Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

October 18 , 2026

Prelude *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens* (Arr. Mark Albrecht)
Kathy Havlicek-Cook, flute

Welcome

Gathering

Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

Kneel or Sit

P Compassionate God,,

C we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

P Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C Amen.

Gathering Hymn *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* (ELW 858)

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!

2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?

3 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
if with his love he befriend you.
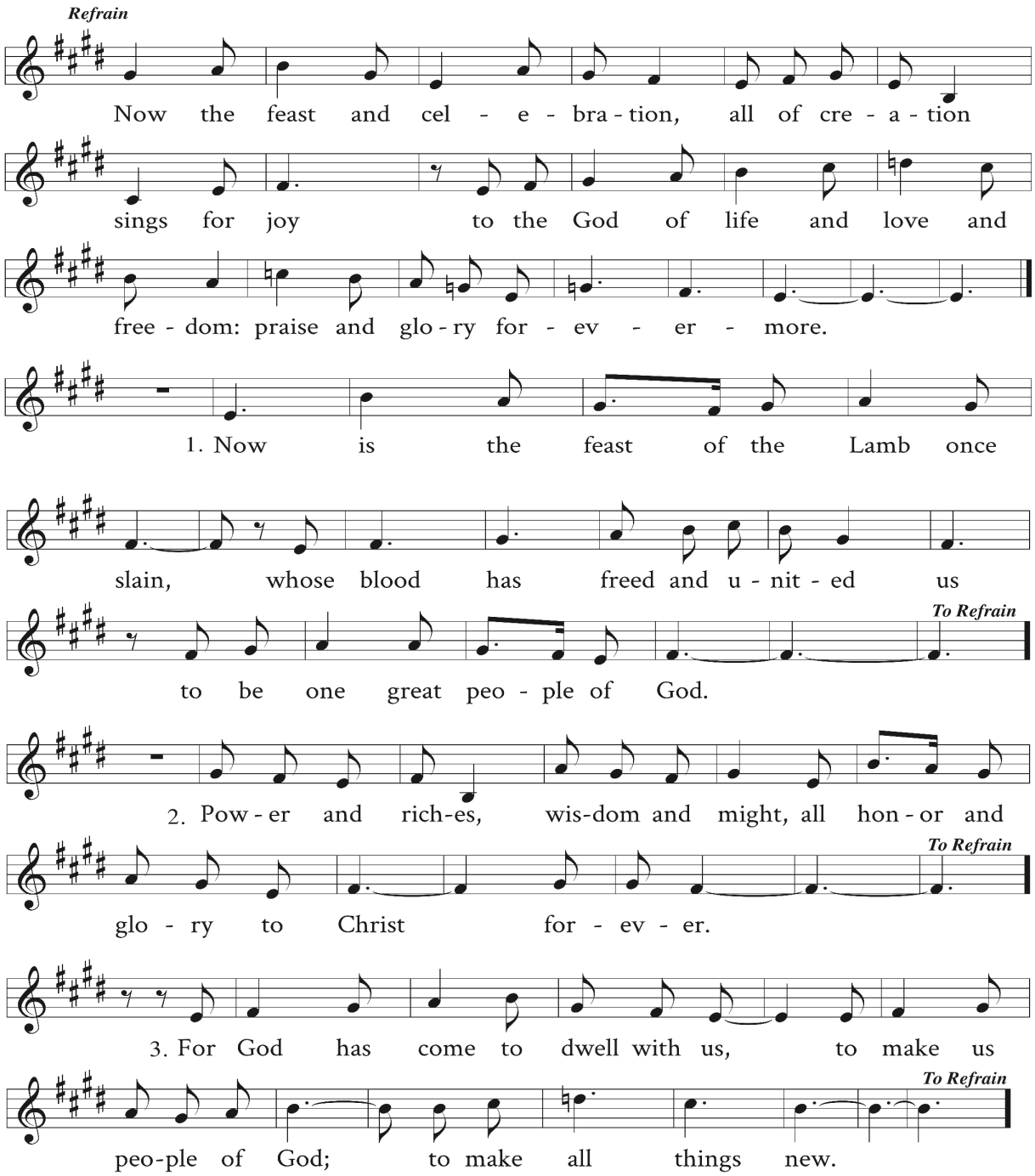
4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!

Greeting

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

C And also with you.

Hymn of Praise



Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. Sovereign God,

C raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading Isaiah 45:1-7

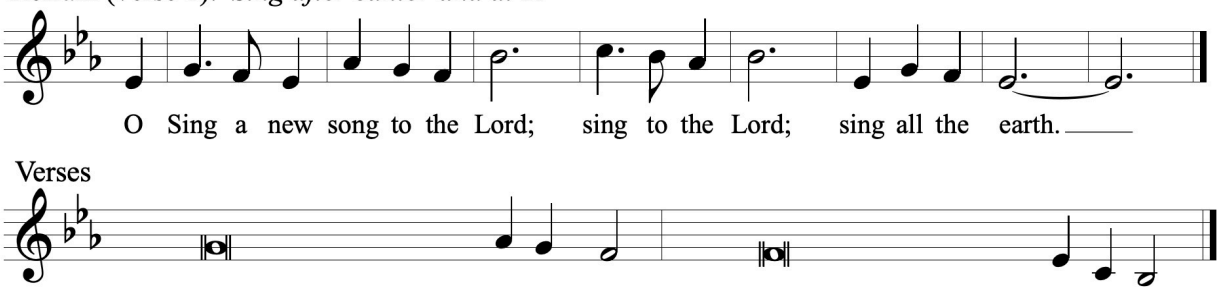
[1] Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations
before him and to strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him— and the gates shall not be
closed: [2] I will go before you and level the mountains; I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and
cut through the bars of iron; [3] I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret
places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name. [4] For the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel my
chosen, I call you by your name; I give you a title, though you do not know me. [5] I am the Lord, and
there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, [6] so that they
may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the
Lord, and there is no other. [7] I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the
Lord do all these things.
e have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

R Word of God. Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm Psalm 96:1-13

Refrain (verse 1): *Sing after cantor and at* **R**



[2] Sing to the Lord, bless the name | of the Lord;
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.
[3] **Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations**
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.
[4] For great is the Lord and greatly | to be praised,
more to be feared | than all gods.
[5] **As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;**
but you, O Lord, have | made the heavens. **R**
[6] Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.
[7] **Ascribe to the Lord, you families | of the peoples,**
ascribe to the Lord hon- | or and power.

[8] Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the | holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the Lord.
[9] **Worship the Lord in the beau- | ty of holiness;**
tremble before the Lord, | all the earth. **R**
[10] Tell it out among the nations: "The | Lord is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved
will judge the peo- | ples with equity."
[11] **Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;**
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that | is therein.
[12] Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing, O Lord,
for you come to | judge the earth.
[13] **You will judge the | world with righteousness**
and the peoples | with your truth. **R**

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

[1] Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. [2] We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly [3] remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. [4] For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, [5] because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. [6] And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, [7] so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. [8] For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. [9] For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God [10] and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

R Word of God. Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.
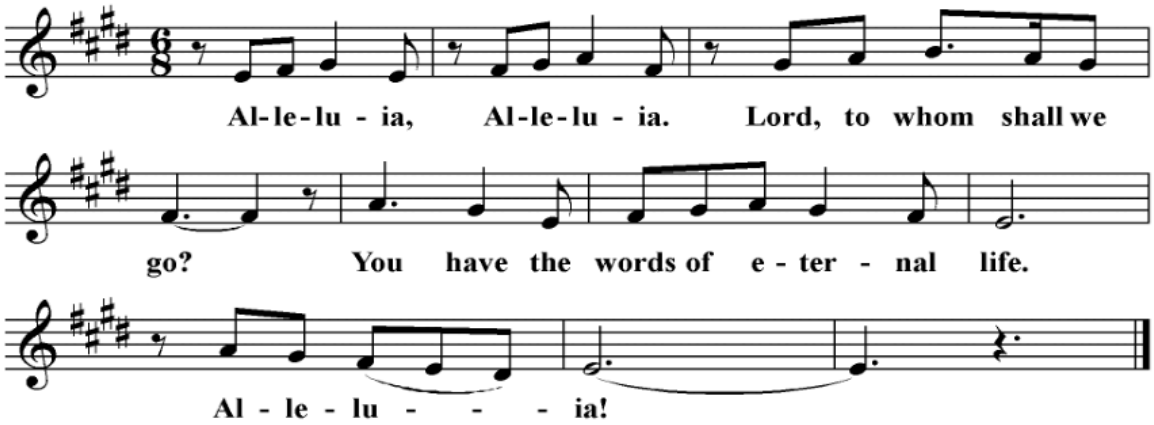
Quilt Blessing

