

Gathering Praise

Rest. Refocus. Put away worldly cares. Welcome the Lord!

Our God Saves

In the name of the Father, in the name of the Son,
In the name of the Spirit, Lord, we come.
We're gathered together to lift up Your name,
To call on our Savior, to fall on Your grace.

Hear the joyful sound of our offering
As Your saints bow down, as Your people sing.
We will rise with You, lifted on Your wings.
And the world will see that...
Our God saves! Our God saves! There is hope in Your name.
Mourning turns to songs of praise. Our God saves! Our God saves

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Written by: Brenton Brown and Paul Baloche
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Welcome

P: The Lord be with you!
C: And also with you!
P: We are Gathered by God--
C: To Share the Love of Jesus!

Pastor's Opening Comments

WTB18 Young Jesus.png

Prayer for Blessing on the Word

P: Let us pray. Lord our God:
C: We gather in Your house to hear Your Word and call on You in prayer and praise. Bless Your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a Word of power and peace. By Your Word, gather those not yet Your own and grow those who have already come to faith. May Your Word pass from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the lip, from the lip to the life, and from one life to another, that as You have promised, Your Word will not return to You empty, but it will accomplish the holy purposes for which You send it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord; Amen.

Better Is One Day

How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty.
For my soul longs and even faints for You.
For here my heart is satisfied within Your presence.
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings.

Better is one day in Your courts, Better is one day in Your house,
Better is one day in Your courts, Than thousands elsewhere, Than thousands elsewhere.

One thing I ask and I would seek: to see Your beauty,
To find You in the place Your glory dwells.
For here my heart is satisfied within Your presence.
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings.

Better is one day in Your courts, Better is one day in Your house,
Better is one day in Your courts, Than thousands elsewhere, Than thousands elsewhere.

My heart and flesh cry out for You, the Living God:
Your Spirit's water to my soul.
I've tasted and I've seen, come once again to me.
I will draw near to You, I will draw near to You.

Better is one day in Your courts, Better is one day in Your house,
Better is one day in Your courts, Than thousands elsewhere, Than thousands elsewhere.

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Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

Introit - WTB18 Young Jesus

P: Train up a child in the way he should go;
C: even when he is old he will not depart from it.

P: Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God;
C: for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting!

P: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; His understanding is beyond measure.
C: But the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His steadfast love.

P: Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem!
C: Praise your God, O Zion!

P: Train up a child in the way he should go;
C: even when he is old he will not depart from it.

C: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
C: as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever; Amen.

Confession & Absolution - WTB18 Young Jesus

P: The Proverbs remind us: "My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of His reproof, for the Lord reproofs the one whom He loves, as a father does the son in whom He delights."

(We keep a time of silence for meditation and personal confession to God.)

P: Eternal God, we acknowledge and confess what You already know:

C: We are sinful people. We have transgressed Your Law in many ways, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

P: By our thoughts, our words, and our actions, we have shaken off Your gentle, guiding hand and going our own sinful way we have foolishly hidden from Your searching eyes that seek us in love.

C: O God, forgive us, restore us, and receive us again as children in Your family. May Your favor be upon us that we may grow in wisdom, gladly submit to Your gracious will for the sake of Jesus Christ, our brother, our Savior, and our Lord; Amen.

P: In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

Peace - WTB18 Young Jesus

P: The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His steadfast love. The peace of the Lord is with you all;

C: And also with you.

Love the Lord

Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
With all your soul, with all your mind, And with all your strength.
Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
With all your soul, with all your mind, And with all your strength.

With all your heart, with all your soul, With all your mind, with all your strength:
Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
With all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.

We will serve the Lord with all our heart,
With all our soul, With all our mind, And with all our strength.
We will serve the Lord with all our heart,
With all our soul, With all our mind, And with all our strength.

With all our heart, with all our soul, With all our mind, with all our strength:
We will serve the Lord with all our heart,
With all our soul, with all our mind, And with all our strength.

Please echo musicians

I will love you; We will love You!
I will praise You; We will praise You!
I will serve You; We will serve You!
I will trust You; We will trust You!

With all our heart, with all our soul, With all our mind, with all our strength:
With all our heart, with all our soul, With all our mind, with all our strength:

We will serve the Lord with all our heart,
With all our soul, with all our mind, And with all our strength.
We will serve the Lord with all our heart,
With all our soul, with all our mind, And with all our strength.
Words and Music: Lincoln Brewster

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Collect - WTB18 Young Jesus

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray together:

C: Heavenly Father, in Jesus You have poured Your grace into our hearts, and led us in the way of truth, that we may have everlasting life. Bless us to be mindful of both Your mercy and Your Law. Direct us always to Your will that we may be like Christ our Lord, submitting ourselves to Your good and gracious will, and growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man; for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever; Amen.

