

# *Straight from the "Heart"*

May 1, 2022



## **Welcome and Apostles' Creed**

### **Prayer**

Almighty and everlasting God, you willingly and graciously accept us, through your Son Jesus. You establish a new covenant with us and your Spirit continues work with us. We have gathered so that we may be better equipped to fulfill our commitment to you — by offering these gifts and offering ourselves, we pray that through them and through us, your name will be honored, and a positive difference will be made in our world. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord we pray, Amen.

**Series Introduction** Today we begin a new series called, “We Are Accepted” and it lifts up examples of how God and / or Jesus stretched beyond a variety of “traditional borders” to bring people into his kingdom, or bring them back into his kingdom. One story we won’t be talking about, I’ll lift up as an example. Jesus and his disciples were traveling toward to Galilee. A direct path would take them through Samaria. Many Jews would add miles to their trip to skirt around their territory because Jews and Samaritans were enemies. But Jesus did not do that. Jesus stops by a well in the heat of the noonday sun. The disciples went ahead into town to get food. People would draw water in the morning or in the evening when it was cooler, they didn’t do it during the middle of the day -- it was too hot. Jesus sat down by this well. A woman came. Because she is coming at this time it was clear she was trying to avoid everyone else – so there was something going on in her life... Normally, under such circumstances, Jesus a Jew – she a Samaritan, he a man – she a woman, he a rabbi – she ostracized by her community -- at best what you might expect is both would go about their personal well business in an awkward silence. But to the woman’s amazement (and later, to the disciples when they return and see them) Jesus engages her in a conversation.

Jesus speaks to her about living water, about her life, about that real worship is not about a geographical location, but what is in the heart. She says the Messiah will explain all this when he comes, and Jesus says that is who he is, and she left her water jar and went and told the community she was previously avoiding -- all about her encounter, and as a result, not only she, but many in the community

came out to see -- and believe Jesus. So in this one simple story we see Jesus crossing geographical, national, racial, gender, social, religious, and even though I skimmed over it – some moral boundaries - and perhaps more -- to allow the waters of his grace to reach someone most people would not expect would find God's favor.

*Today's* story comes from the life of Peter who has crossed over the border of promising faithful following to the death (which we will sing in a moment) -- to the other side of failure and betrayal -- which we'll hear just after... -- boundaries from which there normally would be no return. --- It also happens to take place by the water's edge.

The worship team has designed for this series a fountain watering a stream bursting over its borders and flowing and falling over the world.... the shores dotted by the Word and by lights...and the rocks of a solid relationship -- and with the hope in the promise that the “cup of cold water” offered in Jesus’ name will be rewarding. (Matthew 10:42). In the story by the well, it is Jesus himself who offers this water, not from the well, but the waters of spirit and grace -- as Jesus tells the woman these words: whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst...[it] will become a fountain of water welling up to eternal life.” (John 4:14)



### Call to Worship

Lay Reader: Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters Come to the deep flowing living waters of God. Come to Jesus and drink him in. Let us immerse ourselves in his delightful grace, that rivers of his living water may continually flow from within us. Come to hear the Spirit calling so that we may worship, rise, follow and serve the living breathing Spirit of Christ.

(Inspired by Isaiah 51:1, John 7:37-38, and © 2011 Steve Gamaas-Holmes in UM Worship & Song, Leader's Ed.)

**Music Leader:** As forgiven, filled people – knowing what God promises -- and what he has done for us in Jesus, we begin by promising to lean on Christ to keep us faithful despite life's challenges. Let's sing --

**Music (vv 1,2,3) O Jesus I Have Promised**

**Responsive Reading** (L - Lay Reader, C- Congregation)

L: Hear some snippets from Peter's less than stellar moments. The boxed words set the story, the remaining words quote the key Bible verses. The references indicate the fuller story, the verses in parens are the ones that are quoted.

L: The disciples were in a boat on the lake during a storm. Jesus came to them on the water and at Peter's request, Jesus invited him to come out on the water with him.

L: But when [Peter] saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

**C: Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"** Matthew 14:22-33 (30-31)

L: Jesus explained that he must be killed and be raised to life.

L: Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

**C: Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."** Matthew 16:21-26 (22-23)

L: Jesus went with his disciples to Gethsemane. He said, "My soul is overwhelmed. Stay here and keep watch with me." Then he went a little farther and prayed.

