

SERVICE OF WORSHIP OF GOD IN THE LINEAGE OF DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS



GATHERING

Prelude

+Call to Worship

Inspired by Exodus 3:13-15

God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,

God of the fathers and mothers of the church,

God of Martin Luther King Jr., César Chávez, Dolores Huerta,

God of Gustavo Gutiérrez, Oscar Romero, Dietrich Bonhoeffer,

God of Sojourner Truth, Desmond Tutu, and Fannie Lou Hamer,

We come to worship You and give You thanks.

We come to rejoice as we celebrate Your presence in the lives of our ancestors.

We come to worship You, Giver of life—of what is visible and invisible.

God, we come to worship You!

+Opening Hymn *Alabaré (We Sing the Praises of Our God)*

Estribillo:

Alabaré, alabaré, alabaré a mi Señor.
Alabaré, alabaré, alabaré a mi Señor.

1. Juan vio el número de los redimidos
y todos alababan al Señor,
unos cantaban otros oraban
y todos alababan al Señor. (*estribillo*)

2. Todos unidos alegres cantamos
Glorias y alabanzas al Señor,
Gloria al Padre, Gloria al hijo
Y Gloria al Espíritu de amor (*estribillo*)

3. Somos Tus hijos Dios Padre eterno
Tu nos has creado con amor.
Te bendecimos, te adoramos,
Y todos te alabamos con amor. (*estribillo*)

Refrain:

Alabaré, alabaré, we sing the praises of our God.
Alabaré, alabaré, we sing the praises of our God.

1. John had a vision of those redeemed by Jesus,
And all were praising God with one accord.
Thousands were praying, thousands were singing,
But all were joined in praises to the Lord. (*refrain*)

2. One in our praising, with joyful hearts and voices,
We glorify the Lord who reigns above:
Praise to our God, praise to Christ Jesus,
And praise to God the Spirit, bond of love. (*refrain*)

3. We are your children, O God, eternal Keeper.
You guide us and protect us all our days.
With all creation, in jubilation,
We honor you with songs of endless praise. (*refrain*)

Invitation to the Altar & Opening Ancestral Prayer of Gratitude and Honor

O Great Spirit,
We call upon the wisdom of our ancestors,
those who walked before us on this sacred land,
Who tended the earth with care,
and whose courage paved the way for our freedom.
May we honor their struggles and sacrifices,
for their footsteps have made the path smoother for us.
With every step we take, may we remember their strength and resilience.
Let their stories live on in our hearts,
guiding us as we strive for justice and harmony in our time.
Spirit of God, bless the memory of those
who fought for the right to speak their truth,
who worked tirelessly to protect their families and their communities.
May their spirit continue to guide us.

(Invite the gathered community to bring their pictures or items to the altar and say the names of their ancestors or mentors out loud. For example: Gustavo Gutiérrez)

May we walk with the same dignity and honor.
We give thanks for their wisdom,
For the traditions and the love they passed down.
May we live lives worthy of their legacy,
And continue to build a world where all can thrive.

Amen

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Reading from Hebrew Scriptures

Psalm 24 (CEB)

Read this as different small groups.

Group 1: The earth is the Lord's and everything in it,
the world and its inhabitants too.
Because God is the one who established it on the seas;
God set it firmly on the waters.

Group 2: Who can ascend the Lord's mountain?
Who can stand in his holy sanctuary?
Only the one with clean hands and a pure heart;
the one who hasn't made false promises,
the one who hasn't sworn dishonestly.

Group 3: That kind of person receives blessings from the Lord
and righteousness from the God who saves.
And that's how things are with the generation that seeks him—
that seeks the face of Jacob's God.

Selah

Group 4: Mighty gates: lift up your heads!
Ancient doors: rise up high! So the glorious king can enter!

Group 1: Who is this glorious king?

Group 2: The Lord—strong and powerful, The Lord—powerful in battle!

Group 3: Mighty gates: lift up your heads!

Group 4: Ancient doors: rise up high! So the glorious king can enter!

All: Who is this glorious king?

**The Lord of heavenly forces—
he is the glorious king!**

Selah

Reading from the New Testament

Romans 8:31-39 (CEB)

³¹ So what are we going to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He didn't spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. Won't he also freely give us all things with him?

³³ Who will bring a charge against God's elect people? It is God who acquits them. ³⁴ Who is going to convict them? It is Christ Jesus who died, even more, who was raised, and who also is at God's right side. It is Christ Jesus who also pleads our case for us.

³⁵ Who will separate us from Christ's love? Will we be separated by trouble, or distress, or harassment, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

We are being put to death all day long for your sake.

We are treated like sheep for slaughter.

