



**November 15, 2020**  
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost  
Peace Lutheran Church of Plymouth  
*Our Stories are Messy*

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### PRELUDE

*Take, Oh Take Me As I Am, with Canon*

arr. Sherri Hansen

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### GREETING

ONE: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**MANY: And also with you.**

### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

ONE: When we are honest with ourselves we know our lives contain elements of messiness, brokenness, suffering, and confusion. There are specific events where we have been hurt and where we have hurt others, by actions we have done and left undone. We feel guilt and shame. There are times when we don't feel called and there are times when we don't feel equipped for our callings in family, community, congregation, work, and school.

Let us pause to open our hearts and lay our messy stories before God.

*Silence for reflection...*

We are not climbing a spiritual ladder. We don't continually improve until we are so spiritual we no longer need God. We die in our sin and are made new. The movement in our relationship to God is always from God to us. God is always coming nearer to us. God loves you, cares for you, and is always with you. We are claimed by God's grace alone and called to lives of service for the well-being of our neighbor and the world God loves.

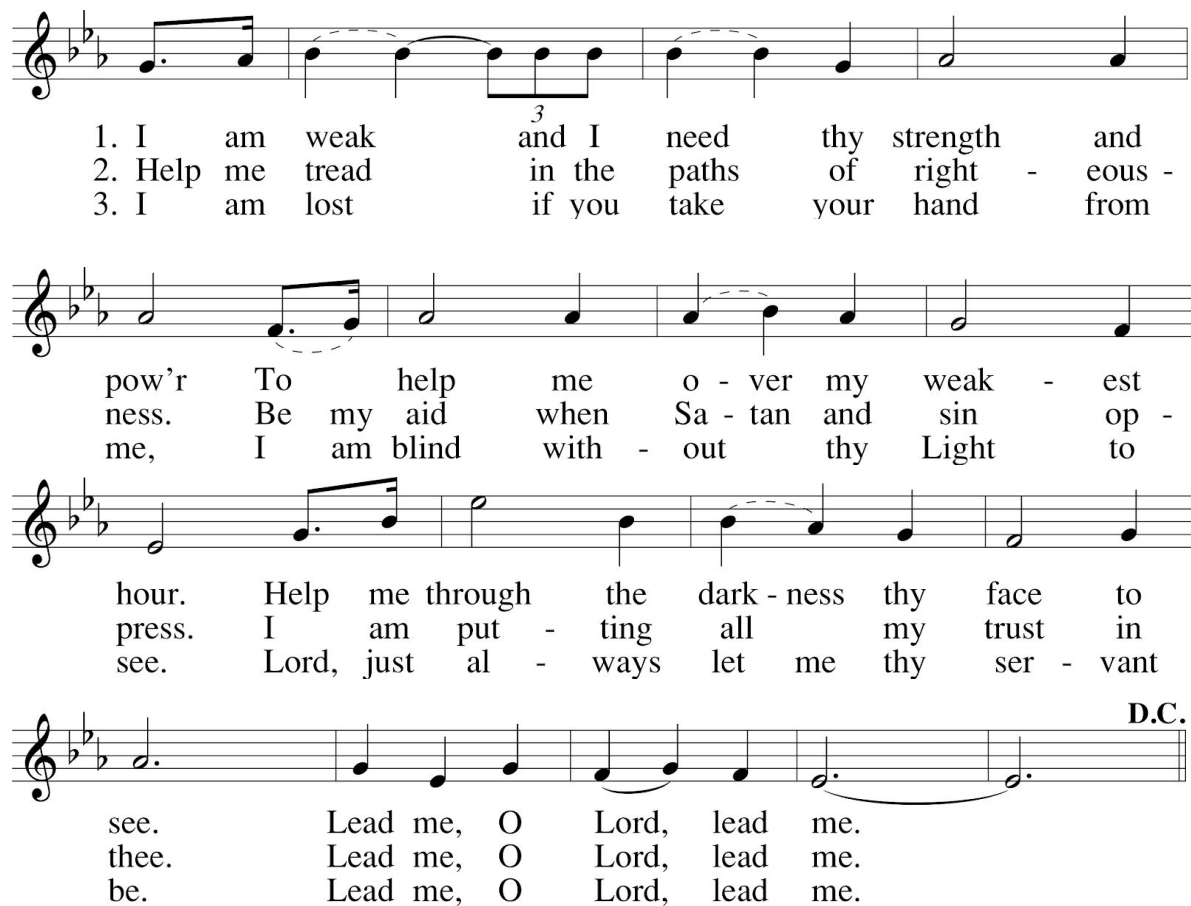
**MANY: AMEN!**

## Refrain, Verse 1, refrain

**MANY (refrain):**


Lead me, guide me, a - long the way,  
 For if you lead me, I can - not stray.  
 Lord, let me walk each day with thee.  
 Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

