

Welcome to Worship  
August 27, 2023

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**Prelude**                      *Méditation ~ Maurice Duruflé*

**Gathering Hymn**              *Shall We Gather at the River ~ ELW 423*

**Prayer of the Day**

O God of life, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord; Amen.

**First Reading**                      Revelation 21:1-6, 22-25; Revelation 22:1-5 *read responsively*

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

**“See, the home of God is among mortals.  
God will dwell with them; they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be with them and be their God;  
God will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away.”**

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also, he said, “write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “it is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

**The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there.**

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

**The Spirit and the bride say, “Come”  
And let everyone who hears say, “Come.”**

**And let everyone who is thirsty come.  
Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.  
The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.**

Word of God. Word of life

**Thanks be to God**

**Gospel**

John 16:20-22

Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy. When a woman is in labor, she has pain, because her hour has come. But when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy of having brought a human being into the world. So, you have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.

This is the Good News!

**Thanks be to God**

**Hymn of the Day**

*There in God's Garden ~ ELW 342*

**Musical Offering**

*Chant Donn e ~ Maurice Durufl e*

**Offertory Hymn**

*Thine the Amen ~ ELW 826 (vs. 1, 5)*

**Communion Hymn**

*O Day Full of Grace ~ ELW 627*

**Sending Hymn**

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light ~ ELW 815*

**Postlude**

*Excerpt: Veni Creator Spiritus ~ Maurice Durufl e*