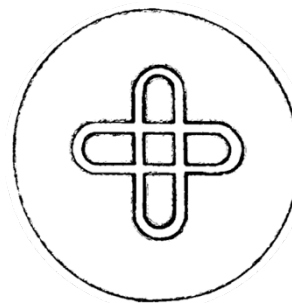


St Mark Lutheran Church

Service of Holy Communion



Welcome to this divine service of worship!

Plain font indicates portions of the liturgy shared by worship leaders.

Bold font indicates portions of the liturgy shared by the congregation.

The obelisk (†) invites the congregation to stand as it is able.

The double obelisk (‡) invites the congregation to kneel or sit as it is able.

July 12, 2026: Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

9:00am & 11:00am

Prelude: *24 Pieces en Style Libre*

Louis Vierne

Preparation for Worship

God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

†Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

‡ Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

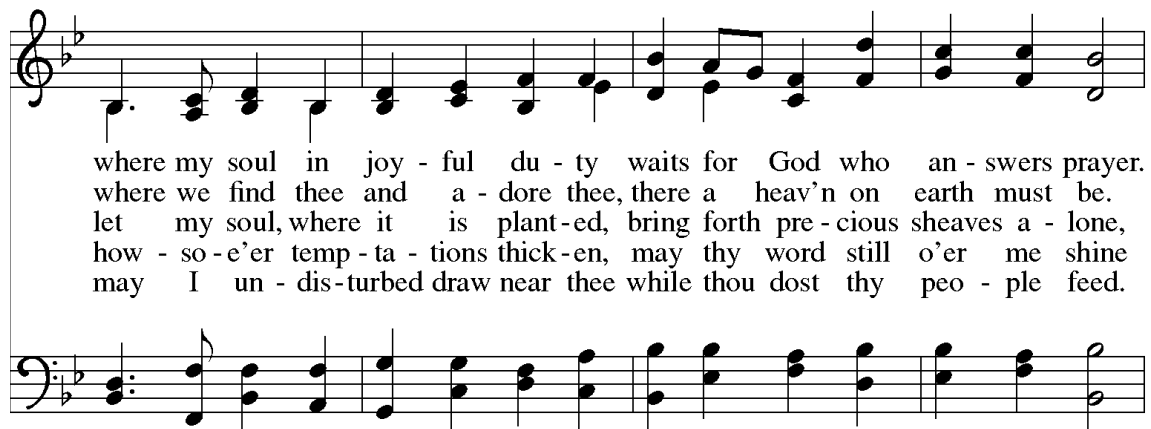
†Hymn: *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672-1737

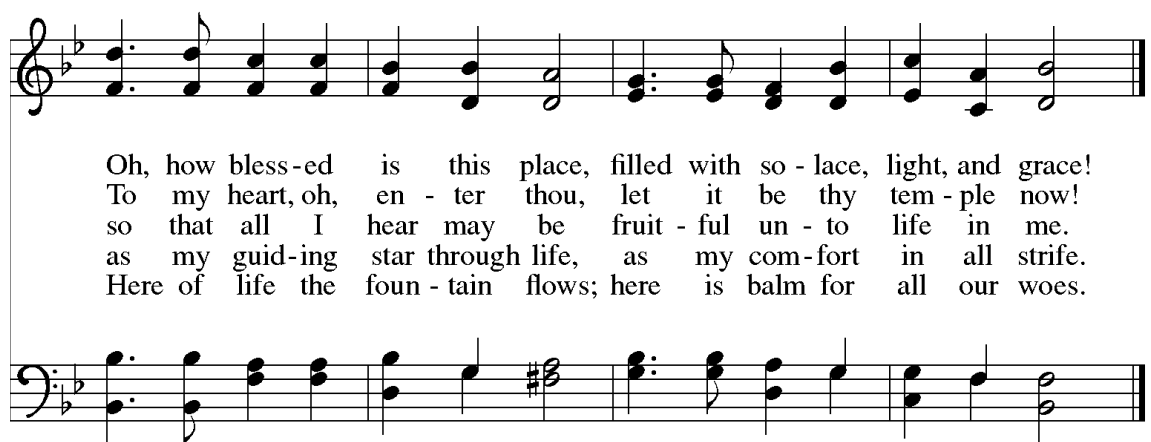
Tune: UNSER HERRSCHER, Joachim Neander, 1650-1680



