyó la muerte, y resucitando, nos ha traído a la vida eterna. Así pues, con María Magdalena y Pedro, y con Bill Zima, Robert Van Horne y Matthew Ernst, y todos los testigos de la resurrección, con la tierra y el mar y todas sus criaturas, y con los ángeles y arcángeles, querubines y serafines, alabamos tu nombre y nos unimos a su himno eterno:

**Santo, santo, santo,
santo es el Señor, Dios del universo.
Llenos están el cielo
y la tierra de tu gloria.
Hosanna en el cielo.
Bendito el que viene
en el nombre del Señor.
Hosanna en el cielo,
hosanna en las alturas.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Lord, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so with Mary Magdalene and Peter, and with Bill Zima, Robert Van Horne, and Matthew Ernst, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels, archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

Words of Institution

La noche en que fue entregado, nuestro Señor Jesús tomó pan y dio gracias; lo partió y lo dio a sus discípulos, diciendo: Tomen y coman; esto es mi cuerpo, dado por ustedes. Hagan esto en memoria mía.

De igual manera, después de haber cenado, tomó la copa, dio gracias y la dio a beber a todos, diciendo: Esta copa es el nuevo pacto en mi sangre, derramada por ustedes y por todo el mundo para el perdón del pecado. Hagan esto en memoria mía.

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.

Lord's Prayer

We invite you to pray the Lord's Prayer in the language of your heart.

Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu nombre. Venga tu reino. Hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día. Perdona nuestras ofensas como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden. No nos dejes caer en tentación y líbranos del mal. Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es el poder y tuya es la gloria, ahora y siempre. Amén

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 forever Amen.

Distribution of Communion

Communion will be distributed by intinction at stations at the head of the aisle.

Communion Hymns

ELW #353 "Were You There?"

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
 Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there when God raised him from the grave?
 Were you there when God raised him from the grave?
 Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
 Were you there when God raised him from the grave?

"All We Are Meant to Be" Tom Eure and Amelia Osborne



1 With o - pen hands— we will come, just like so ma-ny have done. At your
 2 Lamb of God, you take a - way all the sins— of the day. By your
 3 The ta - ble's set, — sin dis - missed, e - ven Ju - das and his kiss. On - ly
 4 Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le -



ta - ble we are one. Great com-mu - nion has be - gun. With this
 side, we long to stay. Lead the way, — lead the way. Great Cre -
 through the Eu - char - ist do we know — a love like this. Love in -
 lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le -



bread and with this wine, I — ac - cept a love di - vine. Gi - ven
 a - tor, Christ the Son, Ho - ly Spi - rit, three in — one, your feast
 car - nate, Bread of Life, Love be - cause, ne - ver in — spite. Sal - va - tion's
 lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le -



free - ly it — is mine. Love di - vine — it — is — mine.
 spread for ev - 'ry - one. Christ is pre - sent, none are shunned.
 cup, — it — is right. We are bathed — in — your light.
 lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.



Hum-bly we lift this song. Re - newed, our chains are gone. Your gift of



grace sets free all we are meant to be.

Text: Tom Eure
 Tune: Tom Eure
 ©2022 Tom Eure

"As a Mother Comforts Her Child"

As a moth-er com-forts her child, so God will com - fort you.

As a hen gath-ers her brood, so Christ will gath - er you.

As a wise one coun-sels her friend, so the Spir-it will coun-sel you.

The Trin - i - ty of love will be with you.

"You Have Done Everything Well"

You have done ev-ery-thing well. _____ Ev-ery-thing, you have done

well, and all shall be well, and all shall be well,

and all man - ner of thing shall be well. _____

Words: Julian of Norwich, adapt. by Zack Nyein
Music: Zack Nyein
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"The Wind that Stirs the Sea to Sing"



1. The wind that stirs the sea to sing, to surge and soar and drum,
2. A - rise and blow from God's deep core, a stea - dy driv - ing gale, —
3. Then with your flame and wind ig - nite the hope we sing and pray:



is e - choed in the prayer we bring: O Ho - ly Spi - rit, come!
and fill this church for - e - ver - more with faith that will not fail!
that we will fol - low Christ the light, the truth, the life, the way!

O Ho - ly Spi - rit, come!
With faith that will not fail!
The truth, the life, the way!

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

Music: John Tirro, b. 1966

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Post-Communion Blessing

The Rev Alfredo Oviedo

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen,
keep and unite us, now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING

Benediction

Vicar Emily Graff

May you never feel alone in the struggle for justice and peace.
May you know the support of family, friends, and people who feel
as passionately about the world as you do.
May you feel a part of the great cloud of witnesses, who through the
ages, did God's work and prayed for the coming of the Kingdom.
May you never feel alone. And if you do, may you carry in your heart
the words of Jesus, who told his friends: "I am with you always."

Amen.

Sending Hymn

“God of Justice (We Must Go)”



1. God of just - ice, sav - ior to all, came to res - cue the
2. To act just - ly, ev - e - ry day, lov - ing mer - cy in



weak and the poor, chose to serve and not be served.
ev - e - ry way, walk - ing hum - bly with You, God.



Je - sus, you have called us. Free - ly we've re - ceived, now free - ly we will give.

Chorus:



We must go, live to feed the hung - ry, stand be - side the bro - ken. We must go.



Step - ping for - ward, keep us from just sing - ing, move us in - to ac - tion. We must go.



Fill us up and send us out. Fill us up and send us out.



Fill us up and send us out, Lord.

Repeat Chorus

Text: Tim Hughes

Tune: Tim Hughes

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Dismissal

Bishop Tim Smith

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

RESOURCES

Drawing from the gifts of the Church and all the ways we have responded throughout time and place to Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?", we used the following resources in crafting our worship:

John Tirro helped to create this worship service and served as our musician in worship this evening. John is the pastor of worship at St. John's Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Knoxville, TN. He had a first career writing chart-topping songs on the pop end of Country Music ("So Much For Pretending" by Bryan White and "Imagine That" by Diamond Rio), as well as songs on Platinum albums by LeAnn Rimes, Rascal Flatts, and others. John offers workshops in new hymns, leads worship at regional gatherings, and continues to write songs, including "To You All Hearts Are Open," in the ELCA hymnal *All Creation Sings*. Resources and licensing for John's songs, including the songs we sang together this evening, can be found at thereverbcollective.com, as well as with this QR code.



The Prayer of Illumination is by Moira Laidlaw, revised.

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The benediction was written by an unknown source.

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