

Welcome

Prelude

Call to Worship

Hymn

## 699 We Believe in God the Father

1 We be-lieve in God the Fa-ther, God Al-might-y, by whose plan  
2 Christ, who on the cross for-sak-en, like a lamb to slaugh-ter led,  
3 We be-lieve in God the Spir-it, in one church, be-low, a-bove;

earth and heav-en sprang to be-ing, all cre-at-ed things be-gan,  
suf-fered un-der Pon-tius Pi-late, he de-scend-ed to the dead,  
saints of God in one com-mu-nion, one in ho-li-ness and love.

We be-lieve in Christ the Sav-ior, Son of God in hu-man frame,  
We be-lieve in Je-sus ris-en, heav-en's king to rule and reign,  
So by faith, our sins for-giv-en, Christ our Sav-ior, Lord and Friend,

vir-gin-born, the child of Mar-y up-on whom the Spir-it came.  
to the Fa-ther's side as-cend-ed till as judge he comes a-gain.  
we shall rise with him in glo-ry to the life that knows no end.

TEXT: Timothy Dudley-Smith [b. 1926], ©1993 by Hope Publishing Company  
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TUNE: Arthur S. Sullivan (1874) 8.7.8.D.  
LUX 801 (167H)

### Scripture Readings

#### Psalm 27 (NRSV)

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh—my adversaries and foes—they shall stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple. For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me! "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, LORD, do I seek. Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation! If my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will take me up.

Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies. Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence.

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

#### John 5:1-18 (NRSV)

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Bethesda, which has five porticoes. In these lay many ill, blind, lame, and paralyzed people. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years.

When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The ill man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am making my way someone else steps down ahead of me." Jesus said to him, "Stand up, take your mat and walk." At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a Sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who had been cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your mat." But he answered them, "The man who made me well said to me, 'Take up your mat and walk.'" They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take it up and walk?'" Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had disappeared in the crowd that was there. Later Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "See, you have been made well! Do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you." The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

Therefore the Jews started persecuting Jesus, because he was doing such things on the Sabbath. But Jesus answered them, "My Father is still working, and I also am working." For this reason the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because he was not only breaking the Sabbath but was also calling God his own Father, thereby making himself equal to God.

### Meditation

#### The Apostles Creed

Lord, make us one in spirit with all your people as we profess our faith, saying:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He 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 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

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

*\*Ancient text reads "catholic," which means "universal."*

## 784 We Come as Guests Invited

*The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" Rev. 22:17*

1. We come as guests in-vit-ed when Je-sus bids us dine,  
2. We eat and drink, re-ceil-ing from Christ the grace we need,  
3. One bread is ours for shar-ing, one sin-gle, fruit-ful vine,

his friends on earth u-nit-ed to share the bread and wine;  
and in our hearts be-liev-ing on him by faith we feed;  
our fel-low-ship de-clar-ing re-newed in bread and wine—

the bread of life is bro-ken, the wine is free-ly poured  
with won-der and thanks-giv-ing for love that knows no end,  
re-newed, sus-tained and giv-en by to-ken, sign and word,

for us, in sol-lemn to-ken of Christ our dy-ing Lord.  
we find in Je-sus liv-ing our ev-er-pres-ent friend.  
the pledge and seal of heav-en, the love of Christ our Lord.

WORDS: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1975  
MUSIC: David Jenkins, 1898  
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7.6.7.6.D.

### Service of Holy Communion

Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, be with you all.

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

*(Standing. As the bread is served, the communicants stand to receive it.)*

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you.

*(All partake together.)*

In the same way, after supper our Lord Jesus Christ took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sin. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.

*(Sitting. As the cup is served, the communicants stand to receive it.)*

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: Drink from this, all of you. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.

*(All partake together.)*

By your divine presence, by the holy sacraments, by all the merits of your life, sufferings, death, and resurrection,

**Bless and comfort us, gracious Lord and God.**

Christ the Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

**Grant to us your peace. Amen.**

Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death,

**Until he comes.**

*(During the following hymn, the congregation gives the right hand of fellowship, signifying renewed dedication and unity of purpose in the service of Christ.)*

## 748 Bind Us Together

Bind us to-geth-er, Lord, bind us to-geth-er with cords that  
can-not be bro-ken. Bind us to-geth-er, Lord,  
bind us to-geth-er, Lord; bind us to-geth-er in love.

1 There . is on-ly one God. There . is on-ly one King.  
2 You are the fam-ly of God. You are the prom-ise di-vine.

There . is on-ly one Bod-y; that . is why we can sing:  
You are God's cho-sen de-sire, you are the glo-rious new wine.

Text: Bob Gillman, b. 1946  
Music: Bob Gillman, b. 1946  
© 1977 Thankyou Music, admin. (in Western Hemisphere) Integrity's Hosanna! Music BIND US TOGETHER  
6 7 7 6 end refrain

### Benediction

### Postlude

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