



FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

FEBRUARY 10, 2019 – 10:30 AM

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

WOODCLIFF LAKE, NJ

WELCOME TO CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

IN TODAY'S GOSPEL we hear the Word of God and the call to be caught up in Christ. [Sundays and Seasons]

BREAKING THE SOUND BARRIER! We invite you to try one of our listening devices, which allows you to sit anywhere in the sanctuary. They are available by speaking to an usher, Tom Kearns or David Crouse.

PINK PRAYER CARDS: You may write names for prayer on a pink card found in the pew rack. Please place your card on the altar rail for inclusion in the prayers of the day. If you wish a name to be added to our printed prayer list (for four weeks) please write "Prayer List" on the card. Please be sure this prayer request is approved by the person for whom we are praying.

"LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER!" Christ Lutheran's Prayer Chain is available daily for prayer for members, friends and family. You may call JoAnn Sallo, chairperson at 201-666-2156 or the church office with your joys or concerns.

HOLY COMMUNION: All who are baptized are invited to the table where Christ is bodily present in the bread and wine. At the directions of our ushers, all who are able kneel at the rail to receive this gift. The individual cups contain wine and grape juice (grape juice is in the center of the tray). A common cup with wine is also available. Children who commune should hold out their hands to the server.

NURSERY FACILITIES: There is a self-serve Nursery and Infant Room for young children accompanied by their parents. The Infant Room contains a bathroom with a changing table. These rooms are located along the hallway from the side door of the sanctuary.

NEED AN OFFERING ENVELOPE? We have envelopes in the pews for you. Please include your contact information or envelope number. **We also accept checks online.** Visit our website (www.clc4u.com) and click on "Give" to learn how to set up an account with your bank information. Thank you for your gift!

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Pastor: Rev. Marc A. Stutzel
Director of Music: Argine Safari
Interim Choir Director/Organist: Teresa Shyr
Director of Youth Choirs: David Scance
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32 Pascack Rd., Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677
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Open on Sundays: 9:00 and 10:30 am

PRELUDE

CONGREGATION ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

[Pink prayer cards with your joys or concerns may be placed on the altar rail.]

[For today's worship all *portions in italics will be spoken by our worship leaders*. Congregational responses are in **bold-faced type**.]

[Please stand as you are able.]

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who creates us and forms us,
who redeems us and calls us,
who unites us and sends us.*
Amen.

Gathered in God's presence, let us confess our sin.

Mighty and loving God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We seek our own way. We divide the body of Christ. In your mercy, cleanse us and heal us. Let the words of our mouths, the thoughts of our hearts, and everything that we do be filled with faith, hope, and love. Amen.

Hear the voice of Jesus: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to proclaim release to the captives." In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, I proclaim to you that your sins are forgiven and you are released. The joy of the Lord is your strength, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are yours forever.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

[We share the peace via handshake or the peace sign.]

[Please remain standing as you are able.]

GATHERING SONG – “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!” [ELW 413, verses 1-3]

The musical score is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The score consists of six systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano line (bass clef). The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system includes a four-part vocal entry. The second system continues the vocal entry. The third system begins a new phrase. The fourth system continues the phrase. The fifth system continues the phrase. The sixth system concludes the phrase with a double bar line.

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!
2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
though the eye of sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
per - fect in pow'r, in love and pu - ri - ty.
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

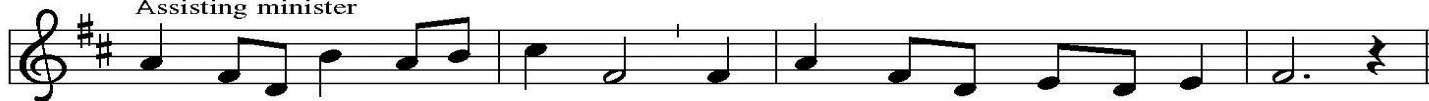
GREETING

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Pastor
Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Most holy God, the earth is filled with your glory, and before you angels and saints stand in awe. Enlarge our vision to see your power at work in the world, and by your grace make us heralds of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

[The congregation may sit]

CHILDREN'S SERMON

THE FIRST READING – Isaiah 6:1-13

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said:

*“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”*

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!” ⁹And he said, “Go and say to this people:

*‘Keep listening, but do not comprehend;
keep looking, but do not understand.’*

*¹⁰Make the mind of this people dull,
and stop their ears, and shut their eyes,
so that they may not look with their eyes,
and listen with their ears,
and comprehend with their minds,
and turn and be healed.”*

¹¹*Then I said, “How long, O Lord?” And he said:*

“Until cities lie waste

without inhabitant,

and houses without people,

and the land is utterly desolate;

¹²*until the LORD sends everyone far away,*

and vast is the emptiness in the midst of the land.

