



A BETTER TEMPLE

1 KINGS 5:1-18

01-03-21

All = bold sections – read together

Leader = regular font – leader reads (choose or rotate leaders)

Sung together = italics

NOTE: Please have a white candle ready to light.

Reflect

N. T. Wright: Those in whom the Spirit comes to live are God's new Temple. They are, individually and corporately, places where heaven and earth meet.

Welcome

Good morning and happy new year! As we begin this new year, may what we do today continue to direct and shape us as worshippers of God. We do not know what this year holds for us, individually nor corporately. Yet we do know that God is God and we are his people. We do know that he is for us and with us; that he'll never leave or forsake us. We know that whatever this year holds, we can navigate it together in Christ through celebration and sorrow, ups and downs, delight and mourning. So may these words that we'll say together remind us of how God is for us and how much he loves each one of us so that our faith and hope and love may grow and be strengthened.

May the love and joy of the Father, the grace and peace of the Son and the courage and comfort of the Holy Spirit be ours in abundance this morning.

Call to Worship – Psalm 38 – A PSALM OF DAVID, FOR THE MEMORIAL OFFERING.

David is suffering. He has sinned and he is being sinned against. He is hurting, weak and being crushed by the weight of the tumult. Even his family has turned on him. Furthermore, he understands that is God who has struck him with arrows and with his hand. Yet, in the midst of this, he does not lose sight of God. He confesses his sin and is sorry and cries out for God not to forsake him nor to be far from him. For David, the presence of the Lord is his help, his salvation.

O LORD, rebuke me not in your anger, nor discipline me in your wrath! For your arrows have sunk into me, and your hand has come down on me. There is no soundness in my flesh because of your indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin.

For my iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me. My wounds stink and fester because of my foolishness, I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all the day I go about mourning.

For my sides are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh. I am feeble and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart. O Lord, all my longing is before you; my sighing is not hidden from you. My heart throbs; my strength fails me, and the light of my eyes—it also has gone from me.

My friends and companions stand aloof from my plague, and my nearest kin stand far off. Those who seek my life lay their snares; those who seek my hurt speak of ruin and meditate treachery all day long.



But I am like a deaf man; I do not hear, like a mute man who does not open his mouth. I have become like a man who does not hear, and in whose mouth are no rebukes. But for you, O LORD, do I wait; it is you, O Lord my God, who will answer.

For I said, "Only let them not rejoice over me, who boast against me when my foot slips!" For I am ready to fall, and my pain is ever before me. I confess my iniquity; I am sorry for my sin. But my foes are vigorous, they are mighty, and many are those who hate me wrongfully.

Those who render me evil for good accuse me because I follow after good. Do not forsake me, O LORD! O my God, be not far from me! Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!

What are you struggling with in life today? How have you sinned and contributed to your suffering? Take a few moments to confess your sins and know they are forgiven in Christ. Know that Christ Jesus has promised to never leave us nor forsake us and that he is with us through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Find your help, salvation and stronghold in Jesus of Nazareth, our risen King and Lord.

Song – This Is Jesus -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0nLhdBLOeow>

*Night of wonder
Still and silent
Heaven's brilliance from above
Light of glory
Pierced the darkness
Mercy pierced my heart with love
This is Jesus
King of glory
Here to rescue from the fall
Son of God who
Comes to save us
Prince of peace and Lord of all
Oh the mystery
Who could fathom
God would leave His Holy throne
For a manger
For a sinner
For us all to be His own
This is Jesus
King of glory
Here to rescue from the fall
Son of God who
Comes to save us
Prince of peace and Lord of all
Rejoice He is with us
Rejoice Hope is here
Rejoice He is with us*



*Rejoice Hope is here
Rejoice He is with us
Rejoice Hope is here
Rejoice He is with us
Rejoice Hope is here*

*This is Jesus
King of glory
Here to rescue from the fall
Son of God who
Comes to save us
Prince of peace and Lord of all
For the hearts so
Prone to wander
For these feet so quick to flee
God is here and
Love is reaching
For the lost and least of these*

Christ Candle – Turkmenistan (from Open Doors World Watch List 2020)

We light the Christ candle a visible sign of God’s presence with us; that he has come as light into a world of darkness. We light the Christ candle to remind ourselves that Jesus is the light and that in him we become light too. We are never a light on our own. The light we have and can offer to others is the light of Jesus of Nazareth. May we be God’s light in 2021.

