

SAINT MARTIN LUTHERAN CHURCH



**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 19, 2026 at 10:30 am**

Welcome to the worship of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

The Day: *It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.*

PRELUDE

Please silence devices during this quiet time of preparing our hearts for worship.

Stand

BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

P 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.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are in bondage 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.

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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.

C Amen.

The assembly follows the ministers into the church. The Procession begins.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #689

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

1 Praise and thanks-giv-ing, God, we would of-fer for all things
2 God, bless the la-bor we bring to serve you, that with our
3 Fa-ther, pro-vid-ing food for your chil-dren, by Wis-dom's
4 Then will your bless-ing reach ev-'ry peo-ple, free-ly con-

liv-ing, you have made good: har-vest of sown fields, fruits of the
neigh-bor we may be fed. Sow-ing or till-ing, we would work
guid-ing teach us to share one with an-oth-er, so that, re-
fess-ing your gra-cious hand. Where you are reign-ing, no one will

or-chard, hay from the mown fields, blos-som and wood.
with you, har-vest-ing, mill-ing for dai-ly bread.
joic-ing with us, all oth-ers may know your care.
hun-ger; your love sus-tain-ing show-ers the land.

THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Sit

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Bishop Eberhardt

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 44:6-8

There are no other gods besides God: the word of the Lord does not fail to come to pass. We can trust in God, through whom Israel — and we — are redeemed.

L A reading from the book of Isaiah, the 44th chapter, beginning at the 6th verse.

⁶Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: “I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. ⁷Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. ⁸Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Psalm 86:11-17



11 Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk | in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to re- | vere your name.

**12 I will thank you, O Lord my God, with | all my heart,
and glorify your name for- | evermore.**

13 For great is your | love toward me;
you have delivered me from the | pit of death.

**14 The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent
people | seeks my life;
they have not set you be- | fore their eyes.**

15 But you, O Lord, are gracious and full | of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kind- | ness and truth.

**16 Turn to me and have mer- | cy on me;
give your strength to your servant, and save the child | of
your handmaid.**

17 Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see
it and be | put to shame;
because you, Lord, have helped me and com- | forted me.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the | Holy Spirit: as it
was in the beginning, is now, and will be forev- | er. Amen.**

SECOND LESSON

Romans 8:12-25

For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.

L A reading from Romans, the 8th chapter, beginning at the 12th verse.

¹²So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. ¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA VERSE



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.

P The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew, the 13th chapter, beginning at the 24th verse.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁴He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' ²⁸He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the

reapers, “Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.”””

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴²and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Bishop Eberhardt

“Holier than thou?”

Stand

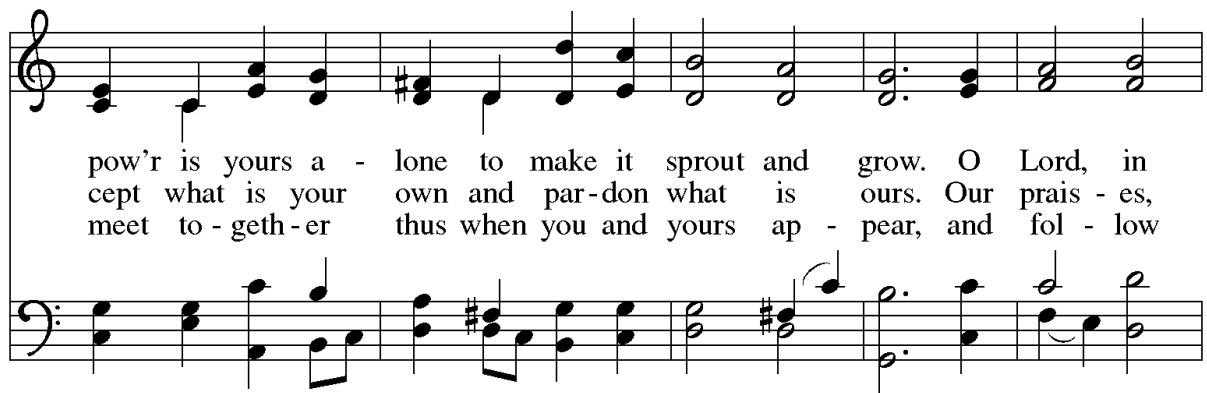
HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #550

