

Today's sermon continues the *Sermon on the Mount* series.

CALL TO WORSHIP—based on Psalm 100

Come before the Lord with joyful songs,
because God is good.

**Let us enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise.**

Serve the Lord with gladness,
because of God's greatness and faithfulness.

**Let us enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise.**

Come before the Lord with joy
because God is faithful to his promises.

**Let us enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise.**

Know that the Lord is God,
and we are God's people,
his community, his family.

**Let us enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise.**

HYMN *Let All Things Now Living*

Let all things now living
a song of thanksgiving
to God the creator
triumphantly raise.

Who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us,
who guides us on
to the end of our days.

His banners are o'er us,
his light goes before us,
a pillar of fire
shining forth in the night.



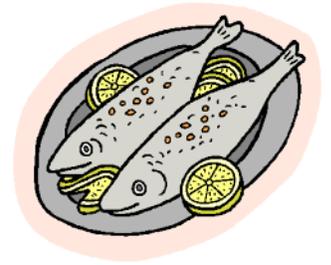
Till shadows have vanished
and darkness is banished
as forward we travel
from light into light.

His law he enforces,
the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit
obediently shine;

The hills and the mountains,
the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean
proclaim him divine.

We too should be voicing
our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration
a song let us raise

Till all things now living
unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest,
Hosanna and praise!"



PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dear heavenly Father, we confess that we struggle to sit quietly with you and listen for your voice through the chatter of news and current events. In our attempts to navigate our world, we have given up the quiet space allocated for you and have followed our own thoughts and counsel. Forgive us for filling that space with things not of you. Thank you for desiring to meet with us in the stillness of your creation. Calm our hearts, that we can truly be still and know that you are God, the God who is our strength and refuge.

(time for silent prayer and reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE—from Jeremiah 29:11-13

"I know that plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm; plans to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and pray to me I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me, if you seek me with all your heart."

Friends in Christ, God does not play hide and seek! God desires to be found, and desires our very best. Through Christ we are forgiven, renewed, and set on a path of abundant life, with hope.

Thanks be to God!



SONG *Seek Ye First*

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God,
and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.

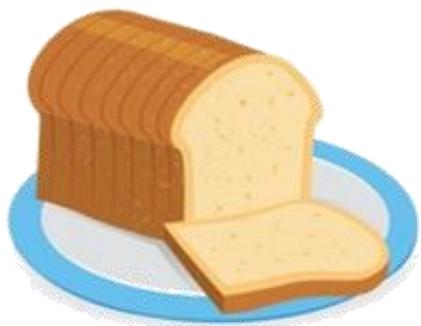
You shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Allelu, alleluia.

Ask, and it shall be given unto you,
seek and you shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God,
and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Luke 18:1-8 and
Matthew 7:7-11

MESSAGE *Sermon on the Mount:
God's Open-Door Policy*



SONG *Go with Us, Lord*

Go with us, Lord, and guide the way
through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true
our lives may be our gift to you.



BENEDICTION

May the grace of Christ attend you,
The love of God surround you,
And the Holy Spirit keep you,
That you may live in faith,
Abound in hope,
And grow in love,
Now and forevermore.
And all of God's people said, Amen!

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you."
- John 20:21

