

SAINT MARTIN LUTHERAN CHURCH



**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 2026 at 10:30 am**

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

The Day: Social media has made its mark across the world. We have access to the world's libraries, all science and history, all kinds of information, right at our fingertips. AI brings it all even faster, and summarizes it. But many have taken to the internet to post personal grievances, or grievances against certain groups of people or ways of thinking. It's a one-way unnatural form of communication, conducted in the privacy of a keyboard or device, often in a room alone, and yet vomited precipitously to the whole of the world, at least for all who click or swipe. Scripture offers us a vastly different way to communicate grievances when someone sins against us. It is a holy recipe for healthy relationships in the church, among friends and neighbors, and with family. Today we get to receive this great scripture at a time when we really need it.

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.

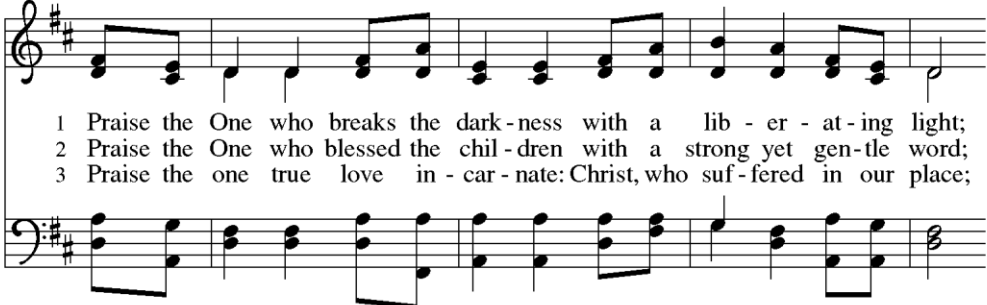
C Amen.

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

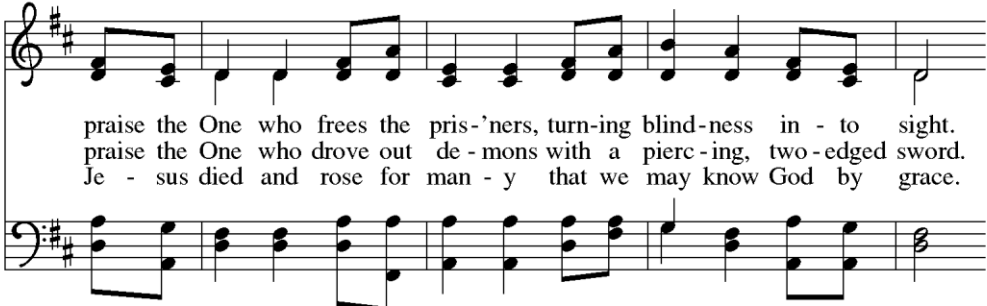
GATHERING HYMN

ELW #843

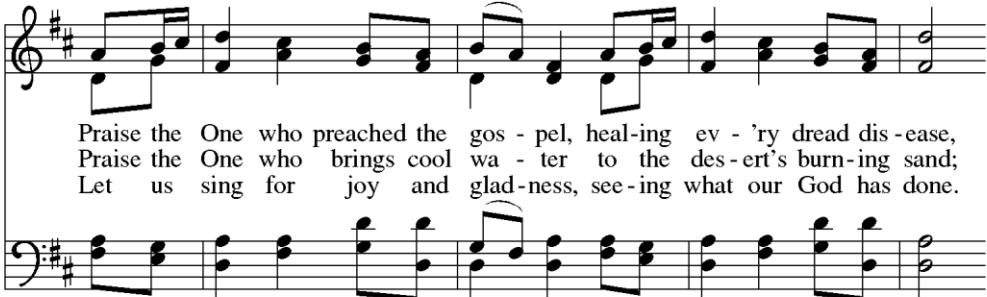
PRAISE THE ONE WHO BREAKS THE DARKNESS



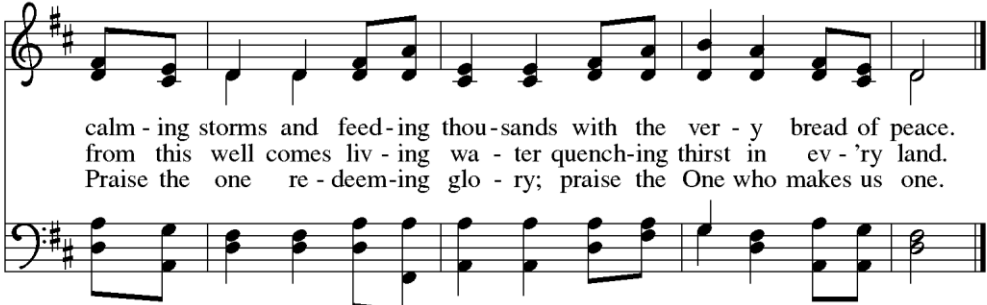
1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



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.

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, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Sit

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Beatty

FIRST LESSON

Ezekiel 33:7-11

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God — who is about to attack Jerusalem — gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

L A reading from the book of Ezekiel, the 33rd chapter, beginning at the 7th verse.

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul. ¹⁰“And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ ¹¹Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Psalm 119:33-40



33 Teach me, O Lord, the way | of your statutes,
and I shall keep it | to the end.

**34 Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with | all my heart.**

35 Lead me in the path of | your commandments,
for that is | my desire.

**36 Incline my heart to | your decrees
and not to | unjust gain.**

37 Turn my eyes from be- | holding falsehood;
give me life | in your way.

**38 Fulfill your promise | to your servant,
which is for | those who fear you.**

39 Turn away the reproach | that I dread,
because your judg- | ments are good.

**40 Behold, I long for | your commandments;
by your righteousness en- | liven 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 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

L A reading from Romans, the 13th chapter, beginning at the 8th verse.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹For the commandments, “You shall not

commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA VERSE

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals — and the church as a whole — should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

P The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter, beginning at the 15th verse.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Pastor Beatty

“The Opposite of Social Media”

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #605

FORGIVE OUR SINS AS WE FORGIVE



- 1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,” you taught us, Lord, to pray;
- 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
- 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
- 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!
then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

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.**

BLESSING OF PRAYER SQUARES

Pastor Beatty

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 O God, grant courage to your Church, that by its proclamation of your law/gospel word of salvation, the world may come to repentance in faith, and so enjoy the gifts of your mercy, grace, and forgiveness. Give your

people wisdom and strength by your Spirit, that they may be steadfast and immovable in your truth. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Gracious Father, through bishops, pastors, church workers, parents, and teachers, teach us to know your truth and your ways so we may grow up trusting Christ's forgiveness and live as your children. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Almighty God, you alone institute authority. Govern our lawmakers and rulers, especially our president, Donald, and our governor, Brian, that they may bear the power of their offices as your servants and according to your command. Bless them with peaceable governance, that under them we may be guarded and directed in righteousness, quietness, peace, and unity. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Author of creation, you provide for the needs of all. Protect and heal communities crying out after disaster and war, especially Ukraine, the Middle East, Iran, Nepal, and Arizona. Move us and all people to charity and aid that those who suffer may be granted peace and restoration. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Merciful Lord, look with compassion upon those who are struggling with illness, grief, loneliness, or any malady, especially those named in our bulletin and those we name before you now. *(After silence count to 10.)* Reassure them of your love, healing, and strength, and like a shepherd seek and save the lost. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Gracious God, as we receive Christ's body and blood, let us humbly trust that your forgiveness is poured out for us in this blessed Sacrament. May it strengthen us in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Loving God, all who die in the faith have life with you. We give you thanks for all the saints who have gone before us, whose lives remind us of the nearness of your salvation. Keep us with them in the path of your mercy until we come with them to the fullness of your kingdom. 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

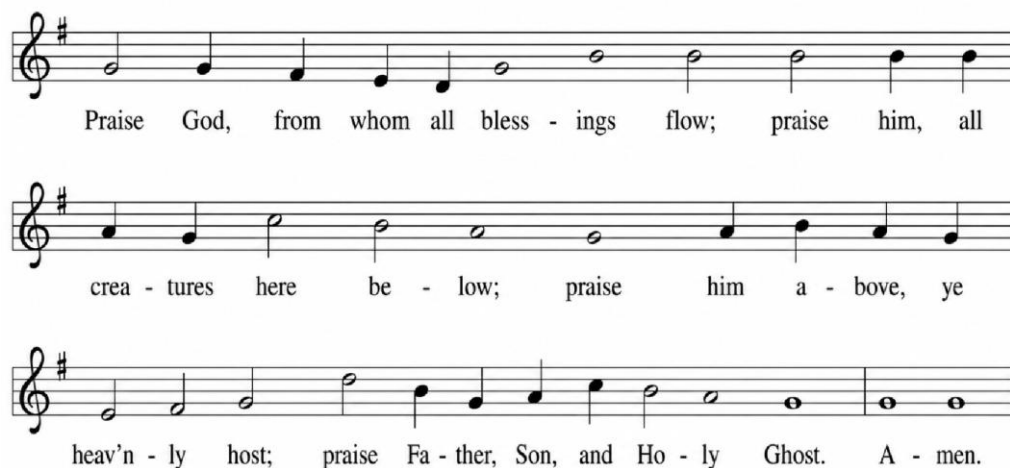
Sit

OFFERING

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

Stand as gifts are presented.

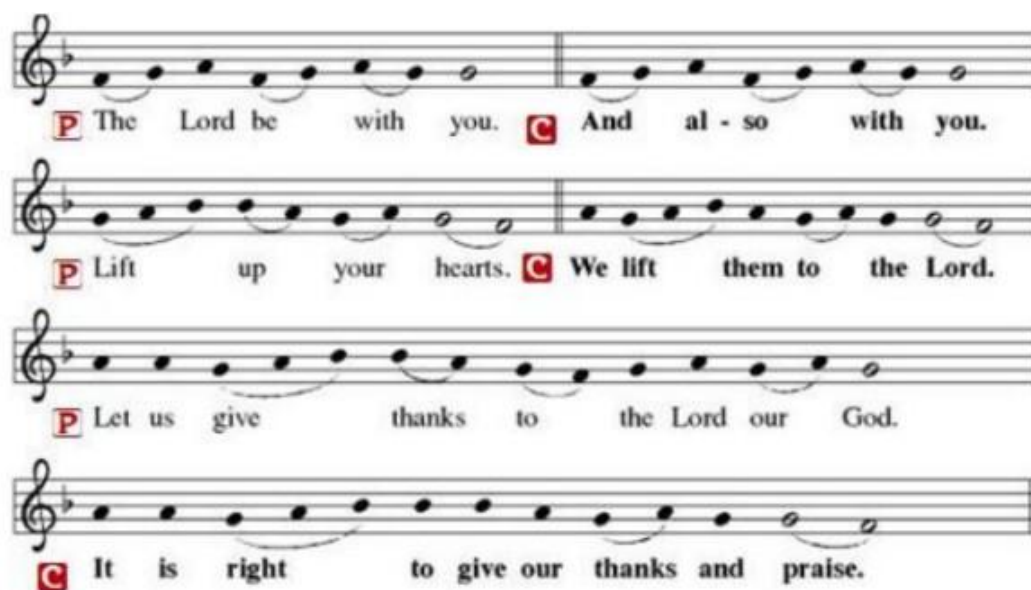
OFFERTORY



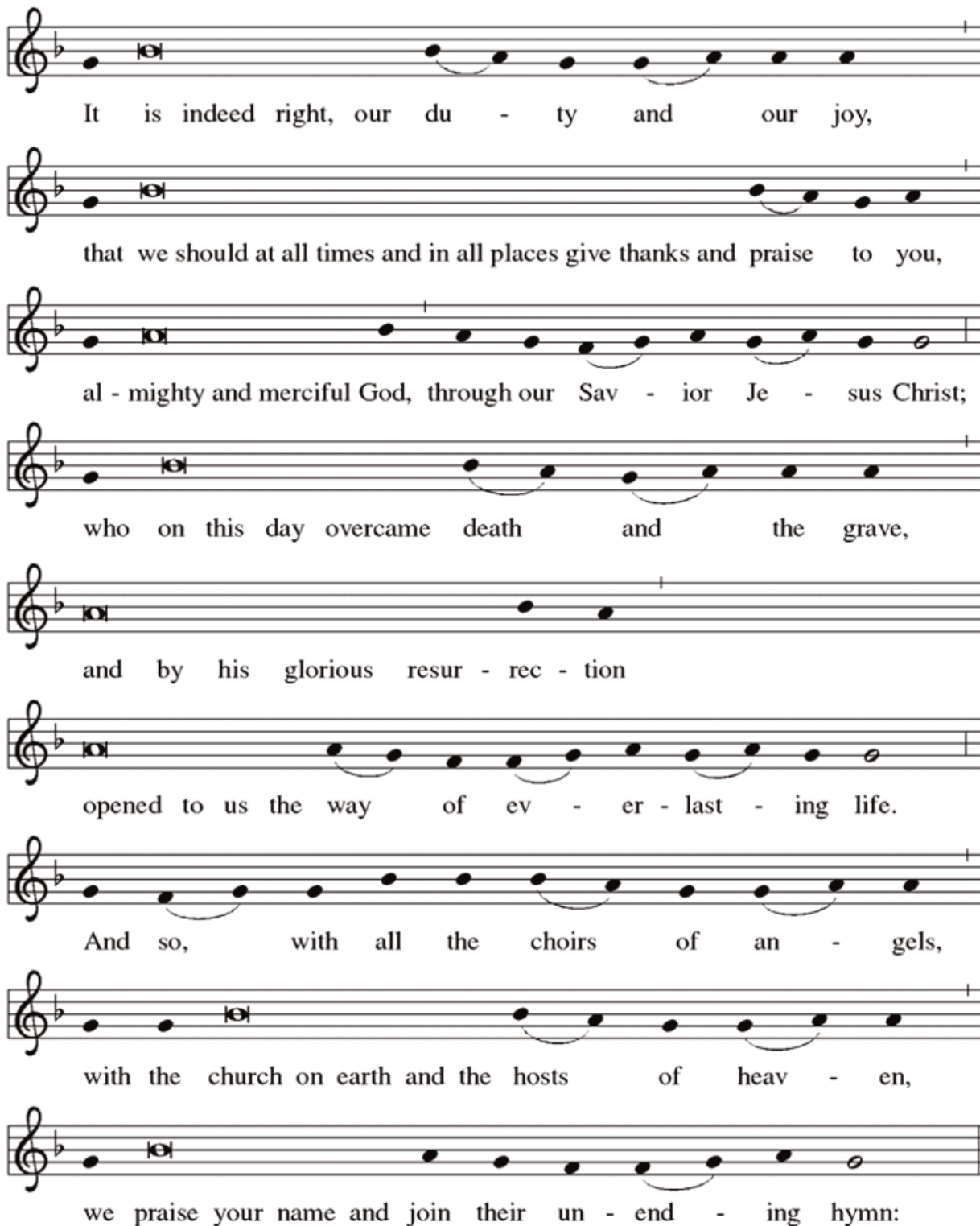
OFFERTORY PRAYER

- 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.

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.

Sit

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.

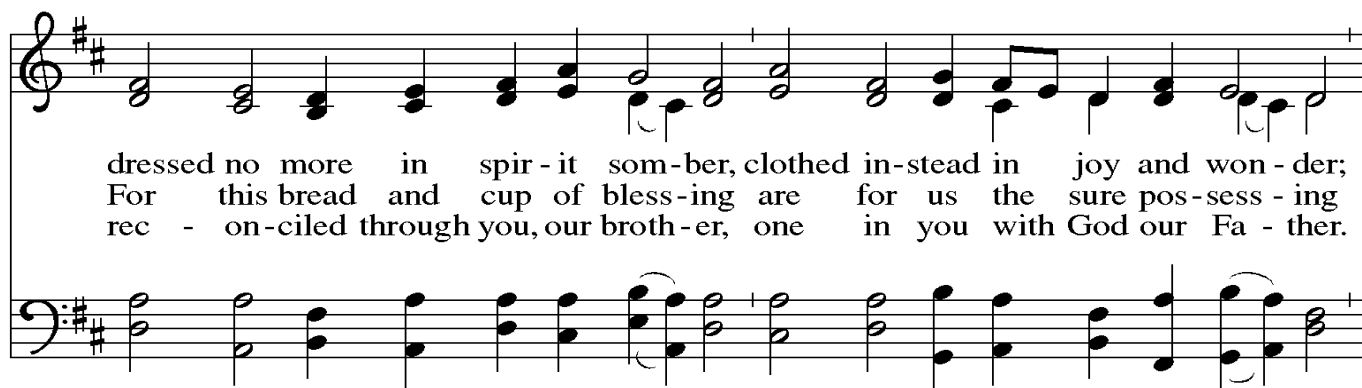
COMMUNION HYMNS

NOW WE JOIN IN CELEBRATION

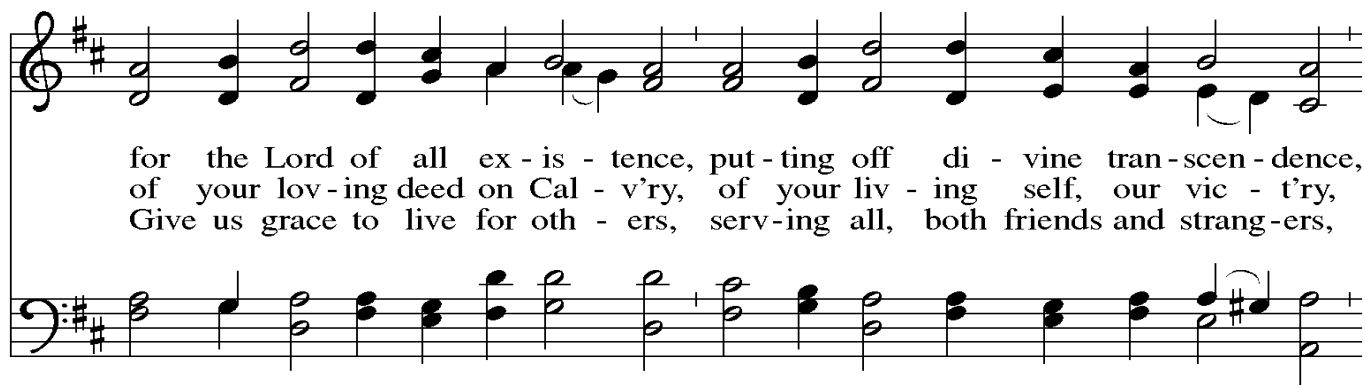
ELW #462



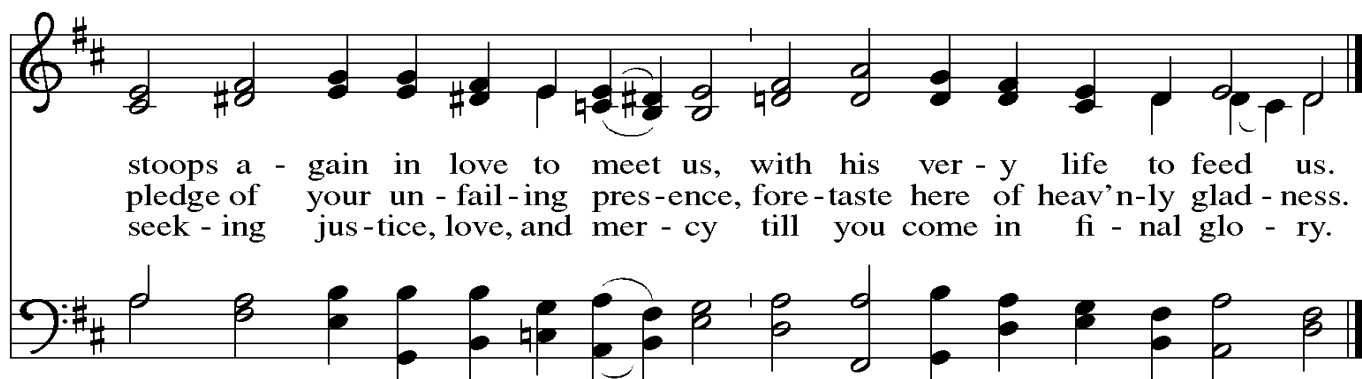
1 Now we join in cel - e - bra - tion at our Sav - ior's in - vi - ta - tion,
2 Lord, as round this feast we gath - er, fill our hearts with ho - ly rap - ture!
3 Lord, we share in this com - mu - nion as one fam - 'ly of God's chil - dren,



dressed no more in spir - it som - ber, clothed in - stead in joy and won - der;
For this bread and cup of bless - ing are for us the sure pos - sess - ing
rec - on - ciled through you, our broth - er, one in you with God our Fa - ther.



for the Lord of all ex - is - tence, put - ting off di - vine tran - scen - dence,
of your lov - ing deed on Cal - v'ry, of your liv - ing self, our vic - t'ry,
Give us grace to live for oth - ers, serv - ing all, both friends and strang - ers,



stoops a - gain in love to meet us, with his ver - y life to feed us.
pledge of your un - fail - ing pres - ence, fore - taste here of heav' n - ly glad - ness.
seek - ing jus - tice, love, and mer - cy till you come in fi - nal glo - ry.

BREAD OF LIFE, OUR HOST AND MEAL

ELW #464

1 Bread of life, our host and meal, Je - sus, feed us.
2 Bread now break and wine now pour, Je - sus, feed us.
3 Grant for - give - ness in the feast— Je - sus, feed us—
4 Thank you for this gift we share. Je - sus, feed us.

Christ, by faith, to see and feel, feed us with your love.
Make us one, our hope re - store; feed us with your love.
for the great - est and the least; feed us with your love.
Save God's chil - dren ev - 'ry - where; feed us with your love.

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

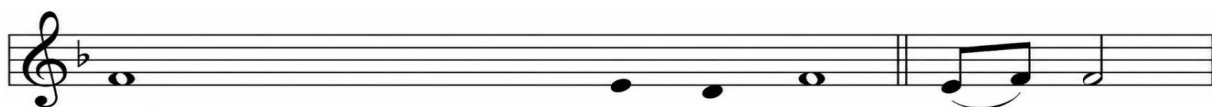
A The Lord be with you.

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 #656

BLEST BE THE TIDE THAT BINDS

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;

the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

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.

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