Jesus of Nazareth said that to be a Christian means to be maltreated for his name’s sake (Matthew 5:11) and the apostle Paul said that “everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ will be persecuted” (2 Timothy 3:12). Mistreatment as a disciple of Jesus is not a matter of *if* but a matter of *when* and a matter of *degree*. Hope is a vital aspect of being a disciple of Jesus. This is especially true under heavy persecution. In America, the land of religious freedom, we have it pretty easy in that there is minimal outright persecution against Christians. **May we make the most of our religious freedom to honor Christ and give credible and coherent witness to him! At the same time, may we be aware of our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world who don’t share the same freedom that we do. The 22st place that is most challenging to be a disciple of Jesus is Turkmenistan.**

Of the six million people living in Turkmenistan, seventy thousand are disciple of Jesus. Turkmenistan is wholly ruled by its president, who seeks to tightly control every aspect of daily life, including religious worship. While most citizens are Muslim, this is mostly cultural rather than devoutly religious – the government mostly seeks to build a cult of personality around its president. Christian gatherings are monitored, printing Christian material is illegal, and unregistered churches risk constant raids and jail time for congregants and church leaders.

Prayer Points: The totalitarian regime in Turkmenistan is one of the strictest in Central Asia. Pray for the leaders of Turkmenistan to be humbled and to know that Jesus is Lord. Pray for believers who are former Muslims. Even if the surrounding culture is mostly culturally Muslim rather than devout, there is still intense pressure from families and communities. Pray for churches that are monitored by the



government. Pray for pastors and congregants to be safe and to be able to worship with one another.

Jesus is the Light. We are a light. Shine His light!

Song – O Come O Come Emmanuel -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utpZAlcWFU>

We are still in Christmas time! We continue to focus on and celebrate the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, of God becoming flesh and dwelling with us. And, we anticipate his coming again in the flesh as our Emmanuel to be with us bodily forever in the new heavens and the new earth. May we rejoice in that good news through song this morning!

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourn in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, Thou Dayspring come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, Thou Wisdom from on high
And order all things, far and night
To us the path of knowledge show
And cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, Desire of nations bind
All people in one heart and mind
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Song – God With Us -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=udJjT-LMnIs>

*You've come
To bring peace
To be love
To be nearer to us
You've come
To bring life
To be light
To shine brighter in us*



*Oh Emmanuel God with us
Our Deliverer
You are Savior
In Your presence we find our strength
Over everything
Our redemption
God with us
You are God with us
You've come
To be hope
To this world
For Your honor and name
You've come
To take sin
To bear shame
And to conquer the grave
Emmanuel God With Us
Our Deliverer
You are Savior
In Your presence we find our strength
Over everything
Our redemption
God with us
You are God with us
You are here
You are holy
We are standing
In Your glory
Our Deliverer
You are Savior
In Your presence we find our strength
Over everything
Our redemption
God with us
You are God with us*

Centering Prayer – King Solomon’s Prayer for Wisdom

We will be reading and hearing about king Solomon in our text and message this morning. God appears to king Solomon in a dream and asks him what he wants God to give him. If this was you, how would you respond? This is how Solomon responded. This was his “prayer response” to God. May it help center us on humble heart that seeks to serve the Lord and not our own selfish desires.

1 Kings 3:6–8 And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my



father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

Offering – Building Fund

Recently, the youth were given a room where they could meet in addition to the Fellowship Hall. This room was redone with various needed renovations such as a fresh coat of paint, carpeting and new couches. This room is an example of what is being done with our newly created building fund. There are various updates that are needed throughout the church building. This fund will be used for those updates.

We remember that giving is an act of faith, a practice of hope and an expression of love.

(You can give by sending your offering to the church, P.O. Box 217, Oakdale Ca 95361 or consider giving online through your bank. Our deacons can help you with this if necessary.)

