

LEADER'S SCRIPT
Third Sunday after Epiphany
Sunday, January 26, 2025

PRELUDE

Rhosymedre

by R.V. Williams

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(please stand as you are able)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
our creator,
our protector,
our wellspring of life.

Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

**Forgive us for the ways we act
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.**

**We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
we resist your call to oppose injustice;
we give in to scarcity and fear;
we assume the worst about one another.**

**Cleanse us from our faults
and release us from their grasp.**

Show us your lovingkindness.

**Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ's ways.**

Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance:
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name. You are mine.”

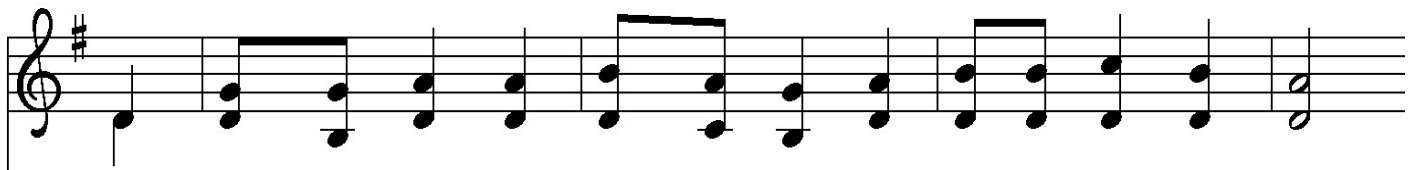
In + Christ, you are forgiven.

In the Spirit, you are made free.

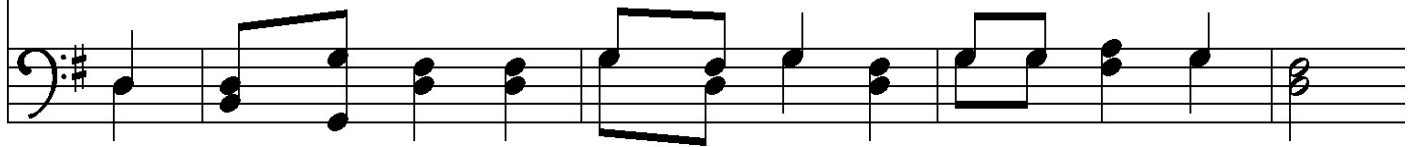
Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
live anew as beloved children of God.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* (ELW 886)



1 Oh, for a thou - sand tongues to sing my great Re - deem - er's praise,
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
3 The name of Je - sus charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease,
4 He speaks, and lis - t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive;



the glo - ries of my God and king, the tri - umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.
sings mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn - ful, bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.



5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!

6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.

APOSTOLIC 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(be seated)

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Amy Gillespie

FIRST READING: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

¹All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. ² Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. ⁸ So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 19 (*sung responsively*)

¹ The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God,
and the sky proclaims its | maker’s handiwork.

² **One day tells its tale | to another,
and one night imparts knowledge | to another.**

³ Although they have no | words or language,
and their voices | are not heard,

⁴ **their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the
ends | of the world,**

where God has pitched a tent | for the sun.

⁵ It comes forth like a bridegroom out | of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to | run its course.

⁶ **It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs
about to the end of | it again;**

nothing is hidden from its | burning heat.

⁷ The teaching of the Lord is perfect and re- | vives the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom | to the simple.

⁸ **The statutes of the Lord are just and re- | jice the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light | to the**

eyes.

⁹ The fear of the Lord is clean and en- | dures forever;
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous | altogether.

¹⁰ **More to be desired are they than gold, more than | much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey | in the comb.**

¹¹ By them also is your ser- | vant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is | great reward.

¹² **Who can detect one's | own offenses?**

Cleanse me from my | secret faults.

¹³ Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get
dominion | over me;

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a | great offense.

¹⁴ **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be
acceptable | in your sight,**

O Lord, my strength and | my redeemer.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the
members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with
Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews
or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If
the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the
body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear
would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that
would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an
eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where
would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in
the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member,
where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members, yet one
body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again
the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²² On the contrary, the
members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and
those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with
greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater
respect; ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But
God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior
member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the
members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member

suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a} But strive for the greater gifts.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

The musical notation consists of two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It contains two measures of rests, followed by a double bar line, and then a melody for the words 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,'. The melody is composed of quarter and eighth notes with slurs. The second staff also begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. It contains a melody for the words 'al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' with a final dotted half note. The lyrics are written below the notes.

GOSPEL: Luke 4:14-21

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,

to let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down.

