



*The Session and members of First Presbyterian Church, Fargo extend a sincere welcome to you. We are grateful for your presence today! We welcome all persons regardless of race, nationality, disability, gender, or sexual orientation. This includes an open invitation to membership, the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, marriage, funerals, memorial services, and to serve as an officer of the church.*

*We recycle! If you are not taking your bulletin, please drop it in the blue bin at the door as you leave.*

*\*Please rise in body or spirit.*

## **We Gather in Christ**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Holy Trinity, yours is the justice that calls power to account. Yours is the love that calls sinners to repent. Yours is the mercy that forgives us and grants us eternal life. Lead us in the truth about the Beloved and set us free to rejoice with all our might over the great mystery you have revealed: that you are bringing all things into harmony through Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

### **PRELUDE**

*Variations on "Let All Things Now Living"*  
Sally Harmon, piano; Michael Harmon, doublebass

arr. Helvey

### **WELCOME & CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

#### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come, let us worship God with the passion and joy of King David and all the people who sang and danced before the ark of the covenant.

**Let us worship our Savior with the songs of praise and thanksgiving of the apostle Paul and all who are blessed with every spiritual blessing.**

God has blessed us in our Lord Jesus Christ,  
destined us to be children of God, and sealed us in the Holy Spirit.

**Let us worship God!**

#### **\*HYMN 35: *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty***

**Praise ye 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;  
join me in glad adoration!**

**Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been  
granted in what he ordaineth?**

**Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen sound from his people again;  
gladly for aye we adore him.**

### **\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

The godliness of Jesus Christ calls us to be holy and blameless.  
The riches of God's grace promise forgiveness of our trespasses.  
Let us confess our sins.

### **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, you are the God of glory. We confess that we often forget that your holiness is dangerous. We take our impurities for granted, make excuses for the sins we commit, and expect you to overlook the harm we cause while still demanding justice from others. We do not deserve your mercy. Forgive us and return us to a right relationship with you for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ. You made us for the purpose of praising you; enliven us with the Holy Spirit so that we can fulfill our calling in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### **\*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

According to the riches of his grace,  
which God has lavished upon us and sealed for us by the promised Holy Spirit,  
hear this good news:  
In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

### **\*RESPONSE: *Gloria Patri***

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be.  
World without end. Amen, Amen.**

### **\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

## **The Word**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:** reader, Brian McClure

Spirit of the living God,  
seal in us your Word of truth,  
the gospel of salvation,  
so that we can faithfully follow  
and joyfully serve  
our Lord Jesus Christ,  
for it is in his name that we pray. **Amen.**

### **FIRST READING:** Psalm 85:8-13

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people,  
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.  
Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;  
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.  
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,  
and righteousness will look down from the sky.  
The LORD will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness will go before him,  
and will make a path for his steps.

May God bless the reading and hearing of this portion of the holy Word.

**SECOND READING:** Mark 6:14-25

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, 'John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him.' But others said, 'It is Elijah.' And others said, 'It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.' But when Herod heard of it, he said, 'John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.'

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, 'It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.' And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, 'Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it.' And he solemnly swore to her, 'Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.' She went out and said to her mother, 'What should I ask for?' She replied, 'The head of John the baptizer.' Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, 'I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.'

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON:** The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

**\*HYMN 163:** *Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice*

Wild and lone the prophet's voice  
echoes through the desert still,  
calling us to make a choice,  
bidding us to do God's will:  
"Turn from sin and be baptized;  
cleanse your heart and mind and soul.  
Quitting all the sins you prized,  
yield your life to God's control.

"Bear the fruit repentance sows:  
lives of justice, truth and love.  
Trust no other claim than those;  
set your heart on things above.  
Soon the Lord will come in power,  
burning clean the threshing floor:  
then will flames the chaff devour;  
wheat alone shall fill God's store."

With such preaching, stark and bold,  
John proclaimed salvation near,  
and his timeless warnings hold  
words of hope to all who hear.  
So we dare to journey on,  
led by faith through ways untrod,

till we come at last like John  
to behold the Lamb of God.

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** *Nicene Creed*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Responding to the Word

### OFFERING

#### OFFERTORY

*I Will Arise and Go to Jesus*

arr. Rodriguez

#### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

#### THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy...

...we sing to the glory of your name:

#### RESPONSE 559: *Holy, Holy, Holy*

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord...

... Great is the Mystery of Faith;

#### RESPONSE 560: *Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen*

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine...

#### THE 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 debts, as we**

forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

## THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

COMMUNION MUSIC

*'Tis a Gift to be Simple*

arr. Rodriguez

## PRAYER

# Bearing the Word into the World

**\*HYMN 840:** *When Peace Like a River*

When peace like a river  
attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll,  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain:

It is well with my soul;  
it is well; it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet,  
though trials should come,  
let this blest assurance control,  
that Christ hath regarded  
my helpless estate,  
and hath shed his own blood for my soul. (Refrain)

He lives: O the bliss  
of this glorious thought.  
My sin, not in part, but the whole,  
is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more.  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! (Refrain)

Lord, hasten the day  
when our faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;  
even so it is well with my soul. (Refrain)

**\*BENEDICTION**

## POSTLUDE

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

arr. Helvey