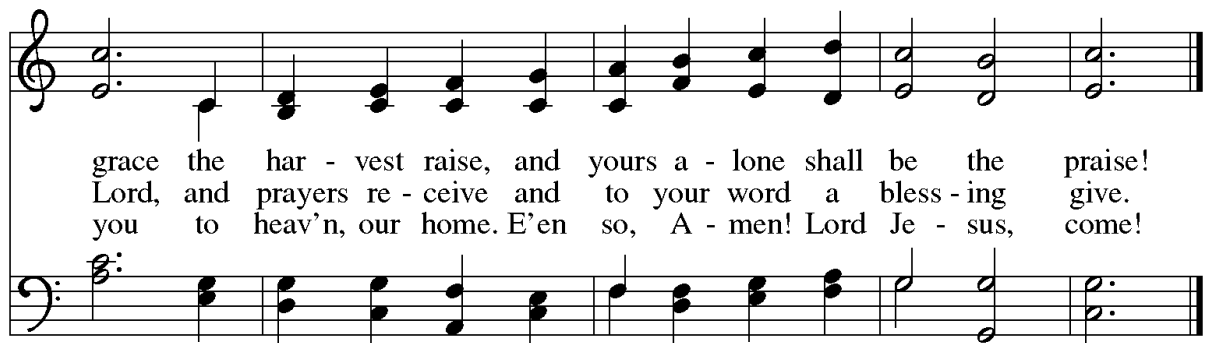
ON WHAT HAS NOW BEEN SOWN



1 On what has now been sown your bless-ing Lord, be - stow; the
2 To you our wants are known, from you are all our pow'rs; ac -
3 Oh, grant that each of us, now met be - fore you here, may



pow'r is yours a - lone to make it sprout and grow. O Lord, in
cept what is your own and par-don what is ours. Our prais - es,
meet to - geth - er thus when you and yours ap - pear, and fol - low



grace the har - vest raise, and yours a - lone shall be the praise!
Lord, and prayers re - ceive and to your word a bless - ing give.
you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

P With one voice let us confess our faith together in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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.**

INTERCESSIONS OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

P/A *Lord in your Mercy, C hear our prayer.*

A The whole earth is yours, O Lord, and you have charged us with its care. Make us good stewards of your creation until that time when you set it free from its bondage to decay and give it to us anew in the kingdom of your Son. Lord, in your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

A Lord, continue to raise up witnesses in this and every place who faithfully proclaim your Word. Grant that your Church may remain good soil, bringing forth an abundant harvest. Bless all bishops, pastors, and church workers as they sow your Word in the fields, entrusted to them, that your goodness may flourish in your church. Lord, in your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

A God of providence, we yearn to live on your land with justice and in righteousness. Renew the hearts of all in authority, especially our president Donald, and our governor Brian, that our leaders may guide wisely toward the flourishing of all. Lord, in your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

A God of peace, you sow peace by the gift of your Son the prince of peace. Grant that all peoples, especially the people of Ukraine, the Middle East, and Venezuela may know the peace that comes from your holy sowing. Lord, in your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

A Gentle Lord, visit the homes of your people, that they may be places where faith is nurtured and where we learn to live our new lives in holiness and righteousness. Lord, in your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

A Loving God, we thank you for the gift of health. Hear our prayers on behalf of the sick, the aged, the infirm, and the mourning or the dying, especially those named in our bulletin and those we name before you now. *(After silence count to 10.)* Grant them healing in accord with your will and grace to sustain them in their need. Lord, in your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

A O Lord, preserve us in hope for what we do not see. Grant that we would receive your Holy Supper with hearts free from pride, presumption, or any other sin that would profane His precious body and blood. May we rejoice in His bodily presence for our forgiveness. Lord, in your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

A Redeemer and Lord of hosts, the future is in your hands. Remove all fear from us, and keep us mindful that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed in us. Lord, in your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

A God our hope, the message of your salvation is planted among us in all times and places. We give you thanks for the witness of all the saints who shine like the sun in your presence. Lord, in your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

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

G Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

We greet one another in the name of the Lord.

