

Gl: February 29, 2004

Journey toward Jesus

Based on Romans 10:13

Gathering

Call to worship

Leader: The Lord is our refuge and fortress,
a safe shelter in trouble.

Left: When we fear the terrors of the day or night,

Right: God provides a hiding place.

Left: When we wander from the path,

Right: God hears our cries.

Left: When we call on the name of the Lord,

Right: God delivers us and shows us salvation.

*All: The Most High God is our refuge,
our God in whom we trust.*

*Let us worship the God of our salvation.
(based on Psalm 91)*

Confessing/reconciling

Prayer of confession

*All: God of deliverance,
we confess that we are tempted by many things.
False hopes and illusions of status and power distract us.
Our fears threaten to overwhelm us,
and we do not always trust in your care.
Forgive us for trying to find safety in the work of our hands
and in the accumulation of many possessions.
Take away our doubt and fear
and our hesitance to confess your name.
Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
(Silence)*

Assurance of God's grace

Leader: The Lord hears our cries.
When we wander from the path,
God rescues us with a mighty hand and outstretched arm.
Receive the gift of salvation.
All: We will arise and go to Jesus.

Sending

Benediction

We go now renewed in faith, confessing that Jesus is Lord.
No matter where we have wandered,
God hears our cries and offers salvation to all.
Blessed be the name of the Lord!

—Atlantic Coast, Franconia, Lancaster Lenten Writing Team

Focus Statement: No matter who we are or where we have wandered, God calls us to arise and go to Jesus, who hears our cries, knows our temptations, and delivers us, offering salvation to all. **Lenten theme:** "I will arise and go to Jesus." *Cover design by Lynette Wiebe.* Wiebe explains, "Using a smooth single line from a pen I begin my own Lenten journey toward the cross. Like the figure on the road, I too stand back and consider the choices involved in creating a whole image."

Bible readings for today: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13. **Bible readings for next Sunday:** Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17—4:1; Luke 13:31-35

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GL March 07, 2004

Gathered by Jesus

Based on Luke 13:34

Gathering/call to worship

Leader: The Lord is our light and our salvation.

People: Who is there to fear?

Left: God longs to shelter us under the cover of his tent.

Right: God longs to enfold us as a hen gathers chicks under her wings.

All: God longs to lead us on a level path in the presence of our enemies.

Left: Take courage! Wait for the Lord!

Within the shelter of God's might,

we are called, as beloved children, to stand firm.

All: Today we seek God's shelter and God's face.

Let us worship the God of our salvation.

Confession/reconciling prayer of confession

All Merciful God, we come seeking your forgiveness.

Too often we live as enemies of the cross.

We take wrong paths and choose wrong goals.

We satisfy the harmful appetites of our bodies.

Our eyes are blinded by earthly things,

and our ears are deaf to your message.

Forgive our arrogant trust in our own knowledge

and our insistence on working out solutions apart from you.

Gather us under the safety and shelter of your wings.

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

(Silence)

Assurance of God's grace

Leader: The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.

When we seek God's face,

God will strengthen us, show us the way,

and lead us on a level path.

Today, receive the gift of salvation.

All: We will arise and go to Jesus!

Sending/benediction

We go now in the shelter of God's love. With courage in our hearts and the light of God shining in our lives, we will live as covenant people, sharing God's goodness wherever we go.

The Lord is our salvation!

—*Atlantic Coast, Franconia,
Lancaster Lenten Writing Team*

Focus statement: When we have forgotten whose we are, God calls us to arise and go to Jesus, who gathers us in shelter and safety. **Lenten theme:** “I will arise and go to Jesus.” **Lenten resources** coordinated with Christian Formation Council and Office of Congregational Life. Lent 2 cover design by Lynette Wiebe.

Bible readings for today: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17—4:1; Luke 13:31-35. **Bible readings for next Sunday:** Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9.

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GI March 14, 2003

Longing for Jesus

Based on Psalm 63:1

Gathering/call to worship

Leader: The Lord is near!

God invites all who are thirsty to come to the waters.

God invites all who are hungry to eat what is good.

Come near to God. Eat! Drink!

Delight in God's abundance!

People: Thirsty and hungry, we come to worship today.

Right: Here we will drink in God's power and savor God's glory.

Left: Here we will celebrate God's unfailing love that is better than life.

Right: Here we will offer our gifts of praise and song.

Left: Here we will offer ourselves to God.

All: O God, you are our God!

We worship you, the God of our salvation.

Confession/reconciling prayer of confession

All God of abundant grace, hear our cry of repentance.
Though you invite us to come, buy, and eat,
we often choose what is not good for us.
Though you call us to listen to you so we may live,
we often ignore your voice and follow the ways of death.
We have sinned in thought, word, and deed.
We have looked to the gods of our neighbors.
Then in our hunger and thirst, we complain against you.
Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

(Silence)

Assurance of God's grace

Leader: God is eager to satisfy us with a rich feast.

With thankful hearts,

accept God's lavish mercy and grace.

Today, receive the gift of salvation.

All: We will arise and go to Jesus.

Sending/benediction

We go now, celebrating the rich feast of God's love. With confidence that God provides a way for all to be fully satisfied, we will welcome others to our Lord's abundant feast. We will bless God as long as we live!

*—Atlantic Coast, Franconia,
Lancaster Lenten Writing Team*

Focus statement: When we become aware of our hunger and thirst for God, God calls us to arise and go to Jesus, who satisfies our longings with abundant spiritual food and drink. **Lenten theme:** "I will arise and go to Jesus." **Lenten resources** coordinated with Christian Formation Council and Office of Congregational Life. Lent 3 cover design by Lynette Wiebe.

