

Outdoor Worship

August 23, 2026

Opening

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Praise the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them.

C: Those who keep the Sabbath and call it a delight shall rejoice in God's kingdom.

P: All who hallow the seventh day shall be gladdened by God's goodness.

C: This day is the festival of the spirit, sanctified and blessed by God, the most precious of days, a symbol of the joy of creation.

Gathering Hymn



Lord pre - pare me to be a sanc-tu - a - ry
I will live Lord, as you ask me,
With your Spir - it, Fath-er, fill me;
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,



pure and ho - ly tried and true - -
find - ing truth in your com - man - -
let me know your pres-ence he - - -
Al - le - lu - ia, A - men. _____



- With thanks - giv - ing I'll be a li - ving
ds 'Gainst all e - vils and temp - ta - tions,
re. I am long - ing for your sal - va - tion.
— Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,



sanc - tu - a - ry fo - r you.
as your faith - ful, I will stand.
Come, I want you to be near.
Al - le - lu - ia, A - men.

Greeting

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

C: And also with you

Dialog & Prayer of the Day

P: For the beauty of the earth, Creator God,

C: We give you thanks.

P: For the rich abundance of the natural order, Lord,

C: We give you thanks.

P: For the many ways that you provide for all creation, Sustainer,

C: We give you thanks.

P: For the material things that enable our survival and provide for our comfort, gracious God,

C: We give you thanks.

P: As we strive first for the Kingdom of God and its righteousness,

C: Teach us to pursue the work of justice.

P: We live in a world that has the resources to satisfy everyone's hunger, if only we will share our food.

C: Teach us to love kindness.

P: We long to live lives characterized by reckless generosity and hospitality.

C: Teach us to walk humbly with you.

P: We commit to sharing all that you have entrusted to us with all people,

C: That in so doing, we might be transformed into more faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

P: Let us pray:

C: Father in Heaven, you speak words of grace and life. Do not let our words lead others to despair or error, but filled with the Spirit, let us speak faithfully of Your power and purpose in all we say and do. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, the Word of our Salvation, Amen.

The word of the Lord came to me, Ezekiel, saying:

What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel: "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge?" As I live, says the Lord God, you will not use this proverb again in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine. It is only the person who sins that truly dies.

Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair."

Hear now, O house of Israel: Is it really *my* ways that are unfair?! No! It is actually *your* ways that are unfair! When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit sin, they will die for it. But, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they will save their lives - because they thought about what they were doing and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed - they will certainly live - they will not die.

Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair!"

O house of Israel, are *my* ways unfair?! Is it not *your* ways that are unfair?? Therefore, I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to *your* ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions - otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

R: The word of the Lord! C: Thanks be to God!

Psalm

Psalm 25

*To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust;*

**do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.**

*Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.*

**Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.**

*Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.*

**Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast
love,
for they have been from of old.**

*Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O Lord!*

**Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore the Lord instructs sinners in the way.**

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 21st Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

Gospel

Matthew 21

In the last few days before his death, Jesus was in the Temple being challenged by the Jewish religious leaders. Jesus responded by telling three parables. This was the first parable. Jesus said . . .

"But what do you think about this story? A man has two sons and coming to the first son he says, 'Go off and work in the vineyard!' But replying, the first son says to his father, 'I don't want to.' However, later, being repentant, he goes off into the vineyard. Then, coming to the second son, the Father says likewise, and, answering, that son says, 'Yes, Lord,' but he does not go off into the vineyard.

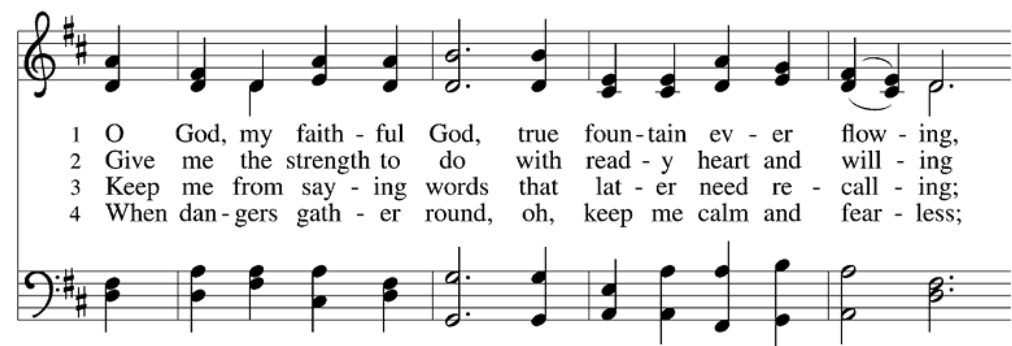
Which of the two works the will of the father?"

The Jewish religious leaders said, "The first."

