

11:00 AM

May 16, 2010 Service of Worship

7th Sunday of Easter

Liturgical Color: White

Hymns of Our Heritage

Preparation for Worship and Announcements and Passing of the Peace

Dr. Mary Lynn Polk

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim, till all the world adore His sacred name.

Chiming of the Trinity

Cindy Skinner

Prelude

Amazing Grace
Belle Canto

arr. Linda Lamb

*** Call to Worship**

Kim Clark

Leader: To sing is to open the heart

People: To sing is to lay aside pretense

Leader: To sing is to marry spirit and body and so honor both

People: To sing is to send vibrations of beauty out into the universe

Leader: To sing is to weep openly

People: To sing is to lose oneself in wonder, to dance before God

Leader: To sing is to offer up fragrant smoke of incense, the sacrifice of thanksgiving, the heart of gratitude

People: To sing is to open the heart to see God

*** Hymn No. 57**

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing
(verses 1 – 4, 7)

Azmon

Invocation

Reverend James D. Dennis, Jr

Creator of the Stars of night, who shaped the worlds in love and sweetly sang to us the great alleluia, accept now our hearty and faltering hymns of wonder and join us to the morning stars and all the galaxy of saints, through Jesus Christ, the risen Morningstar. Amen.

The Word Is Life

Blessed are you, O Lord our God,
Ruler of the universe,
for you spoke
and the world
was created;

In him was Life.

Your Word set the planets
and stars
in their spiral dance
through space,
and gave the universe;
your Word joined the atoms
in their spiral dance
through matter,
and gave life;
and the life was the light of all people.

And because we kept misunderstanding the words,
you sent the Word.

Your Word
entered our journey
through time
and gave love.

Your Word formed
filled
freed
fulfilled
transformed.

In Him was life.

