

Altar Book - August 16, 2020

Liturgy: Beguiled by Beauty (Week 5)

Presiding Minister - Pastor Sara Wirth

Preacher - Deacon Linda Bobbitt

Assisting Minister / Lector - Sue Hettinger

GATHERING

Threshold Moment

Opening Prayer (*Assisting Minister*)

Divine Goodness, Holy One,

Pause us for this moment,

bear us up in this time,

hold us for eternity.

We tune our spirits to truth.

We begin to let go of expectations.

We allow all beings the fullness of their own beauty.

Amen.

Hymn of Beauty: ELW #533 Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty, vss 1-2, 5



- 1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
- 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
- 3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant-ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
- 4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick-en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
- 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
let my soul, where it is plant-ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick-en, may thy word still o'er me shine
may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless-ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
as my guid-ing star through life, as my com-fort in all strife.
Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: UNSER HERRSCHER, Joachim Neander, 1650–1680

WORD

Searching for Beauty: A Time for Children

Lectio Divina

Song of Songs 4:1-7 (Inclusive Bible)

[Look at you—so beautiful, my dearest!

Look at you—so beautiful!]

Look at your eyes, sweet as doves

behind the veil that your hair makes,

as it cascades from your head

like a flock of young goats—

black ones, bounding down off Mount Gilead.

And your teeth are sheep:

white as the day they were born,

or newly shorn, and freshly washed,

each with its perfect mate.

Not one of them is alone—

why should we be?

And, ah, the lips of that lovely mouth—

a ribbon of scarlet.

Your temples, behind that veil,

glow like the halves

of a freshly sliced pomegranate.

Your neck has the grace of David's Tower,

with its jewels hung round it

like the shields of a thousand warriors.

And your breasts—like the twin fawns of a gazelle,

hiding among the lilies.

All my nights, till the sun

comes chasing its shadows,

let me play in these perfumed hills,

these mountains scented with myrrh.

[You are utterly beautiful, my dearest;

there's not a single flaw in you.] (a)

Sermo Divina

Visio Divina

WE RESPOND

“Look Around”Marsha Jean Moors-Charles
arr. Caleb Collins

Prayers of the People (Asst Minister)

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Lord, you gather the church to be part of your mission as ambassadors of Jesus Christ. As Jesus acknowledged the great faith of a woman from outside his people, help your church discover and find blessing in the faith of people we might reject. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You have blessed us with the bounty of the earth. Grant your grace to all your creatures, that the earth will flourish. Relieve waters choked by garbage, renew soils stripped of nutrients, and refresh the air all creatures need to live. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You call the nations to be glad and sing for joy. Let your way be known among all the nations of the world, now divided by competing interests, contending alliances, and consumed by enormous worry. Bless us and make your face shine upon all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You show unexpected mercy, kindness, and generosity. We pray for those who do not have enough, for outcasts in our villages, cities, and town, and for those who need your healing (*especially*).

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In you we live and move and have our being. Grant our congregation (name) grace to find our life refreshed in you. Accompany us in the rhythms of late summer. Give us rest and renewal, and strengthen us for mission in your name. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Your eternal promises are more than we could ever imagine. As you gather all the saints (*especially*), join us also with them on the great day of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Offering

Opportunities for Service

SENDING

Blessing

The world is so varied and beautiful. Seek wisdom wherever it is to be found. And may the goodness of the Creator, the companionship of the Christ, and the insight of the Spirit, infuse your life now and always.

Amen.

Music Sending Hymn: ELW #360 Love Consecrates the Humblest Act



- 1 Love con - se - crates the hum - blest act and ha - loes mer - cy's deeds;
- 2 When in the shad - ow of the cross Christ knelt and washed the feet
- 3 Love serves and will - ing stoops to serve; what Christ in love so true



it sheds a ben - e - dic - tion sweet and hal - lows hu - man needs.
of his dis - ci - ples, he gave us a sign of love com - plete.
has free - ly done for one and all, let us now glad - ly do!

Text: Silas B. McManus, 1845–1917

Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

Dismissal (Asst Minister)

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude / Benediction / Song Reprise

COMMUNION

Communion Liturgy

Divine Goodness and Love is with you!

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to our God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Beguiled Creator of heaven and earth, your love so desired a response that you formed us in your image and breathed into us your breath of life, filling us with your essence of goodness. We sometimes lose sight of this connection to you, yet still your love remains steadfast and compassionate. You deliver us from the captivity of our forgetfulness, reminding us of your eternal covenant of presence, and you continue to speak to us through prophetic voices of hope. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy , holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, Divine Goodness in the flesh come to love our flesh. Your Spirit anointed him for that love in the form of preaching good news to the poor, proclaiming release to the captives recovering of sight to the blind, setting at liberty those who are oppressed, and announcing that the time had come when you

would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with those cut off from fullness of life and love.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to a new path of faithful life, delivered us from our death-dealing preoccupations and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. When Jesus breathed Spirit upon his beloveds, he promised to be with us always. Each breath we take, each movement of breeze, reminds us of this beautiful truth, that by the power of your Word and Holy Spirit, we are not alone.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”
And so, in remembrance of your beautiful acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ’s offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the beauty of life through Christ, so that we may be for the world the body of Christ, offering the life - blood of compassion. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with

each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, Beloved and Beloving God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever.**

Amen.

You will be sent to breakout rooms where I invite you to “serve” those in the room with you. Take turns going around the room saying the words, “(Name), the body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.” After you have heard the words for you, eat the bread and drink the wine/ juice before you.

If your room has questions, you can ask via chat or return to the main room. After everyone has been served, click the “leave room” button to return to the main room for the final blessing.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to

proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Postlude