

WELCOME:

VETERANS DAY PRAYER:

Gracious God, today we remember all those who have served in our country's armed forces to preserve the freedoms you have granted us. For the men and women of the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and Navy, we ask your blessing. For families who have made great sacrifices and for families who grieve the death of a loved one who went into harm's way, never to return, we ask your comfort. For all those veterans who have been willing to lay down their lives for us, we ask your eternal blessing. For the veterans of past wars who bear scars in their bodies and spirits, and for all those on active duty, we ask your healing peace. Keep all our veterans in your care today. Grant them the peace they served to preserve for others. Teach all your people the ways of peace and freedom. We pray all these things in the name Jesus Christ. Amen.



Bulletin only
Desert Cross
Lutheran Church
Gilbert, AZ

GATHERING SONG: "Joyful (The One Who Saves)"

Verse 1:

Joyful, joyful we adore You
God of glory Lord of love
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You
Opening to the sun above

Verse 2:

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness
Drive the dark of doubt away
Giver of eternal gladness fill us
With the light of day

Chorus:

You are the One who saves
You are the One who saves
You are the One whose hands lift us from
the grave
You are the Light of life the everlasting day
You are the One who takes all our sins away

Verse 3:

You are giving and forgiving
Ever blessing ever blessed
Fountain of the joy of living
Ocean depths of happy rest

Chorus:

You are the One who saves
You are the One who saves
You are the One whose hands lift us from
the grave
You are the Light of life the everlasting day
You are the One who takes all our sins away

Bridge:

Jesus You are my rescue
Jesus You are my rescue
I give You ev'rything I am **(Repeat 4x)**

Verse 3:

You are giving and forgiving
Ever blessing ever blessed
Fountain of the joy of living
Ocean depths of happy rest

Chorus:

You are the One who saves
You are the One who saves
You are the One whose hands lift us from
the grave
You are the Light of life the everlasting day
You are the One who takes all our sins away

Ending:

You are the One who takes all our sins away
You are the One who takes all our sins away

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FIRST READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 *Read by Dan Moellering*

¹³But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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 5:13-20 (*Sermon on the Mount Part 2*)

¹³"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON: Pastor Andrea Cain

BLESSED ARE YOU WHO BEAR THE LIGHT

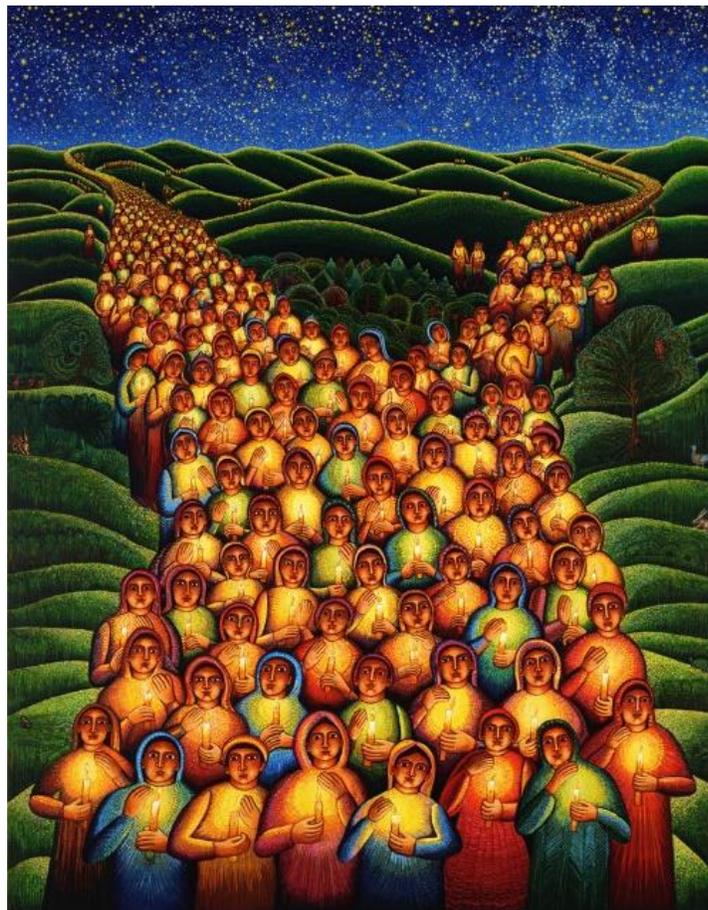
by Jan Richardson

Blessed are you

who bear the light
in unbearable times,
who testify
to its endurance
amid the unendurable,
who bear witness
to its persistence
when everything seems
in shadow
and grief.

