

HOSPITALITY + WORSHIP + SPIRITUAL GROWTH + JUSTICE + COMMUNITY CARE



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Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday **January 17, 2021**

10:30 AM Service of Communion
Luther Place Memorial Church

1226 Vermont Ave, NW Washington, DC 20005 ♦ (202) 667-1377 ♦ www.lutherplace.org

GATHERING

Prelude: One Bread, One Body

arr. Ron Schmoltze

Justin Fitch, organ

We welcome you to worship today! We are a church that uses social media.
You are invited to interact on this live video through the comment section.
We will offer communion today and ask that you prepare bread and wine/juice.

Noticing

Portions of today's liturgy are from the Disrupt Worship Project

***Confession:**

P: Blessed be God, Creator, ✚ Christ, and Holy Spirit,
whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

C: Amen.

Silence...

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are mired in sin and cannot get free on our own. We have judged others based on skin color, sex, gender, sexuality, religion, nationality, ability, financial and social status. We have preferred the ease and simplicity of placing others into boxes to the complexity of getting to know one another as siblings. We have contributed to and often benefited from systems that maintain the power of a privileged few. We have remained silent in the face of racism, sexism, heterosexism, ableism and other forms of prejudice. Through both our action and inaction, war, poverty and environmental degradation continue on massive scales. We have ignored your prophets and turned from your command to put you first and neighbor second. We have permitted the ends for which we live to become confused with the means by which we live. Forgive our ignorance. Forgive our weakness. Forgive our sin. May your love overwhelm us, your peace disturb us and your spirit move us so that we cannot help but do your will at all times and in all places, always glorifying your name.

P: How vast is God's grace!

Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus,
our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved.
Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness,
we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice
and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song: ELW 841 Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing

- 1 Lift ev'ry voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.
- 2 Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our parents sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
- 3 God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

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P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***Prayer of the Day**

P: Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 3:1-20

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if They call you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." [¹¹Then the Lord said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹²On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his

sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."

¹⁵Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." ¹⁷Eli said, "What was it that They told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that They told you." ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the Lord; let Them do what seems good to Them."

¹⁹As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.]

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people **C: Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

¹LORD, you have searched me out; O LORD, you have known me.

²**You know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.**

³You trace my journeys and my resting-places
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴**Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.**

⁵You encompass me, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

⁶**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

¹³For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴**I will thank you because I am marvelously made;
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.**

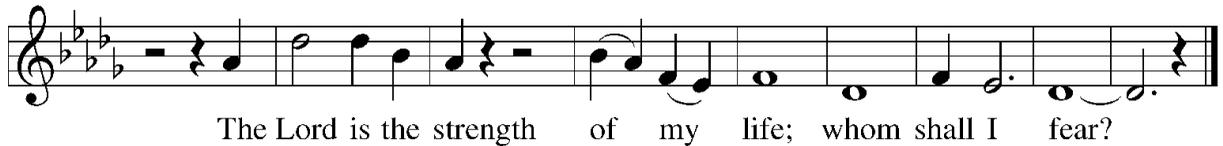
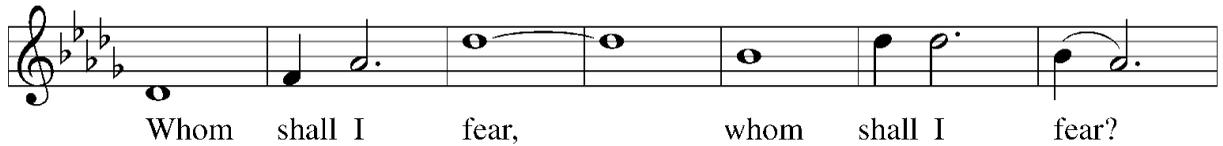
¹⁵My body was not hidden from you,
while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶**Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were
written in your book; my days were fashioned before they came to be.**

¹⁷How deep I find your thoughts, O God! How great is the sum of them!

¹⁸**If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.**

Gospel Acclamation:



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HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:43-51

P: The Holy Gospel according to John

C: Glory to you, O Lord

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee and found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, Jesus said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” ⁴⁸Nathanael asked Jesus, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” ⁵⁰Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” ⁵¹And Jesus said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ

Noticing Time

Sermon:

Rev. Karen Brau

Hymn of the Day: Senzeni na

Senzeni na is an anti-apartheid folk song from the mid-20th century with lamentations that carry a Job-like quality. There are a number of arrangements of it. One translation of the original text is:

What have we done?

Our sin is that we are black?

Our sin is the truth

They are killing us

Let Africa return

Sen-zen-i-na

So-hla-ma-na

E-zul-vi-ni

Tune & Text: South African song

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In these days that are so difficult, we mine our liturgical tradition to creatively engage practices that build us up. So, for the next weeks, we will say “words of renunciation” together.

Profession of Faith

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

C: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C: I renounce them.