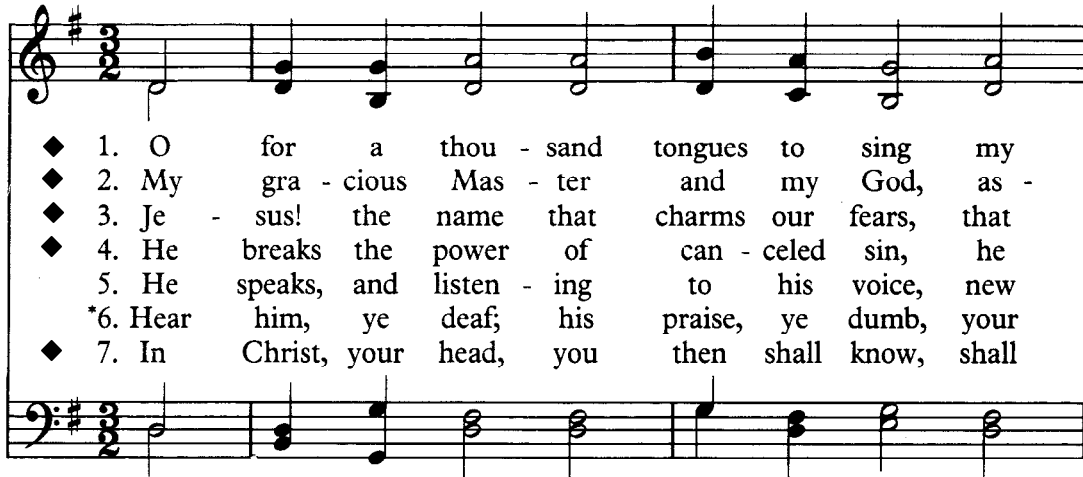
Hymn No. 261

Lord of the Dance

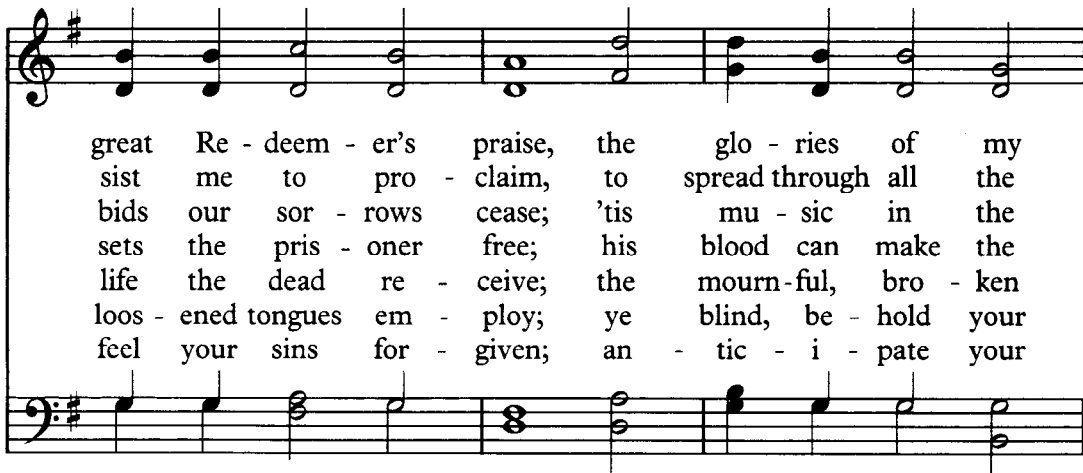
Lord of the Dance

** Children ages 3 – Kindergarten may leave the Sanctuary for Extended Session during the singing of this hymn.*

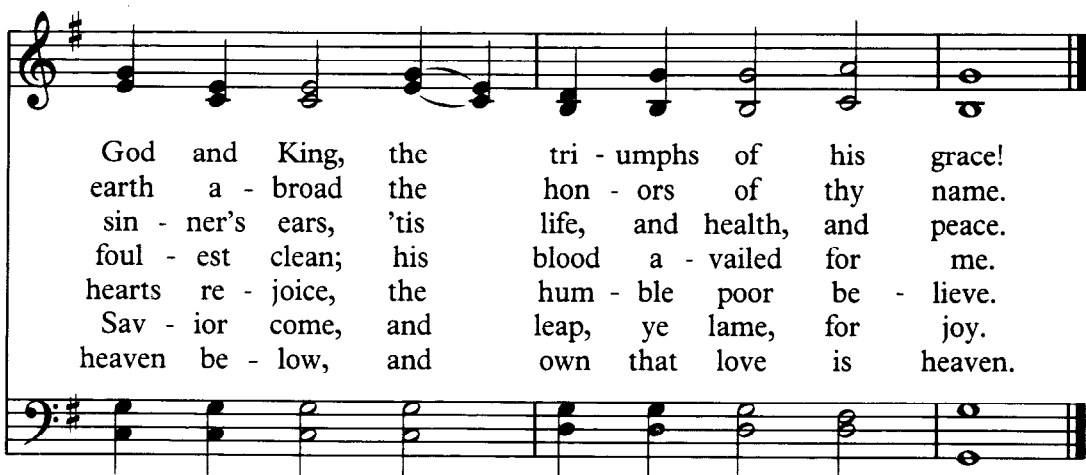
O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing 57



◆ 1. O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my
 ◆ 2. My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as -
 ◆ 3. Je - sus! the name that charms our fears, that
 ◆ 4. He breaks the power of can - celed sin, he
 5. He speaks, and listen - ing to his voice, new
 *6. Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb, your
 ◆ 7. In Christ, your head, you then shall know, shall



great Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my
 sist me to pro - claim, to spread through all the
 bids our sor - rows cease; 'tis mu - sic in the
 sets the pris - oner free; his blood can make the
 life the dead re - ceive; the mourn - ful, bro - ken
 loos - ened tongues em - ploy; ye blind, be - hold your
 feel your sins for - given; an - tic - i - pate your



God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace!
 earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.
 sin - ner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.
 foul - est clean; his blood a - vailed for me.
 hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.
 Sav - ior come, and leap, ye lame, for joy.
 heaven be - low, and own that love is heaven.

*May be omitted

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739
 MUSIC: Carl G. Gläser; arr. by Lowell Mason, 1839

AZMON
 CM

Alt. tune: RICHMOND

Lord of the Dance

Unison G Em Bm Em

1. I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, and I
 2. I danced for the scribe and the Phar-i-see, but they
 3. I danced on the sab-bath when I cured the lame, the
 4. I danced on a Fri-day and the sky turned black; it's
 5. They cut me down and I leapt up high,

Am D7

danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I
 would not dance and they would not fol-low me; I
 ho-ly peo-ple said it was a shame; they
 hard to dance with the dev-il on your back; they
 I am the life that'll nev-er, nev-er die; I'll

G Em Bm Em

came down from heav-en and I danced on the earth. At
 danced for the fish-er-men, for James and John; they
 whipped and they stripped and they hung me high; and they
 bur-ied my bod-y and they thought I'd gone, but
 live in you if you'll live in me;

Am D7 C G Refrain G Bm

Beth-le-hem I had my birth.
 came to me and the dance went on.
 left me there on a cross to die. Dance, then, wher-
 I am the dance and I still go on.
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