## Verses / Estrofas



1. I am weak and I need thy strength and  
 2. Help me tread in the paths of right - eous -  
 3. I am lost if you take your hand from  
 pow'r To help me o - ver my weak - est  
 ness. Be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op -  
 me, I am blind with - out thy Light to  
 hour. Help me through the dark - ness thy face to  
 press. I am put - ting all my trust in  
 see. Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant  
 see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.  
 thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.  
 be. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

D.C.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

ONE: Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and service, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for all your beloved. In your name we pray,

**MANY: AMEN**

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## SCRIPTURE

John 4:5-30, 39-42

NARRATOR: In a small Samaritan town known as Sychar, Jesus and His entourage stopped to rest at the historic well that Jacob gave his son Joseph. It was about noon when Jesus found a spot to sit close to the well while the disciples ventured off to find provisions. From His vantage, He watched as a Samaritan woman approached to draw some water. Unexpectedly He spoke to her.

JESUS: Would you draw water, and give Me a drink?

WOMAN: <sup>9</sup>I cannot believe that You, a Jew, would associate with me, a Samaritan woman; much less ask me to give You a drink.

NARRATOR: Jews, you see, have no dealings with Samaritans. Also, a man never approaches a woman like this in public. Jesus is breaking accepted social barriers with this confrontation.

JESUS: <sup>10</sup>You don't know the gift of God or who is asking you for a drink of this water from Jacob's well. Because if you did, you would have asked Him for something greater; and He would have given you the living water.

WOMAN: <sup>11</sup>Sir, You sit by this deep well a thirsty man without a bucket in sight. Where does this living water come from? <sup>12</sup>Are You claiming superiority to our father Jacob who labored long and hard to dig and maintain this well so that he could share clean water with his sons, grandchildren, and cattle?

JESUS: <sup>13</sup>Drink this water, and your thirst is quenched only for a moment. You must return to this well again and again. <sup>14</sup>I offer water that will become a wellspring within you that gives life throughout eternity. You will never be thirsty again.

WOMAN: <sup>15</sup>Please, Sir, give me some of this water, so I'll never be thirsty and never again have to make the trip to this well.

JESUS: <sup>16</sup>Then bring your husband to Me.

WOMAN: <sup>17-18</sup>I do not have a husband.

JESUS: Technically you are telling the truth. But you have had five husbands and are currently living with a man you are not married to.

WOMAN: <sup>19</sup>Sir, it is obvious to me that You are a prophet. <sup>20</sup>Our fathers worshiped here on this mountain, but Your people say that Jerusalem is the only place for all to worship. Which is it?

JESUS: <sup>21-24</sup> Woman, I tell you that neither is so. Believe this: a new day is coming—in fact, it's already here—when the importance will not be placed on the time and place of worship but on the truthful hearts of worshipers. You worship what you don't know while we worship what we do know, for God's salvation is coming through the Jews. The Father is spirit, and He is seeking followers whose worship is sourced in truth and deeply spiritual as well. Regardless of whether you are in Jerusalem or on this mountain, if you do not seek the Father, then you do not worship.

WOMAN: <sup>25</sup> These mysteries will be made clear by He who is promised, the Anointed One.

JESUS: <sup>26</sup> The Anointed is speaking to you. I am the One you have been looking for.

NARRATOR: <sup>27</sup> The disciples returned to Him and gathered around Him in amazement that He would openly break their customs by speaking to this woman, but none of them would ask Him what He was looking for or why He was speaking with her. <sup>28</sup> The woman went back to the town, leaving her water pot behind. She stopped men and women on the streets and told them about what had happened.

WOMAN: <sup>29</sup> I met a stranger who knew everything about me. Come and see for yourselves; can He be the Anointed One?

NARRATOR: A crowd came out of the city and approached Jesus. Meanwhile, because one woman shared with her neighbors how Jesus exposed her past and present, the village of Sychar was transformed—many Samaritans heard and believed. <sup>40</sup> The Samaritans approached Jesus and repeatedly invited Him to stay with them, so He lingered there for two days on their account. <sup>41</sup> With the words that came from His mouth, there were many more believing Samaritans. <sup>42</sup> They began their faith journey because of the testimony of the woman beside the well; but when they heard for themselves, they were convinced the One they were hearing was and is God's Anointed, the Liberating King, sent to rescue the entire world.

ONE: Word of God, Word of Life.

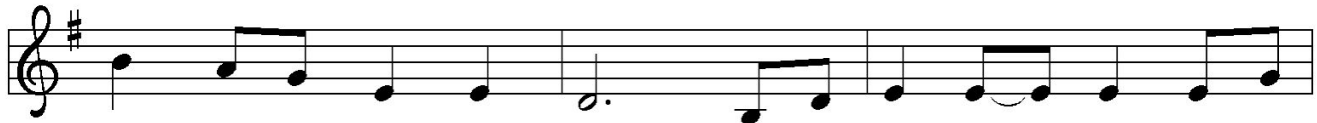
**MANY: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

Rev. Jason Van Hunnik,  
Westwood Lutheran Church,  
St. Louis Park



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .  
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a  
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . from his throne.  
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the  
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



*Refrain*  
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a-bout to turn.