P Let us pray. Almighty God, it is your will to bring comfort and help to the distressed. Thank you for all who use their talents to create these beautiful messages of love to people all over the world who may be seeking your word of grace and comfort. Bless these quilts wherever they

may be used, that they may provide warmth and security to those who have experienced tragedy or who have no other shelter. May all who receive these quilts be wrapped in your love and forgiveness. May they also encounter your grace and peace and learn the joy of Christ. Renew our mission to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, cloth the naked, comfort the weary and outcast, welcome the stranger, and be a loving neighbor to all people of the earth. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray.

C Amen.

Gospel Acclamation



P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 22nd chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Matthew 22:15-22

15 The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. 16 So they sent their disciples to
him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way
of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with
partiality. 17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" 18 But Jesus,
aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the
coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. 20 Then he said to them, "Whose head is
this and whose title?" 21 They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar
the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." 22 When they heard this, they
were amazed, and they left him and went away.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Pastor Erin Heidelberger

Hymn of the Day *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* (ELW 678)

1 God, whose giving knows no ending,
from your rich and endless store:
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
costly cross, grave's shattered door,
gifted by you, we turn to you,
off'ring up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever,
gracious donor of our days.

2 Skills and time are ours for pressing
toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom,
races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor,
lest we strive for self alone;
born with talents, make us servants
fit to answer at your throne.

3 Treasure, too, you have entrusted,
gain through pow'rs your grace conferred;
ours to use for home and kindred,
and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing,
as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
serving you by loving all.

Apostles' Creed

P God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C 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

P Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

After each petition, respond with, ***"Your mercy is great."***

(In our prayers today, during a time of silence, pray for those listed below and for others according to their needs) Recent concerns: : Family and Friends of Ruby Augustine, Brad Johnson, Carl Kramer, Dan Horn, Nyabuony Ubeck, , Julius Swen, Jane Zatechka & Velda Schmidt, Hilda Torres. Those with ongoing concerns: Juli Johnson, Jan Christensen, Jeanette Metteer, Tom Hoeft, Terry Lander, Mary Brass, Vern Westberg, Michael Dalton & Beth Strasheim. Those who are part of our homebound community: Sylvia Kempf, M. Joyce Hansen, Cynthia Holt, Betty Miller, Dennis Schuster, Rod Price, De Hansen, & Margrett Wehland.

P Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C Amen.

Peace of Christ is Shared

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.
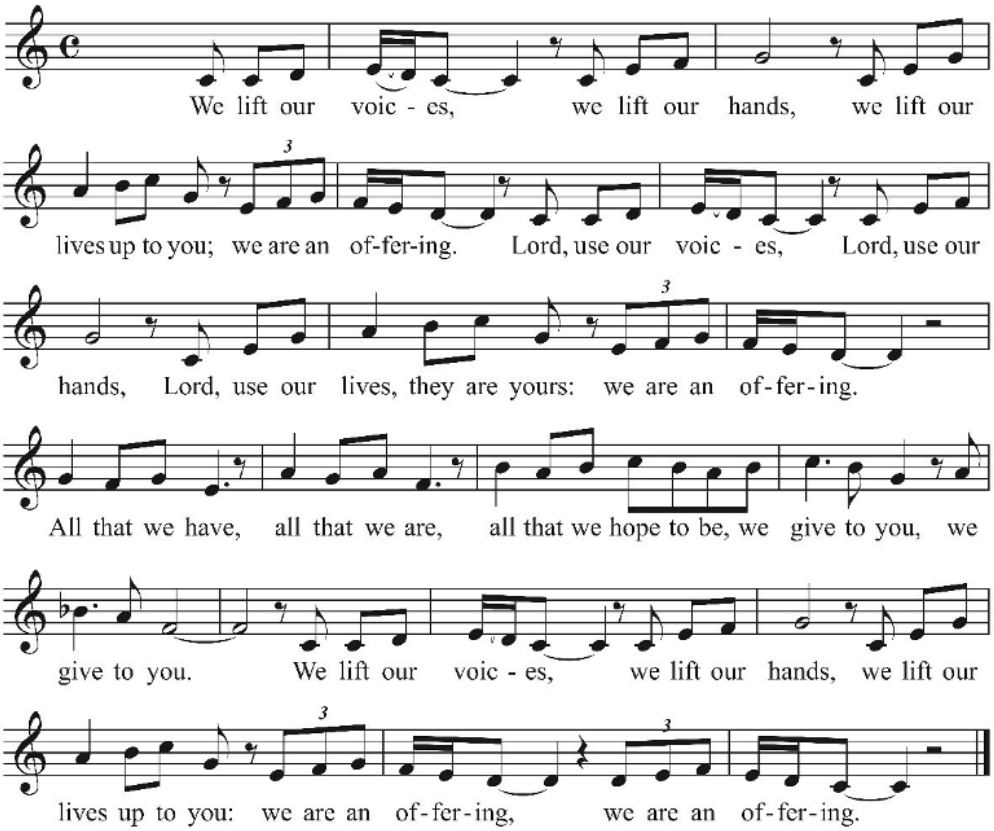
Music Offering *Lord of All Hopefulness* (arr. John Purifoy)
Kathy Havlicek-Cook, flute

Musical Offering response:

P To God be the glory.

C Amen.

Offertory Hymn



Offertory Prayer

P Let us pray. God of all creation,

C all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

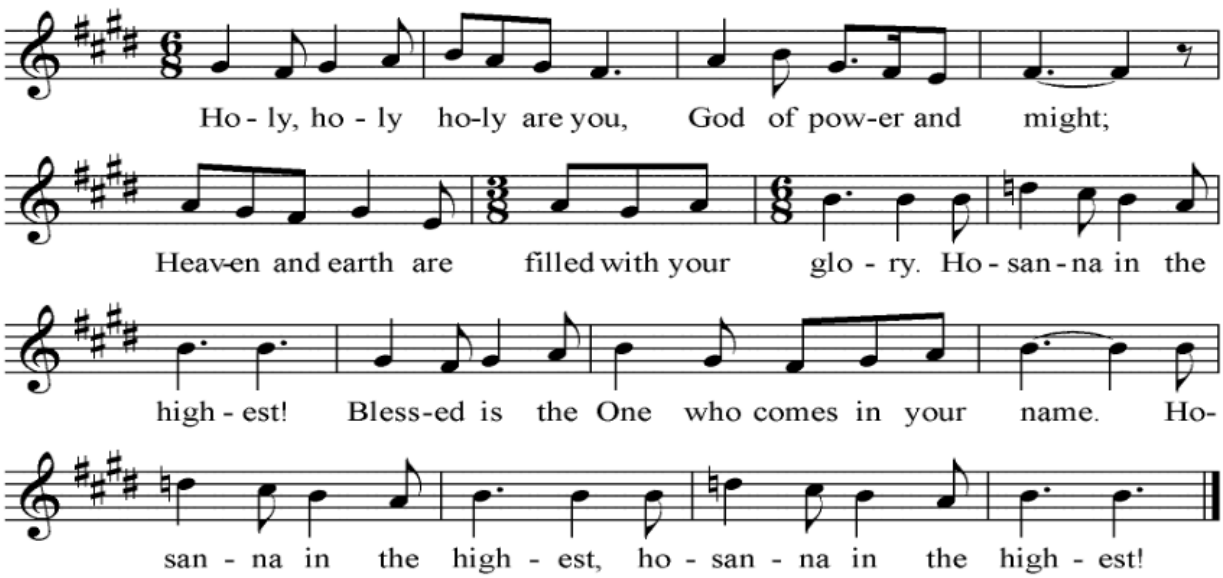
P Lift up your hearts.

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.

P It is indeed… *(here the minister continues with the proper preface, concluding:)* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Eucharistic Prayer

P Holy God, Mighty Lord, Gracious Father… all your saints in light.