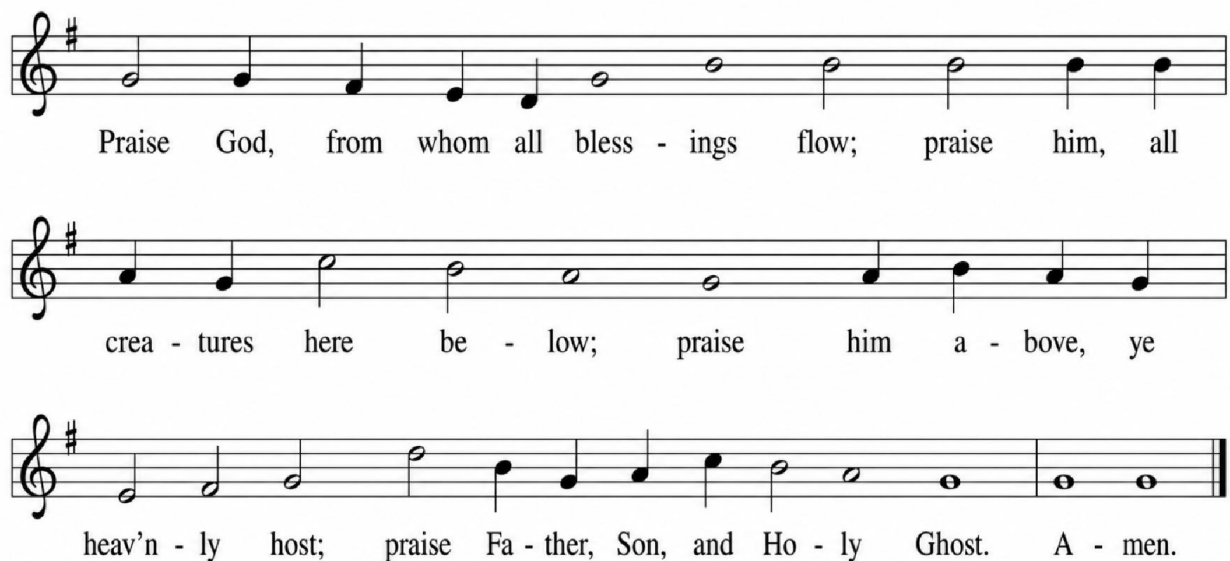
Sit

OFFERING

The ushers collect our gifts of tithes and offerings. The ministers make ready the bread and wine.

Stand as gifts are presented.

OFFERTORY



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all

crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye

heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

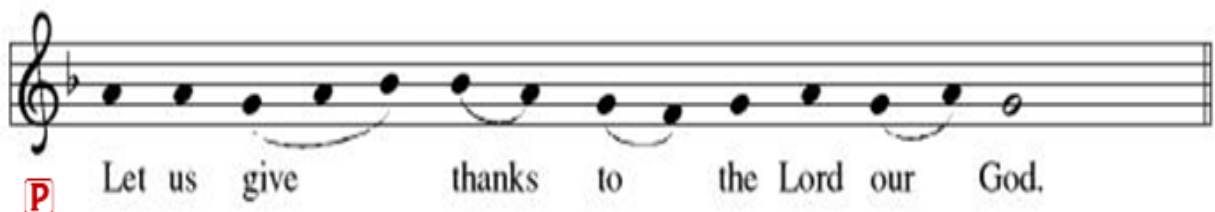
A The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

