



Gifts

March 16, 2022

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Pastor Miriam

CALL TO WORSHIP

- ☒ As the wind song through the trees, as the stirring of the breeze, ☑ so it is with the Spirit of God.
☒ as the heart made strangely warm, as the voice within the storm, ☑ so it is with the Spirit of God.
☒ Never seen, ever known where this wind has blown
☑ bringing life, bringing power to the world,
☒ as the dancing tongues of fire, as the soul's most deep desire, ☑ so it is with the Spirit of God.
☒ As the rainbow after rain, as the hope that's born again, ☑ so it is with the Spirit of God.
☒ as the green in the spring, as a kite on a string, ☑ so it is with the Spirit of God.
☒ making worlds that are new, making peace come true,
☑ bringing gifts, bringing love to the world,
☒ as the rising of the yeast, as the wine at the feast, ☑ so it is with the Spirit of God.

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SONG: LET US TALENTS AND TONGUES EMPLOY

- 1 Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.**

**REFRAIN: Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: [gifts] abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: [gifts] abound!**

- 2 Christ is able to make us one, at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express. REFRAIN**

- 3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere! REFRAIN**

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

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RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE: GALATIANS 5:22-23, 25

- *The Message*

📖 What happens when we live God's way?

🗣️ **He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity.**

📖 We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people.

🗣️ **We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.**

📖 Since this is the kind of life we have chosen, the life of the Spirit, let us make sure that we do not just hold it as an idea in our heads or a sentiment in our hearts,

🗣️ **but work out its implications in every detail of our lives.**

📖 That means we will not compare ourselves with each other as if one of us were better and another worse.

🗣️ **We have far more interesting things to do with our lives. Each of us is an original.**

MEDITATION

SONG: Take My Life, that I May Be Consecrated

- 1 **Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.**
- 2 **Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.**
- 3 **Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.**
- 6 **Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.**

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt. Text is in Public Domain.

BENEDICTION

📖 God of grace, you crown your church with steadfast love and mercy. Guide us continually in our baptismal covenant to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Use our diverse gifts in service to the whole people of God. Guide us to value the gifts in one another for the sake of proclaiming your gospel. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

🗣️ **Amen.**

📖 The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord multiply the gifts bestowed in you by the Spirit.

🗣️ **Thanks be to God.**