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
 3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant-ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
 4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick-en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
 where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
 let my soul, where it is plant-ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
 how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick-en, may thy word still o'er me shine
 may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless-ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
 To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
 so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
 as my guid-ing star through life, as my com-fort in all strife.
 Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

†Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

†Gloria

Refrain



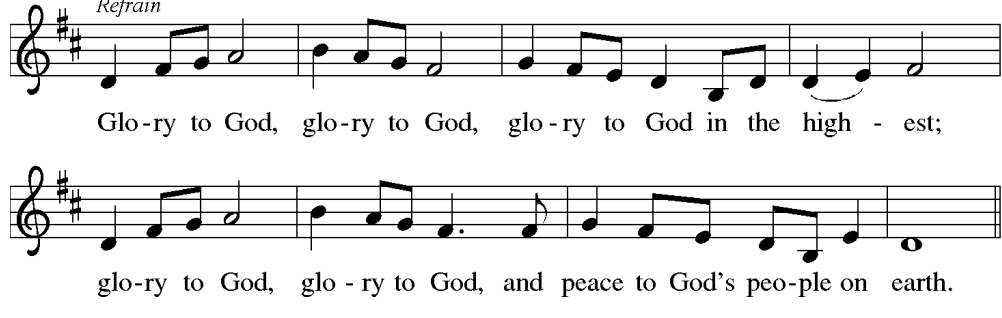
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



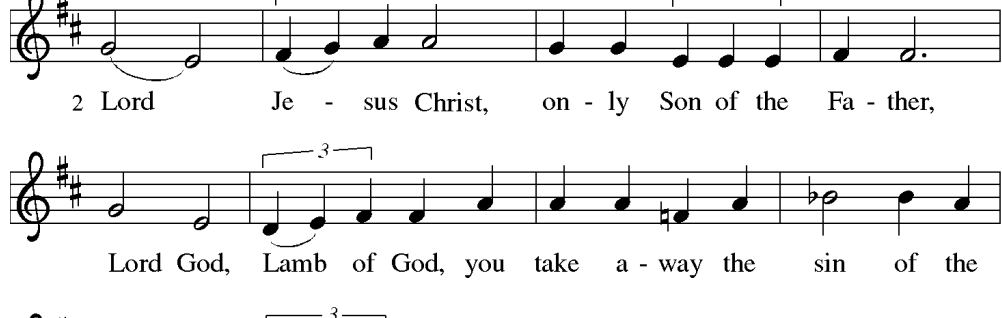
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

3 For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spir-it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Final refrain

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on

earth, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

†Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word Made Flesh. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive Christ with joy, live according to your gospel, and grow in faith, hope and love, through the same Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

First Reading: *Genesis 25:19-34*

A reading from Genesis:

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife because she was barren, and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her, and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other; the elder shall serve the younger."

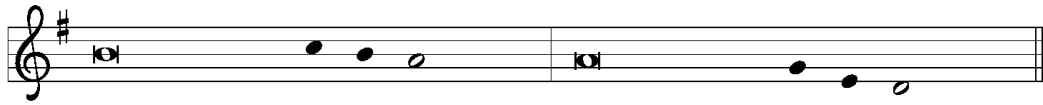
When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle, so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel, so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau because he was fond of game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody: *Psalm 119:105-112*



Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light up- | on my path.
I have sworn and am determined to keep your | righteous judgments.
I am | deeply troubled;
preserve my life, O LORD, according | to your word.

**Accept, O LORD, the willing tribute | of my lips,
and teach | me your judgments.
My life is al- | ways in danger,
yet I do not for- | get your teaching.**

The wicked have set a | trap for me,
but I have not strayed from | your commandments.

**Your decrees are my inheri- | tance forever;
truly, they are the joy | of my heart.
I have applied my heart to ful- | fill your statutes
forever and | to the end.**

Second Reading: *Romans 8:1-11*

A reading from Romans:

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

†Gospel Acclamation



†Gospel: *Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23*

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. If you have ears, hear!"

