

**TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION  
NOVEMBER 18, 2018 – 10:30 AM**

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
WOODCLIFF LAKE, NJ**

# WELCOME TO CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

**WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE WORSHIPPING WITH US TODAY** as we hear Jesus teaching us about true strength. [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](http://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  
Director of Youth Choirs: David Scance  
Administrative Assistant: Doris Crouse  
32 Pascack Rd., Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677  
201-391-4224 [clc4u2@verizon.net](mailto:clc4u2@verizon.net)

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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

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

**Amen.**

*God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

**Amen.**

*Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive 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.**

*In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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.*

**Amen.**

### THE PEACE

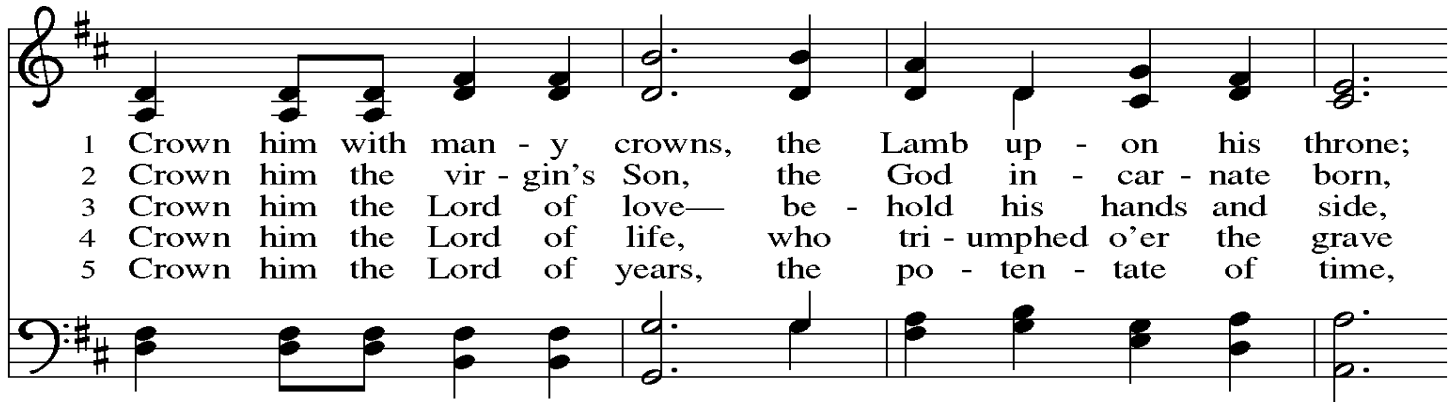
*The peace of Christ be with you always.*

**And also with you.**

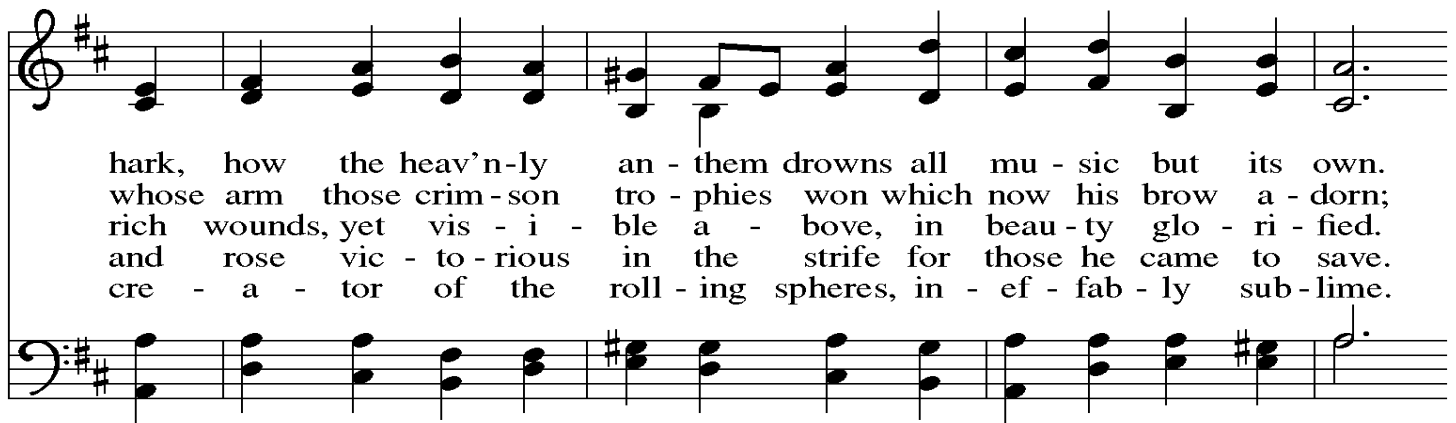
[We share the peace via handshake or the peace sign.]

[Please remain standing as you are able.]

**GATHERING SONG – “Crown Him with Many Crowns”** [ELW 855, verses 1, 3, 5]



1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;  
2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,  
3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,  
4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave  
5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,



hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.  
whose arm those crim - son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;  
rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.  
and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.  
cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,  
No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,  
His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,  
All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;



and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.  
but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.  
who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.  
thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, sts. 1–3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 4  
Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

[Text and Music Copyright Holder: Public Domain]

## 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]

*Refrain*  
Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.



*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



*Final refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Let us pray. Almighty God, your sovereign purpose brings salvation to birth. Give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, trusting that your kingdom comes and your will is done through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

**Amen.**

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON** [The congregation may sit.]

### **THE FIRST READING – Daniel 12:1-3**

<sup>1</sup>*“At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. <sup>2</sup>Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. <sup>3</sup>Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”*

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

### **THE SECOND READING – Hebrews 10:11-25**

<sup>11</sup>*Every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. <sup>12</sup>But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, “he sat down at the right hand of God,” <sup>13</sup>and since then has been waiting “until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.” <sup>14</sup>For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. [<sup>15</sup>And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying,*

<sup>16</sup>*“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds,”*

<sup>17</sup>*he also adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”*

<sup>18</sup>*Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.]*

<sup>19</sup>*Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup>by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), <sup>21</sup>and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup>let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*

<sup>23</sup>*Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup>And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup>not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

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



**THE HOLY GOSPEL according to St. Mark 13:1-13**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" <sup>2</sup>Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down."

<sup>3</sup>When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, <sup>4</sup>Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished? <sup>5</sup>Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. <sup>6</sup>Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. <sup>7</sup>When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. <sup>8</sup>For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

<sup>9</sup>As for yourselves, beware; for they will hand you over to councils; and you will be beaten in synagogues; and you will stand before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them. <sup>10</sup>And the good news must first be proclaimed to all nations.

<sup>11</sup>When they bring you to trial and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say; but say whatever is given you at that time, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. <sup>12</sup>Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; <sup>13</sup>and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

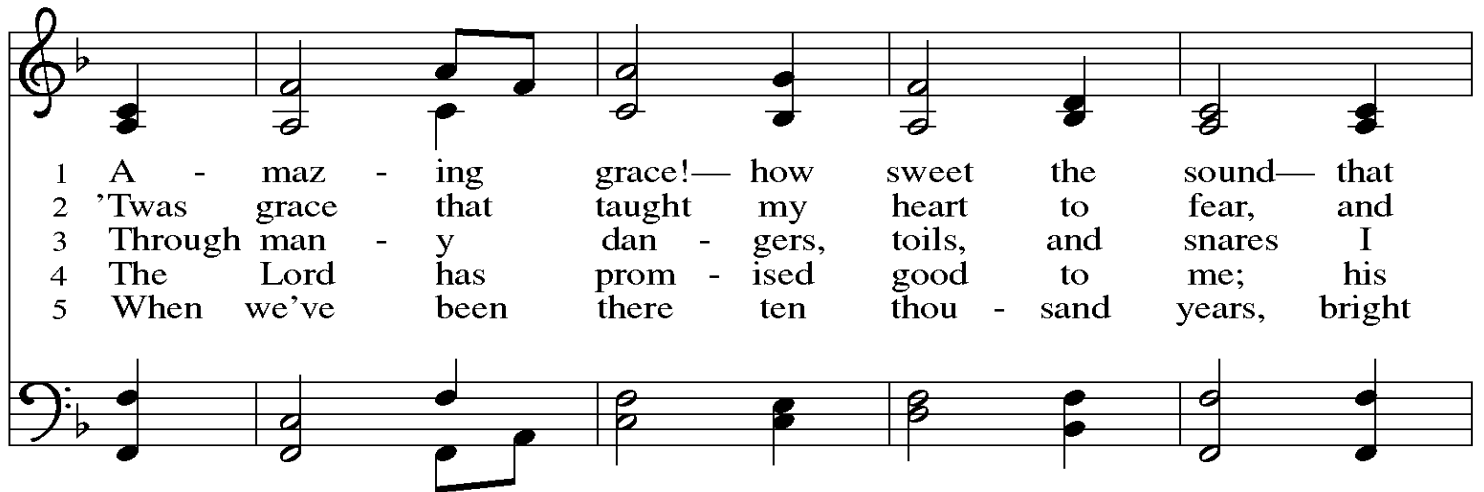
*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

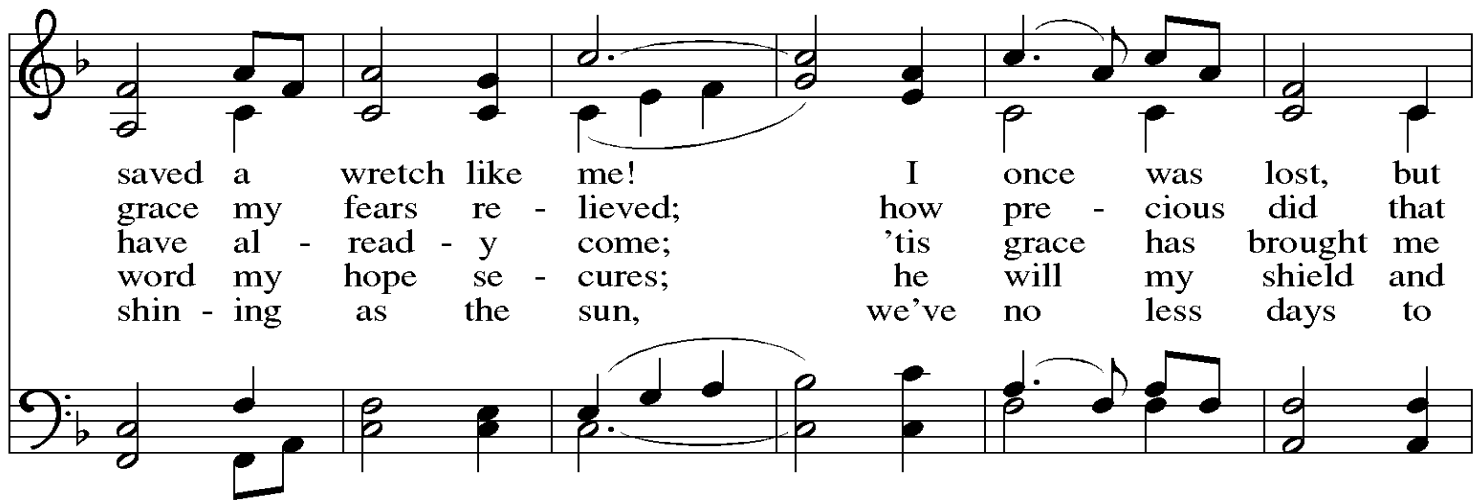
**SERMON – "Worth It"** [The congregation may sit.]

[Please stand as you are able.]

**HYMN OF THE DAY** – “*Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*” [ELW 779, all verses]



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5

Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

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**THE APOSTLES' CREED** [Please remain standing.]

**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.]

*With the people of God gathered here and throughout the world, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.*

[A brief silence.]

