

## **Closing Worship**

### **Call to Worship**

**Voice 1:** Come, let us worship God.

**Voice 2:** Through the love of Christ, we come before God in confidence and hope.

**Voice 1:** Let us praise God.

**Voice 3:** There is no other Holy One like God, there is no one besides our God.

**Voice 4:** There is no other Rock like our God, who set the world on its pillars.

**Voice 2:** Our God will guard the feet of God's faithful ones and will raise up the poor to places of honor.

**Voice 3:** Through the love of Christ, we come before God in confidence and hope.

**Voice 1:** Let us praise Jesus the Christ.

**Voice 4:** Jesus has redeemed us as God's children through his own flesh and blood.

**Voice 2:** Jesus has called us to lives of love and good deeds to our neighbor.

**Voice 3:** Jesus promises to be with us as we encourage one another and build up the Body of Christ.

**Voice 4:** Through the love of Christ, we come before God in confidence and hope.

**Voice 1:** Our God, who has promised us, is faithful. Therefore, let us worship, holding fast to our hope without wavering.

**Gospel:** Mark 13:1-8

### **The Destruction of the Temple Foretold**

**13** As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" <sup>2</sup> Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down."

<sup>3</sup> When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, <sup>4</sup> "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?" <sup>5</sup> Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. <sup>6</sup> Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' <sup>[a]</sup> and they will lead many astray. <sup>7</sup> When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. <sup>8</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

## **Homily**

### **Litany**

**Voice 1:** People of God, celebrate the gifts that enrich our lives and give us hope!

**Voice 2:** Breath and food,

**Voice 3:** caring people and gentle words,

**Voice 4:** music and colors.

**All: We praise God for knowing what we need and for giving even before we ask.**

**Voice 1:** Many of God's gifts surprise us:

**Voice 2:** The hug of a child,

**Voice 3:** words of encouragement,

**Voice 4:** bright colored blooms from gray buds.

**All: We praise God for knowing what we need and for giving even before we ask.**

**Voice 1:** Many of God's gifts fulfill us:

**Voice 2:** New vocational opportunities,

**Voice 3:** courage to stand up for justice,

**Voice 4:** words that say, "I love you."

**All: We praise God for knowing what we need and for giving even before we ask.**

**Voice 1:** Many of God's gifts change us so that we can bring hope in despair:

**Voice 2:** When the world turns on its head,

**Voice 3:** when there is bias and bigotry,

**Voice 4:** when violence and war cause people to live in fear,

**Voice 2:** when our own streets aren't safe,

**Voice 3:** our cities are food deserts,

**Voice 4:** when mountains are soiled and eroded,

**All: We lose sleep because we don't know what to do.**

**Voice 1:** Yet God calls us and uniquely equips us to be agents of change.

**Voice 2:** We thank God for reaching out to us,

**Voice 3:** touching and caring,

**Voice 4:** loving and giving, even as we hear of wars, disasters, and violence.

**All: Help us, O God, to reach out to others, to touch the lonely, to care for those who are troubled, to live with all in joy, hope and peace. Amen.**

**Closing Words – Benediction:** The Rev. William Worley