

South Carolina Synod Assembly

Service of Holy Communion

ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

June 12, 2022

I Love  
to Tell  
the STORY

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South Carolina Synod  
Assembly 2022

**SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2022**  
“I Love To Tell The Story”

**PRELUDE**

Beautiful River — English Handbell Choir  
Selections — Charlestowne Brass

**WELCOME**

The Rev. Rebecca Wicker

*The assembly stands and turns to face the cross.*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

Merciful God, hear our stories of joyfulness, hope, brokenness, and sin; and send your Holy Spirit to help us live more fully into the story you made us a part of through baptism. Help us to remember how your story and our story are connected, and give us strength to be the people you formed us to be.

**Amen**

Holy God, we confess that;

We have turned away from you, and have turned toward what is easy and comfortable.

**This is our story.**

We have walked past those who are poor and needy and offered no help.

**This is our story.**

We have ignored people who are different from us, as well as people the world deems undesirable.

**This is our story.**

We have not loved you with our whole hearts, and we have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves.

**This is our story.**

But, Your love for your people is so great that you gave your Son, Jesus, to die for us.

**This is our story.**

Your love for your people is so great that you destroyed the power that death held over us all.

**This is our story.**

Your love for your people is so great that you have sent your Spirit upon us so that we might live a life that is abundant.

**This is our story. Forgive us and give us grace to live into the story you have set before us.**

**Amen**

Siblings in Christ, you have been made a part of God’s story. You are a member of God’s family. You are greatly loved, and for Jesus’ sake God forgives you all of your 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**



1 O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to-day  
 2 The flow'r of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly die,  
 3 Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we bring,



and sing the love a-maz-ing that songs can-not re-pay;  
 its frag-ile bloom sur-ren-der to you, the Lord most high;  
 that we who know your fa-vor may serve you as our King;



for we can on-ly won-der at ev-'ry gift you send,  
 but hid-den from all na-ture the e-ter-nal seed is sown-  
 and wheth-er our to-mor-rows be filled with good or ill,



at bless-ings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with-out end:  
 though small in mor-tal stat-ure, to heav-en's gar-den grown:  
 we'll tri-umph through our sor-rows and rise to bless you still:



we lift our hearts be-fore you and wait up-on your word,  
 for Christ, your gift from heav-en, from death has set us free,  
 to mar-vel at your beau-ty and glo-ry in your ways,



we hon-or and a-dore you, our great and might-y Lord.  
 and we through him are giv-en the fi-nal vic-to-ry.  
 and make a joy-ful du-ty our sac-ri-fice of praise.

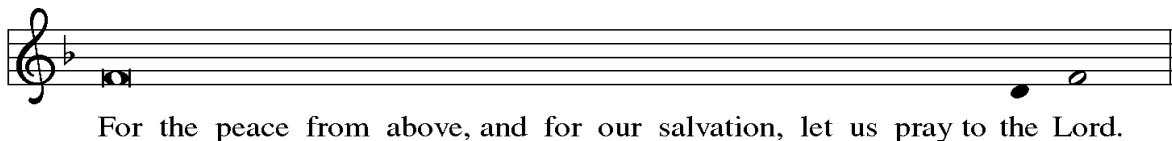
## GREETING

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.**

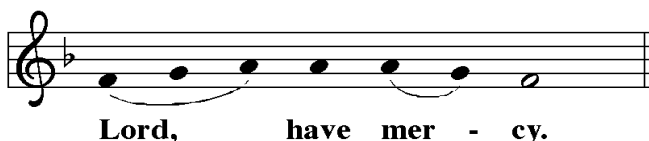
## KYRIE



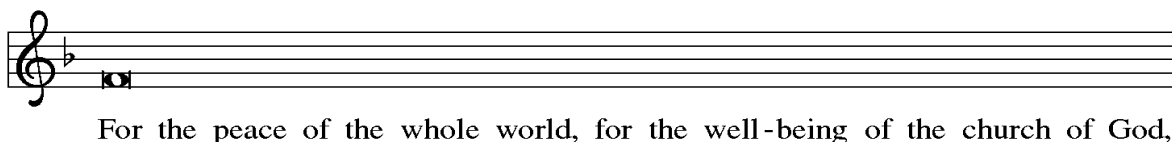
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



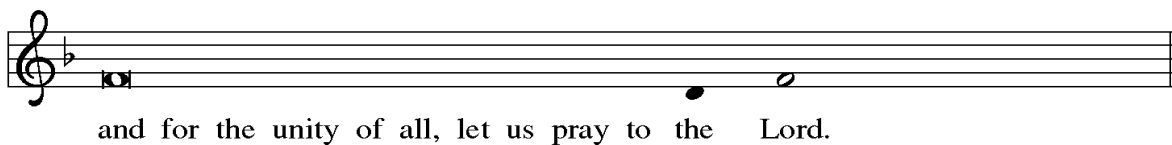
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



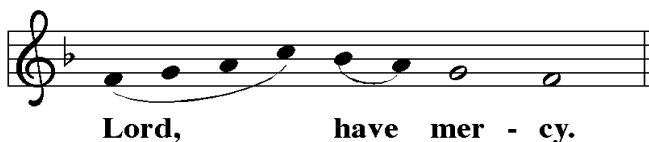
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



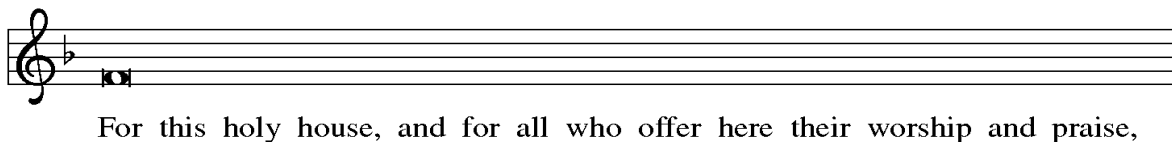
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



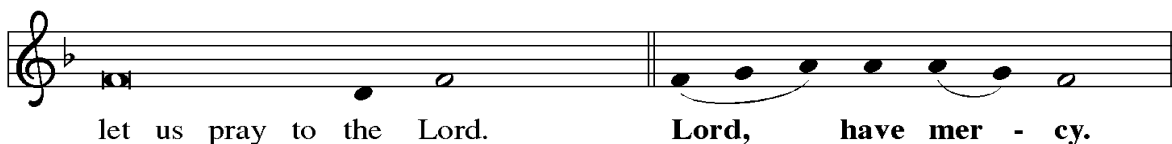
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



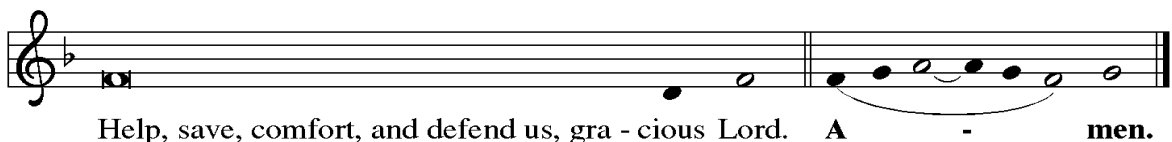
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,




let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

# SONG OF PRAISE (THIS IS THE FEAST)

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*




This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

## **GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

God our Creator,

**the resurrection of your Son offers life to all the peoples of earth. By your Holy Spirit, kindle in this assembly the fire of your love, empowering our lives for service and our tongues for praise, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

**THE FIRST READING:** Isaiah 42:5-12

Ms. Sydnie Taylor - President of SCLCY

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>5</sup>Thus says God, the LORD,

who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:

<sup>6</sup>I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,

I have taken you by the hand and kept you;  
I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations,

<sup>7</sup>to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

<sup>8</sup>I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other,  
nor my praise to idols.