³⁷ But in all these things we win a sweeping victory through the one who loved us. ³⁸ I'm convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things, not powers ³⁹ or height or depth, or any other thing that is created.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 22:31-40 (NVI)¹

31 Pero en cuanto a la resurrección de los muertos, ¿no han leído lo que Dios les dijo a ustedes:
32 “Yo soy el Dios de Abraham, de Isaac y de Jacob”? Él no es Dios de muertos, sino de vivos.
33 Al oír esto, la gente quedó admirada de su enseñanza.
34 Los fariseos se reunieron al oír que Jesús había hecho callar a los saduceos.
35 Uno de ellos, experto en la Ley, le tendió una trampa con esta pregunta:
36 —Maestro, ¿cuál es el mandamiento más importante de la Ley?
37 —“Ama al Señor tu Dios con todo tu corazón, con toda tu alma y con toda tu mente” — respondió Jesús—.
38 Este es el primero y el más importante de los mandamientos.
39 El segundo se parece a este: “Ama a tu prójimo como a ti mismo”.
40 De estos dos mandamientos dependen toda la Ley y los Profetas.

31 But about the resurrection of the dead—have you not read what God said to you,
32 ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not the God of the dead but of the living.”
33 When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at his teaching.
34 Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together.
35 One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question:
36 “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”
37 Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’
38 This is the first and greatest commandment.
39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’
40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Este es la palabra de Dios
Gracias a Dios. Amen.

This is the word of God.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

SERMON

Hymn of Response

Gloria a Dios (Glory to God)

TFWS #2033

¹ Nueva Version Internacional



1 Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry in the high - est!
2 Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to Christ Je - sus!
3 Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to the Spir - it!

1 ¡Glo-ria a Dios, glo-ria a Dios, glo-ria en los cie - los!
2 ¡Glo-ria a Dios, glo-ria a Dios, glo-ria a Je - su - cris - to!
3 ¡Glo-ria a Dios, glo-ria a Dios, glo-ria al Es - pí - ri - tu!



To God be glo-ry for - ev - er! Al-le-lu-ia, A - men!
¡A Dios la glo-ria por siem - pre! ¡A - le - lu - ya, A - mén!



Al-le-lu-ia, A - men! Al-le-lu-ia, A - men!
¡A - le - lu - ya, A - mén! ¡A - le - lu - ya, A - mén!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Beloved, we have already been praying to God, since even before we set foot in this space. God hears our prayers before we even begin to put words to our needs, our gratitude, our celebrations, our griefs. Still, we turn to God in this moment with our hearts and minds.

As we move into this moment of prayer, I invite you to share a prayer need or prayer of gratitude out loud or to bring a stone to the ofrendas in honor of a prayer.

Give space for prayers and stone to come to the ofrendas. Offer silence.

Let us pray, with confession and gratitude.

ALL: God our help, we pray for all that has been shared in this moment. And we pray for your forgiveness. We often fall short of who you call us to be. We do not love as you call us to love. We do not remain faithful to the Gospel or to whom you call us to be. Remind us that nothing can separate us from your love. Forgive us we pray, even as we seek to draw closer to you. Amen.

+THE PEACE

Friends, only Jesus is in the position to condemn us for our sins, and Jesus is who offers us peace and forgiveness. In that confidence and with humility, let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and love.

La paz de Christo. Peace be with you.

And also with you.

All exchange signs and words of God's peace.

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

INVITATION

As often as we come to this table, we remember that it is not our table. It is not Garrett's table. It is not a United Methodist or Presbyterian or Catholic table. It is the Table that God sets before us. All are welcome, just as we are. And so, as we seek to gather around it, come as you are. Come as you long to be. Come to this table. Come giving thanks to God for the love that calls us. Come giving thanks for the farmworkers that make the bread and juice possible. Come giving thanks for the community of faith gathered here in this time and place.

+THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is always right to give thanks to God, the God of our ancestors. Do you remember the story of our faith? When does it begin? *Inviting the people gathered to tell the story of our faith, from Genesis through the prophets and the early Church.*

And then—Jesus came, to walk among God's people. What was Jesus' ministry like? *Make space for people to tell the story of who Jesus was.*

And then, on the night that Jesus was betrayed, he gathered with his disciples. And then what happened? *The people tell the story of taking the bread and the cup.*

And so, we come to this table as those who remember and believe. We come as people who belong to you, O God, and we belong to our ancestors, and we belong to the planet from whom the gifts of bread and juice come. We offer ourselves back to you and to your church, that we may be like Jesus. May your Holy Spirit be poured out here among us, and on these gifts of bread and cup. May they become for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may become the body of Christ for the world, a people who live in justice, compassion, and hope. Through your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to the world, until Christ returns and we share in your eternal banquet of love.

ALL: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Leader: And now let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray, from generation to generation, in the languages that are closest to our hearts.