Readings from Holy Scripture

Old Testament – Proverbs 4:1-13

^{4:1} Hear, O sons, a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight, ^{4:2} for I give you good precepts; do not forsake my teaching.

^{4:3} When I was a son with my father, tender, the only one in the sight of my mother, ^{4:4} he taught me and said to me: "Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and live. ^{4:5} Get wisdom; get insight; do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth. ^{4:6} Do not forsake her, and she will keep you; love her, and she will guard you.

^{4:7} The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight. ^{4:8} Prize her highly, and she will exalt you; she will honor you if you embrace her. ^{4:9} She will place on your head a graceful garland; she will bestow on you a beautiful crown."

^{4:10} Hear, my son, and accept my words, that the years of your life may be many. ^{4:11} I have taught you the way of wisdom; I have led you in the paths of uprightness. ^{4:12} When you walk, your step will not be hampered, and if you run, you will not stumble. ^{4:13} Keep hold of instruction; do not let go; guard her, for she is your life.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle – Hebrews 12:1-13

^{12:1} Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ^{12:2} looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

^{12:3} Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. ^{12:4} In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ^{12:5} And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

"My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by Him. ^{12:6} For the Lord disciplines the one He loves, and chastises every son whom He receives."

^{12:7} It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ^{12:8} If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ^{12:9} Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ^{12:10} For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share His holiness.

^{12:11} For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. ^{12:12} Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, ^{12:13} and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel – Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 & Luke 2:40-52

P: The Holy Gospel, according to both St. Matthew and St. Luke, the second chapters.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

MT ^{2:13} Now when [the Magi] had departed, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy Him." ^{2:14} And he rose and took the child and His mother by night and departed to Egypt ^{2:15} and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

^{2:19} But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying: ^{2:20} "Rise, take the child and His mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." ^{2:21} And he rose and took the child and His mother and went to the land of Israel.

^{2:22} But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. After being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ^{2:23} And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what the prophets spoke might be fulfilled: He would be called a Nazarene.

LK ^{2:40} And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon Him. ^{2:41} Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ^{2:42} And when He was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ^{2:43} And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ^{2:44} but supposing Him to be in the group they went a day's journey. But then they began to search for Him among their relatives and acquaintances, ^{2:45} and when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for Him.

2:46 After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 2:47 And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. 2:48 And when his parents saw Him, they were astonished. And His mother said to Him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, Your father and I have been searching for You in great distress."

2:49 And He said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" 2:50 And they did not understand the saying that He spoke to them. 2:51 But He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And His mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Speak, O Lord

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You To receive the food of Your holy Word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us, Shape and fashion us in Your likeness-
That the light of Christ might be seen today In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us All Your purposes, for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience, Holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes In the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see Your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail-Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds, Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us-:
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time That will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises, And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, 'til Your Church is built And the earth is filled with Your glory.

Words: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
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Sermon

“No Child Left Behind”

Matthew 2 & Luke 2

Young Jesus.1.png
Young Jesus.2.png
Young Jesus.3.png
Young Jesus.4.png
Young Jesus.5.png

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Once in Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Savior holy.

For He is our childhood's pattern, Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless, Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness, And He shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in heav'n above;
And He leads His children on To the place where He is gone.

Words: Cecil F. Alexander
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Nicene Creed

P: Baptized into Christ Jesus and living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Gathering of Tithes and Offerings

spalutheran.org/give

Offertory Prayer - WTB18 Young Jesus

P: Let us pray together. Holy God and Father of us all:

C: We thank You for Jesus' earthly family, who protected and raised Him so that He could grow strong in wisdom and stature, and in favor with both God and people. As we have been adopted through Christ into Your redeemed family, bless us to grow in the same ways as He did, and also in the grace of giving. As we give these gifts, we also offer ourselves to Your service, in thanksgiving for training us up in the way we should go. We pray in Jesus' name; Amen.

Prayers of the Church

Email requests to prayer@spalutheran.org

In the Secret

In the secret, in the quiet place, In the stillness You are there.
In the secret, in the quiet hour I wait, only for You;
'Cause I want to know You more.

I want to know You, I want to hear Your voice
I want to know You more.
I want to touch You, I want to see Your face
I want to know You more.