<sup>9</sup>See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare;  
before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

<sup>10</sup>Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise from the end of the earth!  
Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the coastlands and their inhabitants.

<sup>11</sup>Let the desert and its towns lift up their voice,  
the villages that Kedar inhabits; let the inhabitants of Sela sing for joy,  
let them shout from the tops of the mountains.

<sup>12</sup>Let them give glory to the LORD,  
and declare his praise in the coastlands.

The Word of The Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Refrain:



<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Happy are they who | fear the LORD  
and have great delight in | God’s commandments!

<sup>2</sup>Their descendants will be mighty | in the land;  
the generation of the upright | will be blessed.

<sup>3</sup>Wealth and riches will be | in their house,  
and their righteousness will | last forever.

<sup>4</sup>Light shines in the darkness | for the upright;  
the righteous are merciful and full | of compassion. **R**

<sup>5</sup>It is good for them to be gener- | ous in lending  
and to manage their af- | fairs with justice.

<sup>6</sup>For they will nev- | er be shaken; the righteous will be  
kept in everlast- | ing remembrance.

<sup>7</sup>They will not be afraid of any | evil rumors;  
their heart is steadfast, trusting | in the LORD.

<sup>8</sup>Their heart is established and | will not shrink,  
until they see their desire up- | on their enemies.

<sup>9</sup>They have given freely to the poor, and their righteous-  
ness stands | fast forever;  
they will hold up their | head with honor. **R**

<sup>10</sup>The wicked will see it and be angry;  
they will gnash their teeth and | pine away;  
the desires of the wick- | ed will perish. **R**

**SECOND READING: Acts 11:19-30, 13:1-3**

Rev. Martin Lopez - *Parroquia El Mesías*

A reading from Acts.

<sup>19</sup>Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that took place over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, and they spoke the word to no one except Jews. <sup>20</sup>But among them were some men of Cyprus and Cyrene who, on coming to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists also, proclaiming the Lord Jesus. <sup>21</sup>The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number became believers and turned to the Lord. <sup>22</sup>News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. <sup>23</sup>When he came and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast devotion; <sup>24</sup>for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were brought to the Lord. <sup>25</sup>Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, <sup>26</sup>and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for an entire year they met with the church and taught a great many people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called “Christians.”

<sup>27</sup>At that time prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. <sup>28</sup>One of them named Agabus stood up and predicted by the Spirit that there would be a severe famine over all the world; and this took place during the reign of Claudius. <sup>29</sup>The disciples determined that according to their ability, each would send relief to the believers living in Judea; <sup>30</sup>this they did, sending it to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.<sup>13:</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the ruler, and Saul. <sup>2</sup>While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” <sup>3</sup>Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL PROCESSION

Psalm 118, adapt. S.P.

Stephen Pishner

Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Al-le-lu-ia! Let us re-joice and be

glad! Re-joice and be glad!

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### THE GOSPEL: Matthew 10:7-16

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the tenth chapter.

Bishop Ginny Aebischer

### Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the twelve:] <sup>7</sup>“As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ <sup>8</sup>Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. <sup>9</sup>Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, <sup>10</sup>no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. <sup>11</sup>Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. <sup>12</sup>As you enter the house, greet it. <sup>13</sup>If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. <sup>14</sup>If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. <sup>15</sup>Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

<sup>16</sup>“See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.”

The Gospel of The Lord.

### Praise to You, O Christ.

Psalm 118, adapt. S.P.

Stephen Pishner

Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Al-le-lu-ia! Let us re-joice and be

glad! Re-joice and be glad!

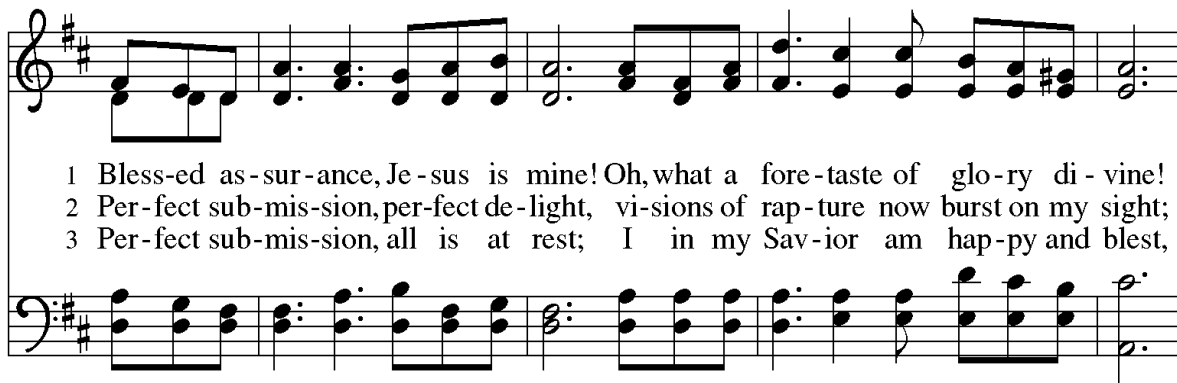
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## SERMON

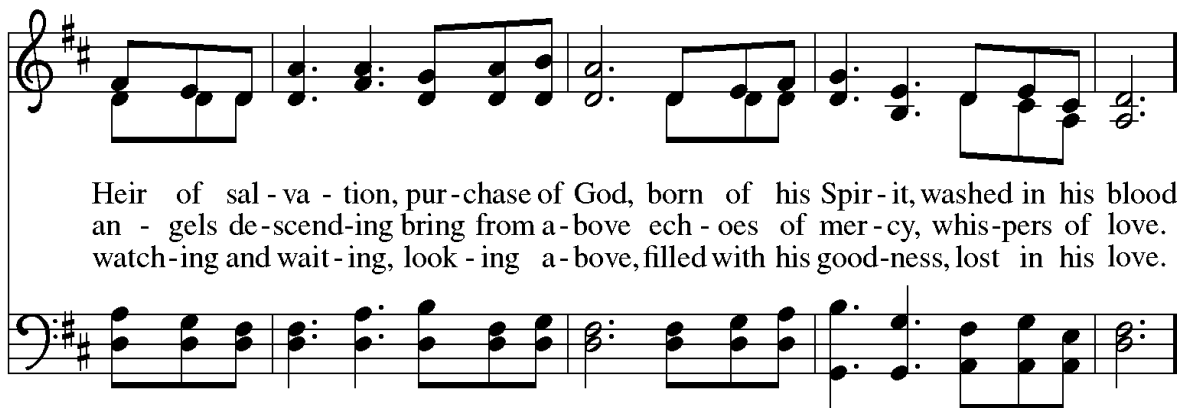
The Rev. Ginny Aebischer. Bishop of the South Carolina Synod



