



*The Face of Peace IX*, Pablo Picasso 1950

February 8, 2026

# Reflections

“In receiving the Spirit, we have the whole triune God with us. We are home.”

Dale Bruner

“For most people, nothing awakens feelings of deep terror like the experience of absolute disconnection from others. But in the same way, nothing vitalizes the human spirit like the experience of a loving connection—something that assures us that we are not alone and that we count for something to someone.... The Christian God comes to us with gestures of breathtaking love, hoping to eliminate our fear, not manipulate us through it. And he offers his love as the one thing in the universe capable of making an otherwise hostile cosmos into a friendly home. He offers his love as the one thing in the universe capable of freeing us from our fears.”

David Benner, *Surrender to Love*

“As the sun gives of *itself*—its own light and warmth—in shining on us, so God gives us himself and the blessedness he has always enjoyed. He does so in giving us his Son, and he does so in giving us his Spirit.”

Michael Reeves, *Delighting in the Trinity*

Q. What do you believe concerning “the Holy Spirit”?

A. First, that the Spirit, with the Father and the Son, is eternal God. Second, that the Spirit is given also to me, so that, through true faith, he makes me share in Christ and all his benefits, comforts me, and will remain with me forever.

Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A #53

# Order of Worship

## GATHERING

### ***My Help My God***

Why are you so full of heaviness  
Why are you disquieted within  
Oh my soul oh my soul  
As the deer longs for the water brooks  
So my soul it longs and thirsts for You  
Oh my God oh my God

Put your trust in God I will yet give thanks to Him  
Put your trust in God I will yet give thanks to Him  
Put your trust in God I will yet give thanks to Him  
My Help my God

Deep goes unto deep like ocean waves  
All Your floods and rapids on me break  
Oh my soul oh my soul  
I will say unto my God my strength  
How is it You have forgotten me  
Oh how long oh how long

Yahweh grants His kindness in the day  
Through the night His song it is that stays  
Oh my soul oh my soul

## WELCOME

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;  
break forth, O mountains, into singing!

**For the Lord has comforted his people  
and will have compassion on his afflicted.**

But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me;  
my Lord has forgotten me."

**"Can a woman forget her nursing child,  
that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb?**

Even these may forget,  
yet I will not forget you.

Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands;  
your walls are continually before me."

**Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all the day long.**

from Isaiah 49, Psalm 25

### **Lord's Prayer**

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

### **GATHERING SONG**

#### ***Wonderful Merciful Savior***

Wonderful merciful Savior  
Precious Redeemer and Friend  
Who would have thought that a Lamb could  
Rescue the souls of men  
Oh You rescue the souls of men

You are the One that we praise  
You are the One we adore  
You give the healing and grace our  
Hearts always hunger for  
Oh our hearts always hunger for

Counselor Comforter Keeper  
Spirit we long to embrace  
You offer hope when our hearts have  
Hopelessly lost the way  
Oh we hopelessly lost the way

Almighty infinite Father  
Faithfully loving Your own  
Here in our weakness You find us  
Falling before Your throne  
Oh we're falling before Your throne

### **PRAISE SONG**

#### ***Before the Throne of God Above***

Before the throne of God above,

I have a strong and perfect plea:  
A great High Priest whose name is Love,  
Who ever lives and pleads for me.  
My name is graven on His hands;  
My name is written on His heart;  
I know that while in heav'n He stands,  
No tongue can bid me thence depart;  
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,  
And tells me of the guilt within,  
Upward I look and see Him there  
Who made an end to all my sin.  
Because the sinless Savior died,  
My sinful soul is counted free;  
For God, the Just, is satisfied  
To look on Him and pardon me;  
To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there! The risen Lamb,  
My perfect, spotless Righteousness,  
The great unchangeable I AM,  
The King of glory and of grace!  
One with Himself I cannot die,  
My soul is purchased by His blood:  
My life is hid with Christ on high,  
With Christ, my Savior and my God;  
With Christ, my Savior and my God!

One with Himself I cannot die,  
My soul is purchased by His blood:  
My life is hid with Christ on high,  
With Christ, my Savior and my God;  
With Christ, my Savior and my God!

## **CONFSSION & ASSURANCE**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious and loving God, your Holy Spirit is always with us. You encourage and strengthen us, and you send us out to serve you. Your grace is sufficient for every

need, yet we often doubt your presence. We wonder where you are in all that happens in this world.

We struggle with trusting wholeheartedly in your love, power, and goodness. We fail to keep our hearts centered and our minds focused on the good news of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. Forgive us. Rescue us. Empower us. As your redeemed children, may we seek to do your will to your name's great glory. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

### **SILENT CONFESSION**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”— so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

Galatians 3:13-14

### **RENEWAL SONG**

#### ***It Is Well***

When peace like a river, attendeth my way  
When sorrows like sea billows roll  
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say  
It is well, it is well, with my soul

It is well (it is well)  
With my soul (with my soul)  
It is well, it is well with my soul

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come  
Let this blest assurance control  
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate  
And hath shed His own blood for my soul

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!  
My sin, not in part but the whole  
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, o my soul!

And Lord haste the day when the faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend;

Even so: it is well with my soul!

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **CHILDREN DISMISSED (Both Services)**

## **LIFE TOGETHER**

## **PREACHING OF THE WORD**

**“The Gift that Keeps on Giving”**

**Ethan Smith**

<sup>15</sup> “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, <sup>17</sup> even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

<sup>18</sup> “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” <sup>22</sup> Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?” <sup>23</sup> Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. <sup>24</sup> Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

<sup>25</sup> “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. <sup>28</sup> You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup> And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. <sup>30</sup> I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, <sup>31</sup> but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.”

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon Notes**

**RESPONSE**

**SONG OF RESPONSE**

*Threefold Amen*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**OFFERTORY**

**Nothing to Fear**

When you pass through the waters  
I will be with you  
And the depths of the rivers  
Shall not overwhelm  
When you walk through the fire  
You will not be burned  
I am the Lord I am the Lord

And there is nothing to fear nothing to fear  
There is nothing to fear nothing to fear  
For I am with you always

In the depths of your sorrow  
I wept beside you  
When you walked through the shadow  
I drew you near  
Yesterday today tomorrow  
Always the same  
I am the Lord I am the Lord

What can separate you from my perfect love  
What can separate you from my perfect love

What can separate you from my perfect love

Do not fear  
do not fear  
do not fear

### **DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

### **COMMUNION**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

### **COMMUNION SONG**

#### ***Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart***

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;  
Wean it from earth; through all its pulses move;  
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art;  
And make me love Thee as I ought to love.

I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,  
No sudden rending of the veil of clay,  
No angel vision, no op'ning skies;  
But take the dimness of my soul away.

Teach me to feel that Thou art always nigh;  
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear.  
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh,  
Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

Hast Thou not bid me love Thee, God and King?

All, all Thine own, soul, heart and strength and mind.  
I see Thy cross; there teach me to cling:  
O let me seek Thee, and O let me find!

Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love,  
One holy passion filling all my frame;  
The presence of Thy descended Dove,  
My heart an altar, and Thy love the flame.

## **SENDING**

### **SENDING SONG**

#### ***All Must Be Well***

Through the love of God our Savior,  
All will be well  
Free and changeless is His favor,  
All is well  
Precious is the blood that healed us  
Perfect is the grace that sealed us  
Strong the hand stretched forth to shield us  
All must be well

Though we pass through tribulation,  
All will be well  
Ours is such a full salvation,  
All is well  
Happy still in God confiding  
Fruitful if in Christ abiding  
Steadfast through the Spirit's guiding  
All must be well

We expect a bright tomorrow;  
All will be well  
Faith can sing through days of sorrow,  
All is well  
On our Father's love relying  
Jesus every need supplying  
Yes in living or in dying  
All must be well

**BENEDICTION**

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.”

Numbers 6:24-26

## LIFE TOGETHER

### SERVE

**Speas Gift Bags Donations** - See Looking Up for link to signup: Donate by 5pm.

**WS Jail Worship Service** - Feb. 22: Contact Ethan to register or get more info.

### CHURCH LIFE

**Children's Ministry Assistant** - Position opening. See Looking Up for details.

**Deacon Nominations Open** - Nomination form available in Looking Up and in the back of the Worship Hall.

**Discovering Hope** - Sundays, Jan. 25 - Feb. 22, 10am.

**Family Worship Service** - Feb. 11 5:45pm: Join us for a brief service before dinner.

**First Wednesday Fellowship** - Feb. 11 5:30-7pm: Everyone welcome for free dinner.

**Prayer Service** - Feb. 11 7pm: Join us upstairs in the Adult Ed. Room.

**Ash Wednesday Service** - Feb. 18 6:30pm: Redeemer Church; Signup for childcare.

### PARENTS & CHILDREN

**MS Great Wolf Lodge** - Feb. 13-14. Registration open.

**Summer Conference Registration Now Open** for the Edge and RYM.

**Kids Connection** - *February Verse* - So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 1 John 4:16

## FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF FEBRUARY 3RD, 2025

|                          | Actual<br>to Date | Budget<br>through 2/28 | Difference         |
|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Income</b>            | \$77,725          | \$188,571              | -\$110,846 -58.78% |
| <b>Expense</b>           | \$126,616         | \$267,633              | -\$141,017 -52.69% |
| <b>Surplus (Deficit)</b> | -\$48,892         | -\$79,062              |                    |

**ANNUAL MINISTRY BUDGET: \$1,558,309**

| Making Room<br>for More | Campaign<br>Goal | Campaign<br>Commitments | Gifts<br>Received |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
|                         | \$8.6 million    | \$5,243,302             | \$3,851,115       |