L: Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter.

**C: "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."** Matthew 26:36-45 (40-41)

L: Judas guided a detachment of soldiers and Jewish leaders to a garden. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

L: Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear...

**C: Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"** John 18:1-11 (3,10a,11)

L: They arrested Jesus.

L: ... It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself.... [For the third time] someone challenged him, "Didn't I see you with him in the garden?" and "Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away." Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!" Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed.

**C: The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.**

John 18:12-18, 25-27 (12,18,26), Matthew 26:69-75 (73b-74), Luke 22:54-62 (60b-62)

## Theme

Once upon a time, Pancho met Zero-Zero and they became fast friends. Zero-Zero lived in a different world, and Pancho was eager to go with him to see it. The day came, they went, and Zero-Zero was showing him all the wonders of his world. At one point, Pancho tripped, fell, and bumped his head on a sphere that was lying beside the path. The sphere opened up, and out of it came a little man who had a big bruise on his head, and he was hopping mad. Zero-Zero was so frozen in fear that he couldn't even talk. Pancho was about to apologize for his clumsiness when two enormous, uniformed robots appeared. They scanned the area and when they finished, they gave a small metal card to the little man, then to took Pancho and the little man and whisked them away to a very large sphere building. Pancho and the little man found themselves between a very serious looking robot dressed in a black toga, who said to the little man, "Go ahead." The little man was still angry, and so without hesitation threw all his might, laid a blow on Pancho's head. The robot took out a device and scanned Pancho's throbbing head. The robot said to the little man, "Too hard" and gave Pancho a small metal card, saying, "Your turn - do not exceed the force listed on the card."

Pancho was confused. This was new to him. The rooms in this sphere were clear, so he started to look around. He saw many rooms, each with a toga dressed robot standing before two people who were taking turns hitting, shoving, pushing, one clutching a card, and then the other. Pancho's gaze returned to his own room. Their robot was saying, "You may hit him, but not more than what is on the card." Pancho looked at the little man before him. And because he was a little man living in a little sphere, Pancho towered over him. The little man was terrified, his anger was replaced with fear. Pancho looked quizzically at the robot, which apparently could read facial expressions and so it explained: "This world believes in perfect justice.

You need not worry. You will both receive receive exactly the same harm that you have dished out. If one of you exceeds the limit you will receive another card with the exact value required for everything to become equal."

Perfect justice sounded like a really good idea. Every pain is made even. He had hurt the little man even though it was accidental, and now the little man had hurt him. They were even and so he turned and headed for the door to find his friend Zero-Zero and tell him how advanced their little world was. But as he took two steps toward the door, the robot moved to block his way. "You must complete the process. You must spend the points on your card to make everything even."

Pancho was had no desire to hit the man on purpose. Like Peter, he was in a tough pickle, Pancho was pensive, he wasn't sure what to do to make things right. Fade out.... End of scene 1. Later, we'll pick up "the rest of the story."

**Music Leader:** We left Peter also in despair. If the great apostle finds himself there now and again, it is likely that we too have found ourselves in that place in our lives too. Peter didn't know it yet, but we can – if we listen carefully, Jesus calling us come home to him when we find ourselves in those places. Let's sing...

**Music (vv 1,2,4) Softly and Tenderly**

**Music Leader:** And if we do come home and offer ourselves to him – mess and all, he will renew his efforts to make something beautiful out of our lives. Let's prepare our hearts for prayer by singing...

**Prayer Music Something Beautiful**

**Prayers** Creator of the universe, you made the world in beauty, and restore all things through Jesus Christ's victory over evil and sin and death. We praise you because you have drawn us up to you into your promises of healing and wholeness. You make life worth living. Yes there are times of anger and weeping, frustration, of times when we have failed others, or others have failed us... and we long for the joy that comes in the morning. You establish us as a strong mountain, and satisfy our souls with streams of mercy, flowing and filling, washing and moving us to better places.