The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(be seated)

SERMON

Pastor Amy Gillespie

(please stand as you are able)

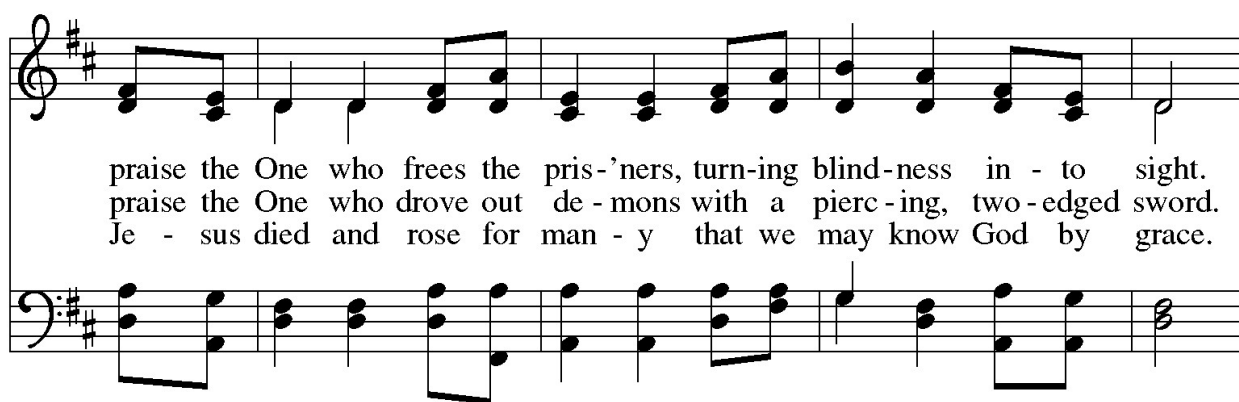
HYMN OF THE DAY

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

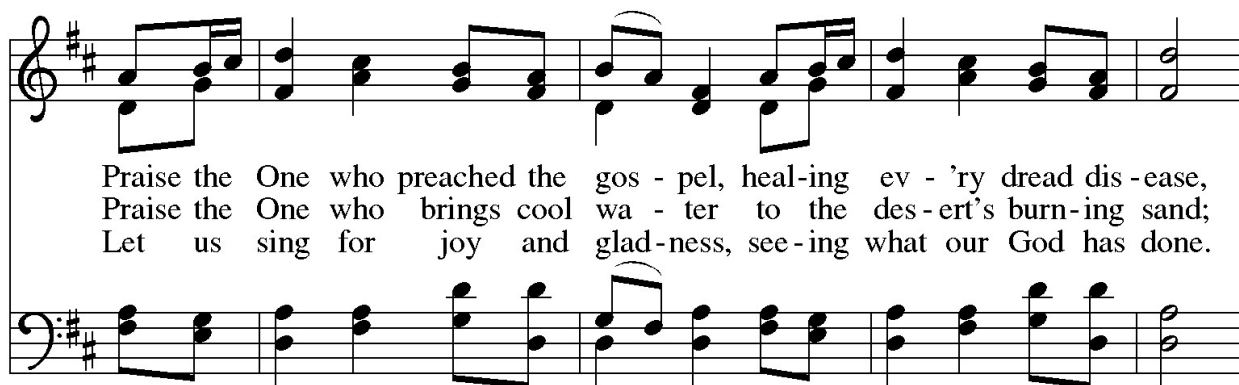
(ELW 843)



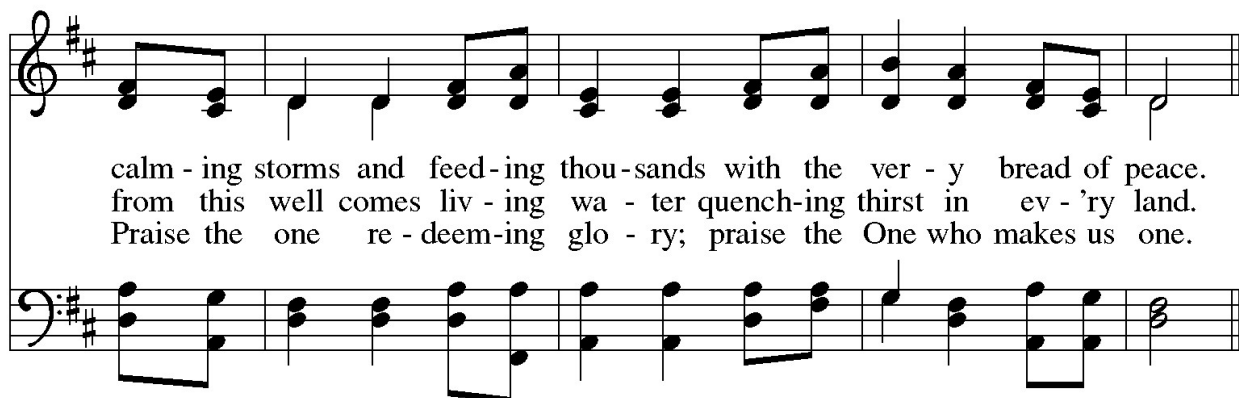
1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

