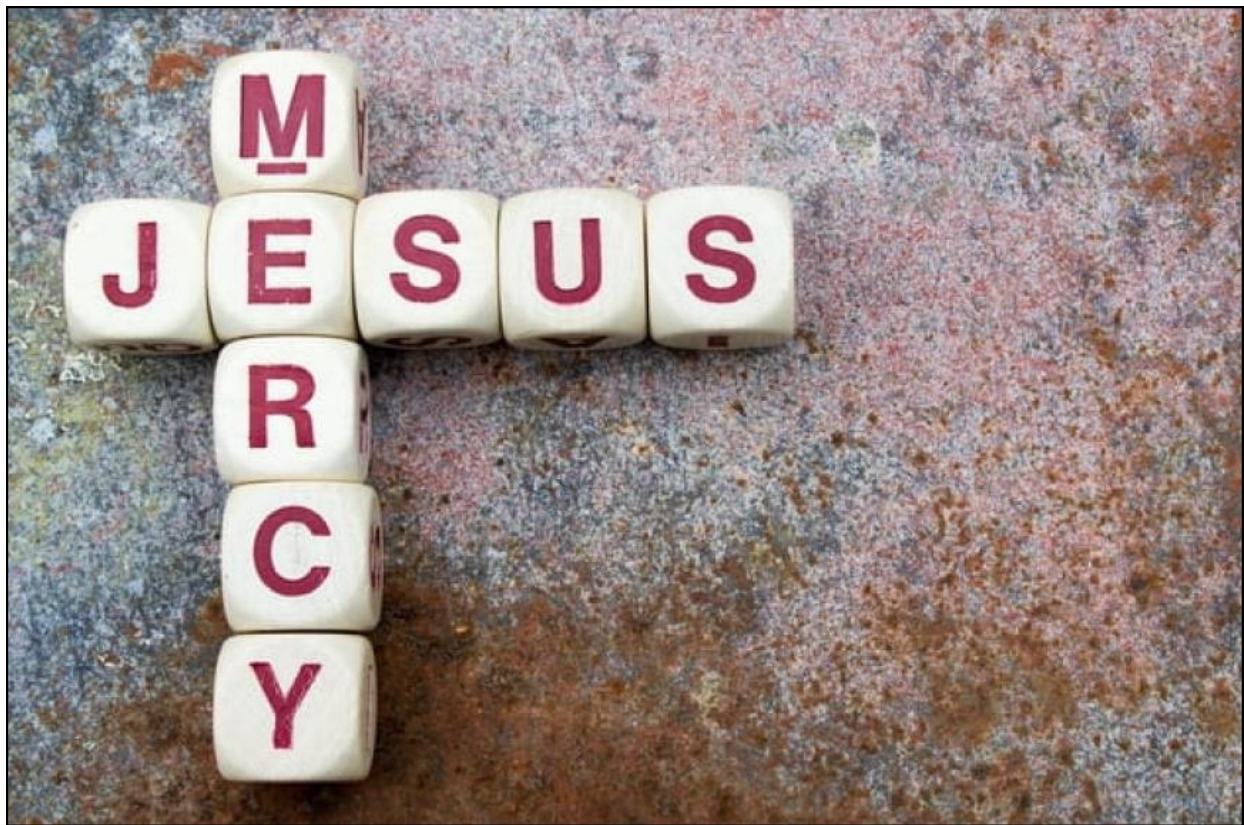




Sunday, February 23, 2025

10:00 a.m.

