

CALL TO WORSHIP

One voice: Wherever we may be, we join now with our
sisters and brothers to celebrate God's good gifts.

**Many voices: We come to worship, to rekindle our spirits,
and to nourish our faith.**

One voice: Wherever we may be, we will share the bread and cup,
symbols of God's goodness and love.

**Many voices: We open our hearts to receive these gifts,
that we might be strengthened for the work God calls us to do.**

All: Let us worship God!

THE OPENING HYMN Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven

1 Praise, my soul, the God of heaven;
glad of heart your carols raise;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who, like me, should sing God's praise?
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the Maker all your days!

2 Praise God for the grace and favor
shown our forebears in distress;
God is still the same forever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Sing our Maker's faithfulness!

3 Like a loving parent caring,
God knows well our feeble frame,
gladly all our burdens bearing,
still to countless years the same.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All within me, praise God's name!

4 Angels, teach us adoration;
you behold God face to face.
Sun and moon and all creation,
dwellers all in time and space:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace!

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious and eternal God, whose work is justice and whose delight is mercy, on this Labor Day Sunday we are mindful of the gift of work. We confess we sometimes take for granted those who serve us, those who teach us, who care for us; the farmers who grow our food, the workers who take out our trash, pave our roads, dispense our medicines and treat our illnesses. Forgive us when we ignore the plight of those who labor under duress, especially those who, in these difficult times, may be asked to put their own health at risk to serve us. And empower us to join you in the sacred work, the urgent work, of doing justice and showing mercy. Through Christ we pray.

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS Matthew 25:31-46

THE SERMON This Is Our Work

MUSICAL INTERLUDE: *Jesus, Be With Us* A hymn for Matthew 25 churches in the PC(USA)

LABOR DAY AFFIRMATION

We believe in God,
Whose strength gives energy for the struggle,
Whose power goes beyond human limits.

We believe in Christ,
Whose solidarity supports us through our losses;
Whose resurrection assures us that death
does not have the final say in life.

We believe in the Spirit,
Who liberates us from powerlessness;
Who leads us steadily toward the truth.

We believe in the Triune God,
Whose grace upholds us;
Whose love sustains us;
Whose voice calls us to be the church,
and whose work inspires us to labor on.

COMMUNION

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One voice: The Lord be with you.

Many voices: **And also with you.**

One voice: Lift up your hearts!
Many voices: We lift them up to the Lord!

One voice: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
Many voices: It is right to give our thanks and praise!

The Lord's Prayer:

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

CLOSING HYMN All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

1 All who hunger, gather gladly;
holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wandering.
Here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness,
all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

2 All who hunger, never strangers,
seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming.
Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered
in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

3 All who hunger, sing together;
Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing.
Here, in peace, we have been led.
Blest are those who from this table
live their days in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION