

Order of Worship

The APCE Annual Event, St. Louis, Missouri
Wednesday, January 24, 2024

Gathering Music

Litany for Having Arrived

We have been running, God –

**running through airports and train stations;
running through packing lists and to-do lists;
running through last minute plans and detailed instructions left
behind;
running through everything required of us to “be away.”**

We have been running.

But you have been running, too, God –

**running through every age of history;
running through the break of every dawn;
running through our veins, setting the beat of our hearts;
running through every moment of our lives,
right alongside us, even when we knew it not.**

You have been running.

So God, for this moment, for this time, for this gathering,

**give us the grace and the space to stop running our own lives
and better run the race you have imagined for us.**

And God, you know better than we do –

It is hard to run thirsty.

We trust you will quench our thirst this week,

We who are so very thirsty.

So during these days,

**invite us once again to lie down in green pastures
and rest beside still waters,
for there, we will catch our breath,
which is, of course, your breath.**

We make this our prayer in the name of the One who is living water,
your son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Call to Worship

Come to the water, all you who thirst;
come drink deeply from the river of life.

**Come to the water, all you who are weary;
come rest in the quiet pools of God's love.**

Come to the water, all you who long for justice;
come be renewed in God's ever-flowing stream.

**Come to the water, all you who seek belonging;
come be welcomed by the font of God's grace.**

God is here among us,
washing away the dust and grime of our lives,
pouring out the Spirit upon us.

Let us worship God together!

Music

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,

Forgive us when our actions suggest

we are too casual with our relationships:

when we treat the earth as if it were replaceable;

when we treat our children as if they were too difficult

and our elders as if they were no longer relevant;

when we treat our neighbors as if they were a burden;

when we treat our friends as if they had no needs of their own

and our enemies as if they were evil incarnate;

when we treat you as if you were little more than a cosmic

custodian,

called upon when we need help cleaning up a mess.

Give us new ways of understanding

and more just ways of living. (Silent prayer)

Assurance of God's Grace

Sharing the Peace of Christ

May the peace and justice of Christ be with you!
And also with you!

Musical Response

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

**Holy Spirit,
Come like fresh morning dew,
like rain after a drought,
like a river running through our lives.
We are thirsty – thirsty for you.
May your Word drench us in new understanding
and wash us in your grace.
Amen.**

Scripture Reading - Luke 10:25-37

An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of

the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

This is the Word of God, for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Cedric Portis, Sr.

Music

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

**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.

Offering You can use this QR code or the one on your table to give.



Music

Benediction