**Praises and Petitions** Today we pray for the family and friends of Mickie Voight's sister Cindy whose 59 year husband died of a heart attack, for the War in the Ukraine, for Pastor Chuck's eye surgery next Wednesday morning. Jan Martin requests prayers for her son Ray Martin who is interviewing for a new job, and Gina Palmer requests prayers for George Gauchey, a 48 year old diagnosed with

stage 4 colon cancer. He still has children at home. There are others that you place on our hearts and minds. Things that are happening in our lives or in the lives of others that we haven't mentioned out loud or at least have not been made public to everyone -- we pray that you will work in all of those situations. (Pause) Now open our hearts to your power moving around us and between us and within us, until your glory is revealed in love of both friend and enemy, in communities transformed by justice and compassion, and in the mending of all that is broken, as we live as you taught us to pray. **LORD's PRAYER**

### Introduction to Bible Reading

Morning is breaking – the time of day when roosters crow. The disciples were in their boats fishing. They were far enough out that they couldn't recognize Jesus standing on the beach. Jesus calls to them to try the right side. They do and have a humongous haul – 153 large fish, yet miraculously, their nets did not rip. That is when it dawns on them that it must be the Lord on the shore. When they land, Jesus has prepared a coal fire with its distinctive smell – the same distinctive smell that was in the courtyard that night that Peter vehemently denied he knew Jesus.



Jesus instructs them to bring some of the fish for breakfast. They did, and Jesus served them the bread and the fish. When they finished eating, Jesus' words to Peter are carefully chosen.

### Bible Reading [bracketed words are commentary within the quotes]

“Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” -- [The word is agape and means an unconditional, self-sacrificing kind of love. It is uncertain what the “these” is – it could be the other disciples, it could be the fish (be it the comfort of fishing or the career or material success it represents). – Perhaps it is left deliberately vague so that the reader -- that we – will have to fill in what it is in our own lives that competes with Jesus for our highest love] --

“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” -- [And the word is phileo and means the affectionate relational love of friendship] -- Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.” Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me? [do you agape me?]” -- He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you [you know that I phileo you.]” - - Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.” The third time he said to him, “Simon son

of John, do you love me? [Do you *phileo* me?"] Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep... [then after a quick statement about his future death] he said to him [the words he had spoken to him when they began their journey together 3 years earlier – perhaps a symbol of their starting over, of restoring their mutual journey, of picking up where they left off.] -- "Follow me." **(Brief Pause)**

**Music Leader** : Peter is discovering that however deep are his failures, by the sacrifice of the Lamb, of Jesus -- shedding his pure life-blood for us on the cross, his grace goes deeper, and when we receive that grace he will lift us up and restore to what we can be... Let's sing

**Music Grace That is Greater Than All Our Sin**

### **Sermon Accepted - Peter (Again)**

When driving, I normally listen to the radio hooked up through my phone so I get my personal preferences. But every once in a while, the Bluetooth doesn't connect the car quite right so it defaults back to the Detroit Sports station. This happened while I was driving to work this last week or perhaps the week before ... and so I was listening to them talk about one play that the Tigers made at the end of a game with the Twins – oh you know what I am talking about! It was a debacle, apparently. There was a fly ball to left field, and the player got close enough to get it on his glove but not to haul it in. They said that, while it was not an easy catch, but he should have caught it because it "hit the leather..." (the glove) did get his glove on the ball and should have caught it. Then the threw it in and the Tigers had it but the Twins messed up, and almost had two players on 3<sup>rd</sup> base. That confused everybody, so the Tiger who had the ball through a lollipop floating it back into the outfield allowing both Twins to score and win the game. And they went on for the whole ride to work about how bad they were. I know they are professionals, and they get paid a lot of money, but in any given moment doing any given thing, things like that happen, doesn't it? Even to the best of them, things happen.

I say that to say that when I originally researched for this message, I came across a web-site that, while trying to make a good point, seemed to take



a little too much delight in Peter's shortcomings. The author started by saying that just off the top of his head he could think of 13 recorded failures in Peter's life. As I began to look at his list of 13 examples, I found that some were not really failures, just stuff he did not yet understand. And one failure he cited was from this morning's John 21 text -- the fact that he and his disciples went fishing. That's not a failure. If that were really a failure, would Jesus have rewarded it with a big catch? It didn't make any sense. Others were the failures of "the disciples" in general, of which Peter may or may not have been directly involved, he was lumped into failure "by association". It may not have been the author's intent, but what I heard as I read, by the choice of his phrases and exclamation points, a harsh judgment by someone who felt superior as they knocked down one of the greatest apostles in the history of the church -- for every failure that he happened to have.

