

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us to give light to those who sit in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Prayer of the Day

Image of the invisible God, Firstborn of all creation, Prince of peace, Word through whom all things were made, rule our minds and hearts with justice born of righteousness and mercy born of love. Guide us to participate in your kingdom, where all God's people have a share in the strength that comes from God's glorious power. Amen.

Opening Hymn #4 *Holy God, We Praise Your Name* (stand)

Call to Confession

In humility we are called to confess our sin, reaching out in penitence to our Lord and Savior.

Trusting in the merciful love of God, let us pray together.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious Lord, we are quick to identify our enemies and slow to name the ways we hurt others. You lead us in the ways of righteousness, and yet we prefer to walk our own path. We are called to follow your lead in creating a beloved community, yet we idolize wealth and power. Heal us and help us, O God. Turn us from the ways of sin, the means that create unjust ends. Grant that we may seek to be for others what you are for us: a source of light on the way to peace.

Declaration of Forgiveness

The Lord gives light to those who dwell in darkness and guides our every step in the path of salvation.

In the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Passing the Peace of Christ

Glory to God #583

Anthem: *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* arr. Mack Wilberg

Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

Hymn #187: *Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us* verses 1, 2 and 3.
(seated)

Prayer for Illumination:

O Lord, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, and strength to follow on the path you set before us; through Jesus Christ, Amen.

Scriptures for the Day:

Old Testament Lesson: Jeremiah 23:1 - 6.

Epistle Lesson: Colossians 1:11 – 20.

Gospel Lesson: Luke 23:33 – 43

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of the Lord is forever.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: What Season Is It? Susan Murray

Affirmation of Faith (Adapted from The Belgic Confession, Article 10)

We believe that Jesus Christ, according to his divine nature, is the only Son of God—eternally begotten, not made nor created, for then he would be a creature. He is one in essence with the Father; co-eternal; the exact image of the person of the Father and the "reflection of his glory," being in all things like him. So then, he is the true eternal God, the Almighty, whom we invoke, worship, and serve.

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings: (please be seated)

Offering #711: *Lord of All Good*, verses 1 and 3

Prayer of Dedication: adapted from Jeremiah 23: 1 – 6

Compassionate Shepherd, You do not abandon your flock, even when we wander or divide. You gather us in Christ, our righteousness, and teach us to live in unity, mercy, and peace. As we bring these gifts, may they be signs of our desire to follow your way—offering compassion where there has been hurt, justice where there has been harm, and hope where there has been despair. Strengthen us to live as people waiting not in fear, but in faith—serving the reign of Christ not just with words, but with lives shaped by generosity and love. In the name of the One who gathers and leads us always. Amen.

Sending Hymn #273: *He is King of Kings* (stand)

Charge and Benediction: *Nancy C. Townley, "Worship Connection: November 20, 2022," Ministry Matters*

(remain standing)

Though the days increase in their darkness, the Lord of light and love reigns supreme. May the power of God's love be in your hearts and reflected in your lives now and always.

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord!**

Prelude: *Jesus Shall Reign* Larry Shackley

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