

St Mark Lutheran Church

Uniting in Worship + Growing in Wisdom + Serving in Love: to embrace all in response to God.

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, and the double obelisk (‡) to sit or kneel, as it is able.

September 13, 2026: Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00am & 11:00am

Prelude: *Variations on Westminster Abbey*

Mary Bennett

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: *Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death*

Text: F Bland Tucker, 1895-1984

Tune: AZMON, Carl G Gläser, 1784-1829

1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,
4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.

so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a clear cadence at the end of each line. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with line numbers 1 through 5 corresponding to the first system. The second system continues the lyrics. The score is presented in a clean, black-and-white format.

†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



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



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.



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.



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.

†Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

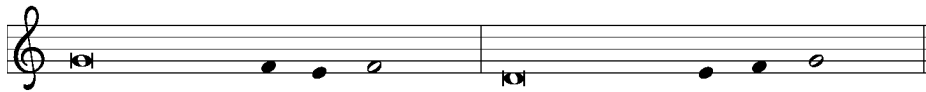
First Reading: *Genesis 50:15-21*

A reading from Genesis:

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God worked it over for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

Psalmody: *Psalms 103:8-13*



LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;
you will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.

**You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.
For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.**

As far as the east is | from the west,
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.

**As a father has compassion | for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD.**

Second Reading: *Romans 14:1-12*

A reading from Romans:

Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

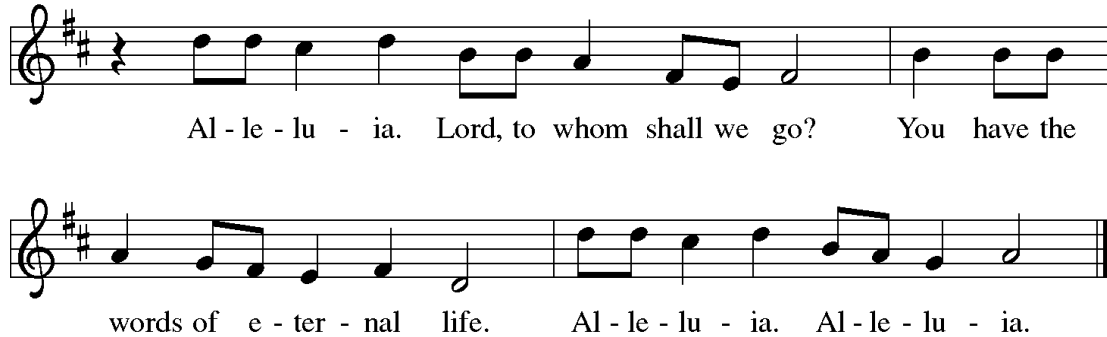
For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

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

†Gospel Acclamation



†Gospel: *Matthew 18:21-35*

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

Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

Sermon

Pastor Tina Toburen
Virginia Synod Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

†Hymn: ***In Christ There Is No East or West***

Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941

Tune: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt Harry T Burleigh, 1866-1949

The musical score is written for a four-part vocal choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It consists of two systems of music. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the final three lines. The melody is primarily in the Soprano part, with the other voices providing harmonic support. The piano accompaniment is in the right hand, with the left hand providing a steady bass line. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com - mu - nion find;
3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;

but one com - mu - ni - ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser - vice is the gold - en cord close bind - ing hu - man-kind.
All chil-dren of the liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

†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

Reminded of God's gracious & abundant love, we sit or kneel to offer our prayers, confident God hears us.

