

SAINT MARTIN LUTHERAN CHURCH



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

RALLY DAY

September 13, 2026 at 10:30 am

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

The Day: How many Rally Days have you been a part of? For some of us that's hard to answer because there have been so many. But maybe also for some of us it could be rather easy because we can take our age, subtract the first three years of our life, and we've got our number -- basically all our lives! And, of course, for others this could even be the first Rally Day ever. And that's great! But what is Rally Day, really? Just the day to get the kids back into Sunday School? Maybe just the day the Confirmation Classes and Adult Classes start back up after the summer break? Could it be more? Could it be a meaningful day on our Faith Walk for all of us? On Rally Day we will dedicate the sermon to a deep dive into the rightful place of Holy Scripture in our lives, the meaning and re-claiming of our Baptism, and the joy of living the life of discipleship.

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.

C 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 #631

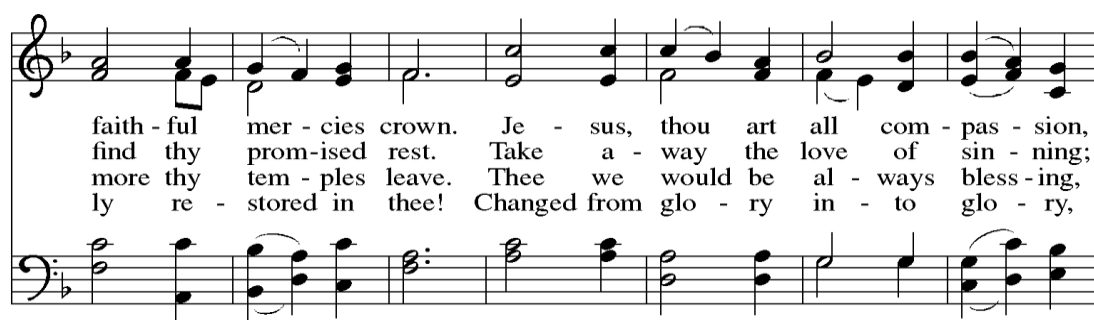
LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

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.

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.

C Amen.

Sit

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Kollmeyer

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 50:15-21

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

L A reading from the book of Genesis, the 50th chapter, beginning at the 15th verse.

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Psalm 103:8-13



1 Bless the Lord, | O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.

**2 Bless the Lord, | O my soul,
and forget not | all God's benefits —**

3 who forgives | all your sins
and heals all | your diseases;

**4 who redeems your life | from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy;**

5 who satisfies your desires | with good things
so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.

**6 O Lord, you provide | vindication
and justice for all who | are oppressed.**

7 You made known your | ways to Moses
and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.

**8 Lord, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;**

9 you will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.

**10 You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.**

11 For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.

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

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

**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 14:1-12

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

L A reading from Romans, the 14th chapter, beginning at the 1st verse.

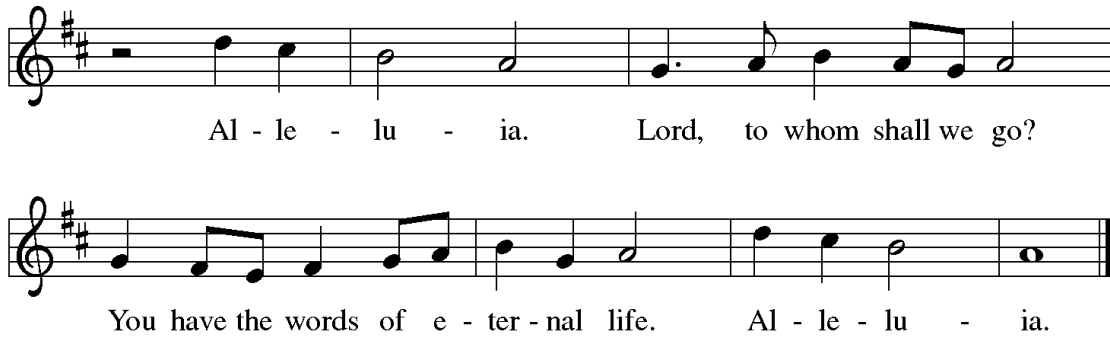
¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. ⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸For 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. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." ¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA VERSE



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

P The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter, beginning at the 21st verse.

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

²¹Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had

mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Pastor Kollmeyer

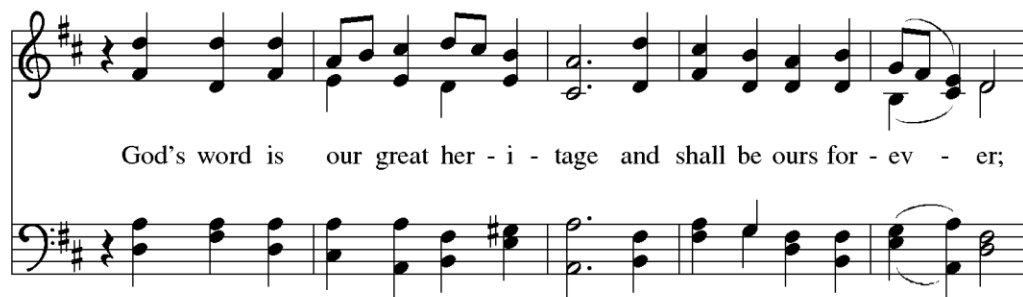
"Rally Round The Word of God"

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #509

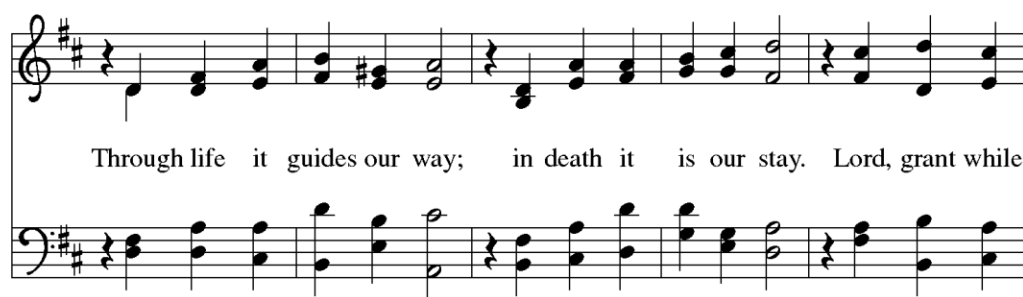
GOD'S WORD IS OUR GREAT HERITAGE



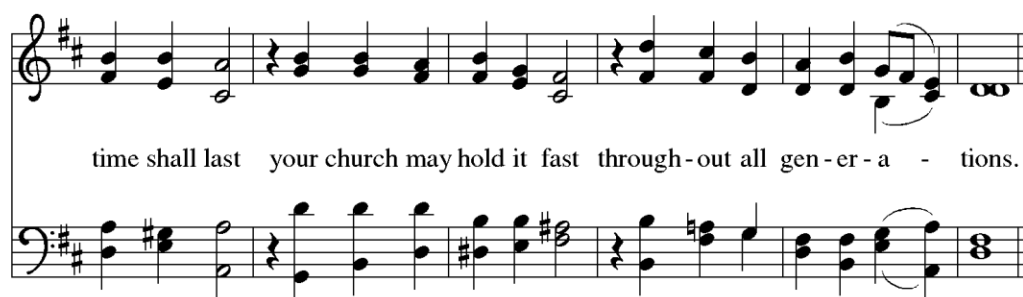
God's word is our great her - i - tage and shall be ours for - ev - er;



to spread its light from age to age shall be our chief en - deav - or.



Through life it guides our way; in death it is our stay. Lord, grant while



time shall last your church may hold it fast through-out all gen - er - a - tions.

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 Gracious Lord, we pray for your one, holy, catholic church, that, like your servant Joseph, it may be an expression of your forgiveness and grace for the life of the world. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A We give you thanks, heavenly Father, for the gifts of the Word and Sacrament which you bestow upon us through the office of the holy ministry. Bless all bishops, pastors, deacons, and church workers, most especially our own Pastor Mark, that in faithfulness they may continue to strengthen and renew your church through the means of grace. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A Author of divine providence, you establish government for the sake of good order, peace, and prosperity. Strengthen our president, Donald, our governor, Brian, and rulers and government officials in your will, that they may be agents of your good intentions for all Creation. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A We pray for peace and restoration for all who suffer from the ravages of war and calamity especially Ukraine, the Middle East, and Iran. Bring rescue, hope, and reconciliation to Nepal and to the people of our country who are recovering from storms and floods and who are in need of food, clothing, or shelter. Give us hearts of charity to offer what we can to the aid of all. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A Lord of life and death, you are master of all goods and ills in this life, and you hold in your hands all who suffer in the fellowship of your Son, Jesus Christ. Comfort them, as well as all those we name in our bulletin and those we name before you now. *(After silence, count to 10.)* Let us confess that, whether we live or die, we belong to you. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A God of all comfort and grace, your love never fails, and you turn the shadow of death into daybreak. On this 25th anniversary of 9/11, look with mercy on all families and communities who mourn the loss of loved ones and remain heavy with grief. Anchor them in your promise of life everlasting. We thank you for the bravery of those who ran toward danger, and we ask you to sustain all who continue to put themselves in harm's way. When worldly foundations are shaken, remind us of the true security found only in you, strengthening us through your Word and Sacraments to love our neighbors and trust in Christ's victory over the grave. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A 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. Lord, in your mercy,

C 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.

C 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.

*Peace be with you **R** Peace be with you*

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

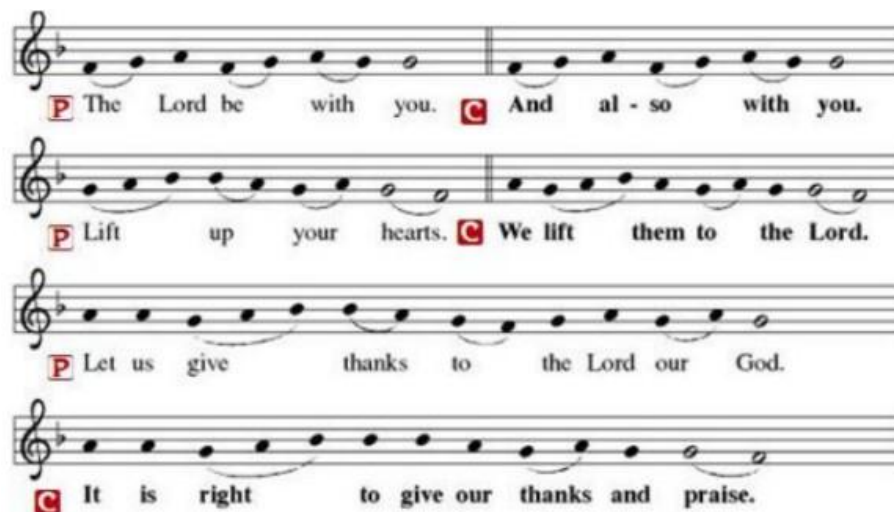
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye

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



The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are quarter notes, mostly beamed in pairs. The lyrics are written below the notes, with a red 'P' for 'Prayer' and a red 'C' for 'Confession'.

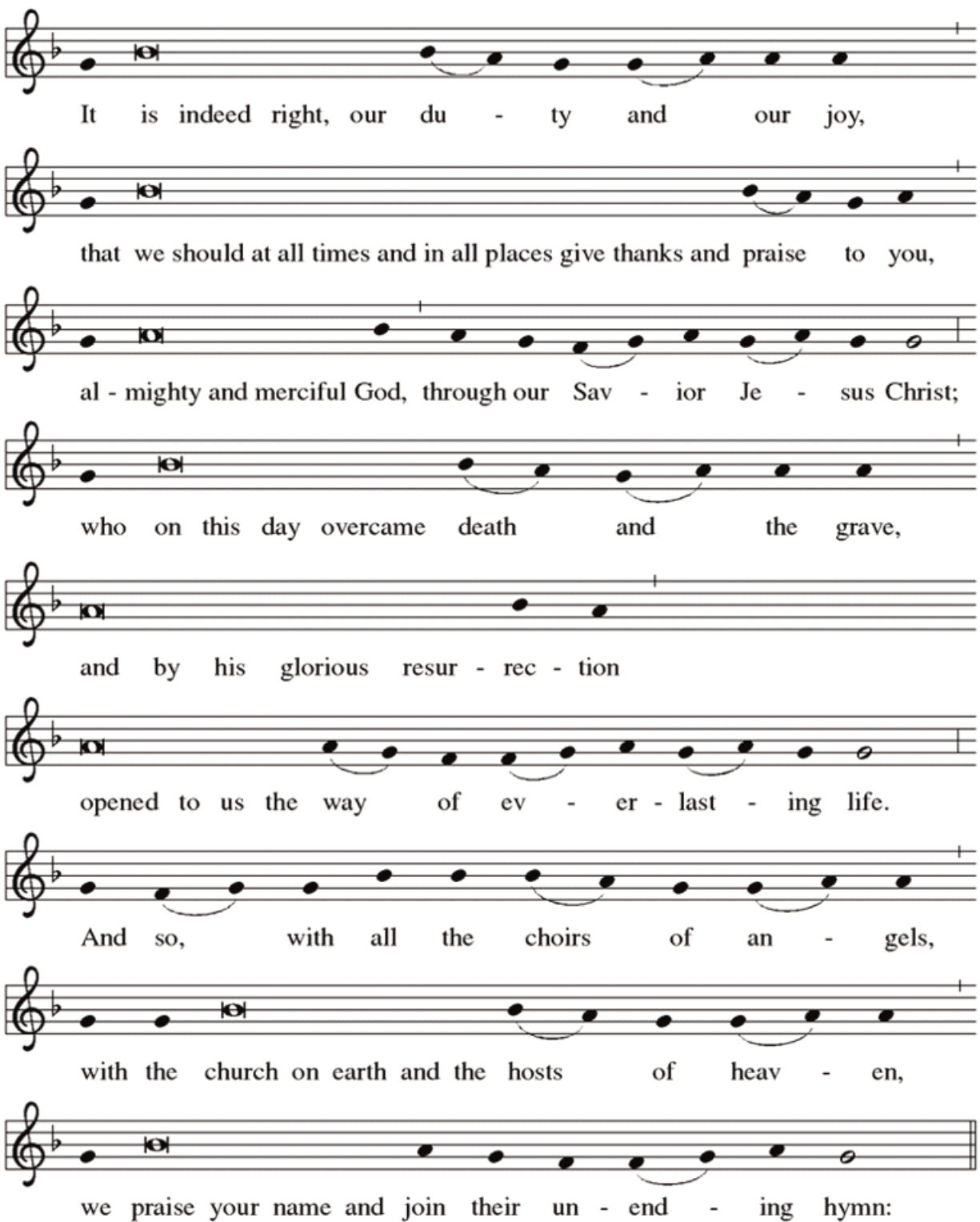
P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

Sit

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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 HYMNS

LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER

ELW #471

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.



1 In the sing - ing, in the si - lence, in the hands ex - pect - ant, o - pen,
2 In the ques - tion, in the an - swer, in the mo - ment of ac - cept - ance,



in the bless - ing, in the break - ing, in your pres - ence at this ta - ble,
in the heart's cry, in the heal - ing, in the cir - cle of your peo - ple,



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P Now may the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen ✝ you and keep you in God's grace.

C Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

A Let us pray: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION



P The Lord bless you and keep you. **C** A - men
 The Lord make his face shine on you
 and be gracious to you.
 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 #517

LORD, KEEP US STEADFAST IN YOUR WORD

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and

by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
 Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
 u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife

and bring to naught all he has done.
 may sing your praise e - ter - nal ly.
 and lead us out of death to life.

DISMISSAL

A Love The Lord!

C Live The Mission!
Together!

POSTLUDE

GUEST ORGANIST

We are pleased to welcome Juan Pablo Ocasio as our guest organist today. We thank him for sharing his talents with us during worship.