# THE HYMN OF THE DAY

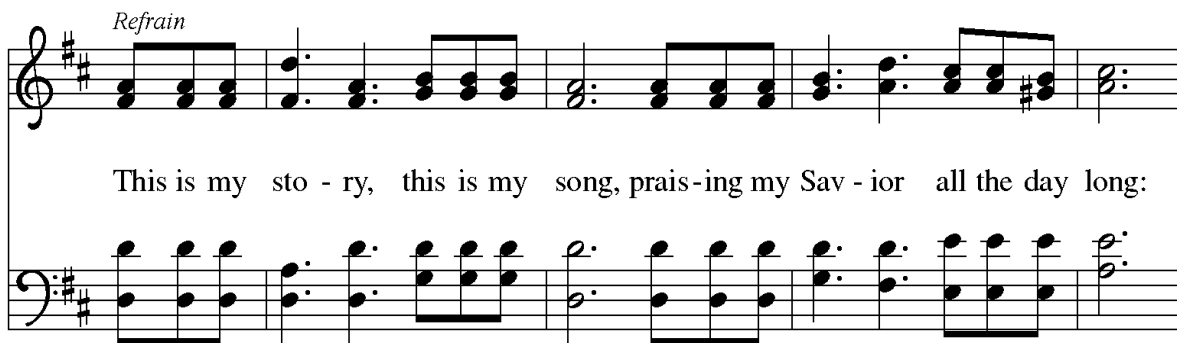


1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!  
2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;  
3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.  
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.  
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

*Refrain*



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

*We profess our faith using the words of the 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

Confident that the resurrection of Christ has defeated sin and death, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

*Each petition ends with these words:*

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

*And Can It Be?*

Arr. Dan Forrest

And can it be? And can it be? Amazing love, how can it be? And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood? Died he for me who caused His pain? For me who Him to death pursued? Amazing love! how can it be That Thou my God, shouldst die for me?

He left His Father's throne above, So free, so infinite His grace; Emptied Himself of all but love, And bled for Adam's helpless race; 'Tis mercy all, immense and free; For, O my God, it found out me. And can it be? And can it be? Amazing love, how can it be?

No condemnation now I dread, Jesus and all in Him is mine! Alive in Him, my living Head, And clothed in righteousness divine, Bold I approach the eternal throne, And claim the crown through Christ my own. Amazing love, how can it be That Thou my God shouldst die for me?

Amazing love, how can it be? Amazing love!

***The offering is designated to Restoration Chapel***

*The cruel hand of addiction, in some way, affects us all. Restoration Chapel of Greenwood has risen to meet the needs of our current addiction crisis. In this unique partnership between a ministry of the church and Lutheran Services Carolinas, 10 women in recovery have a safe space to live during a crucial point in their recovery journey. Just as importantly, they have a ministry that is there to walk with them and provide spiritual support – an important protective factor in recovery.*

*Your support of Restoration Chapel continues important accompaniment work, provides scholarships for the women to enter the house, and furthers the work of the church's response in a time where so many need what this ministry has to offer. This ministry makes a significant, positive impact in the lives of the people who experience it.*

**OFFERING SONG**

*Let The Vineyards*



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.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth.