Move your church in all the world away from judging and despising others. Lead us to use forgiveness as you have forgiven us in Jesus. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creation's beauty reflects your mercy. Protect those who care for farms and ranches. Guide our caretakers to admire your creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Let truth and justice hold all in authority accountable for any misuse of the power entrusted to them. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Let your gospel calm our fears. Compassionately free the lives of any who feel bound by failure. Remember us in our need. Be gentle with all whom we remember aloud on our lips and silently in our hearts including.... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Ground this congregation of St Mark in the forgiveness you show us by grace. Inspire us all to welcome others for your honor and glory. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With you is found the joy and promise of eternal life. Keep us in that joy as we remember all those who have gone before us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you understand us to need. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

†Peace and Offering Prayer

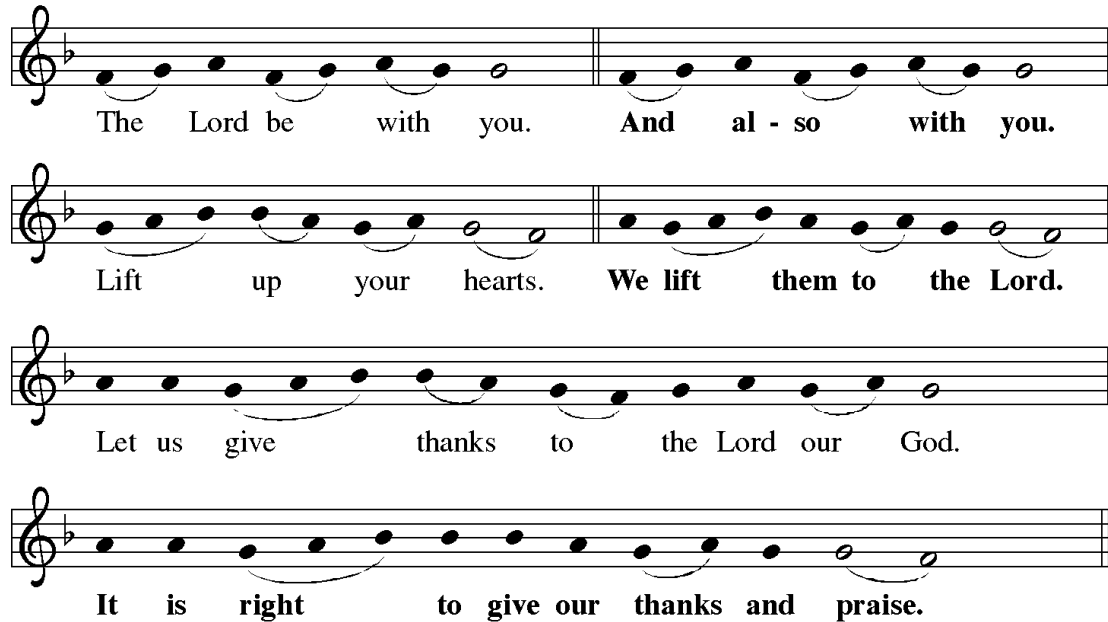
The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

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!

A musical score for a hymn, consisting of five 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 the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, 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.

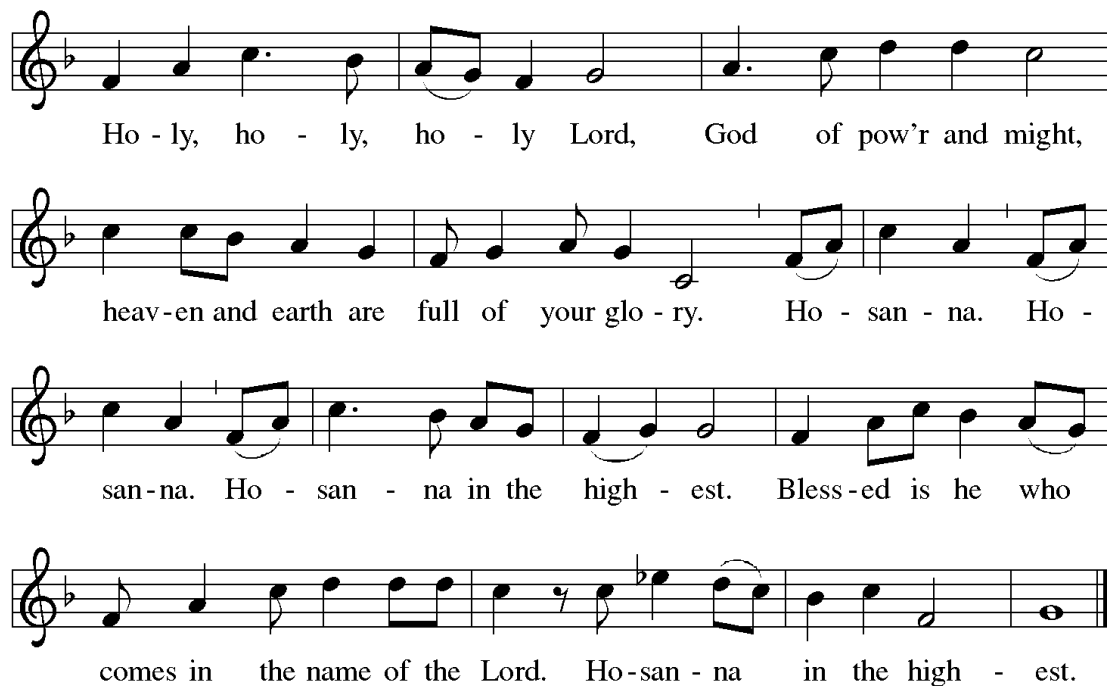
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff has a double bar line in the middle. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables across notes.