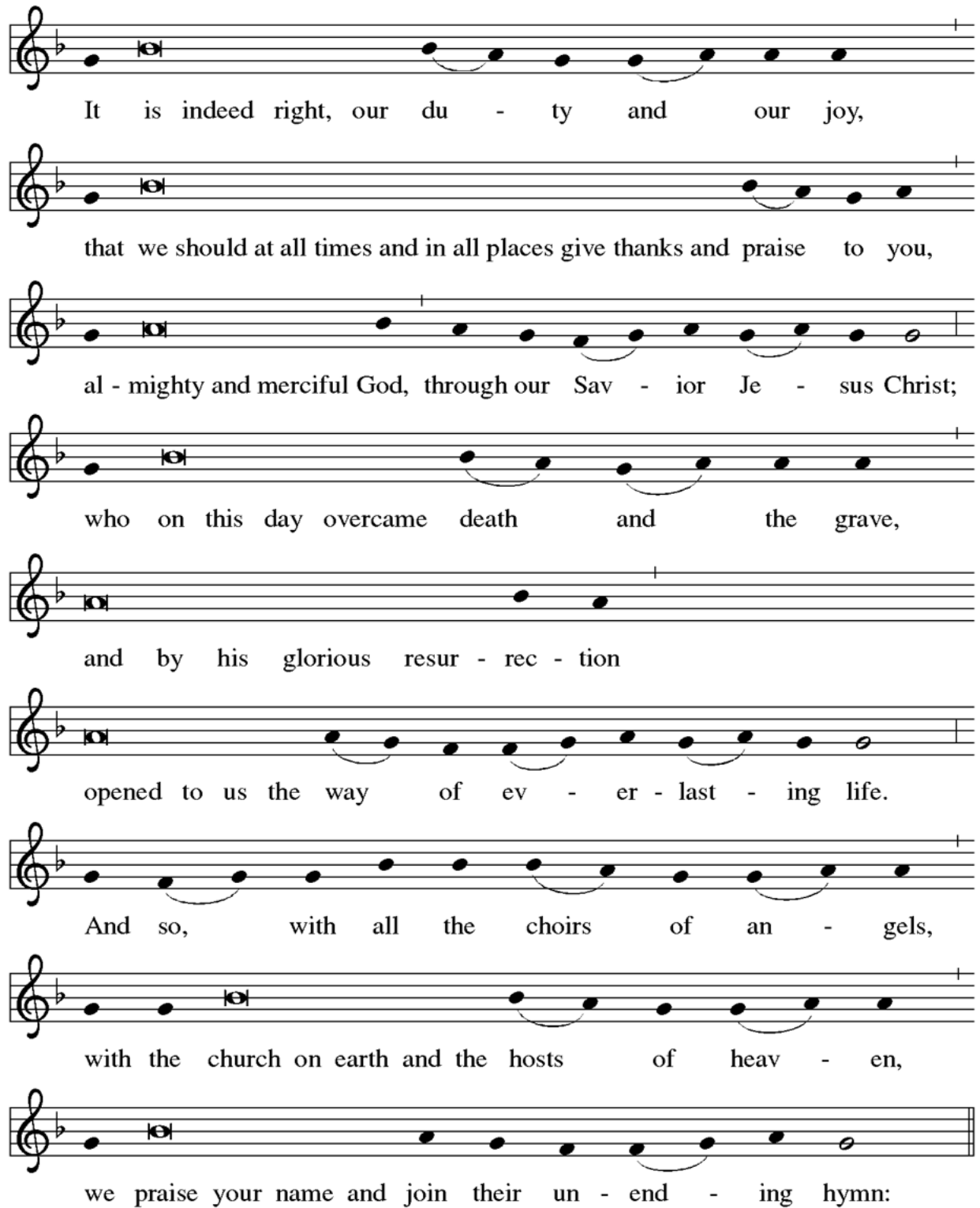
A Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us — ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



PREFACE



It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resur - rec - tion
opened to us the way of ev - er - last - ing life.
And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

SANCTUS



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us together to pray:

C 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.

