

## CALL TO WORSHIP

### WEEK A:

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always.

**People: Let us say it again: Rejoice.**

Leader: Whatever is true, just, and pleasing, think about these things,

**People: and the God of peace will be with you.**

### WEEK B:

Leader: Come, let us worship and bow down.

**People: Let us call upon God and listen for God's voice.**

Leader: The Lord declares:

**People: Be still and know that I am God.**

### \*\*\*\*\*WEEK C:

Leader: Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.

**People: Come into God's presence with singing.**

Leader: Worship the Eternal One in the beauty of holiness.

**People: God draws near to the humble.**

## OPENING PRAYER

### HYMN 488

***I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry***

*Please stand as you are able when the hymn is announced.*

## CALL TO PRAYER

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen. [Silent prayers]

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

### SUNG RESPONSE ("GLORIA"): HYMN 583

*Please stand as you are able.*

### THE PEACE

*Please greet your neighbors, saying, "Peace be with you."*

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Gen 28:10-19a

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran.

He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night,  
because the sun had set.

Taking one of the stones of the place,  
he put it under his head and lay down in that place.

And he dreamed that there was a stairway set up on the earth,  
the top of it reaching to heaven,  
and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

And the Lord stood beside him[b] and said,

“I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac;  
the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring,  
and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth,  
and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east  
and to the north and to the south,

and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring.

Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go  
and will bring you back to this land,  
for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said,

“Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!”

And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place!

This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

So Jacob rose early in the morning,

and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar  
and poured oil on the top of it.

He called that place Bethel...

Romans 8:12-25

So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh,  
to live according to the flesh

—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die,

but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear,  
but you received a spirit of adoption.

When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit  
that we are children of God,

and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ,

if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing

with the glory about to be revealed to us.  
For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God,  
for the creation was subjected to futility,  
not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it,  
in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay  
and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.  
We know that the whole creation has been groaning together  
as it suffers together the pains of labor, and not only the creation,  
but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit,  
groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies  
For in hope we were saved.  
Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees?  
But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.  
Reader: Holy wisdom, holy Word.  
People: Thanks be to God.

## **HYMN 250**

### ***Hymn of Promise***

*Please stand as you are able when the hymn is announced.*

## **SERMON**

### **“Thin Places”**

Rev. Dr. Brian C. Snyder

**THE APOSTLES’ CREED:** PAGE 35 in the hymnal. *Please stand as you are able.*

I Believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;  
and in Jesus Christ, his Only Son, our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the virgin, Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS**

**PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER:** PAGE 35 in the hymnal.

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OFFERINGS & GIFTS OF SELF**

**OFFERTORY / SPECIAL MUSIC**

**SUNG RESPONSE (“DOXOLOGY”):**

**HYMN 606 (gendered) or 607 (non-gendered)** *Please stand as you are able.*

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**CLOSING HYMN 438** *Rock of Ages*

*Please stand as you are able when the hymn is announced.*

**BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**