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'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables across notes. The final staff ends with a double bar line.

Poets have held this truth to be self-evident,
that all peoples are created equals, endowed by you, Nature's God, our Creator,
with unalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.
Your covenant people have long blessed you,
O Lord our God, Sovereign of the Universe,
who creates the fruit of the vine and who draws forth bread from the land.
So also has your gospel revealed that you are worthy, our Lord and God,
to hold glory and honor and power, for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created.

Still and ever your Messiah teaches your most creative love for a new creation
as, in the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus 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 Jesus' life, death, resurrection and ascension,
we pray to hear our Savior say, "See, I am making all things new!"
Come, Creator Christ.

Descend, O dove of Sacred Spirit, on these gifts of bread and wine
that we may receive Jesus' body and blood in, with and under them.
Come, Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of life.

Join our thanks with that of rock and water, breeze and beast, plant and planet
to honor and glorify Our Father through, with and in Christ, in unity with you:
One God, our Creator, in your holy Church both now and forever. **Amen.**

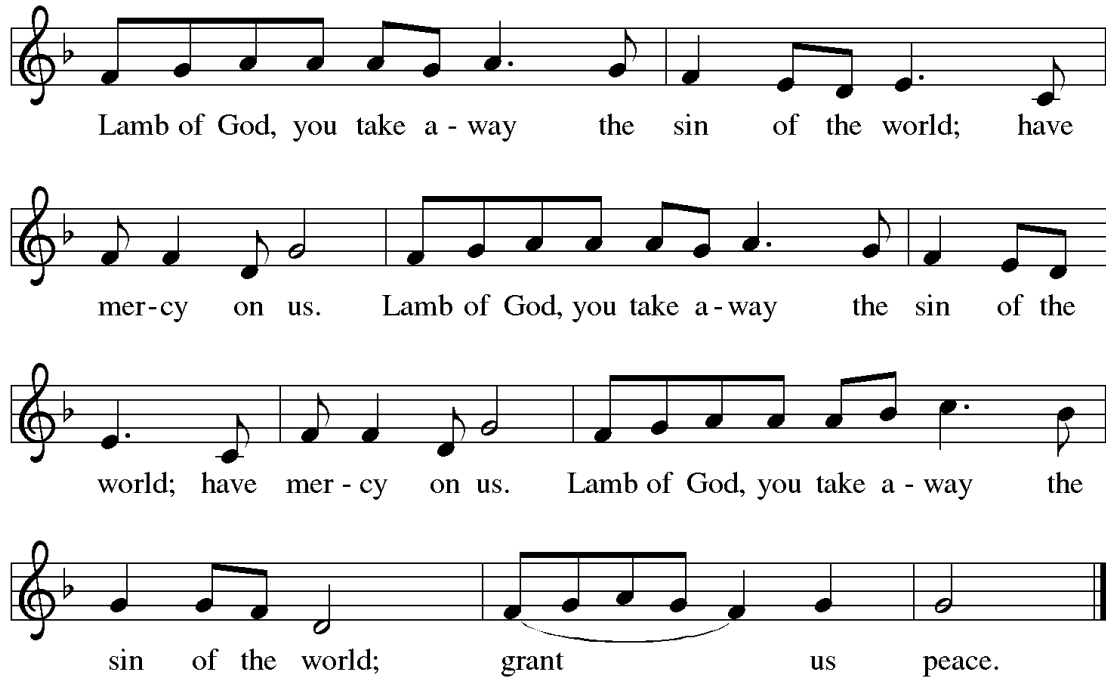
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.

