Hero Hospital VBS Part 6 – A Place for Praise

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Today, we gather for worship, giving thanks that God is with us. We celebrate and love God, who is our Creator, + our Teacher, and our Guide. **Amen.**

We come to God to confess our sins; to share with God the ways that we hurt one another, creation, ourselves, and God.

God, our healer,

**Sometimes we hurt each other by only seeing one part of who someone is; like their disability, sickness, race, gender, or language and we forget that they are first and foremost a person, your child.**

**Sometimes we hurt each other by giving in to fear, by failing to have the heroic courage to be there for each other when things are tough.**

**Sometimes we hurt each other and ourselves by losing hope and closing ourselves off from others instead of reaching out to rely on each other.**

**Sometimes we hurt each other by judging one another instead of helping one another.**

**Sometimes we hurt each other by turning our backs on science, creativity, and discovery; the things you give us to help us learn how to take care of each other.**

**Sometimes we hurt each other simply by forgetting to say thank you with our words and actions.**

**The ways that we hurt each other, ourselves, and creation are the ways that we hurt you God because you have created and you love everyone and everything. We are truly sorry and we ask that you accept our apology and forgive us.**

God’s love is unconditional and it lasts forever; the kingdom of God is full of God’s outrageous love. God accepts our apology and + forgives us of our sins. Now God asks us to do better by caring for and loving one another like God does. **Amen.**

Gathering Song Let All Things Now Living ELW 881

License

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.**

Prayer of the Day

God, your kingdom is a place for praise and you ask us to live out our faith in you by building your kingdom here on earth. There are so many different ways for us to praise you God! Sometimes we praise you through worship, sometimes through caring for creation, sometimes through caring for each other, sometimes through celebrating the generosity of others. Help us to continually praise through our words and actions.

**Amen.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Please share a sign of God’s peace with one another.

Historical Guide Cecilia Makiwane

In 1908, Cecilia Makiwane became the first black woman in Africa to be licensed as a nurse. Her sister was the first black woman in Africa to earn a degree in Mathematics. These opportunities for African women to earn advanced degrees were considered an experiment at the time. Cecilia proved that there never should have been any question at all about whether native African women could become nurses, or mathematicians, or anything at all. Cecilia served as a nurse for years before contracting a rare and undiagnosed illness that kept her from work and ultimately ended her life. In her short life, she became a renowned nurse and also struggled for justice against racist laws and practices in South Africa, even taking part in 1912 in possibly the first women’s anti-pass campaign where black women of South Africa organized, petitioned, marched, peacefully protested, and went to jail to prove the injustice of being required to carry and present a pass that tracked and limited their travel. Cecilia was honored in 1982 with a stamp from the short-lived yet independent republic of Ciskei in Apartheid South Africa. She received an award for nurses and a hospital was built in her name in modern South Africa.

Cecilia used her gifts to help build God’s kingdom!

**Thanks be to God!**

Bible Reading Psalm 8

O LORD, our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children;**

**you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.**

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,

the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

**what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,**

**human beings that you care for them?**

Yet you have made them little less than divine;

with glory and honor you crown them.

**You have made them rule over the works of your hands;**

**you have put all things under their feet:**

all flocks and cattle,

even the wild beasts of the field,

**the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,**

**and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**

O LORD, our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The gospel according to St. Luke the 13th chapter Luke 13:10-17

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?" When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

The gospel of our Lord**.**

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon (preaching notes)

* Big Question: How can you help those who care for people experiencing an illness or disability?
* The sabbath is a day of worship, it is a day of praising God. There are so many ways for us to worship and praise God!
  + In our gospel lesson, Jesus reminds us that sometimes we worship God by taking care of others. Jesus worships God by healing the woman. Sometimes we worship and praise God by taking care of our neighbors.
  + Sometimes we worship and praise God by taking care of creation like our Psalm calls us to do.
  + Sometimes we worship and praise God by making the world a better place for all like Cecilia did as she worked to end the sin of racism in her country.
  + Sometimes we worship and praise God by remembering to thank people for their generosity, for the ways they care for others, creation, or build God’s kingdom.
* God wants us to worship and praise God not just in our words or just for this one hour on Sunday morning but through our actions and at every moment of our lives!

Hymn of the Day Take My Life, That I May Be ELW 685

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Affirmation of Faith

Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,** **creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,** **who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,** **born of the virgin Mary,** **suffered under Pontius Pilate,** **was crucified, died, and was buried;** **he descended to the dead.** **On the third day he rose again;** **he ascended into heaven,** **he is seated at the right hand of the Father,** **and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,** **the holy catholic church,** **the communion of saints,** **the forgiveness of sins,** **the resurrection of the body,** **and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People (Congregational Response: **“hear our prayer”**)

*(these prayers were taken from Sundays and Seasons)*

Let us come before God in prayer.

Holy parent, you welcome your people into one family and gather all things to yourself. Bestow your grace upon your beloved church, lavish your wisdom upon us, and redeem us from our faults, that by our witness all might praise your glory. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Awesome Creator, you steadfastly tend to the smallest of seeds and the mightiest of sycamore trees. Spring up green growth from the earth, nourish the growth of fruit, grain, and other crops, and bless the work of farmers and laborers. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the oppressed, turn the ears of those who are in power to the voices of prophets in our own day. Protect those who speak difficult truths when it is risky to do so. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of strength, you are near to those who endure difficulty. Comfort all who are survivors of violence, guard the refugee and the immigrant, and protect all those who are victims of prejudice and discrimination. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of love, we pray for this holy house and all those who worship here. We pray especially for those whose efforts behind the scenes often go unnoticed; for the custodians and maintenance workers, for our secretary Shari, and our music director Jonathon, and for all of our volunteers. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We thank you, God, for the saints, martyrs, and prophets who have died in the faith, especially Cecilia Makiwane. We remember those in this community who have recently died. United with them as God’s children, assure us that we are yours forever. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

**Amen.**

Offering

God, thank you for the gifts and talents that you give each of us. Thank you for the financial gifts that we receive in this congregation. Bless us with generous and grateful hearts and hands. Help us to use all of these gifts in service as we build, here on earth, Jesus’ vision of the kingdom of God. **Amen.**

The Meal

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,

who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,

who preached good news to the poor,

and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,

we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,

and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,

the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;

to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,

be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

God’s kingdom is a place for praise. Join in the meal where all are welcome.

You are invited to prepare your bread. *We all eat our bread from our seats after the Pastor says,* “The body of Christ given for you. **Amen.**”

You are invited to prepare your wine/juice. *We all drink our wine/juice from our seats after the Pastor says,* “The blood of Christ shed for you. **Amen.**”

Please put your masks back on.

Blessing

Now may the body and blood of Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

In this meal of communion, we have been reminded once again of God’s outrageous love. God, strengthen us in body and in spirit that we might go out into the world and share your outrageous love in everything we say and do. In the name of Jesus, who shows us what true love looks like, **Amen.**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Song Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee ELW 836

Public Domain

Sending

Go in peace, building the kingdom of God.

**Thanks be to God.**