Em G

ev-er you may be; I am the Lord of the

Am D G C G D7

Dance, said he. And I'll lead you all wher-ev-er you may

G C D7 G C G

be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

The Eyes of the Heart

A Reading from Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus:

*I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,
may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him,
so that with the eyes of the heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope
to which he has called you...(1:17-18)*

With the eyes of the heart enlightened...
Saul was blinded by the light
The artist Caravaggio aptly imagines him
thrown from his horse
although the animal isn't present
in the scriptural telling.
Thrown off his high horse
Blinded
And for three days in darkness
neither eating nor drinking
undergoing a change of heart.
With the eyes of the heart enlightened...
Paul travelled through Syria,
Asia Minor, Greece, Malta, and Rome
bringing freedom instead of bondage
a single, loving God instead of capricious
emperors

a hope of mercy instead of terror
a God of justice instead of war.
Some legends say he died martyred in Rome.
Some say Paul journeyed as far as Spain
and died there.
Scripture and contemporary accounts are silent.
But Paul's good news for the Gentiles
the gospel of a single loving and forgiving God
made known in Jesus the Christ
journeyed
across Italy
over Gaul
into the land of the Celts
eventually to the new world
Turning
Transforming
Opening eyes
enlightening hearts.

Hymn No. 451

Be Thou My Vision

Slane

Pilgrimage Through Trials

Life takes us
- gently prodding,
or grabbing by the neck -
life takes us
into stories
we could never imagine;
tragedies and trophies
sorrows and songs
dirges and dances -
more than we could ever
have imagined:
taking us to mountain peaks
and rocky deserts
to sunset beaches
and wild crashing surf.
What Christ wants us to know
what Christ wants us to sense

what Christ wants us to live
with every fiber of our bodies
with every shimmer of our souls
is that we have a companion
always
we are never on this pilgrimage
alone.
And fear need have no
power over us.
Fear cannot walk with us
when cast out
by the perfect love
of the Living
Christ.

Be Thou My Vision

451

Unison

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3. Great God of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Anthem

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me
Angel Choir
(the congregation is invited to sing with the Angel Choir.)

Traditional

I want Jesus to walk with me,
I want Jesus to walk with me,
All along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my trial, Lord walk with me,
In my trial, Lord walk with me,
When my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

When I'm troubled, Lord walk with me,
When I'm troubled, Lord walk with me.
When my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Time of Grace

The story is well-known by now.
A man sat in the cabin of his slave ship,
a man grown wealthy in the market of human lives.
And Fear settled on him
like a weighty fog
and clung to him
like a death grip
and could not be shook
and could not be shook.
And guilt settled on him -
compatriot of fear, blood-kin -
and chilled away his comfort
and iced away his ease
'til he was filled with the fear of immortal things
filled with fear of things that kill the soul.

And slowly
fear gave way
slowly fear faded
Little by little
grace warmed
grace forgave
grace oriented.
And the fear,
Where had it fled?
Or was the fear
also
grace?

Hymn No. 378

Amazing Grace

Amazing Grace

Amazing Grace

378

1. A - maz - ing grace! How sweet the sound that
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
 5. Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail, and
 6. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace hath brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 mor - tal life shall cease, I shall pos - sess, with -
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved.
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be, as long as life en - dures.
 in the veil, a life of joy and peace.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

The Present Pilgrimage

There is no stillness in life,
but what one holds in the heart.
There is no peace,
but what one has in the soul.
There is no calm in life,
but what one finds in God.

God has not promised us security
God has not promised us certainty
God has not promised us freedom from sorrow
 freedom from suffering
 freedom from pain.
Life is a journey through all of these.

But what God has promised is . . .
God.

“When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and through the rivers
they shall not overwhelm you.”

What God has promised is
God.

Have no fear.

Hymn No. 377

It Is Well with My Soul

Ville Du Havre

Gospel Lesson

John 15:9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Piano solo

What a Friend
Joyce Nickles, piano

Dick Blosser

It Is Well with My Soul

1. When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way,
 2. Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come,
 3. My sin, oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought!
 4. And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,

when sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll; what - ev - er my
 let this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ has re -
 My sin, not in part but the whole, is nailed to the
 the clouds be rolled back as a scroll; the trump shall re -

lot, thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is
 gard - ed my help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own
 cross, and I bear it no more, praise the Lord, praise the
 sound, and the Lord shall de - scend, e - ven so, it is

Refrain

well with my soul.
 blood for my soul. It is well with my soul,
 Lord, O my soul! It is well with my soul,
 well with my soul.

it is well, it is well with my soul.