Youth Celebration

A Prayer: Heavenly Father, we celebrate this new generation, the young men and women of today. May You shine your grace and truth into their hearts. May they hear you in music, see you in art and experience you through the love and care of family, friends and teachers. Build your gospel hope into their lives. Sow your wisdom into their minds. May they discover and cherish your wisdom as they read their Bible, discuss deeper issues of life or encounter hardships or difficulties. Come weave your love into their dreams and ambitions. May they find Christ-centered joy in their giftedness and opportunities for their abilities and aspirations for kingdom causes. May this new generation of your young men and women know and love and trust you, the only true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Scripture Reading – 1 Kings 5:1-18

We are between sermon series this week. Last week we finished the year long journey through the gospel according to Matthew entitled, Jesus of Nazareth. Next week we will begin a year long journey through the book of Acts, the beginning of the Church. This week we are engaging a text from the Old Testament book of 1 Kings, chapter 5. This chapter is about king Solomon planning and preparing to build the temple of God in Jerusalem. Since the exodus from Egypt under God's saving hand, when God instructed Moses to build a tabernacle that would be a place of meeting between God with man, God's dwelling was a tent. It's now been over four hundred years and king Solomon finds himself in a lavish palace that his father, king David had built. He remembers that God had promised his father that his son would build the temple of God. Solomon becomes that son. Our text spends a lot of time talking about the relationship between king Hiram of Tyre and how Solomon and him acquire the wood and stones to build the temple. However, there is one verse, verse 5, that stand out and links into a major biblical theme of God's presence with his people. It is a verse about a son and a house. It is a verse of promise and fulfillment. This promise and fulfillment is partially seen in Solomon and the building of the temple but is ultimately fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth and his Church. We will step back to look at the origins of this promise of a son and a house, it's application to Solomon as a foreshadowing of



Jesus, and its fulfillment in Jesus Christ and how that impacts us today.

Gospel Message – A Better Temple

When I was a kid, there was a house that my friends and I loved to go to. It was near a park, had a pool and the family was very friendly and kind and generous, especially with food. We always felt welcomed there. We always felt cared for there. We always felt safe there and we always enjoyed our time there. I had access to this house because the son of its owners was a friend. His father's house became my house too. In fact, I and others in the neighborhood would often be called their "other" kids or "a part of their family." This was a bit odd given the fact that he went to another school, the opposing school, our archenemy rival school! He represented the opponent to beat. To this day I do not like the colors red and white because they were the colors of this school! Yet, at this house all that dropped away (okay, most of it) and we were friends, even surrogate family.

Our passage this morning is primarily about a house and a son; particularly Solomon and the temple which was also called the house of God. More generally, it is about promise and fulfillment. Alistair Begg, once said, "The Bible is one story that unfolds in one book, by one author, about one subject. A story that moves from promise to fulfillment." It is my hope this morning that we will understand this story about a house and a son within the framework of the Bible's one story of God's saving love, centered on the one subject of that story, Jesus of Nazareth as it participates in the Bible's unfolding movement of God's promises and their ultimate fulfillment in Jesus of Nazareth. Furthermore, it is my hope that this understanding grows our faith as we strive to live out its truths for us as we continue to faithfully participate in God's unfolding divine narrative and drama as disciples of Jesus of Nazareth today. It is a message of hope and encouragement; that God is with us and for us, actively building up his church for his glory and our joy.

The key verse for us in this chapter is verse five. It reads, "And so I intend to build a house for the name of the Lord my God, as the Lord said to David my father, 'Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place shall build the house for my name.'" There are three points of interest for us that I will spend my time on this morning. First is David and his connection to the temple. Solomon quotes the Lord speaking to his father David. What we will see here is David's connection with temple through the tabernacle that God had Moses build and which sparks his desire to build God a more permanent house. This desire to build a house will be denied David but God, true to his character and glory, promises him something infinitely greater – that God would build him a house! Second is the double fulfillment of God's promise to build a house through David's son. The first fulfillment is Solomon as the son and the temple as the house. The second fulfillment is Jesus of Nazareth – as the ultimate Son and his body as the ultimate temple. This portion of the message will briefly navigate the history and significance of the temple as a sign that points to Jesus as the central fulfillment of God's promise to David. Third is the connecting of our story into this story of son and house, of promise and fulfillment. We will see that in and through Jesus of Nazareth, Christians are God's temple today, both individually as his disciples and corporately as the Church. That is, we are God's personal presence and power to be his witnesses in this world.