Blessed are you

in whom
the light lives,
in whom
the brightness blazes—
your heart
a chapel,
an altar where
in the deepest night
can be seen
the fire that
shines forth in you
in unaccountable faith,
in stubborn hope,
in love that illumines
every broken thing
it finds.



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SERMON SONG: "We Are Called" (ELW 720)

Verse 1:

Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God.

Refrain:

We are called to act with justice,
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.

Verse 2:

Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
so hatred and blindness will be no more.

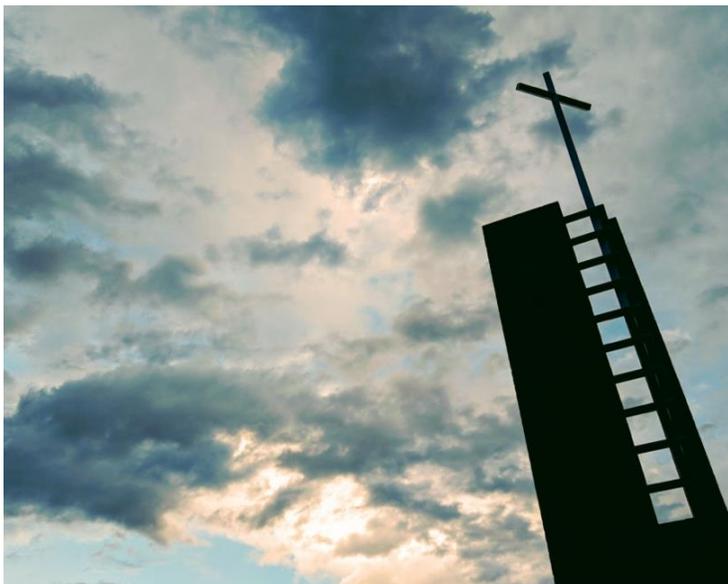
Refrain

Verse 3:

Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each
other
as sisters and brothers united in love.

Refrain

Text: David Haas, b. 1957
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Desert Cross Lutheran Church
Tempe, AZ

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

God of Light,
we confess that we have gone astray and have hidden your bright light.
We follow the worldly lights of pride, success, and personal gain.
Forgive us for not seeking the true Light
of Your love for all the world.
Forgive us for not following the ways of Jesus,
who commanded us to love one another.
Call us to be light-bearers of love, compassion and justice,
in which the mystery of your love is revealed.
In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Hear the good news:
Even the darkness is not dark to God,
and the night is as bright as the day.
The God who promised never to forsake us
has come to us in Jesus Christ
who binds up the brokenhearted.
heals all our infirmities,
and relieves our burden of sin.
So arise, shine; for your light has come,
And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC:

“In Christ Alone with Cornerstone” – Christine Soll (piano) and James Soll (guitar)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Prayers of Intercession

The God of peace be with you all.

Let us pray.

As the prophet Isaiah rang out, "Arise, shine; for your light has come"; empower your Church, O God, to ring out the Good News of the Light of your son Jesus, which pierces even the deepest darkness.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Send your blessing of love and forgiveness, O God of light, on this nation, and all nations.

Draw the whole world to your peace and truth.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Guide our country and our leaders to your ways of justice and righteousness.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

As Jesus climbed the mountaintop, and proclaimed blessings on the brokenhearted; we pray especially for people who are sick and distressed, poor and grieving. We especially pray for our country and world for healing from the COVID-19 pandemic. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of light, hear our prayers, and make us reflections of your light of love and grace. Amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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: "Glory to God, Forever"**Verse 1:**

Before the world was made
 Before You spoke it to be
 You were the King of kings
 Yeah You were yeah You were
 And now You're reigning still
 Enthroned above all things
 Angels and saints cry out
 We join them as we sing

Chorus:

Glory to God
 Glory to God
 Glory to God forever
 Glory to God
 Glory to God
 Glory to God forever

Verse 2:

Creator God You gave me breath
 So I could praise

Your great and matchless name
 All my days all my days
 So let my whole life be
 A blazing offering
 A life that shouts and sings
 The greatness of our King

Chorus:**Bridge:**

Take my life and let it be
 All for You and for Your glory
 Take my life and let it be Yours
 Take my life and let it be
 All for You and for Your glory
 Take my life and let it be Yours

Chorus:

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BENEDICTION:

May the love of God
Bless you as your guiding light
as you shine the light of Christ
into the world.

In the name of the Father,
And of the Son +,
And of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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