Taizé Prayer

Second Sundays at Grace
5:00 p.m.

May 10, 2020

Grace Lutheran Church
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About Taizé Prayer
Adapted from elca.org

In the south of Burgundy, France is a small village called Taizé. This village is home 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 Taizé, 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.
Welcome

We’re glad you’ve joined us for Second Sunday Taizé Prayer at Grace Lutheran Church! Worshiping remotely via, Live-streamed service is of course not the same as worshiping in person. But there are a few things you can do at home to enhance the experience. First, before the service begins decide to prepare yourself for worship by finding a suitable space. Turn off the television, radio, and stereo. Tune in ahead of time so that you are settled by the time the service begins. We will have the live-stream up at least ten minutes before the start of the service.

Dedicate this time to the service as you would if you were attending in person. Even if our gatherings are only “virtual,” we can be confident that God is truly in our midst when we gather in Christ’s name.

Since this is a contemplative service, no instructions will be given during the service. Each section 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 7-9 minutes. You are welcome to use this silence as you see fit: in thought, prayer, or nothing at all.

1. Come and Fill our Hearts (English)

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: Romans 12:9-21

9 Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; 10 love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. 18 If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” 20 No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

5. Brief Spoken Meditation on the Reading: Community

6. Brief Silence
7. Ubi Caritas (Latin)

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
Where true char - i - ty and love a - bide,

u - bi ca - ri - tas, De - us i - bi est.
God is dwell - ing there; God is dwell - ing there.

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8. Extended Silence

9. Misericordias Domini

Mi-se - ri - cor-di - as Do - mi - ni in ae - ter-num can - ta - bo.


(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.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we

forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the pow’r,

and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

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.
3. In the Lord (English)

In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful, in the Lord I will rejoice! Look to God, do not be afraid. Lift up your voices, the Lord is near; lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

Thank you for sharing this time with us.

May God be gracious to you and bless you.