Prayers - WTB18 Young Jesus.1

P: Knowing that through Christ we have found favor with the Father, let us pray for the Church throughout the world, and for all people according to their needs, saying: Lord in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

I: Heavenly Father, give all parents the same diligence and patience You gave to Joseph and Mary as they cared for Your precious Son throughout His early years. Grant that our children may grow in wisdom and stature, to walk with You as Jesus did. May the families of Your Church abide in Your Word and in their Baptism always treasuring the saving faith and the certainty of life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy;

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of Your Son, the eternal Logos who became flesh, dwelt among us, and set the pattern for our lives. Grant that we may imitate Him, growing strong and being filled with wisdom so that we may grow in favor with both God and people. Lord in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

I: Gracious Lord, You gave Solomon unsurpassed wisdom to rule Your people Israel, chiefly blessing him with the wisdom that begins in fearing and honoring You. In this time of turmoil give our leaders that same wisdom and preserve our nation. Since they are called to be our guardians, give those leaders discernment so that they may consistently choose good over evil and govern in peace. Lord, in Your mercy;

C: Hear our prayer.

In the Secret

I am reaching for the highest goal That I might receive the prize.
Pressing onward, pushing ev'ry hindrance aside, out of my way;
'Cause I want to know You more.

I want to know You, I want to hear Your voice
I want to know You more.
I want to touch You, I want to see Your face
I want to know You more.

Prayers - WTB18 Young Jesus.2

P: Lord Jesus, You are the victor in the battle between life and death! Comfort all who mourn and give them courage in knowing that nothing will ever separate them from Your love. When we ourselves are bent by a restless ache, wrenched by doubt and despair, under Your discipline, teach our hearts us to sing out and pray in confident hope that Your kingdom is coming and that this light, momentary affliction will soon give way to an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison. Lord, in Your mercy:

C: Hear our prayer.

I: Compassionate and restoring Lord, give patience and endurance to all who are sick, and in mercy, heal them according to Your will. Hear us as we pray for these dear ones that are in need of Your loving care: (In silence or aloud we recall those in need of healing.)

I: Lord in Your mercy;

C: Hear our prayer.

In the Secret

I want to know You, I want to hear Your voice
I want to know You more.
I want to touch You, I want to see Your face
I want to know You more.

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Prayers - WTB18 Young Jesus.3

P: Heavenly Father, as we conclude these prayers, we know there is much we have left unsaid. May Your Spirit intercede for us with sighs more beautiful than words, and teach us to pray continually so that all our lives may be constantly and deeply devoted to following our Lord Jesus Christ, who leads us in the way of everlasting life, remembers us in His kingdom and has taught us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever; Amen.

Benedicamus

P: Let us bless the Lord;
C: Thanks be to God!

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
C: Amen.

Cry of My Heart

It is the cry of my heart to follow You. It is the cry of my heart to be close to You.
It is the cry of my heart to follow All of the days of my life.
It is the cry of my heart to follow You. It is the cry of my heart to be close to You.
It is the cry of my heart to follow All of the days of my life.

Teach me Your holy ways, O Lord, So I can walk in Your truth.
Teach me Your holy ways, O Lord, And make me wholly devoted to You.

It is the cry of my heart to follow You. It is the cry of my heart to be close to You.
It is the cry of my heart to follow All of the days of my life.

Open my eyes so I can see The wonderful things that You do.
Open my heart up more and more And make it wholly devoted to You.

It is the cry of my heart to follow You. It is the cry of my heart to be close to You.
It is the cry of my heart to follow All of the days of my life.
It is the cry of my heart to follow You. It is the cry of my heart to be close to You.
It is the cry of my heart to follow All of the days of my life.
All of the days of my life. All of the days-- Of my life.

Sending

P: We are Gathered by God
C: to Share the Love of Jesus!
P: Go in peace and serve the Lord!
C: Thanks be to God!

Farewell & God's Blessings!

I Will Follow

Where You go, I'll go. Where You stay, I'll stay.
When You move, I'll move. I will follow.

All Your ways are good, all Your ways are sure-
I will trust in You alone.
Higher than my sight, high above my life-
I will trust in You alone.

Where You go, I'll go. Where You stay, I'll stay.
When You move, I'll move. I will follow You.
Whom You love, I'll love. How You serve, I'll serve.
If this life I lose, I will follow You, yeah, I will follow You, yeah.

Light into the world, Light into my life-
I will live for You alone.
You're the One I seek, Knowing I will find
All I need in You alone.

Where You go, I'll go. Where You stay, I'll stay.
When You move, I'll move. I will follow You.
Whom You love, I'll love. How You serve, I'll serve.
If this life I lose, I will follow You, yeah, I will follow You, yeah.

In You there's life everlasting, In You there's freedom for my soul,
In You there's joy, unending joy-And I will follow!

Where You go, I'll go. Where You stay, I'll stay.
When You move, I'll move. I will follow You.
Whom You love, I'll love. How You serve, I'll serve.
If this life I lose, I will follow You, yeah, I will follow You, yeah.
I will follow You, yeah,
I will follow You, yeah.