Worship and Music

When we step into sacred space
we step into a story
the story of God's loving acts
in all creation
in all generations,
the story of God's loving acts here.
The walls, the beams,
the floor joists
still echo with the voices
of the first faithful generation
who sang in it -
singing gratitude to the not-totally-knowable God
singing hymns passed on to them
singing the wisdom stories
that they needed to live
and now
we sing and echo in the walls. . .

and what about the gypsum and sand
mined from the earth to make plaster
mixed with water from the river
and the oak trees felled and fashioned to beam
and the tin smelted to organ pipe
and the sheep's wool in needlepoint
all singing and echoing
in gratitude to God
and what of the bluffs
and the nimbus clouds
and the jet stream
and the magnetosphere
and the Andromeda nebula
all singing gratitude to God
all singing God's loving acts
and now we sing
and echo
in the universe
gratitude.

Anthem

My Father's World
Chancel Choir

Aaron David Miller

My Father's world, the day of its wondrous birth-
The stars of night sing out in heavenly mirth.
Yet to my ears, all nature sings the music of the spheres.

My Father's world, I rest me in the thought of rocks and
trees, his hand the wonders wrought. The morning light,
the lily white declare their maker's praise.

Dreaming I see his face, "The Lord is in this place."
I walk a desert lone. God makes his glory known.

From the shining courts above, a pledge of endless love.
His love has filled my aching breast,
my soul has found its rest.

My Father's world, the day of its wondrous birth-
The stars of night sing out in heavenly mirth.
His love has filled my aching breast,
my soul has found its rest.

This is my Father's world, oh, let me ne'er forget that
though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler, yet.

This is my Father's world; why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is king, let the heavens ring;
God reigns, let the earth be glad!

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. James D. Dennis, Jr.

Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory

Children of the Heavenly Father
Chancel Bells

arr. Douglas Wagner

Unison

1. For all the saints, who from their la-bors rest, who
 2. Thou wast their rock, their for-tress, and their might; thou,
 3. O may thy sol-diers, faith-ful, true, and bold,
 *4. O blest com-mu-nion, fel-low-ship di-vine!
 5. And when the strife is fierce, the war-fare long,
 6. From earth's wide bounds, from o-cean's far-thest coast, through

thee by faith be-fore the world con-fessed, thy
 Lord, their cap-tain in the well-fought fight;
 fight as the saints who no-bly fought of old, and
 We fee-bly strug-gle, they in glo-ry shine; yet
 steals on the ear the dis-tant tri-umph song, and
 gates of pearl streams in the count-less host,

name, O Je-sus, be for-ev-er blest.
 thou, in the dark-ness drear, their one true light.
 win with them the vic-tor's crown of gold.
 all are one in thee, for all are thine.
 hearts are brave a-gain, and arms are strong.
 sing-ing to Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost:

Refrain

Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia!

* **Doxology No. 94**

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit,
Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

* **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The Walls

How many voices have sung
in this place?
How many hymns have rung out
in this place?
How many tears have fallen
in this place?
How many feet have stepped
in this place?
How many Lord's Prayers have echoed
in this place?
These walls resonate
these walls vibrate with the wonder
of generations.
These walls echo with the heartbeats

of ancestors and friends
Nothing disappears without a trace
in this creation.
Love and high aspiration
Grief and adoration
Live in these walls
The heartbeats of generations
live in these walls.
Their yearning toward God
lives in these walls.
Whispering to us
Encouraging us
Echoing in us.
Singing with us.

Hymn No. 711

For All the Saints

Sine Nomine

Singing the Story

We who sing these words together
are people of story
When we sing together
we are bards
the story singers
the wisdom keepers
chanting the story
as around the sparking fire
singing the story
that has made us a people
singing the wisdom
so that the next seven generations
can find their way
and not be lost
so that the generations yet to come

not forget the ancestral foraging grounds
not forget where to shelter from the storm
not forget the way to water.
We who sing this story
God's story -
together
God's story in Christ
together -
we are transformed
into a community
of memory
of future
of a transformed
and holy
now.

* **Hymn No. 369**

Blessed Assurance

Assurance

(verse 1 and refrain, then repeat refrain)

* **Benediction**

* **Benediction Response**

***This is my story, this is my song, praising my savior all the day long. This is my story, this is my
song, praising my savior all the day long.***

* **Postlude**

Blessed Assurance

Fanny J. Crosby

Bless-ed as - sur - ance, Je sus is mine! O what a

fore - taste of glo ry di vine! Heir of sal va tion, purchase of

Refrain
God, born of his Spi - rit, washed in his blood. This is my

sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day

long: this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my

Sav - - - ior all the day long.