[And Jesus taught them:] "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

†Hymn: *He Comes to Us as One Unknown*

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b 1926

Tune: REPTON, C Hubert H Parry, 1848-1918



- 1 He comes to us as one un-known, a breath un - seen, un -
- 2 He comes when souls in si - lence lie and thoughts of day de -
- 3 He comes to us in sound of seas, the o - cean's fume and
- 4 He comes in love as once he came by flesh and blood and
- 5 He comes in truth when faith is grown; be - lieved, o - beyed, a -



heard; as though with - in a heart of stone, or shriv - eled seed in
part; half - seen up - on the in - ward eye, a fall - ing star a -
foam; yet small and still up - on the breeze, a wind that stirs the
birth; to bear with - in our mor - tal frame a life, a death, a
dored; the Christ in all the scrip - tures shown, as yet un - seen, but



dark - ness sown, a pulse of be - ing stirred, a pulse of be - ing stirred.
cross the sky of night with - in the heart, of night with - in the heart.
tops of trees, a voice to call us home, a voice to call us home.
sav - ing name, for ev - 'ry child of earth, for ev - 'ry child of earth.
not un - known, our Sav - ior and our Lord, our Sav - ior and our Lord.

†Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**
**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

#Prayers of Intercession

Trusting God's steadfast love for all that is made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

God our gardener, you scatter grace like seed across the world. Continue to cultivate the garden of your church with your abundant Spirit. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our joy, your bountiful creation reflects your commitment to life despite our actions disregarding its wonder. We look toward the prophetic vision, when all creation rejoices, and the trees will clap for joy at your salvation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our life, you give us the same Holy Spirit by which you raised Christ from the dead. Set our minds on your Spirit whenever fear or condemnation overwhelm throughout the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our host and table, we pray for children who hunger and rely on school meals, for all who toil under the hot sun without refreshment, for chronically ill neighbors who have exhausted their resources, and for local concerns. Be gentle with all whom we remember aloud on our lips and silently in our hearts including.... God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our source, tend this congregation under the name of St Mark with your grace throughout our summer season. May those who travel for work or recreation do so safely, and may visitors find refreshment among us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks that the roots of your goodness run deep throughout history. With love and affection, we remember and respect those saints who have gone before us in faith. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus. **Amen.***

†Peace and Offering Prayer

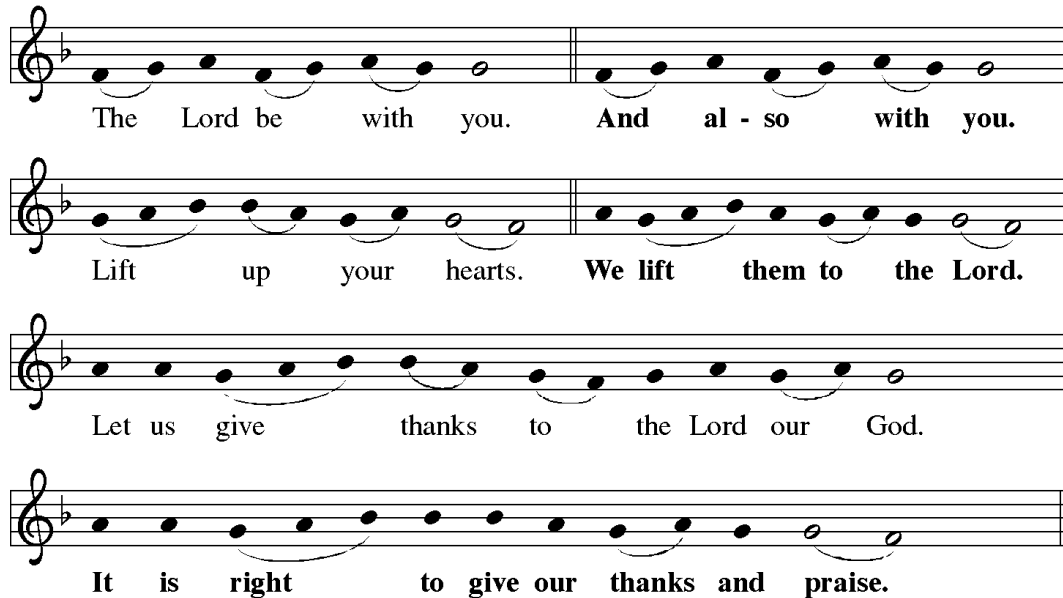
The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Our offering is given for the mission of the church, and caring for those in need. Offerings may be shared in the plates at the doors of the sanctuary or online by using this QR code with your smart device. As partners in ministry, we thank God for our shared commitment!