**Day by day you shower us with blessings.**

**As you have raised us to new life in Christ,**

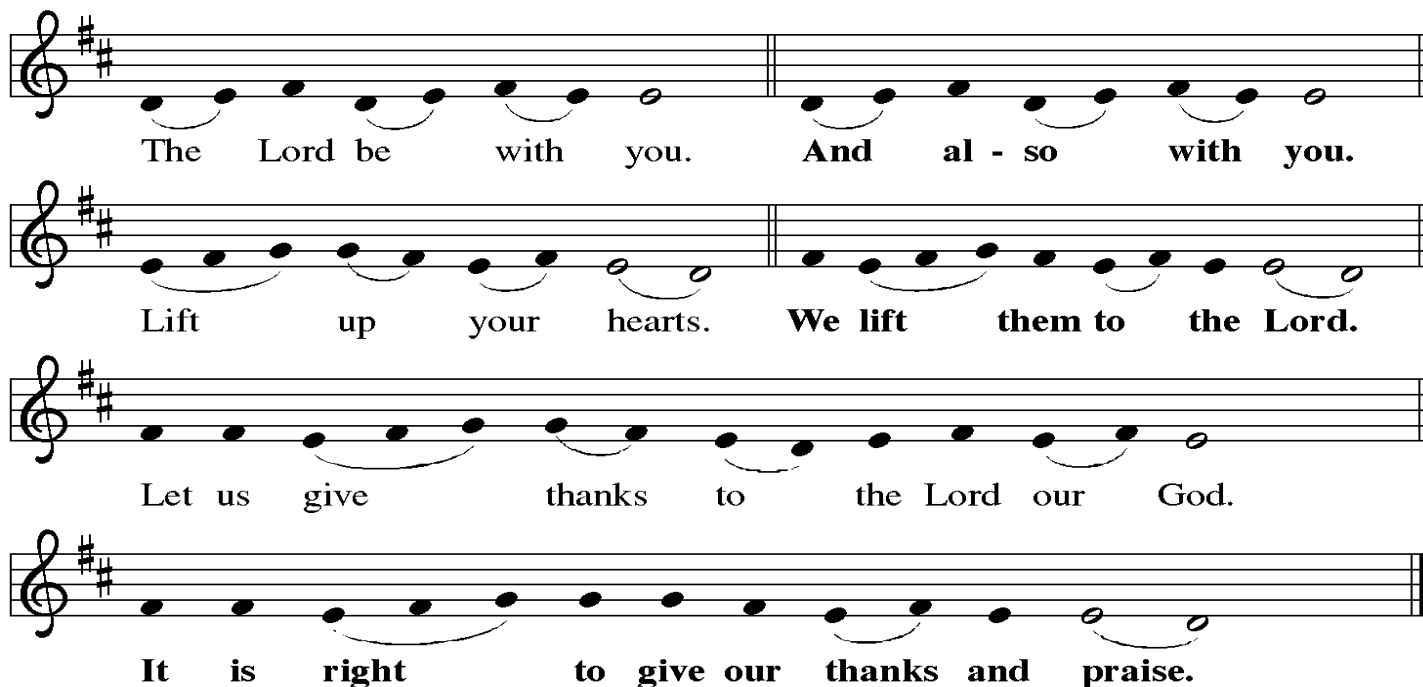
**give us glad and generous hearts,**

**ready to praise you and to respond to those in need,**

**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

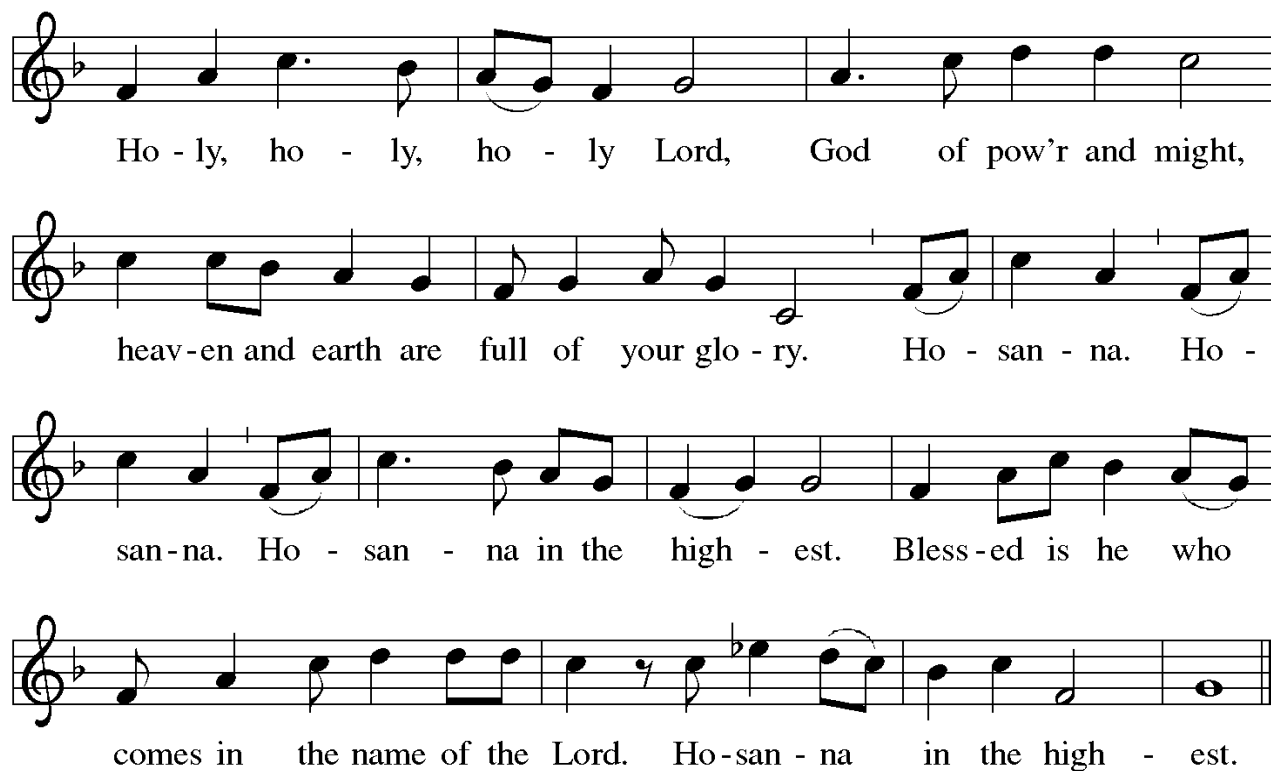
**Amen.**

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION



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:



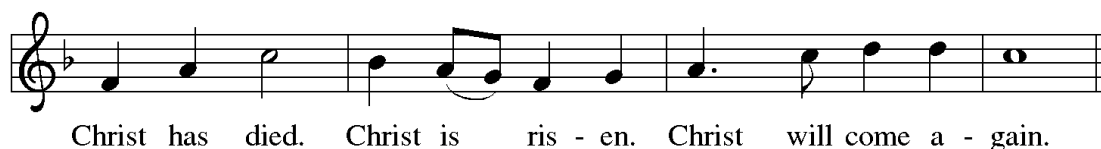
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: 'Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

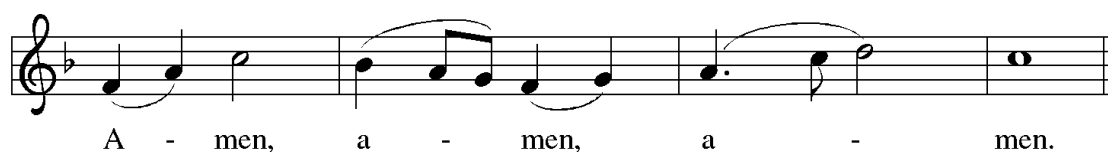
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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**

+ + + + *The assembly is seated.* + + + +

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

Come to this table where you are known and loved.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly is seated*

***Holy Communion*** is a meal for all the Baptized. It is the Lord's Table.

All are welcome at Christ's table. Parishioners are invited to come to the chancel steps, directed by the ushers. Communion is distributed by individual kits. Please receive the bread and wine from the communion assistant and return with it to your seat. An usher will come by with a basket to collect the empty container. Glute-free communion may be requested. Parents who prefer their children wait for communion instruction may bring them forward for a blessing.

## LAMB OF GOD

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.

## MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

*“I want to Walk as a Child of the Light”*

*Arranged by: Tom Trenney*

ELW #661

*“I Love to Tell the Story”*

*“Tell Me The Story “*

*Arranged by: Joel Roney*

ELW #471

*“Let Us Break Bread Together”*

ELW #477

*“I Received the Living God”*

ELW#484

*“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”*

*The assembly stands*

### POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

*The assembly stands*

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Life-giving God,

we give you thanks for nourishing us with the bread of heaven and the wine of love, Jesus our risen Savior. As you send us into the world, guard us from the power of evil, keep us in unity with all your people, and by your Spirit move us to testify to your grace in our words and actions; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

**Amen**



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat -'ning to de -  
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;  
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

## **THE DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share God's story. Share Your Story. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **THE POSTLUDE**

An improvisation on ASSURANCE by Justin Wham

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