LIVE LIKE CHRIST
IN OUR COMMUNITIES

2023 ASSEMBLY
1 Common-wealth is God’s com-mand-ment; com-mon goods are meant to share.
2 Shar-ing lav-ish gifts and bless-ings, love that not one mite with-holds,
3 Gen-ders, rac-es, tribes, and na-tions, hear the Ho-ly One who calls,

Tables set and doors wide o-pen wel-come an-gels un-a-ware.
stretch out arms to friends and strang-ers: God has sheep of man-y folds.
bid-ding all to work to-geth-er, bridg-ing lives and breach-ing walls.

Refrain

Plead for the peace of all cre-a-tion. Pray for a place where grace is found.

Shan-ti, pax, sha-lom, mas-la-ha: com-mon good is ho-ly ground.
I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story, because I know it’s true;
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song.

It satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.
The message of salvation from God’s own holy word.
I’ll sing the old, old story that I have loved so long.

Refrain

I love to tell the story; ’twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.
1 We walk in light of countless faces
2 When sorrow’s heavy hand has weighted
3 When joy returns with laughter singing

bright as beams of rising sun, certain as the
loss against the greater gain, pinning down that
thanks to God for life’s sweet song, let us follow

morning chases night in endless ages’ run.
grief sore laden on the bed of pain.
after bringing thanks to God for those now gone.

Refrain

Turning eyes now to their shining mem’ry, to their faithful past,
saints be now the truth divine: death be now but never last.
HYMN | PLENARY SESSION IV

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
2 Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
3 Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,

Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood,
Angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love,
Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long:

this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

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OPENING OF SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2023
THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

_The assembly stands._

Alleluia, Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed, alleluia!**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,  
whose Word created us, whose Spirit gathers us again,  
and whose dwelling among us leads us to live  
as Christ in our communities.  
**Amen.**

_Water is poured._

Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating an earth of splendor  
and for making us into a people of your own.  
With all the saints who have received your Word  
we worship you, holy God.  
**We worship you, holy God.**

We praise you for your eternal Word,  
for conquering the force of death,  
and for raising us up through the resurrection of our Lord.  
For your Word alive among us,  
we praise you, living God.  
**We praise you, living God.**

Breathe the Spirit of the risen Christ on us,  
that led by your Word  
we may honor your earth and its many peoples  
and serve all who are in need.  
For your Word animating our Easter life,  
we bless you, loving God.  
**We bless you, loving God.**
All worship, praise, and blessing be to you,  
Source of life, Ruler of life, and Power of life,  
today and forever.  
Amen.

HYMN

The assembly is sprinkled with water.

1 Come, you faith-ful, raise the strain of tri-um-phant glad-ness!  
2 'Tis the spring of souls to-day: Christ has burst his pris-on,  
3 Now the queen of sea-sons, bright with the day of splen-dor,  
4 Nei-ther could the gates of death, nor the tomb’s dark por-tal,  
5 Al-le-lu-ia! now we cry to our Lord im-mor-tal,  

God has brought forth Is-ra-el in-to joy from sad-ness,  
and from three days’ sleep in death as a sun has ris-en.  
with the roy-al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren-der;  
nor the watch-ers, nor the seal, hold you as a mor-tal:  
who tri-um-phant burst the bars of the tomb’s dark por-tal;  

loosed from Pha-raoh’s bit-ter yoke Ja-cob’s sons and daugh-ters;  
All the win-ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly-ing  
comes to glad Jer-u-sa-lem, who with true af-fec-tion  
but to-day, a-mong your own, you ap-pear, be-stow-ing  
Al-le-lu-ia! with the Son God the Fa-ther prais-ing;  

led them with un-moist-en-ed foot through the Red Sea wa-ters.  
from the Light to whom we give laud and praise un-dy-ing;  
wel-comes in un-wea-ried strain Je-sus’ res-ur-rec-tion!  
your deep peace, which ev-er-more pass-es hu-man know-ing.  
Al-le-lu-ia! yet a-gain to the Spir-it rais-ing.
READING * ACTS 2:1-4

_The assembly is seated._

A reading from Acts.

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**ASSEMBLY OPENING**

As in one body we have many members,

**so we, who are many, are one body in Christ.**

Where two or three are gathered in my name, says the Lord,

**I am there among them.**

Live a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

**Let us pursue what makes for justice and peace, and for mutual upbuilding.**
PRAYER

The assembly stands.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit.
Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgement in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

I declare this assembly to be in session in the name of the Father, and of the *Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.
1 What is this place where we are meeting? Only a house, the earth its floor.
2 Words from afar, stars that are falling, sparks that are sown in us like seed: Walls and a roof sheltering people,
3 And we accept bread at this table, broken and shared, a living sign. Here in this world, dying and living,

windows for light, an open door. Yet it becomes a bodily that lives sent from the past are all we need. We in this place remember and speak we are each other’s bread and wine. This is the place where we can receive

when we are gathered here, and know our God is near. again what we have heard: God’s free redeeming word. what we need to increase: our justice and God’s peace.