Sit

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN

sung by Kwoineh Haba

YOU RAISE ME UP

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.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

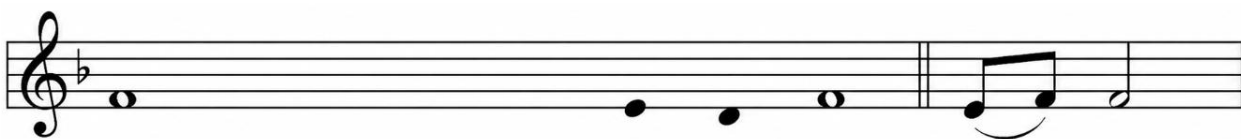
C Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

 **And also with you.**

C Amen.

BENEDICTION



C A - men

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace;

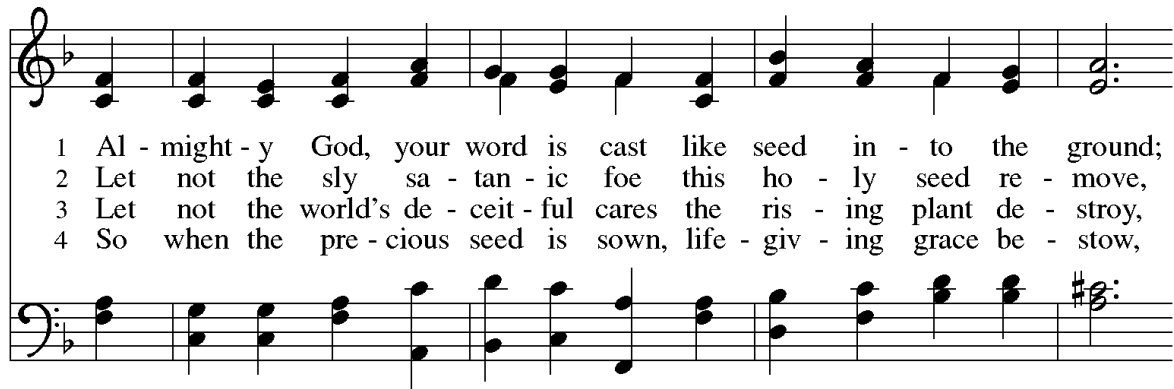
In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

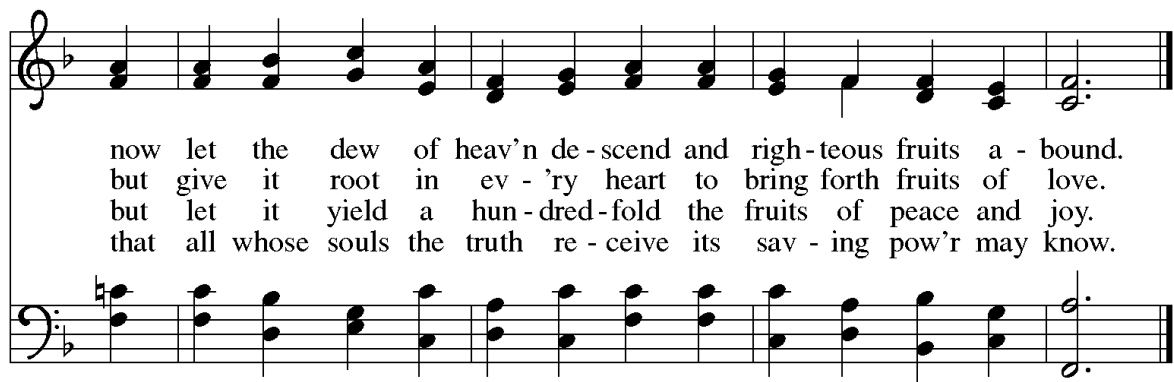
SENDING HYMN

ELW #516

ALMIGHTY GOD, YOUR WORD IS CAST



1 Al - might - y God, your word is cast like seed in - to the ground;
2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe this ho - ly seed re - move,
3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,
4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, life - giv - ing grace be - stow,



now let the dew of heav'n de - scend and righ - teous fruits a - bound.
but give it root in ev - 'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.
but let it yield a hun - dred - fold the fruits of peace and joy.
that all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing pow'r may know.

DISMISSAL

A Love The Lord!

C Live The Mission!
Together!

POSTLUDE