Musical notation for the Offering Prayer, consisting of six staves of music in G major (one sharp). The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

†Great Thanksgiving (*Dialogue, Preface, Sanctus, Eucharistic and Lord's Prayers*)



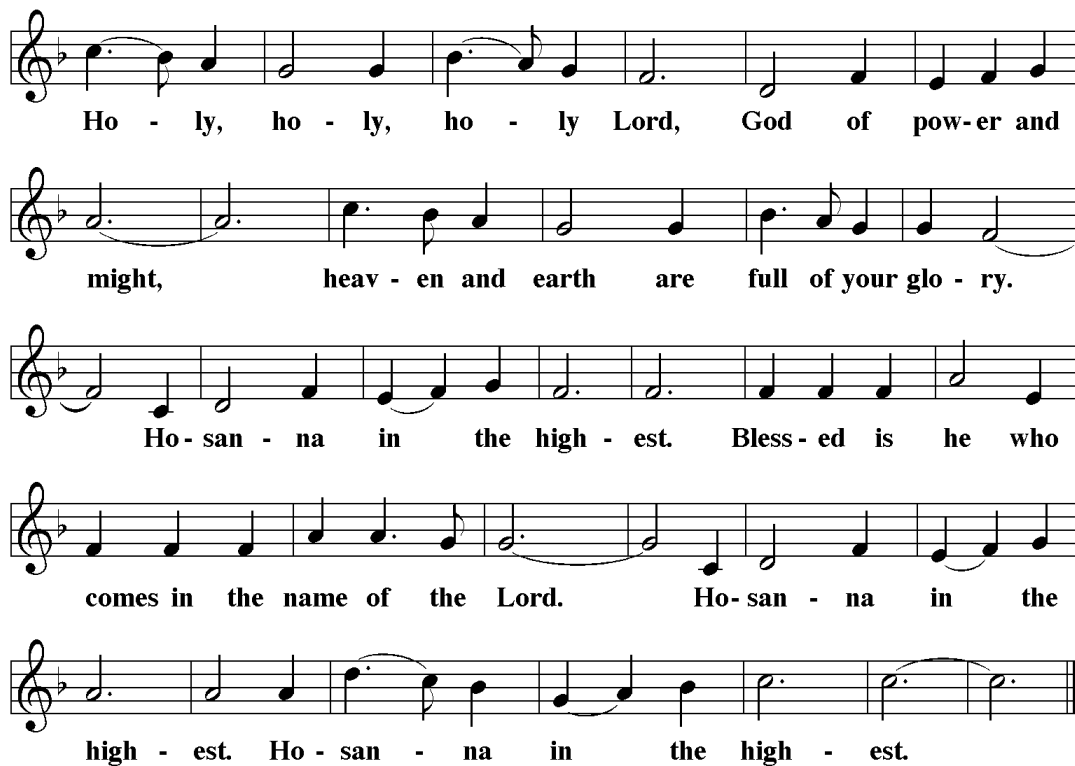
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and

might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

From the beginning, Good God,
your Voice has called creation,
your Breath has blessed the waters,
your Word has spurred us to trust your Holy Spirit,
our comforter, advocate and guide.

By your goodness, O Promised Holy Spirit, we remember our Lord Jesus Christ,
who, in the night in which he was betrayed, took bread, gave thanks,
broke it and gave it for them to eat, saying, "Take and eat, this is my body
given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for them to drink, saying,
"Take and drink, this cup is the new testament in my blood, shed for you
and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering Christ's life, death, resurrection and ascension, we recall his word
that God is Spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.

Come, Holy Spirit, on these gifts of bread and wine
that we may receive Jesus' body and blood in, with and under them;
and with sighs too deep for words intercede for us to the mercy of Our Father
to whom, with you, is all honor and glory through, with and in Christ:
One God, in your holy Church both now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

†Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good. **Thanks be to God.**

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion — *please see back cover for a note on receiving Holy Communion.*

Communion Music: *O Trinity, O Blessed Light*

Robert Farlee

†Post Communion Blessing & Prayer

The body & blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you & keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has
done. Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and lead us forth in
joy with shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

