

(*) Please rise in body or in spirit
Bold Italic Letters indicate congregational response

— *Gathering* —
Marching to Zion

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PRELUDE

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us offer our praise to God, *for we come to learn God's ways.*
O God, your word is a lamp to our feet. *A light to our path;*
We lift our hearts to you *as we seek to worship, adore, and follow you.*

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN #664

Morning Has Broken

CONFESSION

As much as we try not to stray: we do.

As much as we try to follow God's word: we don't.

As we continue on this journey, let us seek God's forgiveness together:

O God, we are quick to say, "We didn't know." "We didn't mean to."

"We didn't expect that to happen."

But we have not tended the soil of our lives.

We let it stay shallow and rocky by not learning from the experience of others.

We let it be riddled with thorns by succumbing to our own prejudices.

Life-giving God, Help us to tend our soil.

Open us to being challenged, enable us to learn,

so that your word will take root and bear good fruit in our lives.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

There is no condemnation for us:

God has forgiven us that we might live according to the Spirit.

The Spirit of God dwells within us.

Thanks be to God!

* GLORIA PATRI #581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen

— *Word* —

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 25:19-34

Bible p. 20-21, LG p. 26-27

The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. Listen to the word of the Lord.

SECOND TESTAMENT READING

Romans 8:1-11

Bible p. 147, LG p. 191

Hear the word of the Lord.

Keep these words in your heart. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Bible p. 13, LG p. 16-17

Hear God's wisdom for us.

The wisdom of God, for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Sower, Seeds, and Soil

Rev. Michele Goff

ASCRPTION OF PRAISE

— *Response*—

*HYMN #531

Seed, Scattered and Sown

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.32-33

The life, death, resurrection,

and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission.

His human life involves the church in the common life of all people.

His service to men and women commits the church

to work for every form of human well-being.

His suffering makes the church sensitive

to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ

in the faces of persons in every kind of need.

His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity

that marks human relations, and the awful consequences

of the church's own complicity in injustice.

In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming,

the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society

and of God's victory over all wrong.

The church follows this pattern in the form of its life

and in the method of its action.

So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray in the Spirit, who helps us in our weakness,

interceding with sighs too deep for words. Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

...In the Spirit, we pray to you, O God,

confident that all things work together for good for those who love you

and are called according to your purpose. Above all, we give you thanks, O God,

that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**