

**Wednesday Lent Worship
For the Healing of the Nations**

PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES

WELCOME

GATHERING

We gather around the tree of life, the cross of Christ,
the sign of God's unfailing love for us and for the whole creation.

We come to hear God's promise to pardon, strengthen, and heal us.

We come to pray for the healing of the nations
and for the healing of our own lives and communities.

We come at Christ's invitation.

Brief Silence for Reflection.

Blessed be God,
who forgives our sin,
heals every illness,
saves us from death,
enfolds us with tender care,
and crowns us with steadfast love.

Amen.

HYMN *Beneath the Tree of Life*

*[Come and gath-er] be - neath the tree of life.

[Come and gath-er] be - neath the tree of

life; Root of wis-dom, branch of peace, fruit of

heal-ing and re - lease. [Come and gath-er] be -

neath the tree of life.

GREETING

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

And also with you.

Let us pray,
 when Jesus was lifted upon the tree,
 he drew all things to himself.
 Gather us now within the arms of your mercy
 and fill us with your wisdom and compassion
 as we await Christ's coming again.
 In his name we pray.

Amen.

WORD

Brothers and sisters,
 the prophet Isaiah announced the coming day
 when God would create a new heaven and a new earth;
 when neither the sound of weeping
 nor the cry of distress would be heard;
 when the wolf and the lamb would feed together,
 and God would console the brokenhearted
 and heal the wounded world.

HYMN *Only You, O God*

Refrain

On - ly you, O God, and you a-lone, the
 bro - ken heart con - sole, On - ly you, O God, and
 you a-lone, the wound - ed world make whole.

Verses

1. O God, our rock and ha - ven, Our
 2. You guard us, faith - ful fa - ther, With -
 3. We pray do not a - ban - don The
 strong - hold, safe and sure, Though earth be torn and
 in your shel - t'ring palm; You nurse us, lov - ing
 ones you call your own; Our com - fort and com -
 shak - en, In you we stand se - cure.
 moth - er, With milk and heal - ing balm.
 pan - ion, We trust in you a - lone.

D.C. $\frac{2}{4}$

WORD

In the Revelation of John
we see the day that Isaiah prophesied
dawning in the crucified and risen Christ,
in whom God comes to make all things new.

A reading from Revelation.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth:
for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away,
and the sea was no more.

And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a voice from the throne saying,
“See, the home of God is among mortals.

God will dwell with them as their God;
they will be God’s people,
and God will be with them;
God will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.”

Revelation 21:1-4

Refrain

On - ly you, O God, and you a - lone, the
bro - ken heart con - sole. On - ly you, O God, and
you a - lone, the wound - ed world make whole.

I saw no temple in the city,
for its temple is the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb.
And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it,
for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb.
The nations will walk by its light,
and the rulers of the earth will bring their glory into it.
People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. *Revelation 21:22-24, 26*

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life,
bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb,
through the middle of the street of the city.

On either side of the river is the tree of life
with its twelve kinds of fruit,
producing its fruit each month;
and the leaves of the tree
are healing of the nations.

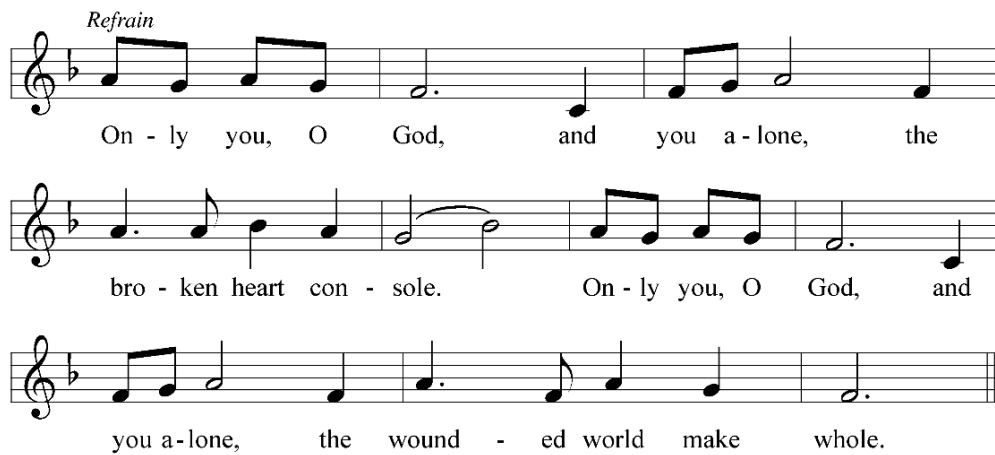
Revelation 22:1-2

**O God, our rock and haven,
our stronghold safe and sure,
though earth be torn and shaken,
in you we stand secure.**

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Refrain



On - ly you, O God, and you a - lone, the
bro - ken heart con - sole. On - ly you, O God, and
you a - lone, the wound - ed world make whole.