*Gracious God, you made the church through the working of the Holy Spirit, and you provide the assurance of faith through your Son. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Tracie, our military chaplains, and our friends in the Upper Pascack Valley Interfaith Clergy Council. Guide us in our proclamation of the gospel.*

*Lord, in your mercy,*

**hear our prayer.**

*You created all things and said your creation was good. Protect land and water from harm, cause all living things to thrive, and raise up stewards for the well-being of creation. Lord, in your mercy,*

**hear our prayer.**

*You desire peace for the whole world. We pray for Donald, the President; Cory and Robert, our Senators; and Josh, our Federal Representative. Provide refuge for those in harm's way, bring an end to war, and instill in political leaders the radical love for all that comes from you. Lord, in your mercy,*

**hear our prayer.**

*We pray to you almighty God, in this time when wildfires tear through communities in California. You are our refuge and our strength, a very present help in time of trouble. Do not let us fail in the face of these events. Uphold us with your love, and give us the strength we need. Help us in our confusion, and guide our actions. Keep all fighting the fires safe. Grant peace, strength, and mercy to all first responders. Heal the hurt, console the bereaved and afflicted, protect the innocent and helpless, and deliver any who are still in peril. Lord in your mercy,*  
**hear our prayer.**

*You reveal your compassion through caregivers, advocates, and medical professionals. Heal the sick, deliver the suffering, bind up the brokenhearted, provide shelter for the homeless and food for the hungry. We pray especially for . . .*

**Beverly Albert, Dolores Albert, Karin Anderson, Bill Caver,  
Susan Bachstetter, John Bliefernich, Kathy Cipoletti, Tony Conboy, Elizabeth Danko,  
Ken Eastlund, Kim Herrera, Mae Hulburt, Jane, Shiloh and Katherine Johnson,  
Marie Kober, Julia Kopcsó, Camp Koinonia, Kristi, Henry Krumrei,  
Lorraine and Jack Sadlon, Sharon Schumann, Nancy Sweet, Trudy Ungar,  
families of viral outbreak victims at the Wanaque care center**

*Lord, in your mercy,*  
**hear our prayer.**

*You bless us in our coming and our going, in our waking and our sleeping, and in our daily work. Make our love and good deeds a reflection of the freedom you give us in Christ Jesus. Lord, in your mercy,*  
**hear our prayer.**

*You grant us everlasting life. Through the witness of your saints who now rest in the Lord, inspire us in our lives of faithful service. Lord, in your mercy,*  
**hear our prayer.**

*Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, that we commend to you this day, trusting in your abundant mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*  
**Amen.**

**STEWARDSHIP — “What I Give”**

**CHANCEL CHOIR MUSICAL OFFERING — “Thanks Be To Thee”** [by George F. Handel]]

**THE OFFERING IS TAKEN**

**THE ELEMENTS ARE RECEIVED AND THE OFFERTORY IS SUNG** [Please stand as you are able.]

## OFFERTORY SONG – “*Shall We Gather at the River*” [ELW 423, verse 1]



1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,  
2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,  
3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;  
4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?  
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.  
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.  
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

### *Refrain*



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

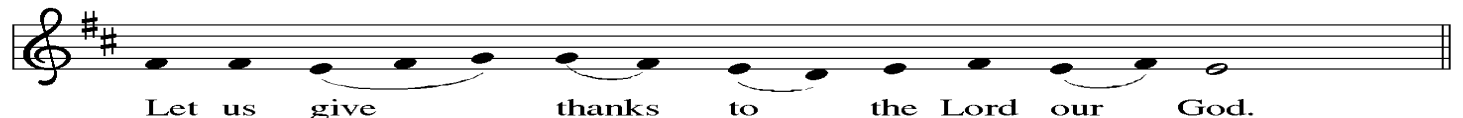
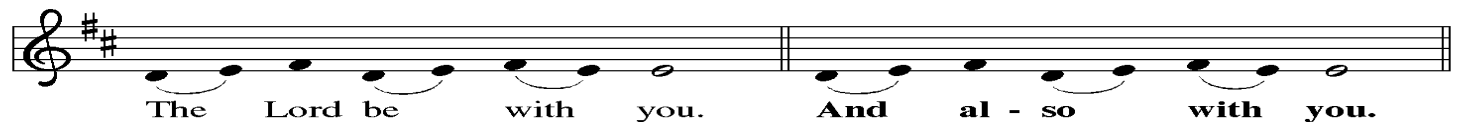
Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899  
Music: HANSON PLACE, Robert Lowry

[Text and Music copyright Holder: Public Domain]