The Seventh Sunday after Epiphany



Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God's glory revealed in Christ.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Hymn

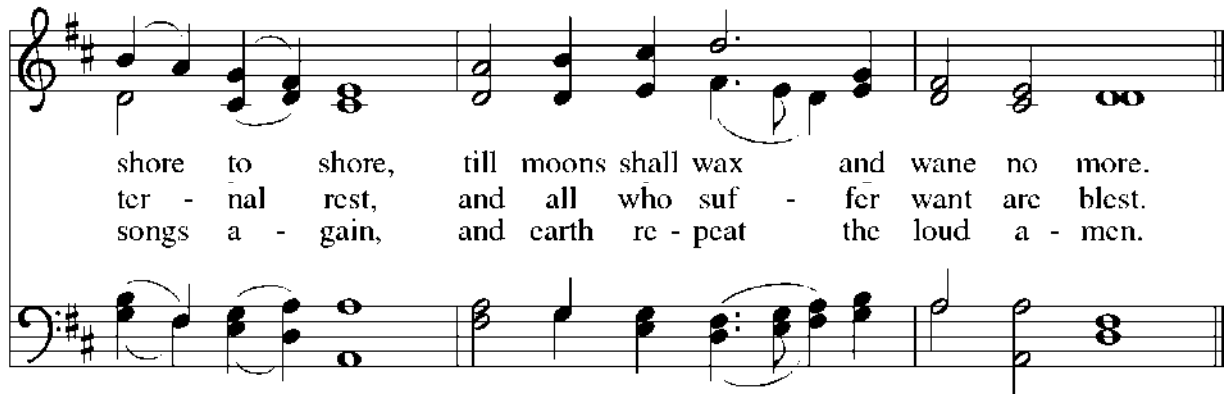
“Jesus Shall Reign”



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.



Confession & Forgiveness

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.
Merciful God,

All: you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

Pastor: God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

All: Amen.

Song of Praise

This is the Feast



1. Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3. Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4. Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5. For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray,

All: O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lector Blessing

Pastor: Let us pray,...Gracious God, your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Send your Holy Spirit upon Steve Brady as he proclaims the word, so that all who receive it will no longer dwell in the shadows, but will have the light of life. **Amen.**

The First Reading

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Lector: Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them. A reading from the first book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’” And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

- Lector: Do not be provoked by evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
All: For they shall soon wither like the grass, and like the green grass fade away.
- Lector: Put your trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and find safe pasture.
All: Take delight in the Lord, who shall give you your heart's desire.
- Lector: Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust in the Lord, and see what God will do.
All: The Lord will make your vindication as clear as the light and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.
- Lector: Be still before the Lord and wait patiently. Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
All: Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.
- Lector: For evildoers shall be cut off, but those who hope in the Lord shall possess the land.
All: In a little while the wicked shall be no more; even if you search out their place, they will not be there.
- Lector: But the lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace.
All: But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O Lord; you are their stronghold in time of trouble.
- Lector: You, O Lord, will help them and rescue them; you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you they seek refuge.

The Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

- Lector: In the Apostles' Creed, we speak of the "resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ's perfect life into eternity.

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

- Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



The Gospel Reading

Luke 6:27-38

Pastor: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Pastor: Jesus said: “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

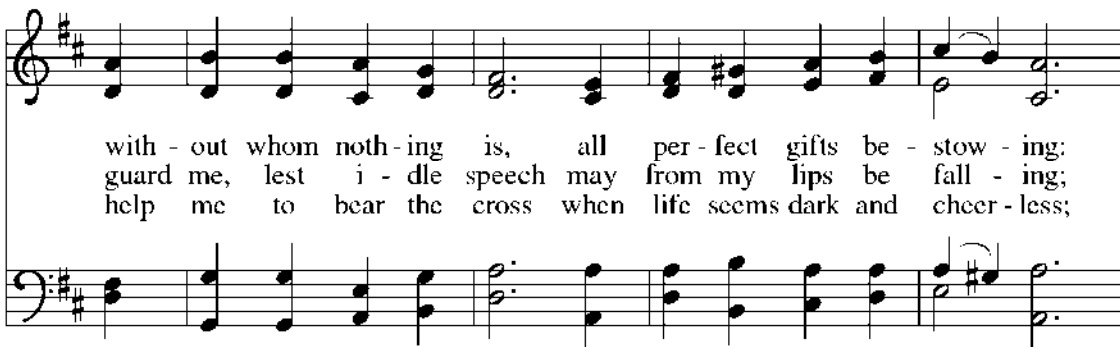
All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day