A couple of qualifications are needed at this point to avoid confusion and add clarity to the message. First, the terms "house of God" and "temple" will be used interchangeably since they are used this way



in scripture. We tend to be more familiar with “house of God” than with temple language so when you hear temple, think “house of God.” Second, Solomon never thought that the temple would actually contain God like the false gods of Molech and Chemosh who were believed by their followers to be contained by the building. Solomon, in his prayer to God at the dedication of the temple exclaims, “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest of heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built!” Yet, immediately after the priests exited the temple for the first time, “a cloud filled the house of God...for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God.” While the temple could not contain God, his presence was there nonetheless. That is why Solomon says that he is building a house for the name of God, not God himself. A name represents and signifies and points to and characterizes the being that bears that name. In this case, it is the glory of God.

Solomon is partnering with king Hiram of Tyre, who was a friend and ally of king David in order to obtain the materials needed to build the temple. Israel did not have the trees needed to provide the best lumber, cedar and cypress and Tyre didn’t have the land to produce enough food for its people. So Solomon and Hiram strike a deal. Hiram would provide Solomon with the cedar and cypress wood and Solomon would provide Hiram with wheat and oil on a yearly basis, presumably over the years the cedar and cypress were being gathered and delivered. The rest of the chapter details the assembling of the workforce to make this happen. In all, Solomon would assemble 183,300 people to build the temple over a seven-year period. The point of describing the details of the gathering of the materials and the workforce is to demonstrate the magnificence of this house for God’s name that Solomon was building. This house would stand out in its splendor because the God of king Solomon stands out in his splendor from all other gods. Its foundations were to be made of “great, costly stones” quarried out of Israel and the finest wood from Lebanon and then much of it overlaid with pure gold. But the heart of this chapter is in verse 5 and Solomon’s statement declaring that he is the son that God spoke of to build him a house. To that we turn.

Solomon quotes God speaking to David. What is he referring to? After God rescued his people from 400 years of slavery to Pharaoh and the Egyptians, they ended up wandering in the desert for 40 years before being able to enter into the land that God had promised them (promise and fulfillment). At the beginning of that wandering, God instructed Moses in Exodus 25:8-9 to build him a sanctuary that he might “dwell among them.” The portable structure that Moses ends up building according to God’s design is called “the tabernacle of the tent of meeting.” And upon this tabernacle of the tent of meeting, according to Exodus 40:34-38, a “cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.” The tabernacle represented the place where heaven and earth met, where God and humanity met, where the personal presence and power of God could be seen and encountered by the people of God. Four hundred years pass and King David laments saying, Behold, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of the covenant of the Lord is under a tent” (1 Chronicles 17:1). So, he wants and plans to build a stationary, permanent and magnificent house for God to dwell in. However, through the prophet Nathan God tells David that he would not build the temple. Instead, God says to David, “I will raise up your offspring after you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from him who was before you, but I will confirm in him in my house and in my kingdom forever, and his throne shall be established



forever” (1 Chronicles 17:11b-14). This is formally known as the Davidic covenant. It is a promise that God made to David about what he would do through his offspring; namely building the house of God and establishing his reign within the kingdom of God forever. 2 Samuel 7, which chronicles this same story summarizes the Davidic promise this way, “I will make you a house!” (2 Samuel 7:11b).