## OFFERING PRAYER

*Let us pray. Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

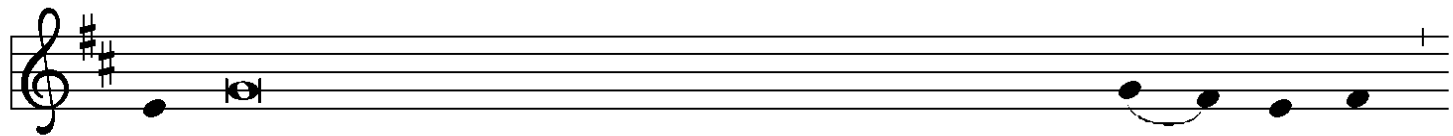
## DIALOGUE



## PREFACE



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



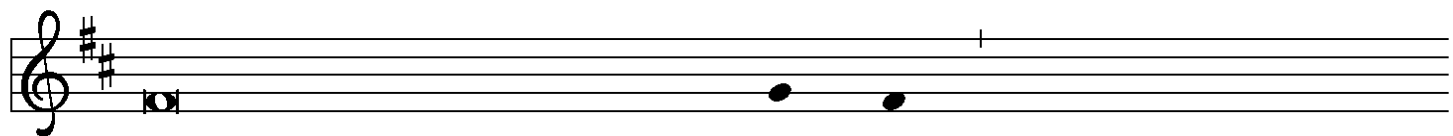
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,



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



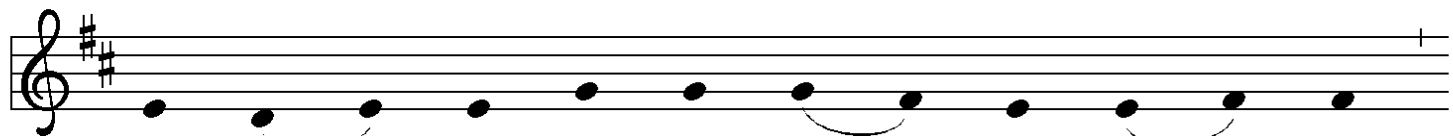
who on this day overcame death and the grave,



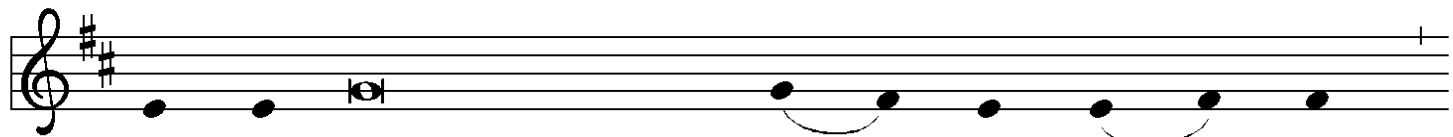
and by his glorious resur - rec - tion



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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Holy, Holy, Holy'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed 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.**

*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 – “This Is My Father’s World”** [ELW 824, all verses]



1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all  
2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the  
3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,



na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.  
morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er's praise.  
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of  
This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the  
This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The



rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.  
rus - tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev'-ry-where.  
Lord is king, let heav - en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858–1901  
Music: TERRA PATRIS, Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852–1930, adapt.

[Text and Music Copyright Holder: Public Domain]

## COMMUNION SONG – “What Feast of Love” [ELW 487, all verses]



- 1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban - quet come from heav - en?
- 2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
- 3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim - son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?  
What hope of ev - er - last - ing life, what won - drous word is giv - en?  
What stream of ev - er - last - ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.  
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.  
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!  
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!  
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

Text © 1993 Delores Dufner OSB. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

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[Please stand.]

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

**Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*Let us pray. O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**Amen.**



## **BLESSING OF RETAIL WORKERS**

*Paul writes: Whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord and not for your masters, since you know that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you serve the Lord Christ. [Colossians 3:23-24]*

*We are pleased, dear God, to honor all who work in retail Cashiers, stock clerks, customer service managers, sales associates, bridal consultants, and buyers are just some of the many job titles we carry or encounter while at the store. People in sales and commerce do more than give us goods in exchange for money. They help everyone buy the items they need to live and thrive. Retail workers connect us to the material items that connect us to each other so that we can live out our call to love and serve each other.*