“O God My Faithful God”



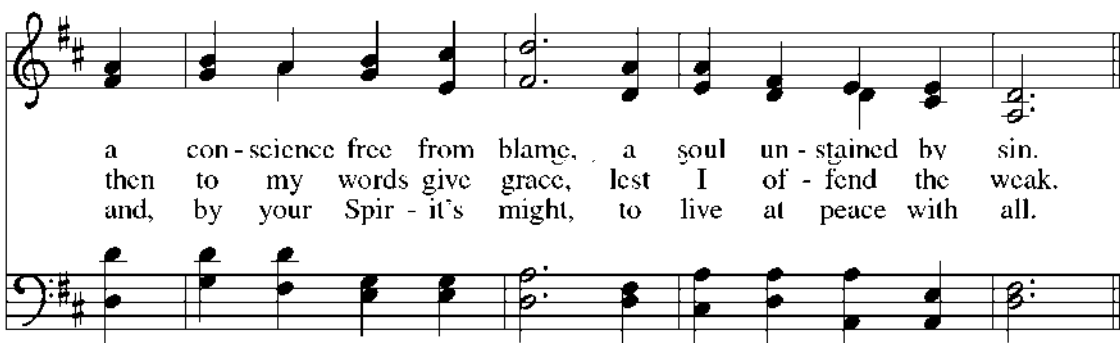
1 O God, my faith - ful God, true foun - tain ev - er flow - ing,
3 Keep me from say - ing words that lat - er need re - call - ing;
4 When dan - gers gath - er round, oh, keep me calm and fear - less;



with - out whom noth - ing is, all per - fect gifts be - stow - ing;
guard me, lest i - dle speech may from my lips be fall - ing;
help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheer - less;



give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in
but when, with - in my place, I must and ought to speak,
help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,



a con - science free from blame, a soul un - stained by sin.
then to my words give grace, lest I of - fend the weak.
and, by your Spir - it's might, to live at peace with all.