C Amen.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

P We pray in confidence in the words Jesus gave us:
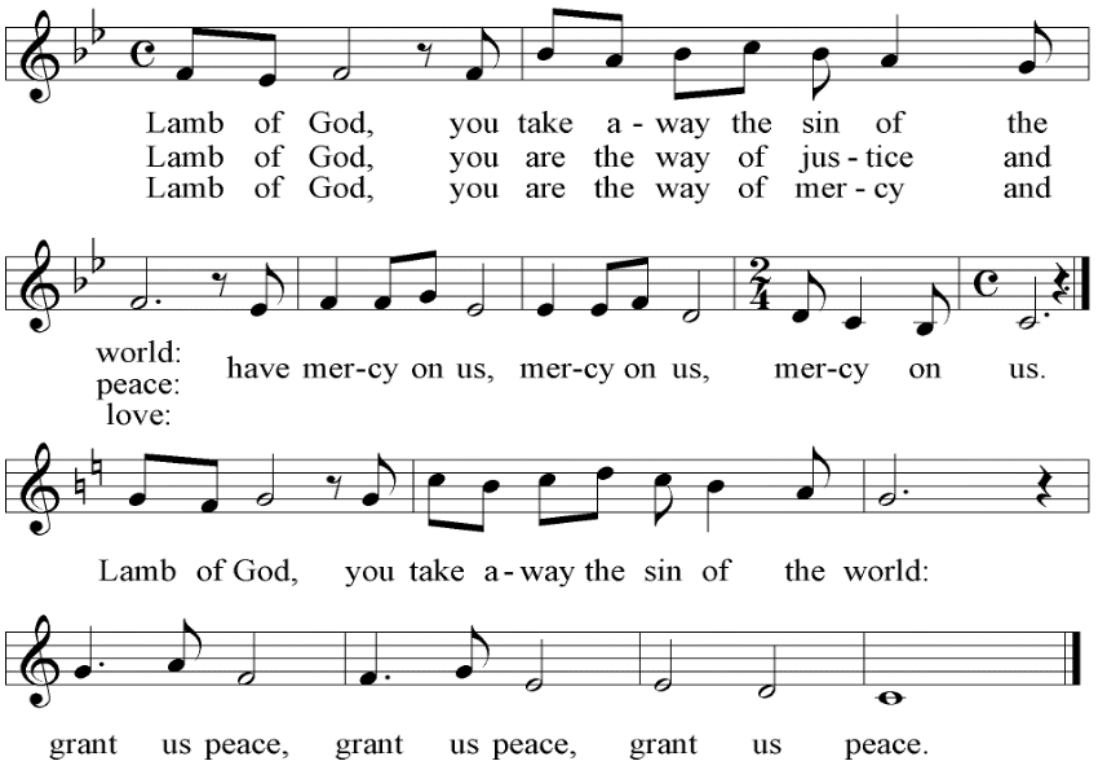
C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Table

P Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come to the feast!

C Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION MUSIC *Consecration* (John Ness Beck) Megan Hulse, vocal

COMMUNION HYMNS *What Feast of Love* (ELW 487)

1 What feast of love is offered here,
what banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life,
what gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
the bread come down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
How sweet the manna given!

2 What light of truth is offered here,
what covenant from heaven?
What hope of everlasting life,
what wondrous word is given?
This, this is Christ the king,

the sun come down from heaven.
Oh, see and hear and sing!
The Word of God is given!

3 **What wine of love is offered here,**
what crimson drink from heaven?
What stream of everlasting life,
what precious blood is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
the sweetest wine of heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
The Son of God is given!

You Are the Way (ELW 758)

1 **You are the way; to you alone**
from sin and death we flee;
all those who search for God, you find
and by your grace set free.

2 **You are the truth; your word alone**
true wisdom can impart;
you only can inform the mind
and purify the heart.

3 **You are the life; the rending tomb**
proclaims your conqu'ring arm;
and those who put their trust in you
not death nor hell shall harm.

4 **You are the way, the truth, the life;**
grant us that way to know,
that truth to keep, that life to win,
whose joys eternal flow.

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

C Amen.

Prayer After Communion

P Let us pray. Sustaining God,

C with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Sending

Blessing

P The God of love draw you into one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

P The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

C Amen.

P The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

Sending Hymn

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve (ELW 551)

1 The Spirit sends us forth to serve;
we go in Jesus' name
to bring glad tidings to the poor,
God's favor to proclaim.

2 We go to comfort those who mourn
and set the burdened free;
where hope is dim, to share a dream
and help the blind to see.

3 We go to be the hands of Christ,
to scatter joy like seed
and, all our days, to cherish life,
to do the loving deed.

4 Then let us go to serve in peace,
the gospel to proclaim.
God's Spirit has empowered us;
we go in Jesus' name.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE *All Glory be to God on High, BWV 715* (Johann Sebastian Bach)

Lead Pastor: Erin Heidelberger
Associate Pastor: Andrew Kitzing
Visitation Pastor: Ron Drury
Cantor: Megan Hulse
Livestreaming: Kathleen Simley

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