

OPENING WORSHIP

FLORIDA-BAHAMAS SYNOD
CONFERENCE ON MINISTRY 2025

SEPTEMBER 29, 2025

THE GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together a people of God.

PRELUDE

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless

Merciful God,

Amen.

We confess that we have not always lived up to the example set by Your Son, Jesus Christ. In Your mercy, hear our prayer of confession now.

Silence is kept for personal reflection. Turn to face the center of the room as we confess to God alongside one another.

God of grace and mercy,

Side One

We confess that we don't always care as deeply for others: envious of their good fortune and dismissive of their hardships, ignoring our call to encourage and build one another up. Forgive us. Teach us to wholeheartedly love one another.

We confess how often we act out of our own self-interest: hoarding resources, putting our needs and desires ahead of others, choosing our comfort over communal peace. Forgive us. Teach us to live with generosity and compassion.

We confess how easy it is to do what we know is wrong: rationalizing participation in harmful systems, making excuses for our hurtful words and actions. Forgive us. Teach us to turn away from what is wrong and pursue what is right.

Side Two

God has called you to be renewed and transformed by grace at work in your lives. Through God's grace, your sins + are forgiven. Go and work for peace that will glorify our God. Amen.

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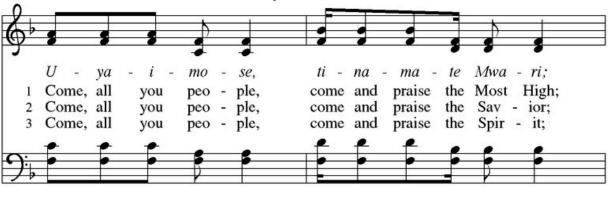
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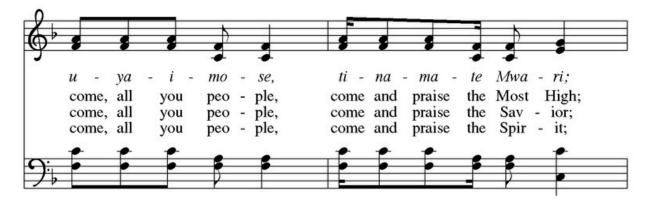
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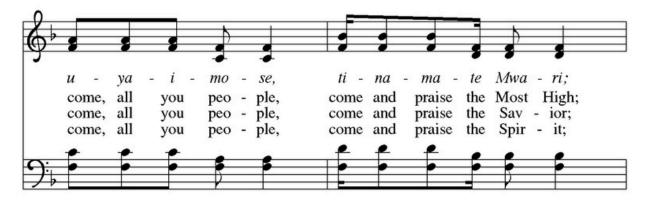
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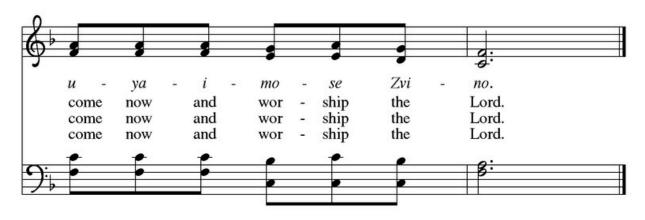
Come, All You People

Uyaimose









Text: Alexander Gondo; tr. I-to Loh, b. 1936, alt.

Music: UYAIMOSE, Alexander Gondo
Text and music © 1986 World Council of Churches, Geneva, Switzerland and the Asian Institute of Liturgy & Music.

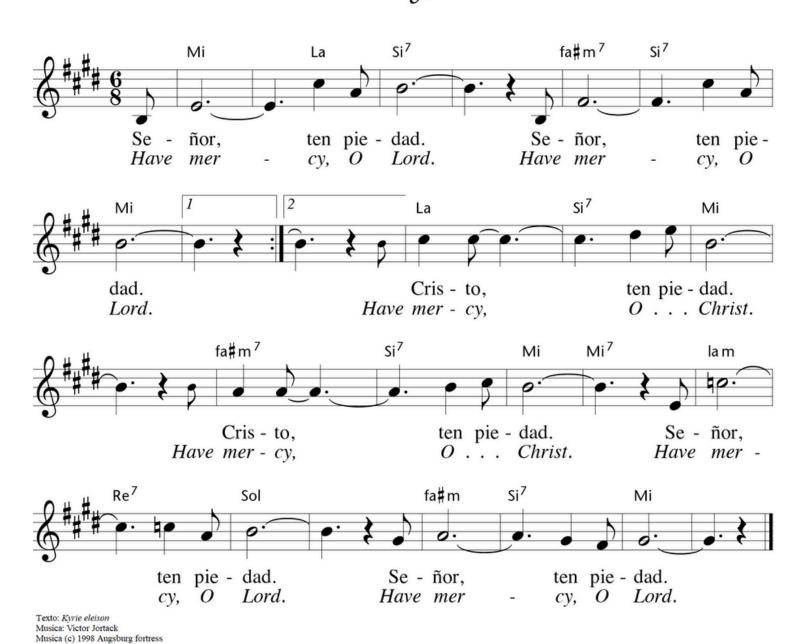
GREETING

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

And also with you.

