

Anniversary Liturgy

- L** O Lord, open my lips,
C **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**
- L** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C **make haste to help me, O Lord.**
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen. Hallelujah!**
- L** Hear my prayer, O Lord;
C **let my cry come to You.**
- L** In the day of my trouble I call upon You,
C **for You answer me.**
- L** Hide Your face from my sins,
C **and blot out all my iniquities.**
- L** Create in me a clean heart, O God,
C **and renew a right spirit within me.**
- L** Cast me not away from Your presence,
C **and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.**
- L** Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
C **and uphold me with a willing spirit.**
- L** Because Your steadfast love is better than life,
C **my lips will praise You.**
- L** For You have been my help,
C **and in the shadow of Your wings I will sing for joy.**
- L** Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth;
C **unite my heart to fear Your name.**
- L** I give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
C **and I will glorify Your name forever.**
- L** May all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You.
C **May those who love Your salvation say evermore, "God is
great!"**
- L** Save Your people and bless Your heritage!
C **Be their shepherd and carry them forever.**
- L** Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;
C **listen to my plea for grace.**
- L** Let us pray.
Almighty God, You have promised to be with Your Church
forever. We praise You for Your presence in this place of worship
and ask Your ongoing blessing upon those who gather here. Dwell
continually among us with Your holy Word and Sacraments,
strengthen our fellowship in the bonds of love and peace, and
increase our faithful witness to Your salvation; through Jesus

Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen. (spoken)

*Christ is our cornerstone, On Him alone we build;
With His true saints alone The courts of heav'n are filled.
On His great love Our hopes we place
Of present grace And joys above.*

- L** How lovely is Your dwelling place,
C O Lord of hosts!
L My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord;
C my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.
L Even the sparrow finds a home,
C and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at Your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
L Blessed are those who dwell in Your house,
C ever singing Your praise!
L Blessed are those whose strength is in You,
C in whose heart are the highways to Zion.
L As they go through the Valley of Baca they make it a place of springs;
C the early rain also covers it with pools.
L They go from strength to strength;
C each one appears before God in Zion.
L O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
C give ear, O God of Jacob!
L Behold our Shield, O God;
C look on the face of Your anointed!
L For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.
C I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.
L For the Lord God is a Sun and Shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor.
C No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.
L O Lord of hosts,
C blessed is the one who trusts in You!

*Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we implore,
And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us evermore
Until that day When all the blest
To endless rest Are called away.*

Old Testament Reading 1 Kings 8:22–30 Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven; and he said: “Lord God of Israel, *there is* no God in heaven above or on earth below like You, who keep *Your* covenant and mercy with Your servants who walk before You with all their hearts. You have kept what You promised Your servant David my father; You have both spoken with Your mouth and fulfilled *it* with Your hand, as *it is* this day. Therefore, Lord God of Israel, now keep what You promised Your servant David my father, saying, ‘You shall not fail to have a man sit before Me on the throne of Israel, only if your sons take heed to their way, that they walk before Me as you have walked before Me.’ And now I pray, O God of Israel, let Your word come true, which You have spoken to Your servant David my father. “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built! Yet regard the prayer of Your servant and his supplication, O Lord my God, and listen to the cry and the prayer which Your servant is praying before You today: that Your eyes may be open toward this temple night and day, toward the place of which You said, ‘My name shall be there,’ that You may hear the prayer which Your servant makes toward this place. And may You hear the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. Hear in heaven Your dwelling place; and when You hear, forgive.

CDS *There is a Higher Throne*

There is a higher throne Than all this world has known,
Where faithful ones from every tongue Will one day come.
Before the Son we'll stand, Made faultless through the Lamb;
Believing hearts find promised grace; Salvation comes.

And there we'll find our home, Our life before the throne
We'll honor Him in perfect song Where we belong.
He'll wipe each tear-stained eye As thirst and hunger die.
The Lamb becomes our Shepherd-King; We'll reign with Him.

Gospel Lesson Matthew 18:1ff. At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me... For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

Epistle Lesson 1 Peter 1:3-25

Choir This We Believe

We believe in one true God, Maker of earth and heaven,
Lord of all and Lord of love, From whom all things are given.
We believe in a God of strength and might
Who cares for us by day and night. We believe in one true God. We believe.

We believe in Jesus Christ, Born of a virgin mother,
Conceived with the love of the Holy Spirit; A birth unlike any other.
He was crucified by sinful men, And made by God to rise again.
We believe in Jesus Christ. We believe.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, The Father and the Son.
We believe in the Holy Trinity: Our Lord, the three in one.
We believe that our sins are forgiven.
And we believe we will live in heaven. We believe.

We believe in one true God, Maker of earth and heaven,
Lord of all and Lord of love, From whom all things are given.
We believe that the church is one great union.
We believe in the Saints' Communion. And we believe in God. We believe.
This we believe.

Choir This is My Word

As the snow falls from heaven As it comes in swirling showers from the sky,
So is my Word.
As the rains bring the water To the earth that is thirsty and dry, So is my Word.

And the Word of my mouth, It shall not return empty;
It will bless the earth Wherever it is heard. This is my Word.

As the rains bring renewal And the tender buds begin To come alive,
So is my Word.
Giving seed to the sower, And the bread to the hungry 'til they thrive,
So is my Word.

O Lord, when I am weary, When I feel the days I'm living are in vain,
My God, help me be faithful To the Word You have given to proclaim.

Proclaim the Word, and you will go out in joy and led forth in peace, and the
hills will break before you into song.
So be faithful, brave, and true, For I will go before you.
And when your earthly journey here is done, I'll say well done!

As the snow falls from heaven and the rain comes in
Showers from the sky, this is my Word.