A son. A house. Promise. Now fulfillment – at least partial in Solomon as the son and the temple as the house. The temple was indeed built. It took seven years but it was completed and at its completion Solomon recognized the significance of the moment regarding God’s promise and fulfillment. At the dedication of the temple when it was completed, he says, “Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who with his hand has fulfilled what he promised with his mouth to David my father...Now the Lord has fulfilled his promise that he made. For I have risen in the place of David my father, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the Lord promised, and I have built the house for the name of the Lord, the God of Israel” (1 Kings 8:15,20). Yes. A house for the name of the Lord had been built and the glory of the Lord has descended upon it. His personal presence and power were there. He demonstrated that he was with his people and for his people. This temple remained intact as the focal place of God’s presence with his chosen people for over 400 years until it was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BC. It was then rebuilt by Ezra and Nehemiah 70 years later under the rule of the Persian king Cyrus who allowed a remnant to return to Jerusalem to rebuild her wall and the temple. This second temple was renovated and expanded by King Herod around 20 BC. It was utterly destroyed in AD 70 by the Roman army under the command of Titus and has not been rebuilt in the last one thousand, nine hundred and fifty years. Why? The temple was the most venerated and important place for the Jew. It not only was the place that God designed to be built many centuries ago, but also the place where sacrifices were made for the forgiveness of sins. What happened?

Jesus of Nazareth happened! God had Moses build the tabernacle and Solomon build the temple but he had an even more remarkable and extraordinary plan for his personal presence and power than a building. It would be a person. But not any person. It would be God himself taking on human flesh without ceasing to be God nor distorting humanity in any way. The Creator himself will also become creation. God himself will also become human. This is the incarnation and what we celebrate at Christmas in the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus of Nazareth is Immanuel which means, God with us. He is God’s plan for a new temple; a better temple; indeed, the true temple. The former were merely shadows (Hebrews 8:5). God’s building became a person, the God-Man Jesus Christ. In the book of Haggai, God promises that the second temple would be more glorious than the first. In his commentary of the book of Haggai, John Calvin rightfully asserts that God was not talking about the temple that the people under Ezra and Nehemiah were attempting to rebuild, but Jesus of Nazareth! In fact, Calvin calls the rebuilt temple in the Old Testament and under king Herod a “counterfeit temple” because it was not sanctioned by God. Jesus is the better and more glorious temple that God has promised to David one thousand years earlier. Jesus is the fulfillment of God’s promise that he would raise a son of David who would be king and reign forever.

Jesus is God’ new and true temple. In a confrontation with the Jewish religious leaders, Jesus says to them, “I say to you that in this place is one greater than the temple” (Matthew 12:6). He was referring to himself and fulfilling the prophecy of Haggai that the splendor of the latter temple would be greater



than the former. Jesus is that latter temple. At another time, while in the temple court, Jesus of Nazareth becomes angry at the commercialization and consumerism that is taking place in “his Father’s house” and he drives out all the money changers with a whip, knocking down tables and making quite the scene (Matthew 21:12ff). He then says, after being asked to give a sign of his authority to do this, that if they destroy this temple, he would raise it up in three days. Now they thought he meant the physical temple that Solomon and Herod built but the text makes it clear he was referring to himself; that he would be killed and three days later resurrected. Resurrected Jesus is the second and better temple. Jesus of Nazareth is the perfect and personal and powerful presence of God to the world. While the tabernacle and the temple were only shadows, Jesus is the real thing. While the tabernacle and the temple were signs, Jesus is the one signified.

But there’s even more! We are also God’s temple, God’s building, his house! The apostle Paul, speaking to the Corinthians Christians, exhorts them to know that they are God’s building, built on the foundation of Jesus Christ. He goes on asking them if they know that they are God’s temple and that the Spirit of God dwells in them and that they are that temple (1 Corinthians 3:9,16-17). Wow! We are God’s building too! We are a living part of God’ promise to David; that in Christ, God is building a temple out of his people in which he would dwell. First a tabernacle, then a temple, then Jesus Christ as the true temple and now disciples as a temple of God both individually and corporately in Christ. John Calvin says, “When God dwells in each of us, it is his will that we should embrace all in holy unity, and that thus he should form one temple out of many. Each person, when viewed separately is a temple, but when joined to others, becomes a stone of the temple.” Yes! We are “living stones” as the Apostle Peter states saying, “As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house.” We are chosen and precious stones making up God’s house that he is building up. God is building. He is building his house today through his chosen and precious disciples and children in Christ. To the Ephesians, the Apostle Paul instructs, “So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.” We are God’s building today for his dwelling place by the Holy Spirit. We are the personal presence and power of God in the world today as we are united to Jesus of Nazareth through the Holy Spirit. God personal presence and power is with us and in us. Just as when the disciples saw Jesus, they also saw the Father, when people see us they are to see Jesus Christ. That is, our words and actions, both verbally and visibly are to give witness to Christ living in us. This is what is meant by “work out your salvation with fear and trembling for it is God who is working in you to do his will” (Philippians 2:12-13).