Brief Silence for Reflection

LITANY FOR THE NATIONS

Let us name before God the nations of the world,
pleading for mercy and healing
for those places and peoples
torn by ancient animosities or terrorized by new fears;
those devastated by drought or disease;
those crushed by poverty, oppression, or war;
and those consumed by power, wealth, or greed.

HYMN *For the Healing of the Nations*



For the heal - ing of the na - tions, we pray to you, O God.

INVITATION TO THE CROSS

Come, you who hunger for justice.
Come feast on God's promise to feed the hungry;
lift up the lowly and set the captive free.

Come, you who thirst for mercy.
Come drink from the water of life,
God's power to pardon, strengthen, and heal.

Come, you who long for peace
among nations and between peoples,
peace in our homes and our hearts.

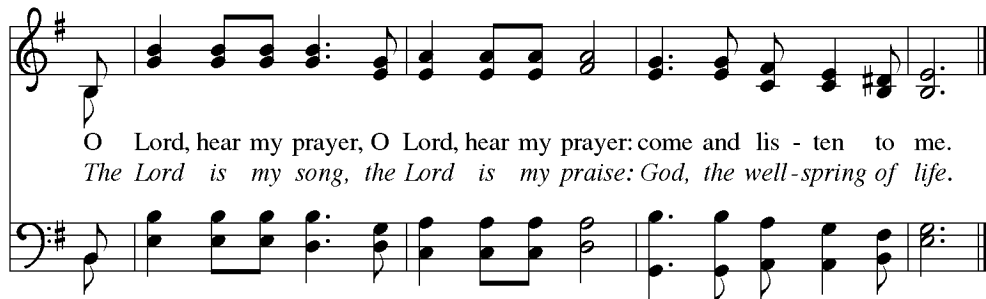
Come, all who are weary and heavy laden.
Come to the river of life, lay down your burdens,
and pour out your prayers before the throne of the lamb.

We invite you to light a candle at home,
lift your prayers in silence as you focus on the cross of Christ.

O Lord, Hear My Prayer



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.
OR *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.*



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

CLOSING PRAYER

Gathering our many prayers into one, let us pray.

**You are gracious and merciful, O God,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

**You draw near to those who call upon you,
crying out from their hearts.**

**Hear our cries, receive our prayers,
and fill us with your blessing,**

**until needy no longer,
your whole creation sings your praise,
through your Son, Jesus Christ.**

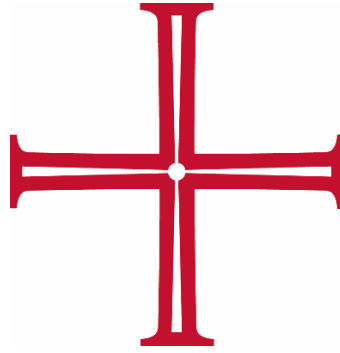
Amen.

BLESSING

God all mighty, God most merciful
bless us, keep us, and grant us peace.

Amen.

POSTLUDE



Thank you for worshipping with us. Join us again next Wednesday.
Visit www.wbbethany for additional information about Bethany Lutheran Church.

You are loved!

For the Healing of the Nations Intercessory prayer for peoples, lands, and nations, based on Isaiah 65 and Revelation 21. Susan Briehl and Tom Witt, *Holden Prayer Around the Cross*; Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis © 2009 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license # SB135727.

Beneath the Tree of Life; Marty Haugen, Tune © 2000, 2001, GIA Publications, Inc. Text © 2001, 2001, GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission under OneLicense.net A-726405 streaming license.

Only You, O God; Text: Susan Briehl. Music: African American Spiritual. Text © GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission under OneLicense.net A-726405 streaming license.

For the Healing of the Nations; Text: Susan Briehl. Music: John D. Becker, from *Litany of the Saints*. Text © 2009 Augsburg Fortress. Music © 1987 John D. Becker. Published and distributed by OCP Publications. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-726405.

O Lord, Hear My Prayer; Text and music © 1982, 1991 Les Presses de Taizé', GIA Publications, Inc. agent. Used by permission under OneLicense.net A-726405 streaming license.