August 2, 2026

Opening Scripture

Psalm 100

Shout triumphantly to the Lord, all the earth!
Serve the Lord with celebration!
Come before him with shouts of joy!
Know that the Lord is God—
he made us; we belong to him.
We are his people,
the sheep of his own pasture.
Enter his gates with thanks;
enter his courtyards with praise!
Thank him! Bless his name!
Because the Lord is good,
his loyal love lasts forever;
his faithfulness lasts generation after generation.

Call to Worship

One: Let us remember those gone before, whose souls are in the hands of God.

Many: In the eyes of fools, they seem to have died and are gone; in the eyes of sages, they are always with us.

One: In the eyes of fools their death was destruction; in the minds of sages, transformation.

Many: They were embattled; they are at peace. They were fatigued; they are at rest.

One: They were distressed; they are at ease. They were alone; they are one with God.

Many: In life they struggled with their own mortality; in death they yield to immortality.

One: In life they dimmed, their bodies tarnished; in death they shine, their spirits burnished.

Many: Like gold in the furnace, they were tried and tested; like gold in a wheat field, they reached the harvest.

One: Yes, let us remember those gone before,

All: Whose souls are in the hands of God, where suffering and pain will never touch them. AMEN.

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

O God, this earth is yours in all its fullness, this world and all who dwell in it, for you are its Creator, its father and mother; you O God, are its life and sustainer. So who shall dare to ascend the mountain and meet with you face to face? And who shall stand in your holy place, where bushes burn and are not consumed? We enter before you in grace, and shall dare as others have dared. We stand as others have stood. We dare because we trust you, and we shall stand because we love you. AMEN.