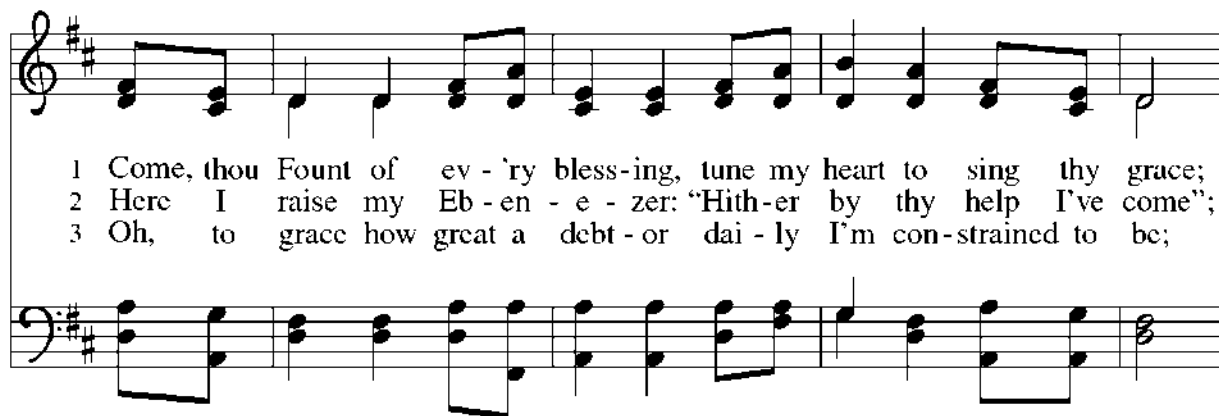
Children's Sermon & Sermon

Pastor Joachim Wilck


Sharing of the Peace

Hymn of Response

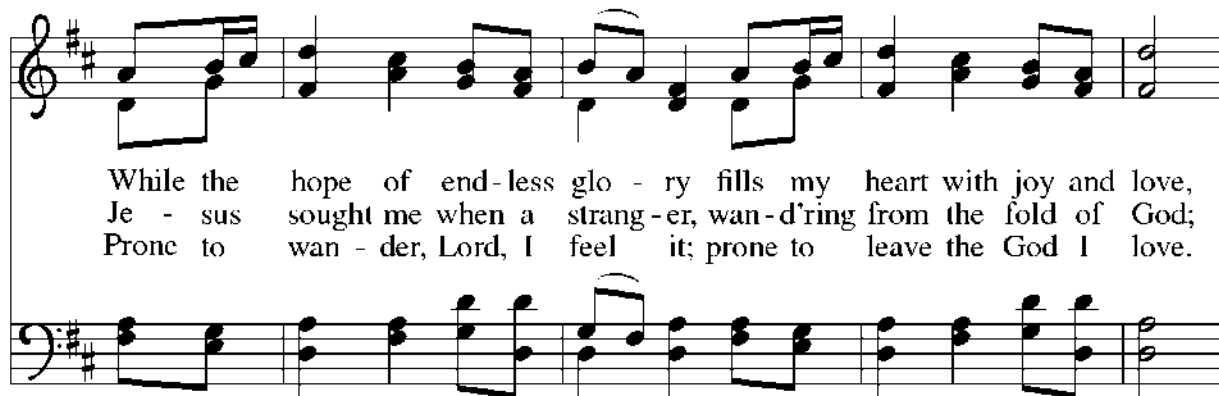
“Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing”



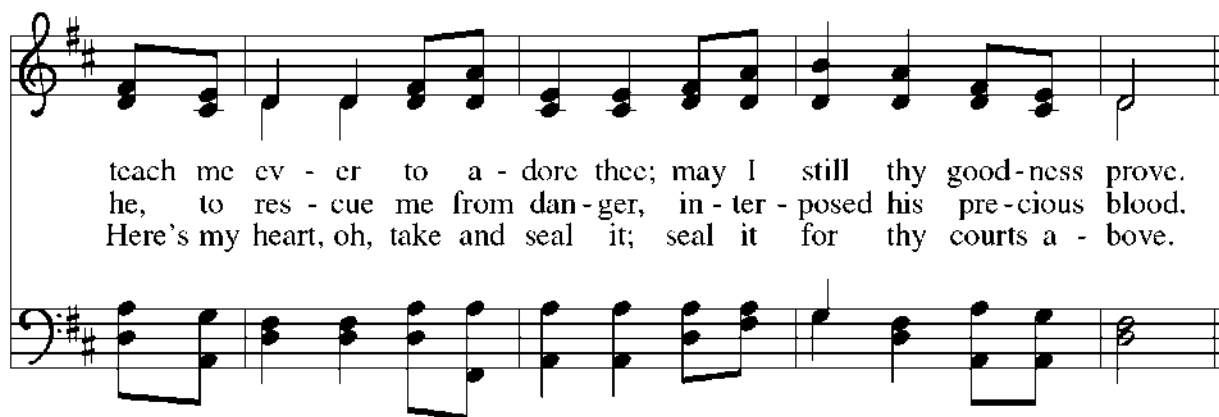
1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith - er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

The Apostles' Creed

All: 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 into hell. 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

Pastor: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. (*Silence is observed.*) Surprising God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness in the face of cruelty. Let our actions be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

Pastor: As animals hibernate and fields lay dormant, let them be a reminder that life and faith are not static but always changing and growing. May we, with all creation, trust that the ending of one thing promises life in a new way. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for leaders and policymakers who work to reduce violence in our nations, cities, and towns. Give your wisdom and discernment amid heated arguments and differing viewpoints. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for the victims of abuse and violence. Provide safe shelter and new beginnings to those experiencing domestic violence and dangerous situations. Enfold with love all who seek your healing care. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless the local ministries of parish nursing and caregiving, that they will be a voice for those in need in our communities. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We give thanks for the enduring witness of those who have died before us. May their lives in you provide a witness of your everlasting grace. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

All: Amen.

