

Yet we live in a fallen world and we are an imperfect people.
Our world is filled with pain and alienation.

We know of illness when body or mind is failing, and the loneliness of spirit it brings.
**We know of separation from parent or child, from friend or neighbor,
and the emptiness of life it brings.**

We know of strangeness in new communities and in changing communities,
and the longing it brings.
**We know of alienation caused by unemployment or poverty or discrimination,
and the pain it brings.**

We have become strangers to our relatives, and foreigners to our own families.
How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land? Let our cry for help come to you.

I am a God nearby, says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? I am the Lord your God.
I have called you out from the peoples and you shall be holy to me.
**We declare your praise, the One who called us out of darkness into your wonderful light.
We are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to you.**

Hymn 530

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

LOBE DEN HERREN

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Praise Him in glad adoration.*

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

John 1: 1 – 5, 10 – 18

Dana Myers

Liturgist: The Word of God for the People of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

SONG OF FAITH

**Variations on “Worship”
(Donna Shore)**

arr. S. McElroy

HYMN 590

“Though I May Speak With Bravest Fire”

1. *Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.*
2. *Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,
But not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.*
3. *Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.*

TEXT FOR THE DAY

[John 3: 16 – 21](#)

THE MESSAGE FOR TODAY

[“John’s Gospel part 1”](#)

SILENT REFLECTION

INTERLUDE

“O Lamb of God/ Out of Egypt”

W.A. Mozart

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

WORSHIP BY GIVING

[For online giving: You may use the Moravian Ministries Foundation giving portal available to us at <https://mmfa.info/giving-portal/> Or, as always, you may send a check via U.S. Mail to the church]

CONCERNS AND JOYS FOR THE COMMUNITY, NATION AND WORLD

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Together, let us pray to the Lord:

O God, we believe you created the land and sea and heavens and all that is in them; you established a world that was good; you give to us the task of watchful and responsible care over it; your truth is before us in all of creation.

O Christ, you assumed our humanity and knew our life as child, youth, and adult; you dined with sinners and lived with the homeless; you confronted popular opinion and power; you remained obedient in temptation and suffering; you showed us how love can resurrect life to its fullest.

O Holy Spirit, comforter and advocate; you do not leave us as orphans; you bring peace and calm in our troubled heart; you enhance our desire for serving, healing, showing compassion, and doing miracles; you are the inspiration for our life’s testimony.

And yet, gracious God, we humbly confess that we walk in the way of the indifferent, who depend on their strength alone. We sit among the scornful, who deny the need for your guidance and power. Our hearts are not satisfied with riches vulnerable to moth and rust and thief, yet we zealously store up those very treasures. Set our minds on things unseen and eternal, that our emptiness within may be filled.

We humbly confess that we fail to welcome the stranger among us. We pass by the neighbor who is hungry and thirsty, naked, sick, and in prison. We sing of your healing power and your unconditional love, but we fail to make our sanctuaries true havens for the suffering and the exiled. Give us the will to be ambassadors for our Savior and faithful stewards of the ministry of reconciliation entrusted to us.

For the sake of our Lord, Jesus Christ and for the witness of his Holy Church, Lord, have mercy on us. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE “Spirit of God Who Dwells Within My Heart” Hymn 490

*Spirit of God, who dwells within my heart, wean it from sin, through all its pulses move.
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as you are, and make me love you as I ought to love.*

FOLLOWING OUR LAMB INTO THE WORLD

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

HYMN 460 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” FAITHFULNESS

1. *Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not; as Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.*

*[Chorus] Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see. All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

2. *Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.*

[Chorus]

3. *Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!*

[Chorus]

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “My Faith Has Found a Resting Place” arr. Pethel

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Watchword Text for the Year

*Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people,
may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. II Corinthians 4:15*

In essentials **UNITY**, in non-essentials, **LIBERTY**, in all things, **LOVE!**

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