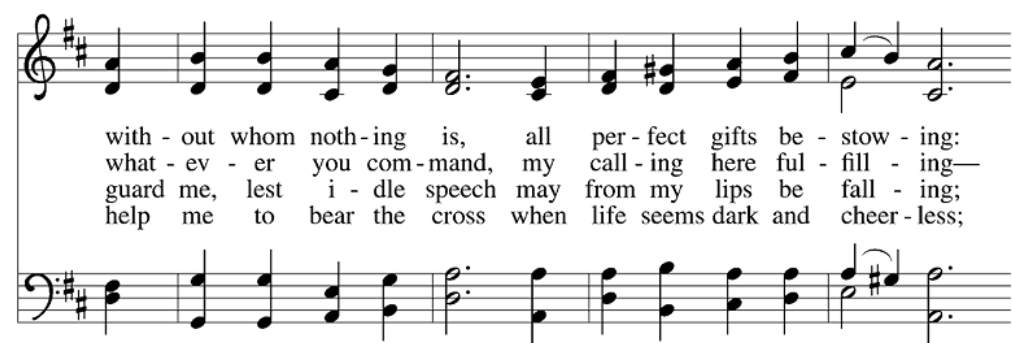
Jesus says to them, "Amen, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go before you into the kingdom of God. For John ("The Baptizer") comes to you in the Righteous Way and you do not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believe him. But you, seeing this - you do not repent later to believe him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord! C: Praise to you, O Christ!

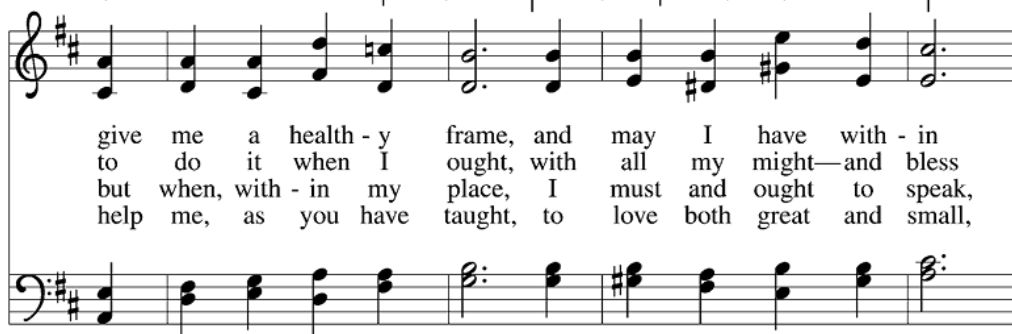
Sermon & Hymn of the Day *Oh God, My Faithful God* 806



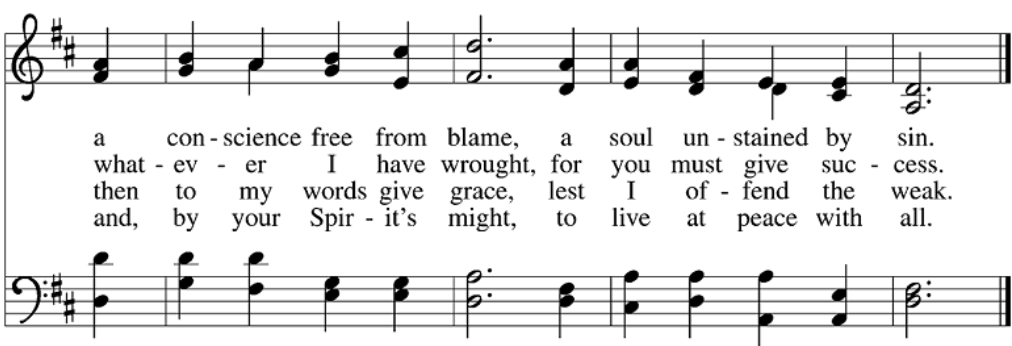
1 O God, my faith - ful God, true foun - tain ev - er flow - ing,
 2 Give me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing
 3 Keep me from say - ing words that lat - er need re - call - ing;
 4 When dan - gers gath - er round, oh, keep me calm and fear - less;



with - out whom noth - ing is, all per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:
 what - ev - er you com - mand, my call - ing here ful - fill - ing—
 guard me, lest i - dle speech may from my lips be fall - ing;
 help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheer - less;



give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in
 to do it when I ought, with all my might—and bless
 but when, with - in my place, I must and ought to speak,
 help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,



a con - science free from blame, a soul un - stained by sin.
 what - ev - er I have wrought, for you must give suc - cess.
 then to my words give grace, lest I of - fend the weak.
 and, by your Spir - it's might, to live at peace with all.

Prayers & Passing of the Peace

Words of Institution

P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and responsible that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. We recall and proclaim that in your great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who came as the Messiah, reaching out to heal the sick and suffering, preaching good news to the poor, and inviting all to your table through his sacrifice on the cross.

In that night in which he was handed over . . .

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Post Communion Blessing & Prayer

P: Let us pray.

C: We rejoice that you use the harvests of the field, the fruit of the vineyard and the fellowship of the table to fulfill your promise of an abiding presence in our lives. As we leave this sacred time, lead us out to faithful lives that manifest that presence through all that we say and do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Benediction

Final Hymn

Praise My Soul the God of Heaven

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1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; joy - ful - ly your trib-ute bring.
 2 God be praised for grace and fa - vor to our fore-bears in dis-tress.
 3 Frail as sum-mer's flow'r we flour - ish, blows the wind and it is gone;
 4 An - gels sing in ad - o - ra - tion, in God's pres-ence, face to face.



Ran-somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more God's prais-es sing.
 God be praised, the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless.
 but, as mor - tals rise and per - ish, God en - dures un - chang - ing on.
 Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion, all who dwell in time and space.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Prais - es ev - er - last - ing ring!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious is God's faith - ful - ness!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the great E - ter - nal One!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!



Dismissal A: Go in peace, serve the Lord! C: Thanks be to God!

Grace thanks Bryan Carson's father's company, "Perfect Pitch Gutters" for solving Grace's gutter overflow and clogging issues so quickly and reasonably! If you need any work on your own gutters, here is their information:

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