When it is all over and we know the outcome -- it is easy to critically second guess what went wrong. And what went wrong instead of right is what sticks out in everyone's mind. Think of Thomas -- one little story -- and we developed a whole label about his name, "Doubting Thomas". because he wouldn't believe until he saw the nail marks in his hands and put his fingers where the nails were. (John 20:25b) Jesus came and made that happen. So now everyone who doubts something is a "doubting Thomas".

What falls into the shadow, if we know or remember it at all, (John 11:1-16) is that when the disciples were all questioning and trying to persuade Jesus not to go to Lazarus in the Jerusalem area because Lazarus was already dead -- because the last time they went there, they had already tried to stone Jesus to death, and they left, and would be even more dangerous to return. Yet Jesus says, "He's dead, let's go to him." And it is Thomas, presuming with the rest that going means dying, who tells the other disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." No one ever hears that story, do they? All we hear is doubt, doubt, doubt.

It is easy to pick on someone who lives in front of others. It is bad enough when they make horrible play on the field, but sometimes people make horrible mistakes in their life decisions. And it is sad. But it is also much too easy to second guess and to be sure we would never make that same choice, never make that same error -- even though we have not lived in their sandals, and as much as we may think we know about them, we have not experienced their background, or lived in their personalities, or forced to live their critical moment that they were in, we have not faced their pressures, or been bombarded by their temptations -- we don't live



in the thick of their lives in that present moment. We just see, after the fact, a snippet – a sound bite – of their life. And jump to judgment.

And yet, we have all made those bad choices at times. Think about one bad thing you did wrong in your life. Aren't you glad no one knows – or only a handful of people know? How would you like to be on the front page of a paper for a year about that *one* thing that you did? Twenty years later people'd still be thinking about that one thing that you did? Awful. Branded. Hard to overcome that.

And as we have already seen, if you are selective enough, in Peter's case, he has left a legacy of failures that has been handed down for 2,000 years! That's a long time to leave that kind of legacy. I'm sure he's "thrilled" about it. But the reason he has such a legacy is because ever since he started following Jesus, he was the one out there on the field trying to make things happen. Yes, he got his eyes of Jesus when out on the water with him, he saw the crashing waves, and sank in the water, but the rest of the team was on the sidelines clinging to the inside of their tossing boat, not even thinking about going out on the water.

Peter told Jesus that nothing should ever happen to him like death – because he was God's anointed king who would free us from the Romans to make our life better. He was brave enough to say what we all wished we would have said, but we didn't say it out loud. So because it was wrong, Peter got the credit and the blame. Substitute Peter's thoughts of Romans with Republicans or Democrats or Corporations or Unions or pastors – and you get the same kind of thing in today's world -- whatever or whoever we think is hindering the success of our life...

Then Peter, facing the important task of supporting Jesus in prayer, falls asleep in the garden. And how many of us have fallen asleep because of our weak bodies when we were supposed to be doing something important? Or the opposite – the body was ready, but the will was weak and we didn't get it done?

When Jesus told Peter he would deny him, Peter said never, he would die for him – and then later he boldly began to make good with his promise by attacking a high priest's servant, only to discover that was the wrong thing to do as well.

And then of course, the arrest, the threat, the fear, the cold, the exhaustion, the confusion, the leader he relied on and trusted seems to be helpless before the religious and political leaders – (he was by choice) – and then the accusations – three times over... Yet Peter was the only one still close enough to be accused – all the rest had scattered away, except maybe John. All the rest had already deserted the "playing field" and then we complain about the one who is still there.

Do you remember Joe Garagiola? He was a professional baseball catcher. He used to talk about a time when Stan Musial came to the plate in a critical game. Musial was a super hitter and was at the peak of his career. Garagiola's pitcher was young and nervous. Joe called for a fastball and the pitcher shook him off. He called for the curve ball, and the pitcher shook him off. He signaled for the pitcher's specialty pitch, and he waved him off. Joe called time out and went to the mound. He said, "I've called every pitch that you throw, what do you want to throw?" And he said, "I don't want to throw anything! I just want to hold on to the ball as long as I can." Garagiola couldn't catch anything because the pitcher didn't want to put himself out there where someone could smack his pitch into oblivion.

