﻿**Welcome and Gathering**

**OPENING WORDS / CALL TO WORSHIP**

Clothe yourselves with faith and love; be confident in your salvation in Christ Jesus. The Lord is with us! Let us worship God.

**Hymn**

GTG 612 We Praise You, O God

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

God has not destined us for wrath, but for salvation in Jesus, who died for us. Confident in God’s mercies, let us confess our sin.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

***Almighty God,***

***﻿you have shown us the ways of justice and nurtured us with love. Even so, we have not lived according to your will. When we are oppressed or unjustly accused, we cling to fear and forget to trust in your deliverance. When we are giddy with power and abuse the rights of others, we hold tight to our privilege and forget your laws. Have mercy on us, Lord, for we are weak and prone to disobedience. Hear our confession, and respond to us with kindness, that we might turn to you again, walk in the light, and live in equity and peace; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.***

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

[Water may be poured into the baptismal font.]

Children of light, because we belong to our Lord Jesus Christ, we need not fear— for he lived for us, he died for us, he was raised for us and prays for us. Believe the promise of your baptism: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**WORD**

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**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

In video

The Gospel reading of Matthew 25:14-25 is in the video.

Other Scripture readings if desired

﻿Judges 4:1–7

﻿Psalm 123

﻿1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

**Hymn**

GTG 716 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Let us pray for the needs of the world, saying, God of grace, ***hear our prayer.***

Holy God, you welcome us into your joy and entrust us with your gospel.

﻿In hope for the world to come and with love for the world you made, we offer our prayers for your church, your earth, and your people.

For your church, in this community and around the world, that your good news may be proclaimed to all … God of grace, ***hear our prayer***.

For oppressors, that they might know justice, and those oppressed, that they might know peace … God of grace, ***hear our prayer***.

For your creation, that we may be the caretakers you intend … God of grace, ***hear our prayer***.

For the young, that they might be nurtured in love … God of grace, ***hear our prayer***.

For the old, that they might be secure in your care … God of grace, ***hear our prayer***.

For those who fight the demons of addiction, that they might find relief … God of grace, ***hear our prayer.***

For those who face an early death and those they leave behind, ﻿that they might be comforted … God of grace, ***hear our prayer***.

For all those who care for the suffering and those in their charge, that they would be freed from pain and fear … God of grace, ***hear our prayer***.

For all of those about whom we worry and those whose troubles are known only to you … God of grace, ***hear our prayer***.

All this we pray with gratitude for your eternal love and extravagant grace; in the name of Jesus Christ who taught us the prayer, saying, **(Lord’s Prayer)** Our Father, who art in heaven… Amen.

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

God has entrusted us with a variety of gifts; let us return to the Lord a generous measure of our bounty with thanksgiving and praise.

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING/DEDICATION**

For all that you are and all that you do, we give you thanks, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. We wait in hope for the coming of your realm and offer these gifts to further your kingdom on earth; ﻿in Jesus’ name. Amen.

**Sending**

**HYMN**

GTG 663 Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun

**CHARGE**

Encourage one another and build each other up, faithfully working together for the kingdom of God, as we await the day of Christ’s coming.

**BLESSING**

May the God of creation work wonders in you by the power of the Holy Spirit, until we enter together the joy of our Creator.