¹³*Even if a tenth part remain in it,*

it will be burned again,

like a terebinth or an oak

whose stump remains standing

when it is felled.”

The holy seed is its stump.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND READING – 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

¹*Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you— unless you have come to believe in vain.*

³*For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.*

⁸*Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.*

¹⁰*But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION [Please stand as you are able.]



THE HOLY GOSPEL according to St. Luke 5:1-11

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, ²he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. ⁴When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." ⁵Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." ⁶When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. ⁷So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" ⁹For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; ¹⁰and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." ¹¹When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

[The congregation may sit.]

SERMON – "Go Away"

[Please stand as you are able.]

HYMN OF THE DAY – “Be Thou My Vision” [ELW 793, all verses]



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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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 [The congregation may sit.]

United as one body in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. [A brief silence.]

We pray for the church. Give us courage to answer your call and keep us faithful to your life-giving word. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Tracie, and friends across the NJ Synod including Prince of Peace in Old Tappan, Calvary in Allendale, Church of the Savior in Paramus, and Christ Lutheran in Paramus. Send us out to be the good news of your love for all people. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the earth. For tundra and forests, grasslands and deserts; for those who fish and those who farm. For ranchers, gardeners, and all whose work brings food to our tables. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the nations. Grant wisdom to those in authority. We pray for Donald, the President; Carlos, the Mayor of Woodcliff Lake; Jacqueline, Corrado, Nancy, Angela, Ian, and Brian, Woodcliff Lake City Council members; and all mayors and councilpersons in the boros we call home. Strengthen peacekeepers, ambassadors, military personnel, and disaster relief workers. Protect families who have to leave their homes because of war, natural disasters, or rejection by their communities. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For those in need. For those whose lives are in turmoil; for those who wrestle with addiction; for those burdened by anxiety and self-doubt. For those who grieve, and those who are ill especially . . .

**Beverly Albert, Dolores Albert, Bill Caver, Victor Bongard, Kathy Bowen,
Kathy Cipoletti, Tony Conboy, Coraline, Elizabeth Danko, Ken Eastlund, Ken Eiken,
Flynn, Mike Hainsselin, Kim Herrera, Sebastian Hitzig, Mae Hulburt, Jane,
Janice, Shiloh and Katherine Johnson, Katie, Art Klein, Marie Kober,
Julia Kopcsó, Camp Koinonia, Kristi, Henry Krumrei, Donna Nardella,
Lorraine and Jack Sadlon, Argine Safari, Nancy Sorbo, Nancy Sweet, Trudy Ungar
and the families of Harriet Louis and Ebba Gagliardi**

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For this assembly. For those who prepare this space for worship and those who mentor others in the faith; for those who nurture fellowship within this congregation and those who reach out in service to our community. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died and now rest in your presence. Sustain us in hope of the resurrection and bring us into the joy of unending life in you. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Receive our prayers and fill us with the radiance of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

CHANCEL CHOIR MUSICAL OFFERING – “Holy, Holy, Holy” [Music by Franz Schubert]

THE OFFERING IS TAKEN

THE ELEMENTS ARE RECEIVED AND THE OFFERTORY IS SUNG

OFFERTORY SONG—“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service” [ELW 712, vs. 1—Stand as able.]



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;
3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light
4 Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:
still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,
to the child, the youth, the a-ged, love in liv-ing deeds to show;



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,
hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



con-se-crat-ing to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.
by your Spir-it send your pow-er to our world to make it whole.
stir-ring us to ar-dent ser-vice, your a-bun-dant life to share.
that your ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

The musical notation is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#), indicating the key of G major. The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some half notes. Slurs are used to group notes across words. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words in bold. The first staff has a double bar line after the first phrase. The second staff also has a double bar line after the first phrase. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

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

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

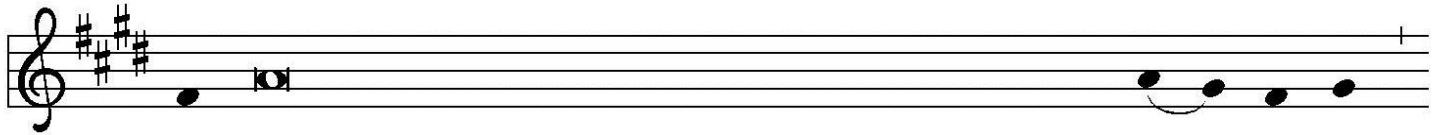
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

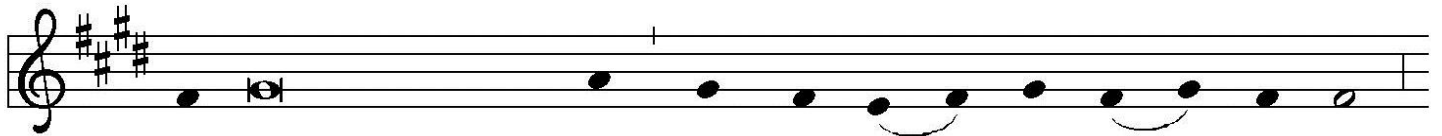
PREFACE



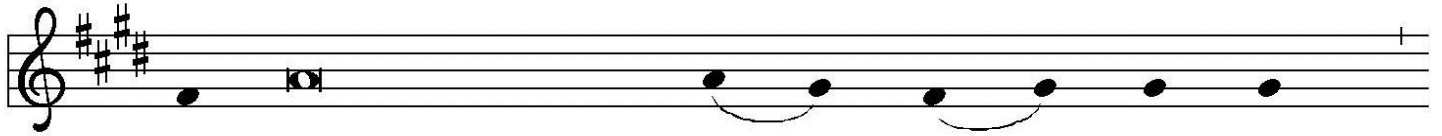
It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,



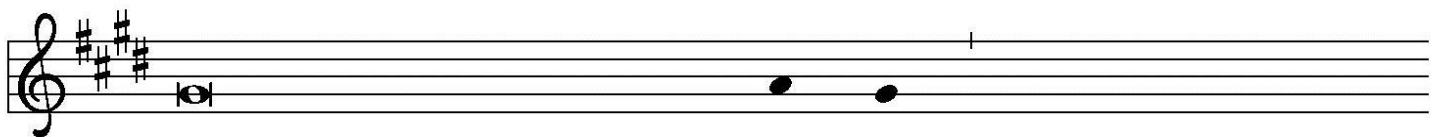
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,



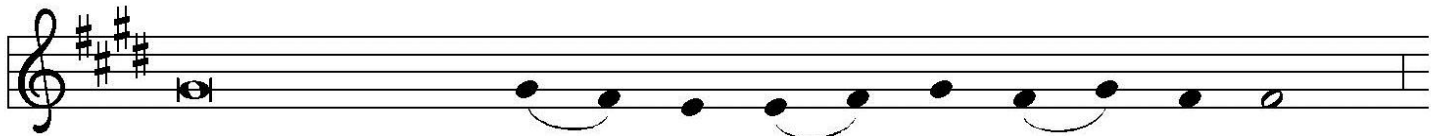
al-mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ;



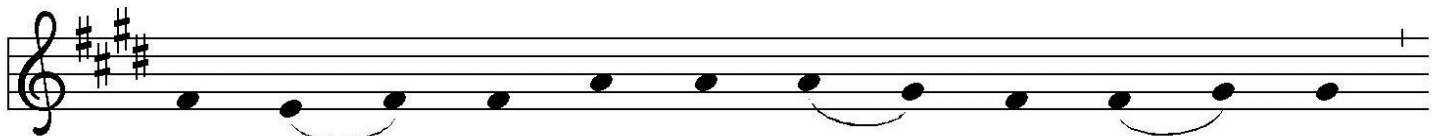
who on this day overcame death and the grave,