In John 21, Peter and friends were in Galilee – a bit safer than back in Jerusalem where they were probably still hunting down the disciples of Jesus in that chaotic post-resurrection aftermath. Peter, as we know, has a rather impulsive personality, and was probably going stir-crazy waiting around trying to be safe. So, they decided to go fishing. It doesn't mean they were returning to their old career as some assume. It could be but isn't necessarily so. It just means they are going fishing, because for them, in the midst of stressful restlessness, it was safe, it was familiar, it was comfortable – like our comfort foods – we're stressed – we eat... For them it was fishing -- and they still had to eat – so maybe they were picking up some money (after all, they were kind of out of a job at the time). And in this familiar environment, out on the waves, they didn't have worry that Roman and or religious leaders would track them down and smack them into oblivion. Except, just like Garagiola, they couldn't catch anything.

And they were far enough out that they couldn't recognize Jesus was on the shore, but they saw a man there, and he called for them to put the nets down on the right side...

What would have happened if Jesus chose to define Peter by his failures? A man who missed the cut of discipleship and had to settle for fishing as a career, until Jesus came along and overlooked that and accepted him for who he was and gave him a chance by calling him to be a disciple of a rabbi -- and now after all these missteps in his life would he accept him again? What would have happened if Jesus demanded "perfect justice" -- hitting and hurting Peter as hard as Peter had hit and hurt him? Given who Jesus is, and the depth of failure, the boundary, the barrier, the border Peter crosses -- for nearly all of us – it would be an insurmountable return... Think of what Peter did... any human would not have –

well, there might be a few – but not many, who would allow that person back into their life after all he had done to him... (Pause)

And so we return to once upon a time: Pancho was pensive. He was in that pickle, he didn't know what to do. That the little guy had really whacked him a good one...and by all rights, granted by that robot judge – he was supposed to whack him back. That was the legal thing to do – to make it right. But he had no desire to hit that poor little man again -- over an accident and then a legally granted response. Pancho was beginning to get a handle on the situation. He turned to the robot judge, "It's fine. I forgive him," he said.

"No," replied the robot, "you *must* use the points on your card. This is the expectation and requirement of our society so that we can maintain perfect justice."

That annoyed Pancho. How can forgiveness be impossible? He took his card and tore it in two, "Look!", he said, "Now there are no points left."

The robot started emitting whistling noises, lots of lights all over its body lit up, and it lost control of its movements. Just when it looked like it would explode, the robot returned to normal. It quietly said: "You are correct. You may leave. Thank you for using the system of perfect justice."

The door opened. The little man was embracing and thanking him, Pancho practically had to drag him out of the room. Pancho understood -- as he was leaving that sphere filled with clear rooms, he could see the perfect justice system at work, users exhausted and worn out from days and days of trying to give and receive the exact amount to make it perfectly even and not being able to do it. People were so afraid of ending up in the justice sphere that many had resorted to living in isolated spheres -- just like the man whom Pancho had accidentally fallen on.

Pancho returned home, but his name was never forgotten in that world, where justice was "perfect" and forgiveness was unheard of. But thanks to Pancho, they had discovered that forgiveness is a necessary part of justice.

(Adapted from Perfect Justice by Pedro Pablo Sacristán)

What that make-believe world discovered from Pancho, we discover from Jesus in the real world -- Charles summarized and then read the rest of story for us... In a world which constantly justifies the right of vengeance, Jesus, during a similar time of day (when roosters tend to crow), with a similar kind of fire (there are only two places in the New Testament where a *charcoal* fire is mentioned, one in that courtyard when Peter denied him, and now, on the beach. Peter is given a chance

to cancel out three denials by three affirmations of his love and commitment to Jesus, the last time relying on God's help to know and sustain that love. A bad campfire memory (bad memories themselves a boundaries which sometimes we struggle to get across) is replaced by a good campfire memory. Jesus is always more than willing to forgive. His life-giving water of grace never stops flowing. He never gives up on any of us, and that should make us want to do our very best for him because he is so helpful and healing to us. Those are the kind of campfires we like. Now Peter can once again can freely follow.

All because Jesus does not punish, but forgives, deeply. Forgiveness creates hope and a lasting internal motivation to begin, or resume, a different or better path... Forgiveness offers a hope for the future because, it refuses to define us by our failures, refuses to dwell on what we could of, should of, and would have done.

But Peter is not forgiven *just* so he can feel good about himself, but so that he can serve others – feed and tend follows up every affirmation. We are freed from sin so that we will be free to serve. Love and tangible care go hand in hand. Love confessed and love's expressed are two sides of the same coin. Proclamation and action cannot be separated. Do you love? Then you feed and you tend.