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

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

As your word is opened in our midst, we give thanks for all who share scripture: for parents, grandparents, and godparents; teachers and mentors; deacons, pastors, bishops, and scholars. Inspire passion for the stories of faith.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As heavens declare your glory and the sky proclaims your work, we lift our voices in awe of quarks and atoms, vast stars and solar systems. Guide us to speak on behalf of your handiwork.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As Jesus proclaimed life and freedom in his community, energize communities and nations to eliminate poverty, engage in prison ministry and transformative justice, and envision new ways of working together for your promised reign.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As your word and presence revive the soul, accompany all experiencing depression, anxiety, or eating disorders; be a source of strength for all affected by memory loss and their caregivers; draw near to all undergoing medical treatment or surgery. We pray especially for all on our prayer list and those we name aloud or silently in our hearts (*pause for prayer*) . . .

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As we are made one body in baptism, strengthen all who serve. Renew and inspire all who use their gifts in this congregation, community, and the world (especially fellowship hosts, worship leaders, council, and committee members).

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all members, especially the Cope family, Linda Kollacks and the Verch family. We thank you for them and we ask your blessings on them.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

As our faith is strengthened by saints who have gone before us, we remember leaders of the early church and beloved friends and family who have died.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

(please share signs of peace with one another)

(be seated)

OFFERTORY

Music Selections

by Rae-Myra Hilliard

(please stand as you are able)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

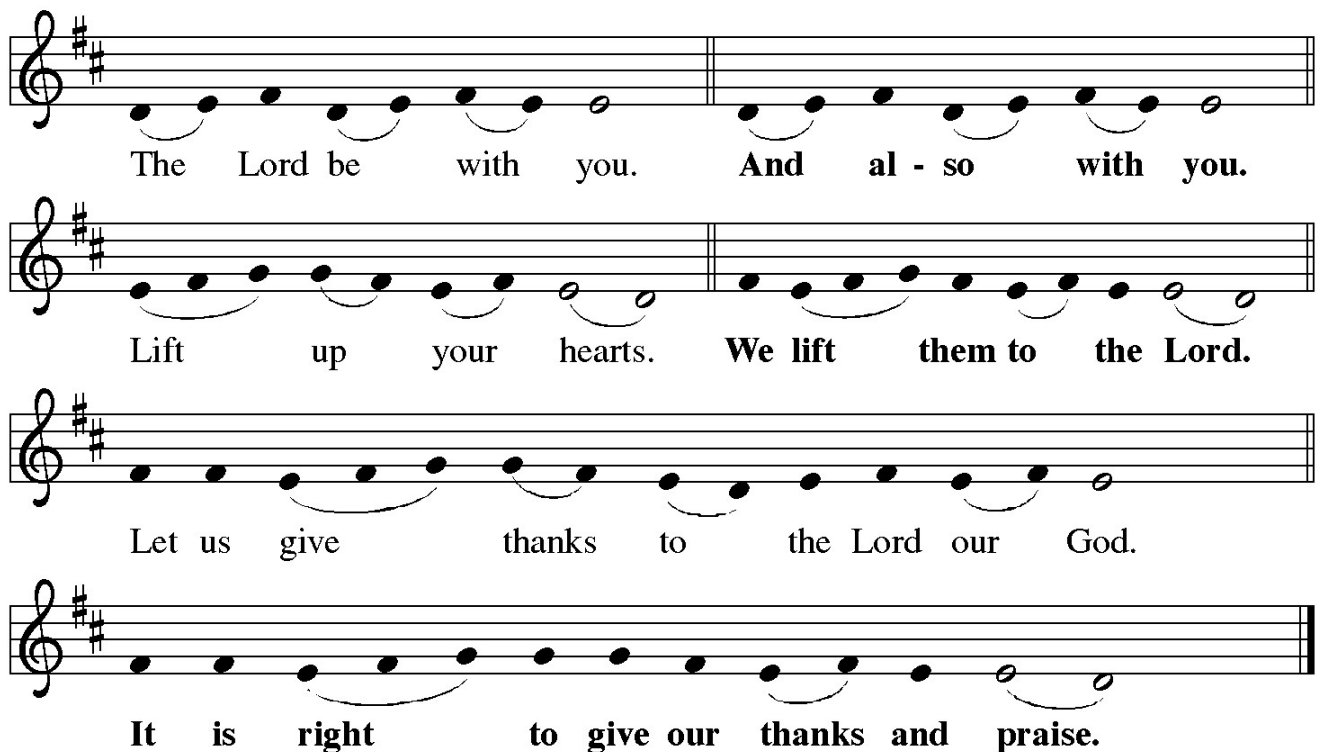
God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.