Bible readings for today: Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9. **Bible readings for next Sunday:** Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32.

GI March 21, 2004

Coming home to Jesus

Based on Luke 15:17-18

Gathering/call to worship

Leader: Tell me, repentant people, who is the Lord our God?

**People: The Lord is our deliverer,
the one who hears our confession and forgives our sin.**

Leader: Tell me, blessed people, who is the Lord our God?

**People: The Lord is our hiding place,
our shelter in times of trouble.**

Leader: Tell me, wise people, who is the Lord our God?

**People: The Lord is our teacher, our counselor,
our leader on the way.**

Leader: Tell the Lord, righteous people, whom do you worship?

*All: We worship you, Lord, and serve only you.
You are the God of our salvation.*

Confessing/reconciling prayer of confession

All Forgive God, we confess our sins to you.
Though we have been silent about our failures
and have tried to hide our iniquities,
we acknowledge them to you today.
We take selfish paths;
we err in thought and speech;
we shield our broken hearts from your great love.
We bring all that we are to you.
Help us to hide nothing from you.
Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Assurance of God's grace

Leader: Our loving God welcomes us with outstretched arms.
Today, receive God's embrace,
not as a servant, but as a beloved child.

All: We will arise and go to Jesus.

Sending/benediction

We go out with joy! The past is forgotten; everything is made new! Now we have been given the work of speaking for Christ and making peace with the people we meet. Speak peace! Shalom!

*—Atlantic Coast, Franconia,
Lancaster Lenten Writing Team*

Focus statement: When we recognize and repent of our sins, God calls us to arise and go to Jesus, who welcomes us with open arms and calls us to make peace. **Lenten theme:** "I will arise and go to Jesus." **Lenten resources** coordinated with Christian Formation Council and Office of Congregational Life. Lent 4 cover design by Lynette Wiebe.

Bible readings for today: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32. **Bible readings for next Sunday:** Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8.

GI March 28, 2004

Finding ourselves in Jesus

Based on Philippians 3:8

Gathering/call to worship

Leader: The Lord is doing a new thing! Do not dwell on the past.

People: We come, opening our eyes to see new possibilities.

Leader: The Lord gives water in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

People: We come to quench our thirst at life-giving springs.

Leader: The Lord makes a path through mighty waters.

People: We come, declaring praise to the Lord who has made a new way.

All: Praise the Lord!

Let us worship the God of our salvation!

Confession/reconciling prayer of confession

All God of new life,
we confess that our faith is not always fresh and strong.
Some of us are tired and have heavy hearts;
some are burdened with the weight of the past;
and some are preoccupied with things that one day will perish.
Though we long to know the power of resurrection,
we lose hope in the midst of suffering and loss.
Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
(Silence)

Assurance of God's grace

Leader: God makes a way in the wilderness of our lives.
Forgetting what lies behind
and pressing forward to what lies ahead,
we are promised the gift of everlasting life in Christ Jesus.

All: We will arise and go to Jesus.

Sending/benediction

We go now in the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Letting go of the past and looking forward to what is to come, we hold fast to faith in God's promises. The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoice!

*—Atlantic Coast, Franconia,
Lancaster Lenten Writing Team*

Focus statement: When we define ourselves by the standards of the world, God calls us to arise and go to Jesus, who through his suffering love shows us the promise of new life. **Lenten theme:** "I will arise and go to Jesus."
Lenten resources coordinated with Christian Formation Council and Office of Congregational Life. Lent 5 cover design by Lynette Wiebe.

Bible readings for today: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8. **Bible readings for next Sunday:** Luke 19:28-40; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Philippians 2:5-11.

GI April 04, 2004

Worshipping Jesus

Based on Luke 19:37-38

Gathering/call to worship

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made.

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Leader: The gates of righteousness are open.
Enter and give thanks!

People: We give you thanks, O God. You alone are good!

Leader: The Lord has become our salvation.
Receive this astonishing gift!

**People: We give you thanks, O God.
Your steadfast love endures forever!**

Leader: Join in the festive procession!
Exalt the name of the Lord!

All: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Confessing/reconciling prayer of confession

Leader: God of steadfast love,
you call us to follow the One who comes in your name.
You call us to enter the gates of righteousness
and proclaim your praise.
Yet like the crowds who followed Jesus into Jerusalem,
we are sometimes fickle in our loyalty.
Forgive us when our tongues are silent.
Forgive us when we forget the ways of peace.
Forgive us when we turn away from you in times of suffering.
Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
(Silence)

Assurance of God's grace

Leader: The God whose steadfast love endures forever hears our prayers.
Today God answers us and offers salvation to all.
Today God's peace is promised to all who will follow.

All: We will arise and go to Jesus.

Sending/benediction

We go now toward the cross. We came to join the procession of branches and hosannas. We came to exalt the One who will reign over heaven and earth. Now we journey with our Savior toward a destiny of suffering love. We proclaim with all creation: God's steadfast love endures forever!

*—Atlantic Coast, Franconia,
Lancaster Lenten Writing Team*

Focus statement: When we see Jesus ride to his destiny in suffering love, God calls us to arise and go to Jesus, who will not silence his disciples, but encourages us to proclaim, "God's steadfast love endures forever." **Lenten theme:** "I will arise and go to Jesus." **Lenten resources** coordinated with Christian Formation Council and Office of Congregational Life. Lent 6 cover design by Lynette Wiebe.

Bible readings for today: Luke 19:28-40; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Philippians 2:5-11. **Bible readings for next Sunday:** Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12.

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