And it is not just a one-time thing. Peter wasn't done failing, and neither are we. But every time we fail, Jesus makes it a teaching moment, restores, equips, and does whatever it takes to keep us from freezing in our failures and moving us forward to actively play on the field of life and in our futures.

**Let's pray.** Lord we are thankful for your disciple Peter, who was willing to be publicly vulnerable, opening himself to the ridicule of second guessing for generations to come – that we may be enlightened to understand how you deal with each of our failures – whether they are private or public. Now Lord, being assured that you will deal with our failures and overcome them with the depth of your healing grace (if we open out hearts to you), we can move back to the promises of commitment that we make – to serve you to the end, empowered by your grace. And having made that promise, then, our prayer is that as we go to the Communion table, we will be renewed and equipped with your love -- to love. Amen.

## **Communion**

**Invitation** God invites all to come as we are to his presence through the communion table. He invites us in our successes and in our failures. He invites us

to bring our doubts and fears, our joys and concerns, our requests and our praise. He invites us to affirm our promise to follow him just as he affirms his promise to establish and maintain our covenant relationship with him. Let's prepare our hearts, first, through confession.

**Confession** O loving God, sometimes we wonder how you have the patience and faithfulness to endure all our sins and failures. We are more interested in getting fed than feeding others. We complain about injustice but are caught in the systems that perpetuate it. We are wasteful of our resources while others have none. We fail to sense your presence and misuse your generous gifts. But you forgive the most impossible sins, you overcome the greatest fears, you comfort the loudest cries, you break down the strongest barriers to your love and peace. You long to turn our mourning into dancing, yet sad or afraid, we struggle to lift our feet to your music. Forgive us when we fail to live in tune with your love. In Jesus name, Amen.

Having confessed, let us sing our plea for forgiveness and for cleansing and for all that that does for us...

### Music

### Cleanse Me

Search me, O God, and know my heart today;  
 Try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray.  
 See if there be some wicked way in me;  
 cleanse me from every sin and set me free.

I praise thee, Lord, for cleansing me from sin;  
 Fulfill thy word and make me pure within.  
 Fill me with fire where once I burned with shame;  
 Grant my desire to magnify thy name.

Lord, take my life and make it wholly thine;  
 Fill my poor heart with thy great love divine.  
 Take all my will, my passion, self and pride;  
 I now surrender, Lord, in me abide.

CCLI # 2561297

**Assurance** Lord, even when we lose faith in you, you do not lose faith in us. We come to this table so you can make us once again into your faithful people, inspired --and inspiring others. God of victory over death, your risen Son reveals himself again and again. Grant that we may know his risen presence, and in love, obediently feed his sheep, care for the lambs of his flock, following the Good Shepherd Jesus, who prods us into finding new ways of freeing people to be in harmony with one another and with creation. And so,

## The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up you hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We praise you for working in our world through your people. We thank you that you shared Jesus with us so that we could find forgiveness and be saved. We thank you because Jesus provided us with an example of how to courageously follow your call of discipleship and put it into action. We pray that we may live each day according to your holy ways.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Spirit on all who have gathered here and at home, and on the gifts of bread and cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ that we may be the body of Christ together in ministry to the world until we feast together at his heavenly banquet. All honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God) now and forever. **Amen.**

**The Bread and Cup** Jesus invited his disciples into an upper room on the night he was betrayed. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, and he offered it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Take and eat. And when the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, and he gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this all of you, this is the blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." Take and drink.



**Prayer** And now Lord, having received through Communion the blessing of God, the fountain of living water flowing within us as a river of life -- having drunk deeply, our thirst satisfied, may we go through life refreshing many as a sign of healing for all through the One who is Life Eternal... Amen.

**Music Leader:** Peter discovered on the beach that morning that with the sunrise, and with the Risen Son, it can be a brand new day. Let's sing morning has broken, healing has come, help, in the grace of Jesus...

**Music # 145 Morning Has Broken**

**Blessing** I can just see Peter dancing on the beach – singing that song after the restoration that happened on that day.

Now may God, whose love -- like rolling waves -- is never ceasing -- always refreshing -- bathe you as in clear, calm, living streams of water. May his gracious forgiveness fall over you -- so that the borders of failure may be washed away -- and you are renewed in the tides of his mercy. **Amen.**