

Welcome to Worship

May 14, 2023

Prelude

Pastoralitas: Hymn of the Open Trail ~ Daniel Paul Davis

Gathering Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling ~ ELW 631

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, **you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

First Reading

Acts 17: 22-31

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the “unknown god” whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

Psalm 66: 8-20

The congregation speaks the Psalm responsively.

⁸Bless our God, you peoples;

let the sound of praise be heard.

⁹**Our God has kept us among the living
and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

¹¹**You brought us in to the net;
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

¹²You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

¹³**I will enter your house with burnt offerings
and will pay you my vows**

¹⁴those that I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

¹⁵**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams;
I will give you oxen and goats.**

¹⁶Come and listen, all you ^l who believe,
and I will tell you what God has done for me.

¹⁷**I called out to God with my mouth,**

and praised the Lord | with my tongue.

¹⁸If I had cherished evil in my heart,
the Lord would | not have heard me;

¹⁹**but in truth | God has heard me
and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**

²⁰Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing | love from me.

Gospel

John 14: 15-21

In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.

Hymn of the Day

Come Down, O Love Divine ~ ELW 804

A hymn appropriate for today is “Come down, O Love divine” (ELW 804). Calling God “Love” echoes today’s gospel, and praying for the Spirit, who John says is our Advocate before God’s majesty, readies us for the coming of Pentecost. The hymn is part of a long poem composed in the early fifteenth century by the Italian Bianco da Siena. According to tradition, the poem was chanted by the Flagellants, those penitents who during outbreaks of the black plague processed through towns whipping themselves in sorrow for their sins, yet also trusting in God’s grace to give them life.

Musical Offering

Pastoralitas: Mountain of God ~ Daniel P. Davis

Communion Hymn

Now We Join in Celebration ~ ELW 462

Sending Hymn

Now Thank We All Our God ~ ELW 840

Postlude

Pastoralitas: Prayer for the Afflicted ~ Daniel Paul Davis