Opening Invitation:

To all who are weary and need rest;

To all who mourn and long for comfort;

To all who feel worthless and wonder if God even cares;

To all who are weak and fail and desire strength;

To all who sin and need a Savior —

This church opens wide her doors with a welcome from Jesus,

the mighty friend of sinners,

the ally of his enemies,

the defender of the indefensible,

the justifier of those who have no excuses left...

[Prayer]

Call to Worship:

"Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?

The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

Who is he, this King of glory?

The LORD Almighty—he is the King of glory. - Psalm 24:7-10

[Song: Lion & The Lamb]

Confession:

[Song: Holy]

When we come into the holy presence of God, our own humanity is laid bare.

When we stand in the living presence of truth, our own falsehood is revealed.

People of God, let us acknowledge who we are and ask our ever-present God to forgive us.

[Take some time to confess your sins before God.]

Jesus said these words of assurance:

"All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out."

- John 6:37

Assurance Of Pardon:

[Song: Jesus I Come]

When we come to Jesus, our lives are changed. Read this gospel promise:

"We are here to proclaim that through Jesus there is forgiveness for our sins. Everyone who believes in him is made right in God's sight. – from Acts 13:38-39a

Passing Of The Peace:

And since we've been made right with God, we can now have peace with each other. Let's take a few moments to **digitally** welcome each other as God has welcomed us. Send each other a text message, call someone up, use cool apps like Marco Polo to reach out and extend a digital hand of welcome to them.

Giving Of The Word: Mark 14:53-72

Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire. ⁵⁵ Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. ⁵⁶ For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. ⁵⁷ And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, ⁵⁸ "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" ⁵⁹ Yet even about this their testimony did not agree. ⁶⁰ And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" ⁶¹ But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" ⁶² And Jesus said, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." ⁶³ And the high priest tore his garments and said, "What further witnesses do we need? ⁶⁴ You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?" And they all condemned him as deserving death. ⁶⁵ And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophesy!" And the guards received him with blows.

⁶⁶ And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, ⁶⁷ and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, "You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus." ⁶⁸ But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you mean." And he went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed. ⁶⁹ And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." ⁷⁰ But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean." ⁷¹ But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know this man of whom you speak." ⁷² And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

[Song: Is He Worthy?]

[Song: King Of Kings]

Benediction:

"Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever Amen." – *Jude 24-25*