

## Worship Service – Option 1 Standard Sermon

# GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

**Order of Worship: Divine Service I or II** (CW-Supplement, p. 15 or 28)

### Worship Welcome

Today we celebrate the privilege of being together as brothers and sisters in Christ. In song, scripture, sermon, and sacrament we are reminded of the wonderful blessings that are ours when God's People Gather.

### Optional Opening Dialogue

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

**C: Amen.**

M: I was glad when they said to me,

**C: Let us go to the house of the Lord!**

M: That you would allow us to gather in worship not out of duty but with joy and delight,

**C: We praise you, Lord!**

M: That you would bring us to a place where you promise to meet your people,

**C: We praise you, Lord!**

M: For the blessing of seeing the sacred symbols of your house and the mutual encouragement found in seeing one another,

**C: We praise you, Lord!**

M: For being with us in all places and through all situations, and bringing together as members of one body of Christ,

**C: We praise you, Lord!**

### Opening Hymn Options:

*CW 224 – God Himself is Present*

*CW 230 – Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now*

*CW 341 – Crown Him with Many Crowns*

*CW 532 – God is Here! As We His People*

*CW 912 – Open, Lovely Doors* (available for download in Worship Resources)

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**M:** O Lord Jesus Christ, bless this family of believers gathered together in your name with your never-failing mercy. Preserve us from that which would keep us apart. Bind us together with the bond of your love. Help us avoid whatever is harmful and wicked. And guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **LESSONS**

**First Lesson: Acts 4:32-37**

*God's people love to gather to serve one another and alongside one another.*

**Psalm: Psalm 27**

*God's people love to gather in his house to worship him.*

*NOTE: Today we focus especially on verses 4-6 of Psalm 27. The verses may be read responsively or, if the Psalm is sung, using a setting that includes these verses would be wise.*

**Second Lesson: Hebrews 10:23-25**

*God's people love to gather to encourage one another.*

**Choir Anthem**

**Gospel: Matthew 26:26-28**

*God's people love to gather to receive the Lord's Supper.*

**Hymn of the Day: CWS 735 – Speak, O Lord**

## **Prayer of the Church**

M: Almighty and eternal God, we give you humble and sincere thanks for the many blessings that you have bestowed on us. You have joined us to a family of believers in faith and love. We praise you especially for preserving us during this pandemic and gathering us together again today. We give you thanks for the blessings we share as members of this church, for your gracious Word, for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, and for fellowship with believers. Keep our congregation faithful to your Word and renew in us an eagerness to do your work. Guide our leaders and help us join them to serve and support the mission of your Church. For these great gifts...

**C: We thank and praise you, O Lord.**

M: Gracious Heavenly Father, you give us the gift of family and loved ones. Hear the prayers of those who call to you in every need. Let love and patience rule between husbands and wives, parents and children. Look with kindness on those who are homebound or remain isolated. Protect them and turn them from their fears in this world toward your Son in faith and hope. Restore our spirits each day by the power of the gospel, so we do not lose heart. Because you left behind the lasting legacy of your peace, sustain our homes with it and give safety to those under our roofs. For these great gifts...

**C: We thank and praise you, O Lord.**

M: Dear Christ our Savior, thank you for the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of your very body and blood for us Christians to eat and to drink in bread and wine, that we obtain in faith what you won and declared: the forgiveness of sins. Keep us close to your table and to one another as we now receive your true body and blood. For these great gifts...

**C: We thank and praise you, O Lord.**

M: Holy Spirit, as we live life as strangers and pilgrims on earth, bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly. And when our last hour comes, support us by your power and receive us into your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **Closing Prayer**

M: Grant, O Lord, that the lips which have sung your praise may glorify you in the world;  
That the ears which have heard you speak may be open to your Word and closed to hatred and discord;  
That the tongues which have confessed your name may always speak the truth without fear;  
That all of us who have worshiped together today may be united in true love for each other as you have loved us in Jesus.

**C: Amen.**

### **Optional Closing Dialogue**

M: For faith that has been fed and for grace that has been given,

**C: We thank you, Lord!**

M: For unity among God's people and giving us purpose in serving each other,

**C: We thank you, Lord!**

M: For gathering us today and encouraging us to keep doing so until your return,

**C: We thank you, Lord!**

M: For the benefits today has brought to our lives as we look forward to reaping the blessings in store for us in heaven,

**C: We thank you, Lord!**

**Closing Hymn:** CW 538 (st. 1,3,5) *The Church's One Foundation*

Other options: CW 333; CW 326; CW 536