Offering Anthem

“Christ Hath a Garden” by Gerald Near

Christ, hath a garden walled around, a paradise of fruitful ground,
chosen by love and fenced by grace from out the world’s wide wilderness.

Like trees of spice his servants stand, there planted by his mighty hand;
By Eden’s gracious streams, that flow to feed their beauty where they grow.

Awake, O wind of heav’n, and bear their sweetest perfume through the aid:

Stir up, O south, the boughs that bloom, Till the beloved Master come:

That he may come, and linger yet among the trees that he hath set;
that he may evermore be seen to walk amid the springing green.

Offertory

“Give Thanks”



Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,



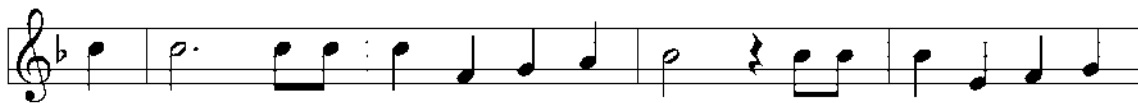
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son,



Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,



give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.



And now let the weak say, “I am strong,” let the poor say, “I am



rich,” be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. And



now let the weak say, “I am strong,” let the poor say, “I am



rich,” be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Offering Prayer

Pastor: Let us prayer,...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.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choir of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy, Holy, Holy

S 144b

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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 musical score is written on four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The score ends with a double bar line.

Words of Institution

Pastor: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Pastor: Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

The Lord's Prayer

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Pastor: Taste and see that the Lord is good.



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.

*Behold the lamb of God
who takes away the
sins of the world.*

John 1:29



Communion Hymn

“Blest are They”

1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it;
 2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; . . .
 3 Blest are they who show mer - cy;
 4 Blest are they who seek peace; . . .
 5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, . . .

Chords: Gsus, G, D

theirs is the king - dom of God.
 they shall in - her - it the earth.
 mer - cy shall . . . be theirs.
 they are the chil - dren of God.
 all . . . be - cause . . . of me. Re -

Chords: C, Dsus, Gsus, G

Blest are they, full of sor - row;
 Blest are they, who hun - ger and thirst;
 Blest are they, the pure . . . of heart;
 Blest are they, who suf - fer in faith; . . . the
 joyce, be glad, yours is the king - dom; . .

Chords: Gsus, G, D

they shall be con - soled.
 they shall have their fill.
 they shall see God.
 glo - ry of God is theirs.
 shine for all to see.

C Dsus D Gsus G

Refrain
 All
 Re - joice and be glad!

C D⁷ G D

Bless - ed are you,

Em G C G

ho - ly are you! Re - joice and be

Am A D C D⁷

glad! Yours is the king - dom of

Em C Dsus D

God!

C G Gsus G

Table Blessing

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in eternal life.

All: Amen.

Post Communion Canticle

“Go Now In Peace”

Go now in
peace, Nev-er be a - fraid. God will go with you each hour of ev-'ry day.
Go now in faith, stead-fast, strong and true. Know He will guide you in
all you do. Go now in love, and show you be - lieve. Reach out to
oth-ers so all the world can see. God will be there watch-ing from a -
bove. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. _____

Post Communion Prayer

Pastor: 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 rise life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

Blessing

Pastor: The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, | in accordance with Christ Jesus. All: Amen.

Pastor: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. All: Amen.

Pastor: The God of all grace † bless you now and forever. All: Amen.

Closing Hymn

“Softly and Tenderly”

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain
watch - ing for you and for me.
mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
par - don for you and for me. Come home. come home!

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace, Live in hope.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude