Taizé Prayer

Second Sundays at Grace
5:00 p.m.

Grace Lutheran Church
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In the south of Burgundy, France is a small village called Taizé. This village is hope to a monastic community devoted to prayer and reconciliation, founded in the 1940s by Brother Roger. The community is made up of brothers from all the continents and major denominations who gather together three times a day, seven days a week, throughout the year to pray (whether there are 7000 young people present or only twenty brothers).

While many people make pilgrimages to Taizé to experience the community and prayer life, most experience Taizé through the ways that community comes to us, namely by the characteristics it has contributed to Christian worship practices. While Taizé worship as practiced in the monastic community cannot be simply imitated, it can and has been adapted by many Christian communities in the United States.

Repetitive Sung Prayer
The characteristic of Taizé worship that is most familiar the use of a kind of repetitive prayer set to simple musical lines. Repetition is not a new phenomenon nor unique to Taizé. The use of repetitive prayers is a long attested reality in the history of Christian spirituality and liturgy (for example, in the Jesus Prayer and the Rosary). What is unique to the prayer of Taizé is the adaptation of the repetitive form to simple musical lines and core biblical texts that can be sung by a whole assembly of various nationalities, languages, and denominations. A diverse assembly is able to immerse itself in the simple but profound harmonies and let itself be carried by this sung prayer.

Silence
Another characteristic of Taizé worship that has been a welcome gift to Lutheran worship is its generous use of silence. Those simply incorporating Taizé music into regular worship services may not experience this fully, but when planning an entire worship service in the style of Taize, silence will be an important dimension. Like repetition, the use of silence in worship has a rich history that many modern Christians no longer experience. It is not necessary to fill every moment with words or music, and it can be meaningful to have time to pray silently in the presence of others, or simply to sit (or kneel) in the presence of God.

Note: This bulletin is available electronically on the worship menu of the Grace web site. Large-print bulletins are available.
Welcome

Welcome to Second Sunday Taizé Prayer at Grace Lutheran Church. We’re glad you have joined us! Since this is intended to be a service of contemplative prayer, only a brief spoken welcome will be made, and no instructions will be given during the service. Each numbered piece of the service will follow immediately upon the one before. The service includes two periods of silence, one brief and one extended. The extended silence will last for about 7 minutes. That will seem like a long time if you’re not used to it. You are welcome to use this silence as you see fit, whether in thought, prayer, meditation, or nothing at all. There are kneelers in each pew that you are welcome to use at any time during the service.

1. Venite, exultemus Domino

(Translation: “Come, let us praise the Lord, come, let us worship.”)
2. With You, O Lord

With you, O Lord, is life in all its fullness, and in your light we shall see true light.

3. The Kingdom of God

The kingdom of God is justice and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Come, Lord, and open in us the gates of your kingdom.
4. Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

12 As God’s chosen ones, set apart and unconditionally loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. 13 Bear with one another. If anyone has a complaint against another, be gracious to each other, just as the Lord has been gracious with you. 14 As the final garment, which completes and unifies the whole ensemble, put on unconditional love for one another. 15 And let the peace of the Messiah govern your inner life, to which you were all called as a single body. Be thankful for that! 16 Let the word of the Messiah dwell in you richly. Teach and correct one another wisely. And out of the gratitude that is deep within you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. 17 Whatever you do, in your speech or in your actions, do everything in the context of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

5. Brief Spoken Meditation on the Reading

6. Brief Silence

7. Where True Charity

8. Extended Silence

9. Misericordias Domini

(Translation: “I will sing the mercies of the Lord forever.”)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. R

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise. For the health of the creation, for abundant harvests that all may share, and for peaceful times; For public servants, the government, and those who protect us, for those who work to bring peace, justice, healing, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord. R

For those who travel, for those who are sick and suffering, and for those who are in captivity. For deliverance in the time of affliction, wrath, danger, and need. For Elizabeth and John our bishops, for all servants of the church, for this assembly, and for all people who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord. R

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. R
11. The Lord’s Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Blessing

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The almighty and merciful Lord,

the Father, the +Son, and the Holy Spirit,

bless and preserve us.

Amen.
12. It Is Good To Trust In The Lord


13. Bless the Lord


Thank you for sharing this time with us.

May God be gracious to you and bless you.