KYRIE

Señor, ten piedad Have mercy, O Lord



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, all thoughts of truth and peace come from you. Encourage and sustain your Church with the protection and companionship of Michael and all your Angels, and guide the leaders of all nations and peoples with your wisdom and grace, that your Reign will be established throughout the earth and all might share in the knowledge of your love, through Jesus the Christ, our sibling and Lord.

Amen.

THE WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

READING

A reading from Romans 14:13-19

13 Let us therefore no longer pass judgment on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother or sister. 14 I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who considers it unclean. 15 If your brother or sister is distressed by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. Do not let what you eat cause the ruin of one for whom Christ died. 16 So do not let your good be slandered. 17 For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18 The one who serves Christ in this way is acceptable to God and has human approval. 19 Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

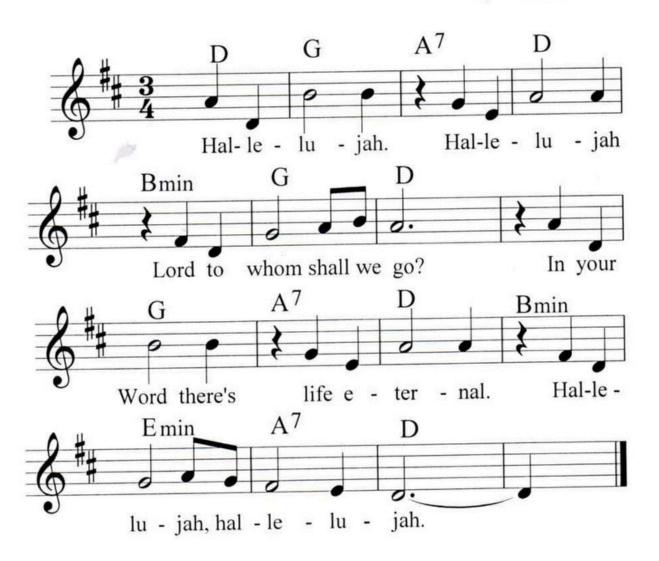
Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or in spirit.

Hallelujah

By Victor E. Jortack



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The holy gospel according to John the $13^{\rm th}$ chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

31 When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. 32 If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 33 Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' 34 I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

BISHOP REV. PEDRO M. SUÁREZ

LOVING



APOSTLES'S CREED

Let us profess our faith together using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he defended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

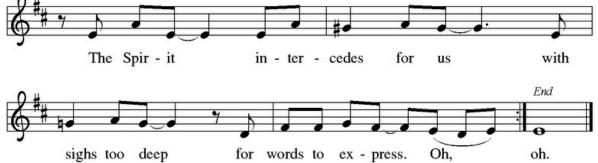
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

ELW 180

... We pray and sing.

The Spirit Intercedes for Us Prayer Response



Text and music: Romans 8:26, adapt. Larry Olson Text and music © 1989 Dakota Road Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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THE MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Share a sign of that peace with one another.

OFFERING AND SETTING OF THE TABLE

The offering today goes to support Campus Ministry in the Florida Bahama Synod.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Lord of the harvest,

We return to you a portion of what you have given to us.

Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,

But on you, who richly provides for us.

Multiply what we have gathered

to bless all who are suffering and in need,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE 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 God of comfort and peace.

From the beginning, you spoke light into chaos,

and your Spirit hovered with gentle strength over the deep.

You called forth prophets to speak courage into trembling hearts,

and through your covenant, you promised peace that passes understanding.