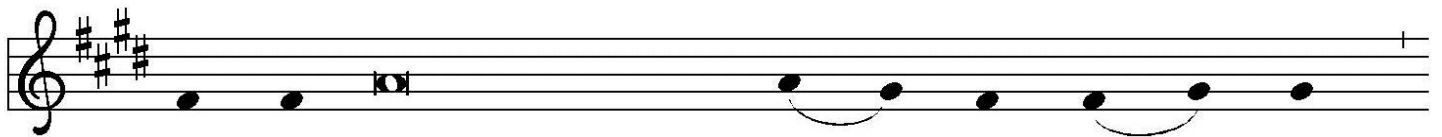
and by his glorious resur-rec - tion



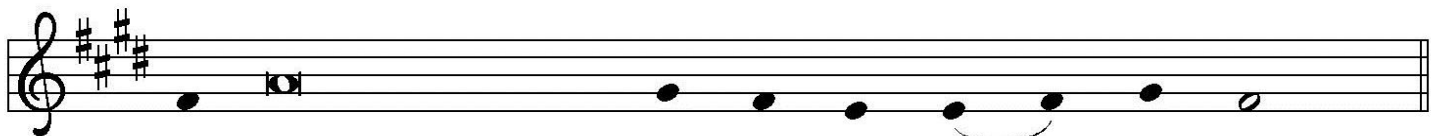
opened to us the way of ev - er - last - ing life.



And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,

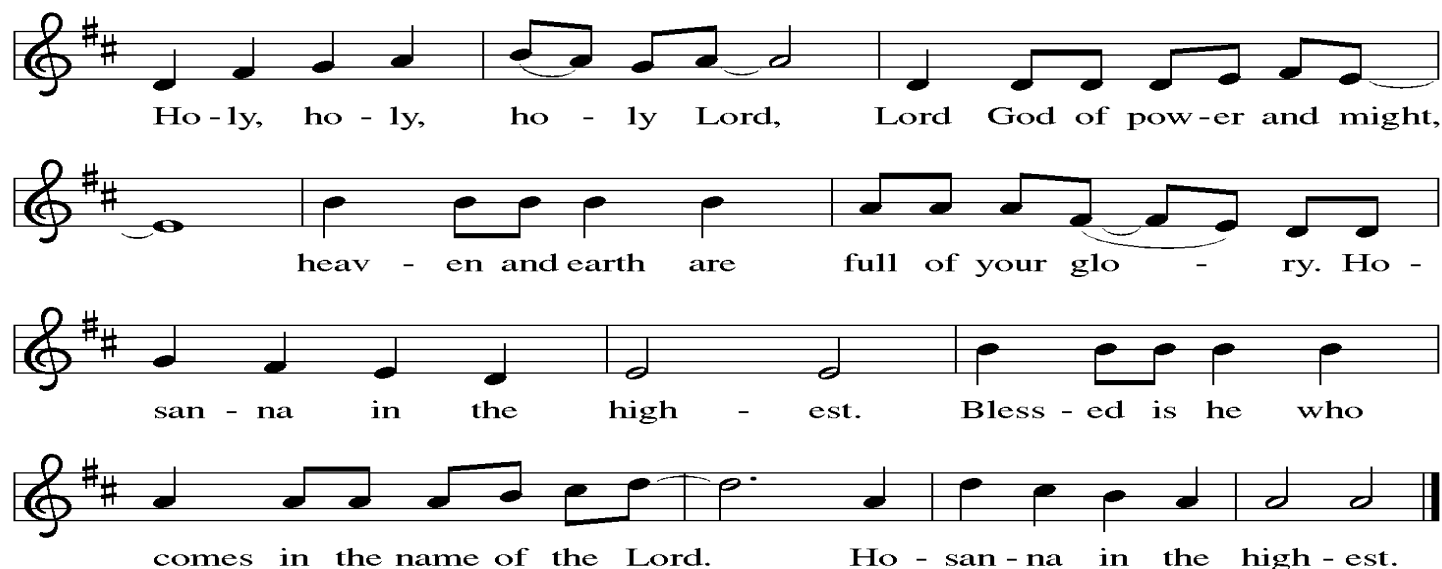


with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,



we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the shadow and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

*Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.*

*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.*

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

*With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace
and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with
hope for his coming.*

Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

Come, not because you are perfect but because, through Christ Jesus, you are invited.

[The congregation may sit.]

HOLY COMMUNION

[All are invited to the Table where Christ is bodily present in the bread and drink.

At the direction of our ushers, everyone who is able kneels at the rail.

Bread will be distributed first (gluten free wafers are available), followed by wine and grape juice in individual cups. A chalice with wine is also available.

Children and all who have not received First Communion will receive a blessing.

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.]