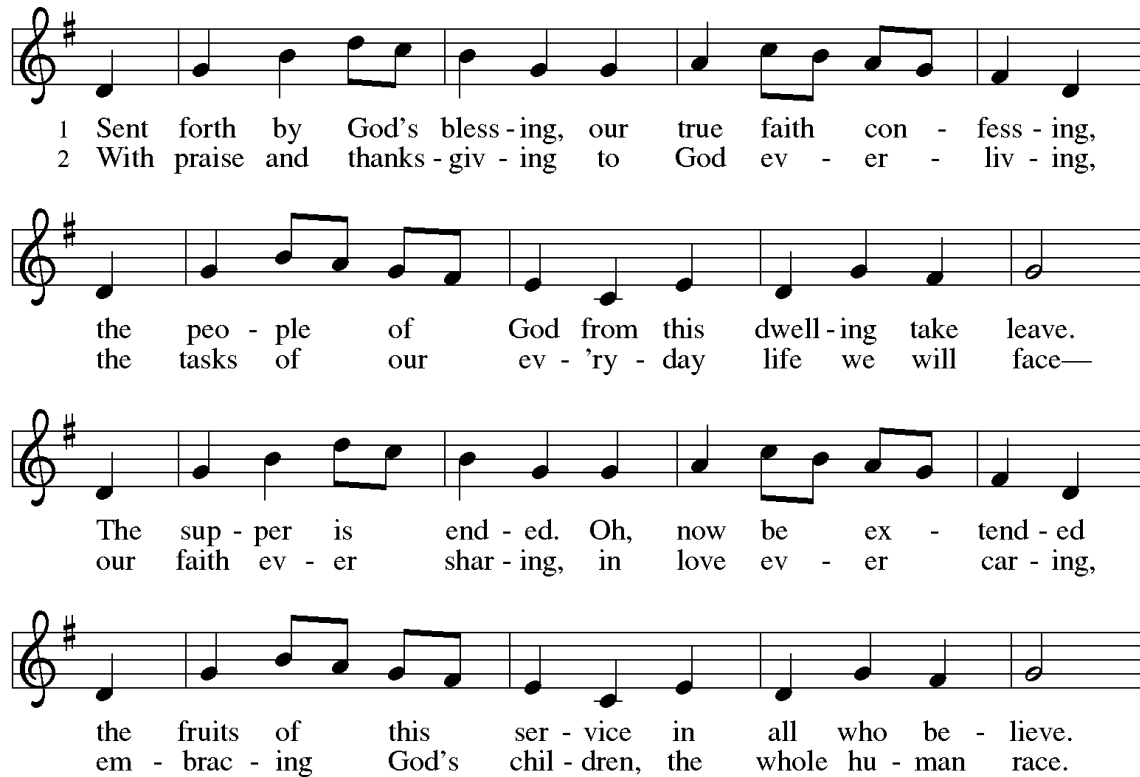
†Benediction

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD smile on you and be gracious unto you;
the LORD look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

†Hymn: *Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997

Tune: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune



1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, our true faith con-fess-ing,
2 With praise and thanks-giv-ing to God ev-er-liv-ing,
the peo-ple of our God from this dwell-ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev-'ry-day life we will face—
The sup-per is end-ed. Oh, now be ex-tend-ed
our faith ev-er shar-ing, in love ev-er car-ing,
the fruits of this ser-vice in all who be-lieve.
em-brac-ing God's chil-dren, the whole hu-man race.

continued →

The seed of Christ's teach-ing, re-cep-tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now

reach-ing, shall blos-som in ac-tion for God and for all.
lead us; u-nite us as one in this life that we share.

Your grace shall in-cite us, your love shall u-nite us
Then may all the liv-ing with praise and thanks-giv-ing

to work for your king-dom and an-swer your call.
give hon-or to Christ and his name that we bear.

†Dismissal — *from Romans 12:1-2*

I urge you, kindred, by God's mercies: Be not conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: *God of Our Life, All-Glorious Lord*

Barbara Harbach

A Note on Receiving Holy Communion

Believing in the real presence of Christ, we practice eucharistic hospitality. We invite all baptized Christians to receive Christ's body and blood; all are welcome to receive God's blessing. We trust "a person who has faith in these words, 'given for you' and 'shed for you for the forgiveness of sin,' is really worthy and well prepared" to receive this sacrament.

We share Christ's body and blood in bread and wine. After washing hands, our pastor dips the host in the cup to offer the bread and wine together; for the host without wine, please ask the pastor or lay a hand on your chest. Christ is fully present in each of the elements.

Communicants come forward to the feast in continuous procession. Christ is for you.

PJ's reflections on the Gospel

It's always Jesus: Jesus is the seed
who, mentioned first in Genesis, indeed
is sown upon all varied soils of earth
with hope to harvest; hope to meet the need
of cramp-crimped bellies; hope to bring to birth—
from one sole victory among our dearth
of victories, where beak and heat and weed
but peck and burn and choke— that grain of worth,
which never seems to be as gardenized as
it maybe ought to be, but nonetheless
refuses to be anything but good:
that grain of worth is love as Jesus has
grown ripe with it, a harvest grown to bless
with life who couldn't grow where Jesus could.

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