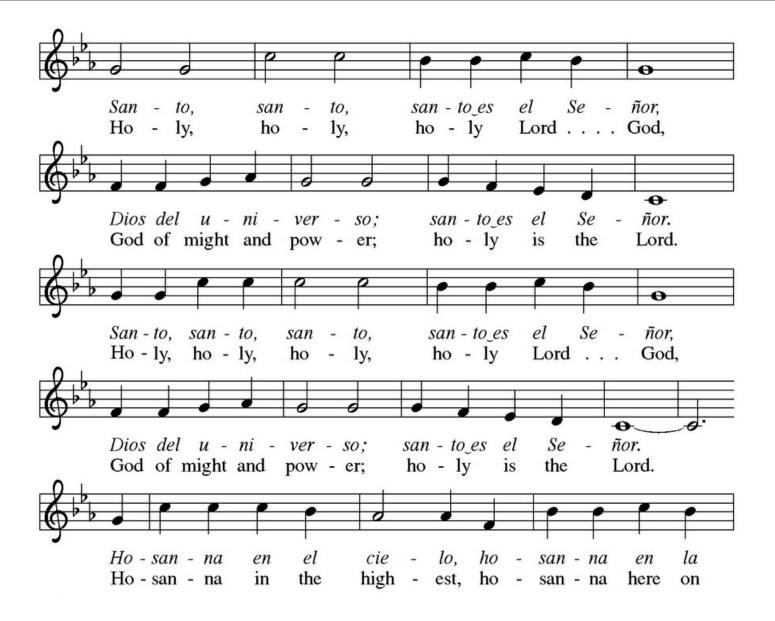
In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, who calmed storms with a whisper, and lifted the weary with words of life.

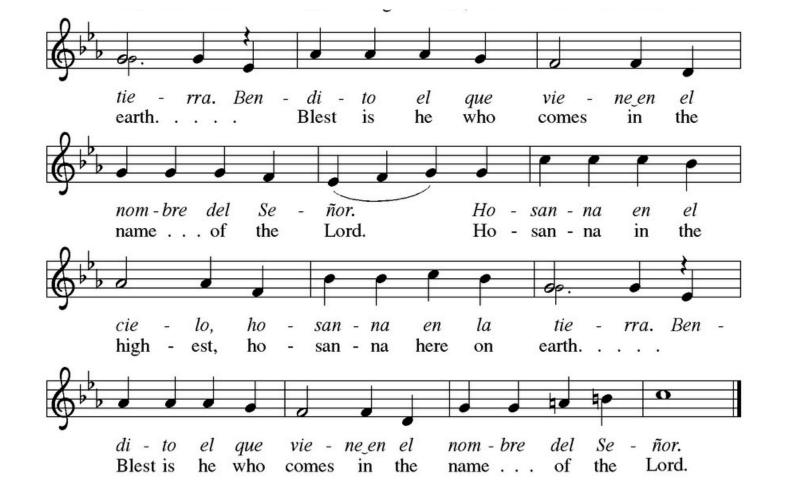
He bore our burdens, healed our wounds, and breathed peace upon his disciples, saying, "Let not your hearts be troubled."

By his death and resurrection, he has reconciled all things to himself, breaking down every dividing wall, inviting us to walk together your divine journey.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we lift our voices in joyful praise, to sing the unending hymn:

SANCTUS/HOLY, HOLY





EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, God of our ancestors, friend in our midst,

your people hear you calling.

Here is food! Here is drink!

These things are yours before they are ours.

We are coming here to a feast of thanksgiving and song:

With our ancestors in faith and all the hosts of heaven,

Holy One, we thank you and rejoice.

This food—we shall eat it in your honor, by your word.

This drink—we shall drink it in your honor, by your word.

We thank you for giving us life.

We thank you!

We thank you for giving us freedom.

We thank you!

We thank you for bringing us peace.

We thank you!

We thank you for the one who proclaimed your reign and forgives our sins.

We thank you!

We thank you for the one who brought us over from death to life.

We thank you!

Gracious and almighty, send the Spirit of life, the Spirit of power and fruitfulness. With the Spirit's breath, speak your Word into these things. Give us who eat and drink the living body and the lifeblood of Jesus, our brother, life and power and fruitfulness of heart and body. Make us one with Him; make us one with each other. On the night of his suffering, he gave thanks for the bread that he held in his hands. This bread he shared among his followers, saying: All of you, take this, eat this; it is my body, handed over for you. Do this and remember me. Then he shared drink with them, saying: All of you, take this, drink this; it is my blood, the blood of the new covenant that begins now and lasts forever. This blood is poured out for you and for all people so that sin may be taken away; so that sins may be forgiven. Do this and remember me. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith. Jesus has died. Christ is risen. Jesus Christ will come again! Lord, you are resurrection and life. You, Crucifixion, are here! You, Ascension, are here! Holy One, bring us life;

You, Resurrection, are here!

You, Spirit-empowerment, accompaniment-are here!

give us kinship, fellowship, and encouragement

with Mary, the mother of our Lord,

with all our Lord's disciples and friends,

with the Reformers of yesterday and today,

with all the elders and ancestors of your people,

and with all your children.