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

Communion Music: *Ubi Caritas*

Victor Johnson

†Post Communion Blessing

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

†Nunc Dimittis



Lord, now you let your ser-vant go in peace; your word has been ful-filled.

My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the

sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re-veal you to the

na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Glo-ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir - it,

as it was in the be-gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men

†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: *In Thee is Gladness*

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549-1631
Tune: IN DIR IST FREUDE, Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, 1556-1622



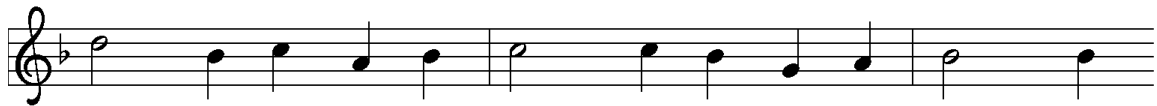
1 In thee is glad-ness a-mid all sad-ness, Je-sus, sun-shine of my
2 Je-sus is ours! . . We fear no pow-ers, not of earth or sin or



heart. By thee are giv-en the gifts of heav-en, thou the
death. He sees and bless-es in worst dis-tress-es; he can



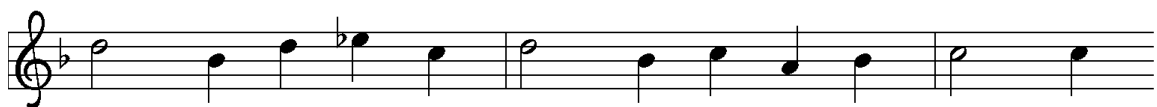
true re-deem-er art. Our souls thou wak-est; our bonds thou
change them with a breath. Where-fore the sto-ry tell of his



break-est. Who trusts thee sure-ly has built se-cure-ly
glo-ry with heart and voic-es; all heav'n re-joic-es



and stands for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! Our hearts are
in him for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! We shout for



pin-ing to see thy shin-ing, dy-ing or liv-ing,
glad-ness, tri-umph o'er sad-ness, love him and praise him



to thee are cleav-ing; naught can us sev-er: Al-le-lu-ia!
and still shall raise him glad hymns for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia!

†**Dismissal** — *from Acts 20:32*

And now, I give you into the care of God and the word of God's grace, which is able to make you strong and to give you your heritage among all the saints. Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: *Toccata in E Minor*

Johannes Pachelbel

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 cleansing 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

Compare God's heaven to a king whose grace
impressively forgives a man's mad debts—
but when that man will not himself embrace
his kith with mercy, soon the king forgets
he'd previously pardoned him and frets
the fool to pay for re-remembered sin.
Then how is heaven like this king who lets
his gift of grace be taken back again?
Forgiveness cannot be reneged or when
God says that I'm forgiven I won't trust
it keeps. But God, forgive me when I'm in
worse shape tomorrows than today's and just
you count the ways grace crowns me to adore
you seventy times seven times and more.

St Mark Lutheran Church in Yorktown, Virginia is located on the historic lands of the Powhatan Confederacy (Tsenacommacah) and its ancestral peoples; we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have dwelled here and who continue to call this land their home.

St Mark Lutheran Church
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Director of Music: Seung-Hye Kim / music@smlconline.org
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