*God, you have blessed your people through all generations and guided them in life and death: Abraham and Sarah; Moses and Miriam; Isaiah and all the prophets; Mary, the mother of our Lord; Peter, James, Mary Magdalena, Phoebe, and all the disciples; and all the saints and witnesses in your church of ages past, in whom your Spirit spoke and moved.*

*We give you thanks, O God, for those who labor in retail. We ask you to bless the fruits of their work. In times of challenge, bring them wisdom. In times of stress, give them patience. In times of busyness, grant them peace. Give each of them grace to set a good example to all, to be just and true in all their dealings, and to be gracious and generous and courteous toward all. May you, O loving God, help them serve all people in humbleness and love.*

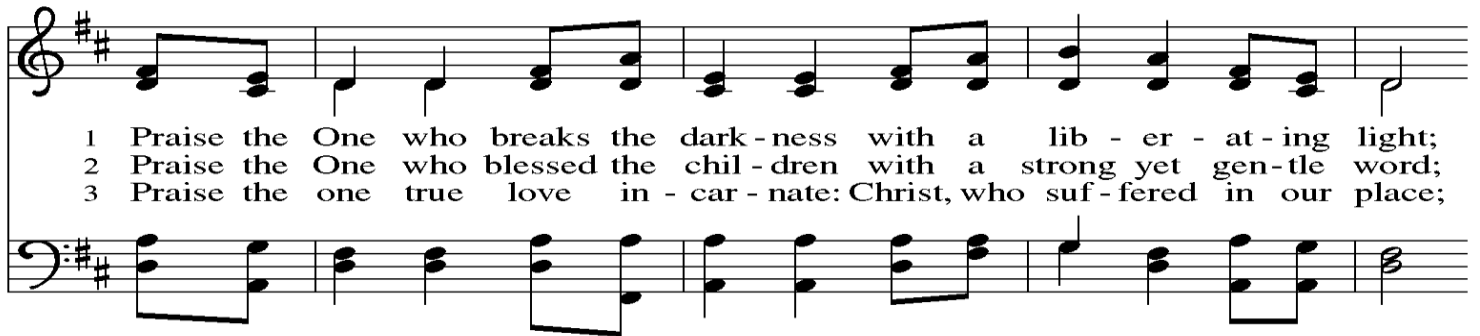
*May our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer be with you, bless you, and may God's face always shine upon you.*

**Amen.**

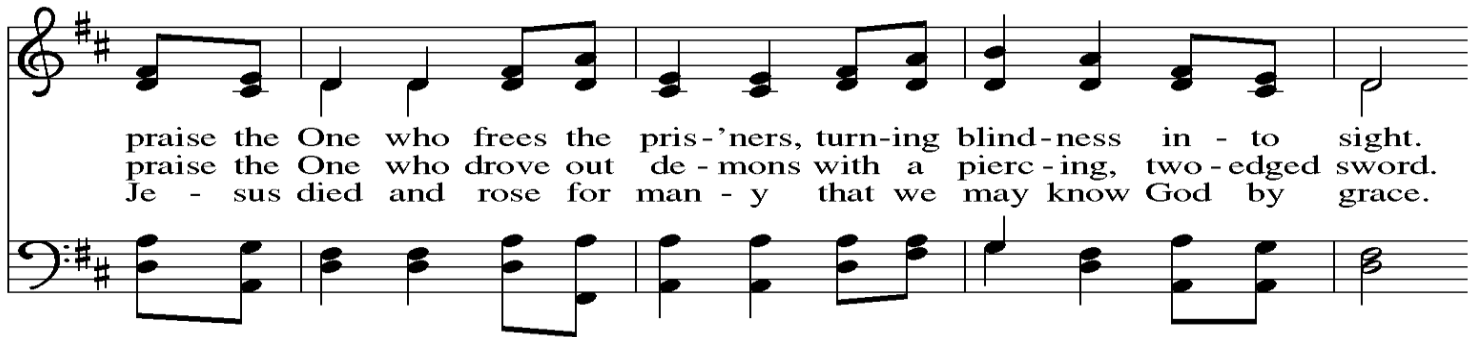
*And may all of us, in our encounters with those who work in retail, see the face of Jesus, knowing that every one of us is made in the image of Father, Son +, and Holy Spirit.*