Through Christ, in Christ, with Christ,

in the Spirit's oneness,

all glory and honor is Yours, Holy One,

today, tomorrow, and forever.

Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Emboldened by the seamless choir of voices that have told the story and carried us to this place, gifted with faith by the Spirit of God, we pray the prayer the Lord, our brother, shared with us:

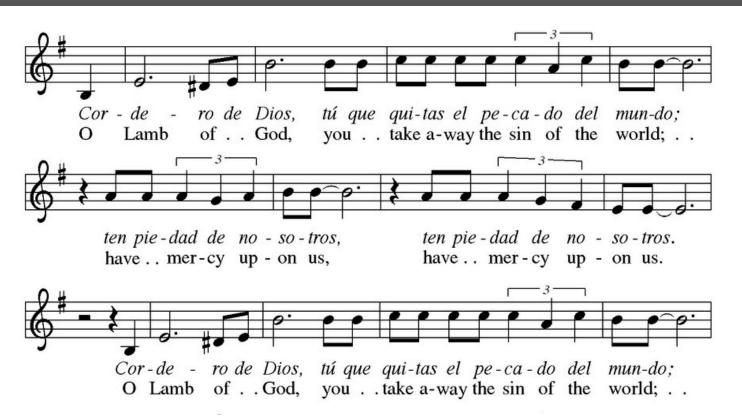
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

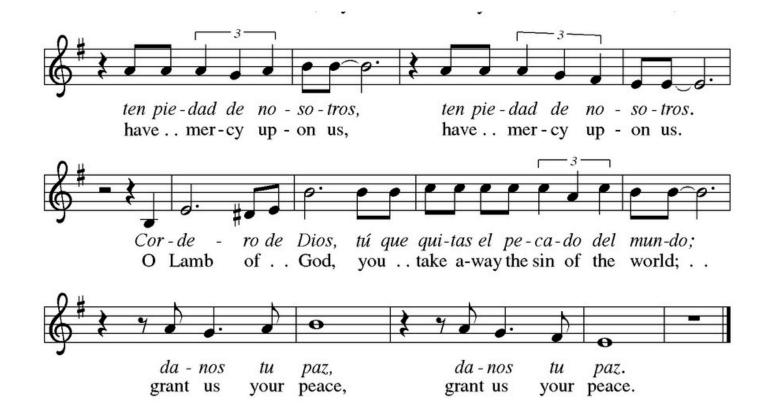
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

Please be seated.

LAMB OF GOD

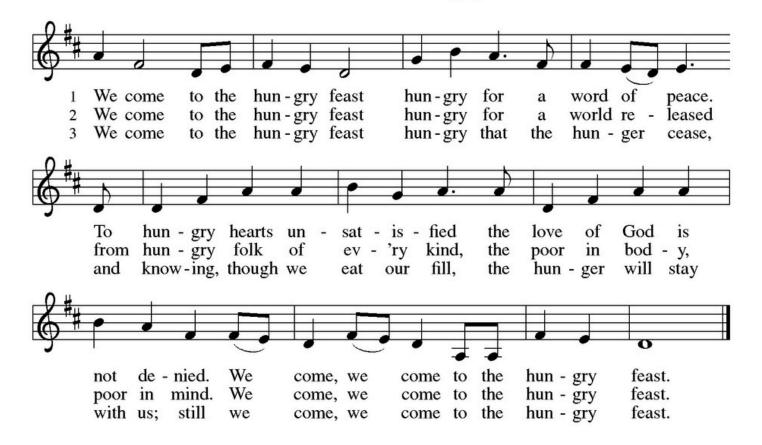




COMMUNION SONG

ELW 479

We Come to the Hungry Feast



Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943 Music: HUNGRY FEAST, Ray Makeever Text and music © 1982 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

THE SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please rise in body or in spirit.

O God,

Through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants.

Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

BLESSING (SUNG)

ARONIC BENEDICTION SONG

May The Lord Bless You and Keep You



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BLESSING (SPOKEN)

As you go from this place,

May the Lord walk before you to show you the way.

May the Lord be above you to protect you.

May the Lord behind you to encourage you.

May the Lord be beside you to be your friend.

May the Lord be within you to give you Their peace.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit + One God, mother of us all.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ACS 984





Text: Alvin Schutmaat, 1921–1988, alt. Music: ARGENTINA, Argentine folk melody

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Take a moment to quiet your hearts as you prepare for service outside these doors.

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Liturgical Music is ELW Setting 7