BREAKING THE BREAD

Leader: This is the body of Christ, broken for the healing of the nations. This is the cup of salvation, poured out for the reconciliation of all people. Come to the table, for all are welcome. This is a gift for all. Come.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

+PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Let us pray together:

Thank you, God, for this meal that reminds us again and again that you provide through your love for all creation in all times and places. Help us be brave enough to act with that love for all the world, through Jesus Christ, Amen.

SENDING FORTH

+Closing Hymn:

Sois la Semilla (You Are the Seed)

UMH #583

(Sing the verses in English and the Refrain in Spanish)

1. Sois la semilla que ha de crecer,
sois estrella que ha de brillar.
Sois levadura, sois grano de sal,
antorcha que debe alumbrar.
Sois la mañana que vuelve a nacer,
sois espiga que empieza a granar.
Sois aguijón y caricia a la vez,
testigos que voy a enviar.

Estribillo:

Id, amigos, por el mundo,
anunciando el amor,
mensajeros de la vida,
de la paz y el perdón.
Sed, amigos, mis testigos
de mi resurrección.
Id llevando mi presencia;
con vosotros estoy.

2. Sois una llama que ha de encender
resplandores de fe y caridad.
Sois los pastores que han de llevar
al mundo por sendas de paz.
Sois los amigos que quise escoger,
sois palabra que intento esparcir.
Sois reino nuevo que empieza a engendrar
justicia, amor y verdad.
3. Sois fuego y sabia que vine a traer,
sois la ola que agita la mar.
La levadura pequeña de ayer
fermenta la masa del pan.
Una ciudad no se puede esconder,
ni los montes se han de ocultar,
en vuestras obras que buscan el bien
el mundo al Padre verá.

1. You are the seed that will grow a new sprout;
You're a star that will shine in the night;
You are the yeast and a small grain of salt,
A beacon to glow in the dark.
You are the dawn that will bring a new day;
You're the wheat that will bear golden grain;
You are a sting and a soft, gentle touch,
My witnesses where'er you go

Refrain:

Go, my friends, go to the world,
Proclaiming love to all,
Messengers of my forgiving peace,
Eternal love.
Be, my friends, a loyal witness,
From the dead I arose;
"Lo, I'll be with you forever.
Till the end of the world."

2. You are the flame that will lighten the dark
Sending sparkles of hope, faith, and love;
You are the shepherds to leave the whole world
Through valleys and pastures of peace
You are the friends that I choose for myself,
The word that I want to proclaim.
You are the new kingdom built on a rock
Where justice and truth always reign.
3. You are the life that will nurture the plant
You're the waves in a turbulent sea;
Yesterday's yeast is beginning to rise,
A new loaf of bread it will yield.
There is no place for a city to hide,
Nor a mountain can cover its might;
May your good deeds show a world in despair
A path that will lead all to God.

+Dismissal and Blessing

Postlude

Worship designers Robert Comacho
Dr. Emma Arely Escobar
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SOURCES FOR TODAY'S LITURGY

“Ofrendas” designed by Robert Comacho, Vilma Franco, Emma Escobar, Débora Junker

“Call to Worship” and “Prayer for the Altars” adapted by Emma Escobar

“Prayers of the People” designed by abby mohaupt

“Great Thanksgiving” adapted by abby mohaupt from a process designed by Rev. Shawna Bowman

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Front photo of Día de los Muertos Catrinas at the Pilsen 2024 celebration of Día de los Muertos (photo by abby mohaupt).

MUSIC

“Alabaré (O Come and Sing)

OneLicense song #82290, #85499

WORDS: Manuel José Alonso, José Pagán; tr. por Ronald F. Krisman, n.1946

MUSIC (ALABARÉ, Irregular con estribillo): Manuel José Alonso, José Pagán; acomp. por Ronald F. Krisman, n.1946

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“Glory to God” *The Faith We Sing* #2033

WORDS: Traditional Peruvian (Luke 2:14)

MUSIC (MACHU-PICHU Irr. in D minor): Traditional Peruvian

“Sois la Semilla (You Are the Seed)” *United Methodist Hymnal* #583

OneLicense song #83839, #22560

WORDS: Cesareo Gabaraín, 1979; trans. by Raquel Gutiérrez-Achon; trans. by Skinner Chávez-Melo

MUSIC (ID Y ENSEÑAD 10 9.10 8 with Refrain in D Major): Cesareo Gabaraín, 1979; harm. by Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1987.

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Music © 1979 Cesareo Gabarain, Published by OCP; Harm. © 1987 Skinner Chávez-Melo

“For All the Saints”

OneLicense song #995358

Tune (SINE NOMINE) by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906; arr. by Lani Smith.

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In collaboration with the [Hispanic-Latinx Center at Garrett Seminary](#).