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Forgive us when we are in spaces of sadness, when we cannot see your loving arm extended. Renew in us a people of joy, the joy that bridges gaps and hems us in. Restore your beloved people to be in harmony and relationship with you. Amen.**  Silent Prayers of Confession  Musical Response Breathe on Me, Breath of God (verse #2) – GtG286  Breathe of me, breath of God, until my heart is pure,  Until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.   Words of Assurance (responsive)  Leader: May God forgive you. May God’s guiding hand surround you. May you know comfort and may you know peace. **People: Thanks be to God. Amen.**   The Peace Leader: The peace of Christ be with you! **People: And also with you!** (You may greet those around you)    The Proclamation of the Word   Prayer of Illumination   Loving God, help us to listen closely to your Word and the ways you speak to us today. Guide us, encourage us, and inspire us to take your Word and live it out today. Amen.  Scripture Lesson     Isaiah 40:21-31 Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? **22**It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; **23**who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. **24**Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. **25**To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. **26**Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. **27**Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God”? **28**Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. **29**He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. **30**Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; **31**but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.   Sermon A Poem for the Exiles  The Response to the Word   \* Hymn     From All That Dwell Below the Skies – GtG327  The Communion of the People   Invitation to the Lord’s Table Leader: Hallelujah! The Lord our God the Almighty reigns! Let us rejoice and exult and give God the glory, **People: For the marriage of the Lamb has come.** **Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.**   Great Thanksgiving   The Lord be with you, **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**   It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe. You formed us in your image and set us in this world to love and serve you. When we were captives in slavery, you delivered us to freedom, and made covenant to be our sovereign God. When were stubborn and stiff necked, you spoke to us through prophets who looked for that day when justice shall triumph and peace shall reign over all the earth. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name.  In Praise of God – GtG #552   You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son. You sent him into this world to bring freedom to the captives of sin and to establish justice for the oppressed. He came among us as one of us, taking the lot of the poor, sharing human suffering, dying an unjust death. We rejoice that in his dying and rising again, you set before us the sure promise of new life, the certain hope of a heavenly home where we will sit at table with Christ our host. Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising and await the day of his coming. With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.  In Praise of Jesus Christ – Tune GtG#553  Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer  “For this I pray to God” / “For this I give thanks to God.” Congregational Response: “**Hear our prayer, O God.”** And now, in confidence and in gratitude, we say the prayer together that Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, taught us to pray…  **Our Father,** **who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven and 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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**  Words of Institution Jesus took his place at the table with the apostles and he said to them, “I will not eat this Passover again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” Then Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” After supper, he took a cup, saying, “This is the cup of the new covenant, shed from my blood. I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”   Sharing of the Meal With thanksgiving and praise, we now offer ourselves to you in the sharing of this holy meal, remembering Christ’s dying and rising and praying: Come, Lord Jesus!  **PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (Unison) **Dear God, take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the living bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. So, Lord, may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of the earth, and citizens of the commonwealth of Heaven. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.**   Offertory Prayer   Hymn     God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand – GtG331  Charge & Benediction  Leader: Craft in us a sense of remembrance, **People: To remember your goodness and might.** Leader: So that we may be led to action, **People: To be living examples of your joy.** Leader: Through our God, the Holy Trinity, **People: Creator, Spirit, and Son. Amen.** | |  | | | | |