When we are being the house of God, his Church and his dwelling place on earth, grace and truth reigns and Jesus of Nazareth is front and center. The Church is a place where there is forgiveness and where friends in Christ will love to go and be, just like my friend’s house when I was a kid, where each are treated as a brother or sister in Christ; where we are cared for and protected and where we find joy and delight. May we as the building of God today, the temple in which God dwells, be a place that is hospitable in welcoming strangers and demonstrating the love of God to those in need. May we be a



light in this world, a beacon of hope that is grounded on the sure promises of God that find their “Yes!” in Jesus of Nazareth (2 Corinthians 1:20). May our church be a place we can grow in discipleship to Jesus as we strive to image him in what we do and say. May we be a place that knows how to share the hope that we have in Jesus Christ and declare the excellencies of his splendor and worth. May the good news of Jesus Christ be readily on our lips and in our hearts as the answer to the bad news of sin and evil. And may our individual lives be images of God’s temple, of God’s dwelling in us through the Holy Spirit as we actively wait for his bodily return to consummate his making all things new once and for all.

The apostle John, in the wondrous revelation given him about Jesus Christ and his kingdom coming, describes the heavenly city coming down to earth. He says, “And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God....And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb (Revelation 21:3,22). The promise of a Son and a house culminates in heaven on earth, where there is no temple because God and the Lamb (Jesus Christ) are the temple. God will dwell without the hindrance of sin with his people forever. His personal presence and power will be enjoyed face-to-face for all people who are being built up into the house and household of God as his children, living stones by grace through faith in Jesus of Nazareth, the true temple, to the glory of God and the joy of his disciples.

Communion Meditation

Professing: (Apostles Creed)

**We believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
We 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 descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose and ascended to heaven
Where he is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come to judge the living and the dead.
We 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.**

Proclaiming: 1 Corinthians 11:23b-25 (Paraphrased)

On the night of his betrayal, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it saying, “this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” After the meal he took the cup of wine and pouring it out said, “this wine is my blood, a new covenant of grace poured out for the forgiveness of sins.”

Remember and believe that the body & blood of Jesus was given & shed for the forgiveness of sins.

Song – Let Your Kingdom Come -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Rh8l0r9gIA>

*Your glorious cause, O God
Engages our hearts
May Jesus Christ be known
Wherever we are*



*We ask not for ourselves, but for Your renown
Your grace has saved us so we pray
Your kingdom come*

*Let Your kingdom come
Let Your will be done
So that everyone might know Your Name
Let Your song be heard everywhere on earth
Till Your sovereign work on earth is done
Let Your kingdom come*

*Give us Your strength, O God
And courage to speak
Perform Your wondrous deeds
Through those who are weak
Lord use us as You want, whatever the test
By grace we'll preach Your gospel
Till our dying breath*

*Let Your kingdom come
Let Your will be done
So that everyone might know Your Name
Let Your song be heard everywhere on earth
Till Your sovereign work on earth is done
Let Your kingdom come*

Sending as Disciples of Jesus: Matthew 28:18-20 (Paraphrased)

We gathered together as the body of Christ, the building of God, his temple. And now we are sent back out into the world as his disciples and as his temple, the dwelling place of God. May we honor him with our faithfulness and obedience to his leading and shaping us into his image and likeness.

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus. Therefore, as we are sent into the world by him, let us make disciples of all, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that Jesus has commanded us. And let us remember and treasure that Jesus is with us always, even to the end of the age. Amen!