Bless what we offer to your service:
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,
now and always.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



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.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "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. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est."

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. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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

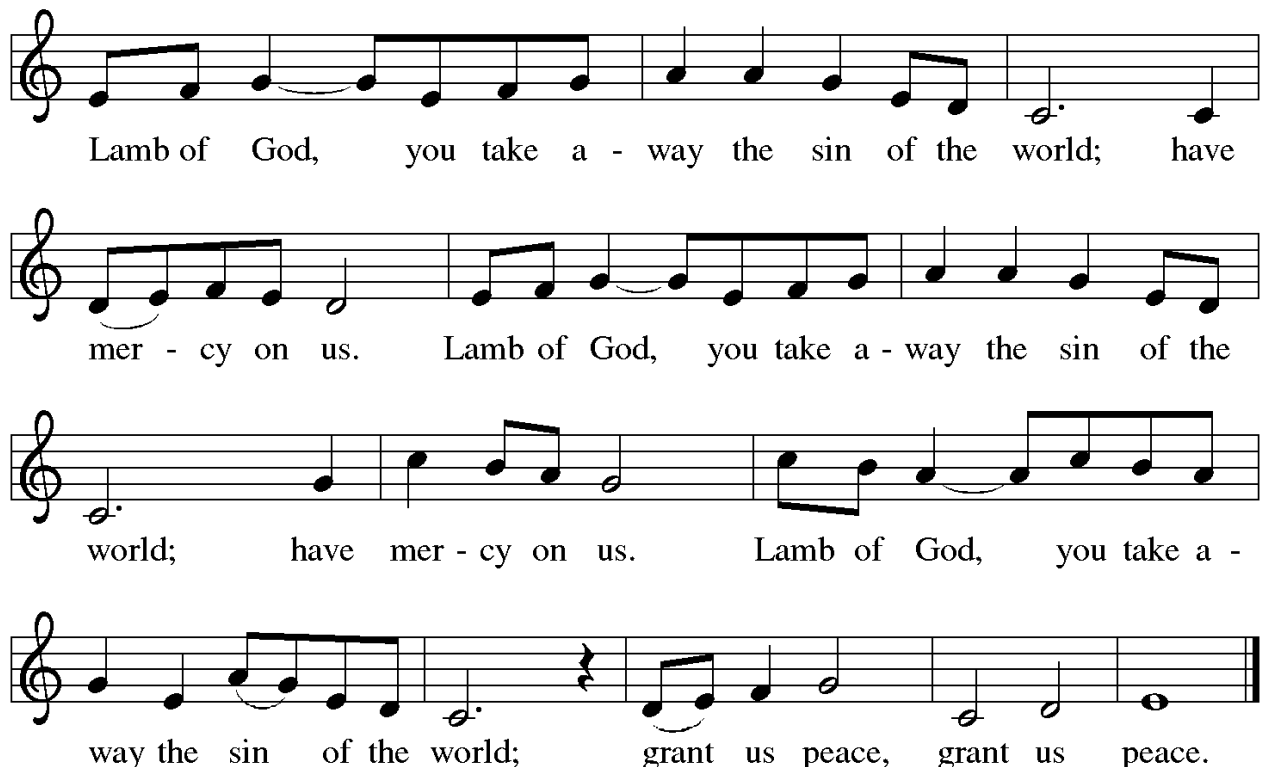
The joy of the Lord is our strength.
Come, eat this meal of gladness.

(be seated)

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Our Lord Jesus welcomes you to this meal of the baptized. The crucified and risen Christ is present in the Lord's Supper, giving us his true body and blood as food and drink. Those who are not able to consume wine are able to commune fully by receiving only the wafer. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Children may come and receive a blessing and/or communion. We will commune at the rails. Come forward in two lines up the main aisle, The wafer will be placed in your hand, then hold your cup up for the wine. Return to your seat by the side aisles.

COMMUNION SONG



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 (ELW p. 112)

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, given for you.

Amen.

(please stand as you are able)

WORDS AFTER COMMUNION

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourishing God,
at this table you have refreshed us
with holy gifts of food and drink.
Strengthen us for service,
and send us out to embody your good news
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.
In the name of Christ we pray,

Amen.

BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God

✝ bless you with joy,
anoint you with compassion,
and send you in love.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve (ELW 551)

1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in
2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the
3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter
4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel

Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings
bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to
joy to like seed and, all our days, to
to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -

to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.
share a dream and help the blind to see.
cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.
pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

DISMISSAL

You are a beloved child of God.

Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.

Source Documents
For the Bulletin

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress) 17th Printing, March 2020
Sundays & Seasons: Year A 2023 (Augsburg Fortress) Copyright 2022