**Amen.**


**SENDING SONG** – “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” [ELW 843, all verses]



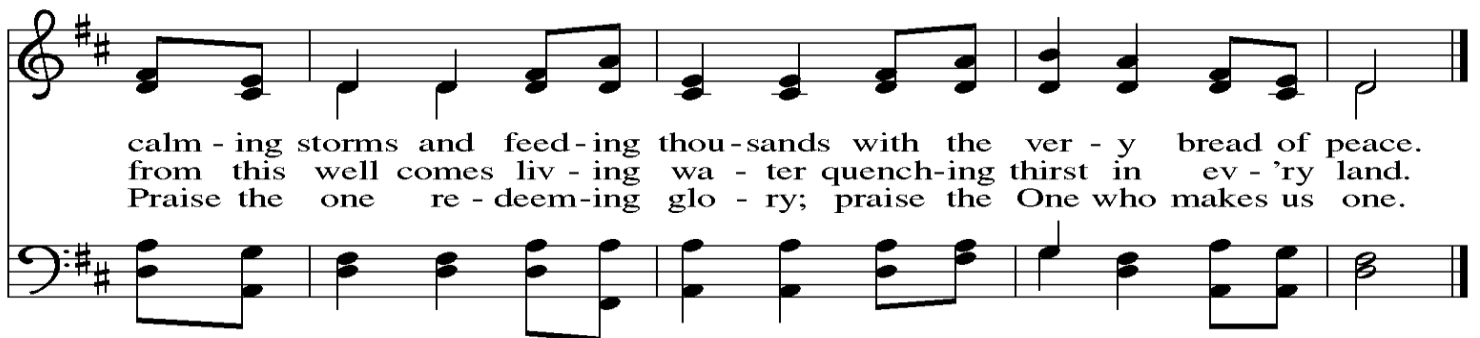
1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;  
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;  
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



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.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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**DISMISSAL**

*Go in peace. Remember the poor.*

**Thanks be to God.**

## **REFLECTION: The Apocalypse**

**Pastor Marc A. Stutzel**

*When we hear the word apocalypse, we usually think about the end of the world. We imagine massive wars, incredible natural disasters, and an unbelievable amount of destruction and anguish. The apocalypse is good for comic books and action movies but it's not, typically, something we want to live through. One of the ways we anticipate the apocalypse is by asking the question: "What will the end look like?" But that wasn't a question the bible really spent a lot of time talking about. Instead, the communities who wrote, read and shared these biblical words wanted to know: "What is the meaning of our suffering?" Those who contributed apocalypse stories to the Bible (Daniel, Revelation, and even bits of the gospel according to Mark) were trying to find meaning in "their own struggle and suffering." [Revelation: Interpretation Commentary, page 43]*

*Today's reading from the book of Daniel is an attempt to find meaning. Daniel is the youngest book in the Old Testament section of our scriptures. The book was set in the years after Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians (in the aftermath of the year 586 BCE) but it was probably written 400 years after that. Daniel was composed at a time when the Jewish community faced severe persecutions from the ruling authorities. Judaism was outlawed and Torah scrolls were burned. Religious rites were abolished and children were discouraged from gaining the marks that defined them as part of the Jewish community. Rabbis and students were persecuted and killed. The Jewish community, especially the one centered in Jerusalem, tried to make sense of their suffering. The book of Daniel was a response to that suffering and today's text is the beginning of the final scene of Daniel's four visions of the apocalypse. But it's not a vision of the end. It's a vision of a new beginning.*

*Daniel's vision of the afterlife is less about details of "what" happens and, instead, is centered in hope. Daniel doesn't try to mask the seriousness of suffering, pain, sadness and fear. He doesn't say that what we experience in our life is, somehow, "less real" than it is. Instead, Daniel acknowledges that life can be hard and that following God is not always easy. Our faith requires us to sometimes say "no" to the ways the world tries to turn us from God, each other, or call to love the world. There can be a deadly consequence for that "no." But the world doesn't define our value or worth; only God can. And through the Spirit and our relationship with Jesus, we are defined by that connection to the divine. This connection is what gives us a new sense of purpose, love and hope. This connection is what, today and always, gives us life.*