Nicene Creed augmented with sentences from Martin Luther King, Jr.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe also in a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through whom all things were made. For us and for our salvation Christ came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake Christ was crucified under Pontius Pilate; suffered death and was buried. On the third day rose again in accordance with the scriptures; ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. Christ will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and Christ's kin-dom will have no end. We believe also in a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all people are created equal."

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in a holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

We believe also that with this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brother- and sisterhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day. When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black and white, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

*Prayers of the People

Please comment with your prayers for each category

As this week we observe the Week of Prayer for Christian unity, commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr., and inaugurate the new President of the United States, let us offer our laments and petitions to God, responding to each with the words “In mercy, receive our prayers.”

We lament the ways that we and our society have misused your earth with selfish or short-sighted actions — and we pray for an increased commitment to the care of your marvelous creation. O God, Gardener of the globe, hear our cries;

In mercy, receive our prayers.

We lament the occasions when our government has neglected the needs of the people of America and the calls for international cooperation — and we pray for President-elect Biden, for Vice President-elect Harris, and for all our elected members of Congress, that they fulfill their obligations to uphold and extend the common good. O God, Shield of the commonwealth, hear our cries; **In mercy, receive our prayers.**

We lament the uncontrolled rage and the senseless violence that recently defaced our nation — and we pray that peace reign in our streets, that our capital cities be safe, that all citizens come to accept the new administration, and that a spirit of reconciliation and cooperation mark the next stage of our national life. O God, Peacemaker in our land, hear our cries; **In mercy, receive our prayers.**

We lament the decades of ethnic injustices and racial prejudice that brought such suffering to many residents of our country — and we pray that you bless the Indigenous peoples, descendants of Africans, and all immigrants to this land, and that you form us into a nation in which all are honored in equal measure. O God, Liberator of the oppressed, hear our cries; **In mercy, receive our prayers.**

We lament the unspeakable sadness that has been unleashed by the coronavirus here and around the world — and we pray that you bring health to the sick, comfort to the dying, resilience to health workers, prompt vaccinations to everyone, and a lasting end to this scourge. O God, Physician and Nurse, hear our cries; **In mercy, receive our prayers.**

We lament also our private sorrows and our hidden fears, and we pray that as with the boy Samuel, you speak to us in the night of our need. O God, Lover of our souls, hear our cries; **In mercy, receive our prayers.**

We lament the lives of those who have died. We praise you for the life and legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., and those we name here before you...; and we pray that at the end, we join with all the members of your family in your presence. O God, eternal Arms of Mercy, hear our cries; **In mercy, receive our prayers.**

P: Into your hands, O loving God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Announcements

Please subscribe to our eNews at lutherplace.org/calendar-news or [click here](#) to view our full list of announcements.

Offering

You can donate by texting the dollar amount to +12028166673 or clicking [this link](#). We are inviting you to give financially, out of your heart and love for God. Our giving is a spiritual practice as part of our faith and discipleship.

Mission of the Moment: Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Offering Prayer

P: O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. **Amen.**

MEAL

***The Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you

P: Lift up your hearts

C: We lift them to the Lord

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise

P: It is indeed right...

Sanctus: ELW 525



Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer
You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.



Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,
You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

Thanksgiving at the Table

In the night of the betrayal,
our Lord Jesus gathered with faltering friends
for a meal that tasted of freedom.

Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to them, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, Jesus 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.

We remember that night Jesus spent with friends, and we feel Jesus' presence with us now. We ask God, through the Holy Spirit to bless these gifts we offer and share, making them Christ for us, and making us into Christ's holy body. Together with all the church, we give you thanks: Creator, Redeemer, Spirit of love. Bind us together. Open our hearts. Grant us peace.

Lord's Prayer

**C: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

*Agnus Dei: ELW 341 Now Behold the Lamb



1 Now be - hold the Lamb, the pre - cious Lamb of God, who
2 Ho - ly is the Lamb, the pre - cious Lamb of God. Why
3 Thank you for the Lamb, the pre - cious Lamb of God. Be -



bore all my sin, that I may live a - gain: the pre-cious Lamb of God.
you love me so, Lord, I shall nev - er know; the pre-cious Lamb of God.
cause of your grace I can fin - ish the race; the pre-cious Lamb of God.

Text: Kirk Franklin, b. 1970

Music: NOW BEHOLD THE LAMB, Kirk Franklin

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Communion:

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Prayer after Communion

J: Christ Jesus,
at this table we have feasted on your very life
and are strengthened for our journey.
Send us forth from this banquet
nourished in body and in spirit
to proclaim your good news
and serve others in your name.

C: Amen.

*Table Blessing

P: God the creator strengthen you;
Jesus the beloved fill you;
and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✠ keep you in peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying'. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;' and 'Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.'

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943

Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema

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Dismissal

J: Go forth to love and serve in Christ's name.

C: Thanks be to God!

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