[The following songs are sung by the congregation during the distribution of Holy Communion.]

COMMUNION SONG – “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, grant us peace.

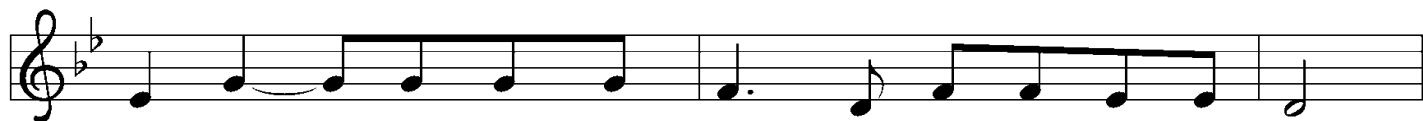
COMMUNION SONG – “How Great Thou Art” [ELW 856, all verses]



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der con - sid - er
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft - y moun-tain
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur-den glad-ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad - o -



thun - der, thy pow'r through-out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
gran - deur and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
bear - ing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;
ra - tion and there pro - claim, “My God, how great thou art!”

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, how great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989

Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine

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[Please stand as you are able.]

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

Amen.

THE BLESSING

The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

SENDING SONG – “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” [ELW 547, all verses]

1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, our true faith con-fess-ing,
2 With praise and thanks-giv-ing to God ev-er-liv-ing,
the peo-ple of our God from this dwell-ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev-'ry-day life we will face—
The sup-per is end-ed. Oh, now be ex-tend-ed
our faith ev-er shar-ing, in love ev-er car-ing,
the fruits of this ser-vice in all who be-lieve.
em-brac-ing God's chil-dren, the whole hu-man race.
The seed of Christ's teach-ing, re-cep-tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now
reach-ing, shall blos-som in ac-tion for God and for all.
lead us; u-nite us as one in this life that we share.
Your grace shall in-cite us, your love shall u-nite us
Then may all the liv-ing with praise and thanks-giv-ing
to give work for your king-dom and an-swer your call.
give hon-or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is your light.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

REFLECTION: Send me?

Pastor Marc A. Stutzel

One thing I do when I read Scripture is imagine the story as it unfolds. I like to see, in my mind, the entire scene, filling in the details as I go along. Our reading from Isaiah today is one of those stories we think we already know. In seminary, this story was so central to our identity, the school gave out t-shirts quoting verse 8. Isaiah received a vision of an over-the-top God. God, sitting on the throne, is high above Isaiah and wearing a long robe. The robe is so large; the Temple can only hold its hem. Isaiah was so overwhelmed by this vision of God; he could only confess who he truly was. God's presence was a mirror for Isaiah, showcasing how far from perfect Isaiah was. God, however, had a plan for Isaiah and didn't let Isaiah's imperfection stop Isaiah from spreading God's word. God transformed Isaiah, touching his lips with a burning piece of coal. After God did this, God asked, "Whom shall I send?" And Isaiah responded, enthusiastically, "Send me!"

Or did he? Our translation gives us an exclamation mark at the end of Isaiah's statement because, I think, we want Isaiah's response to be enthusiastic. We want to believe that experiencing God's presence will make us want to say a big "yes" to God. But, as you were imaging this scene, how many other people were in the Temple with Isaiah? We have seraphs flying around, the hem of God's robe, Isaiah... and that's it. In this vision of God, there is no one else present. So when God asked the question, there's no one else who could answer. We could imagine this scene with Isaiah looking around, noticing he's by himself, and saying, "Here am I...send me?" And God, whether Isaiah was enthusiastic or not, still commissioned him to bring God's word to all people.

I honestly believe that we want an experience of God to propel us into a new Christ-like way of life. We want to meet God face-to-face and, without thinking, shout out, "send me!" We want this so badly, we end up using this desire as an excuse to do nothing. If we don't feel this kind of enthusiasm, we assume we haven't met God. Or, if we do meet God but we're left doubting, confused, or worried, then we assume we haven't had an authentic "God-moment." We end up believing that God will always have an exclamation point. Yet we know that's not, necessarily, how God works. God comes to us when we need God. And that experience can feel like a lightning bolt or be so subtle, it could feel like a little wine on our lips and a crumb of bread in our belly. We are called to be aware of the God who is always with us. And since God is always with us, we are also called to bring God's word to all people, whether we're enthusiastic about it or not.