#### APOSTLES' CREED

ONE: With the whole church, let us confess our faith in the Triune God.

**MANY: 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 Jesus rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and 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 PEOPLE

ELW 814

ONE: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*Silence*

**MANY:**

Take, oh, take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be;

set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

ONE: Merciful God, you love all creation more than we can ever understand and you accept all the human family just as we are. Empower us to move beyond bias and prejudice to love like you. Where there is racism and conflict, bring reconciliation and joy. Lord, we ask you,

**MANY:** *(sung, as above)*

ONE: God of Justice, we pray for your leadership and guidance. As transitions in our governments happen may all our leaders embody Jesus' mission, "to bring good news to the poor." Send us out to be the hands and feet of your gospel. Make us instruments of your peace and justice as we go about our daily lives. Lord, we ask you,

**MANY:** *(sung, as above)*

ONE: Holy One, help us remember that we have been claimed! Through the waters of baptism you have called us to participate in your holy work and ministry on earth. Grant us the eyes to see and the faith to follow the path set before us.

**MANY:** *(sung, as above)*

ONE: God of all times and places, our world knows pain and suffering. Extend your loving hand upon all who seek relief in mind, body, and spirit. Aloud and in the silence of our hearts, we name those people and places in need of your care... Ron Mielke, Betty Pederson, Bunny Rova, Ella Winston...

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, so that all people might walk in newness of life through Jesus Christ.

**MANY: AMEN**

#### SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you all.

**MANY: And also with you.**

ONE: Let us share a sign of God's peace with one another.

#### MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

#### OFFERING

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT US

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

**MANY: 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**

#### WELCOME TO THE TABLE



## Refrain, verse 1, refrain

Refrain / Estribillo



U - ni - dos en la fie - ta, la a - le - grí - a

U - nit - ed at the ta - ble: all our joy is



se ha - ce can - ción.

joined in song.

U - ni - dos en la fe,

U - nit - ed in the faith:



la a - le - grí - a se ha - ce o - ra - ción.

all our joy to God be - longs.



1 Can - ta - re - mos al Se - ñor

1 We will praise God, we will sing

2 We will praise God, we will feast

3 We will praise God, we will play



a - le - lu - yas con him - nos y sal - mos,

al - le - lu - ias with hymns and with psalm - o - dy;

at the boun - ti - ful ta - ble of life and grace;

al - le - lu - ias with rhy - thm and in - stru - ments;



por - que gran - de es el a - mor

we will praise God for the love

we will praise God and give thanks

we will praise God for the love

Refrain / Estribillo



que en no - so - tros por siem - pre mos - tró.

that sus - tains us e - ter - nal - ly.

for com - mu - nion with ev - 'ry race.

that in - vites all cre - a - tion to dance.

COMMUNION BLESSING

ONE: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**MANY: AMEN**

SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

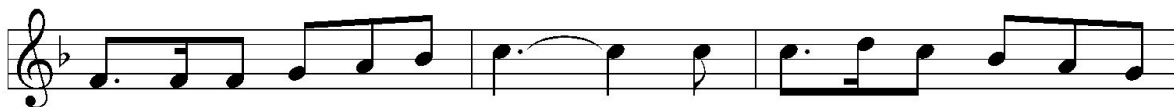
BENEDICTION

ONE: Let us pray together the Prayer of Good Courage.

**O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN**

*Verse 1*

1 Fear not for to - mor - row and what it may bring, but  
 2 Fear not for to - mor - row and what lies a - head, though  
 3 Fear not for to - mor - row, but lift up your voice in



trust in the Lord and o - bey. In joy or in sor - row, in  
 fu - ture e - vents be un - known; but wel - come the morn - ing with  
 an - thems of glo - ri - ous praise. Give thanks for your bless - ings and



ev - 'ry good thing, the Lord will not lead you a - stray.  
 cour - age in - stead, for you will not face it a - lone.  
 tru - ly re - joice, for God will be with you al - ways.

*Refrain*

God will take care of you, go ev - 'ry - where with you, al - ways be



there with you day by day. God will pro - vide for you,



be as a guide to you, lov - ing - ly show you the way.

## DISMISSAL

ONE: Go in Peace, serve the Lord.

MANY: **Thanks be to God!**

**Acknowledgements:**

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*ELW 723 Canticle of the Turning*

Text by Rory Cooney, based on the Magnificat, traditional Irish music.  
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*LS 161 Fear Not for Tomorrow*

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