

WELCOME:

GATHERING SONG: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" (ELW 858)

- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!
- 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?
- 3 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
if with his love he befriend you.
- 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

Desert Cross Lutheran Church
Gilbert, AZ



Prayer of Confession:

God of mercy,
we place our trust in tangible things—
things we can see and touch—
and question whether you are with us.

Forgive us, Holy One,
when we fail to recognize
that you are always with us,
patiently waiting for us to recognize
your presence and your grace.

Help us when we lose our way,
and forgive us when we forget
to whom we truly belong.

Lover of justice,
open our eyes to see you;
open our ears to hear you;
open our hearts to love you;
and open our hands to serve you.

Words of Assurance:

When we cry to God, looking for favor in God's sight,
God answers: "My presence will go with you,
and I will give you rest."

In the power of the Spirit and in the name of Jesus,
we are forgiven!

Rest in God's mercy!

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21*Read by Dawn Collins*

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** "Holy Spirit"

Holy Spirit, You are welcome here
 Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere
 Your glory God is what our hearts long for
 To be overcome by Your Presence, Lord

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GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON: Pastor Doris Nolan

SERMON SONG: ELW 856 "How Great Thou Art" (Verses 1, 3 and 4)

Verse 1:

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!

Verse 3:

But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing
he bled and died to take away my sin; (Refrain)

Verse 4:

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" **(Refrain)**

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859-1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899-1989. Text © 1953 S.K. Hine, assigned to Manna Music, Inc., 35255 Brooten Road, Pacific City, OR 97135 (ASCAP). Renewed 1981. All rights reserved. (ASCAP)



Desert Cross Lutheran Church
Tempe, AZ

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

The God of peace be with you all.

Let us pray:

Lord of love and light,

Shine your grace into our lives.

Remind us of the amazing ways you have loved us.

Bring your churches and communities
into unity for mission.

Lord of love and light,

we hold in our hearts those around us who feel unloved.

We lift them up for your compassion to shine into their lives.

We bring to you those who are overwhelmed and anxious.

Shine your peace and joy into their darkness.

For those who are sick, suffering, and grieving,

Shine your healing light and love into their hearts
and spirits and fill them with your peace and hope.

For all people and places that need our hands
reaching out to them with your loving compassion.

May our reaching out beyond our walls
with your love and compassion
share your never-ending love and light. Amen.

-Adapted from Rev Abi's Long and Winding Road blog

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Let the Praises Ring" – Christine Soll (piano) and James Soll (guitar)

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION:

adapted from Saint Augustine's Prayer Book. © 2014 Forward Movement

Blessed be God, + Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Let the power of the Holy Spirit come upon me, O Lord, to mercifully cleanse my heart and defend me from all adversities; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

1 Corinthians 11:23-25

The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Let us pray. Gracious Lord, I believe that you are truly present in the Word and the Holy Sacrament. Since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER:

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,
forever and ever. Amen.

SENDING SONG: "Agnus Dei"

Verse:

Alleluia, alleluia
For the Lord God Almighty reigns
Alleluia, alleluia
For the Lord God Almighty reigns
Alleluia

Chorus:

Holy, holy
Are You Lord God Almighty
Worthy is the Lamb
Worthy is the Lamb
You are holy, holy
Are You Lord God Almighty
Worthy is the Lamb
Worthy is the Lamb
You are holy

Verse:

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BENEDICTION:

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord's face shine on you
With grace and mercy,
The Lord look upon you with favor,
And give you peace +
AMEN.

Musicians: Daniel Decker (vocalist), Michael Lottes (vocalist),
Christine Soll (piano) and James Soll (guitar)