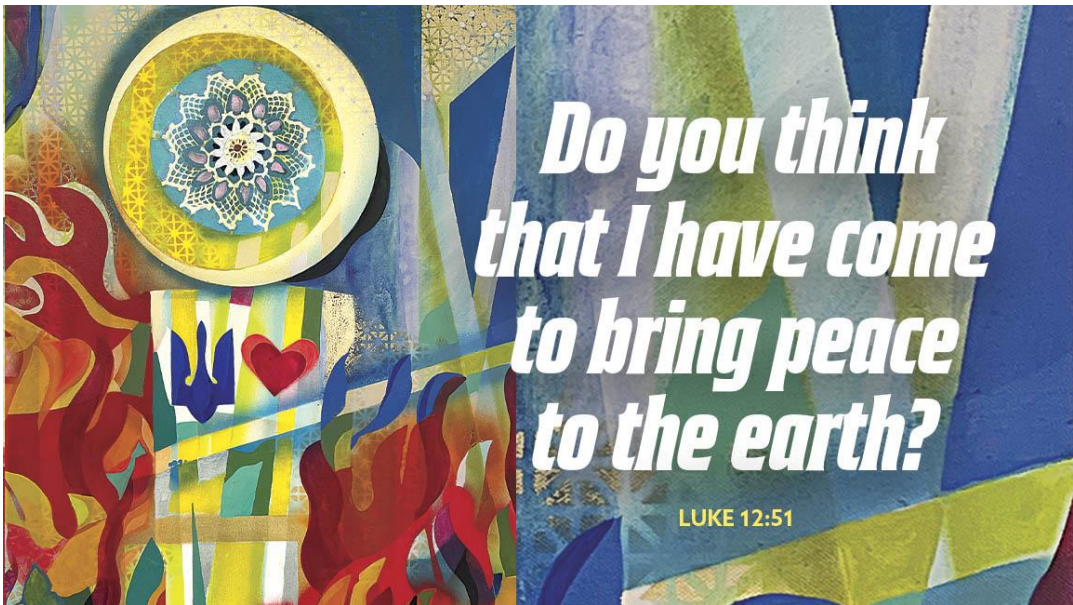


**Order of Worship**  
**10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**August 17, 2025**



**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**745 S. Ingraham Avenue**  
**Lakeland, FL 33801**  
**863-686-5585**

The Rev. Dr. Olga-Maria Cruz, Pastor  
Email: [pastor@gracelakeland.com](mailto:pastor@gracelakeland.com)  
[www.gracelakeland.com](http://www.gracelakeland.com)

**10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost.** The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great “cloud of witnesses.” In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

**\*=ALL STAND for this part of worship**

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRELUDE**

*Abide With Me*

arr. Gert van Hoef

### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,  
**you free us to love others,  
but we neglect our neighbors  
and follow our own way.  
You lead us by the Spirit  
of joy and peace,  
but we turn away  
from the abundant life you offer.  
You surround us with patience,  
kindness,  
and generosity,  
but we grow weary  
in doing what is right.  
You call us  
to practice justice**

**and mercy,  
but we remain entangled  
in systems of oppression  
that we do not always see.  
In your mercy, forgive us.  
Heal us, free us from sin,  
and show us the path of life.  
Amen.**

You belong to Christ,  
and through faith, you are united in God's mercy.  
In the cross of ✝ Christ,  
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
your sins are forgiven.  
Clothed in Christ,  
renewed by grace,  
you are made whole  
for the life of the world.  
**Amen.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN**

*How Firm a Foundation*

ELW 796



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,  
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,  
3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,  
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!  
for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.  
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said  
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign  
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?  
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."  
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."  
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

**\*APOSTOLIC 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.**

**\*KYRIE** (Continued on next page)

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Cong. Lord, have mer - cy,

3rd time to Coda

For the Reign of God, and for  
For your peo - ple here, who have

Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through-out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray\_ to the  
come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word, let us pray\_ to the

⌘ CODA

Help, save, and de - fend us, O God.

cy.

Optional segue to "Now the Feast"

A - men.

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE** *(Continued on next pages)*

**Refrain**

*Congregation:*

The musical score for the Refrain is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 3/8 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing beamed eighth notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across measures. The final measure of the fifth staff ends with a double bar line.

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,  
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy  
to the God of life and love and  
free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -  
er - more!

## Verse 1

*Congregation or Congregation 1:*

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once  
slain, whose blood has freed and u -  
nit-ed us to be one great peo - ple of  
God. *to Refrain*

## Verse 2

*Congregation or Congregation 2:*

2. Pow - er and rich-es, wis - dom and  
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ  
for ev - er. *to Refrain*

**Verse 3**      *Congregation:*

3. For God has come to dwell with us, to

make us peo - ple of God; to make

all things new. *to Refrain*

### **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray together.

**O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> I will sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard:

My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.

<sup>2</sup> He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded rotten grapes.

<sup>3</sup> And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard.

<sup>4</sup> What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield rotten grapes?

<sup>5</sup> And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard.



I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.

<sup>6</sup> I will make it a wasteland; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

<sup>7</sup> For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished garden; he expected justice but saw bloodshed; righteousness but heard a cry!

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 82 (Read Responsively)**

<sup>1</sup> God stands to charge the divine council assembled,  
giving judgment in the midst of the gods:

<sup>2</sup> **“How long will you judge unjustly,  
and show favor to the wicked?**

<sup>3</sup> Save the weak and the orphan;  
defend the humble and needy;

<sup>4</sup> **rescue the weak and the poor;  
deliver them from the power of the wicked.**

<sup>5</sup> They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness;  
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

<sup>6</sup> **Now I say to you, ‘You are gods,  
and all of you children of the Most High;**

<sup>7</sup> nevertheless, you shall die like mortals,  
and fall like any prince.’”

<sup>8</sup> **Arise, O God, and rule the earth,  
for you shall take all nations for your own.**

### **SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:29—12:2**

<sup>29</sup> By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. <sup>30</sup> By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. <sup>31</sup> By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

<sup>32</sup> And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon,

Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, <sup>33</sup> who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. <sup>35</sup> Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. <sup>36</sup> Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup> They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented <sup>38</sup> of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

<sup>39</sup> Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup> since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

<sup>12:1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Congregation:*

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

## \*GOSPEL: Luke 12:49-56

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>49</sup>“I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! <sup>50</sup>I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! <sup>51</sup>Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! <sup>52</sup>From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; <sup>53</sup>they will be divided:

father against son  
and son against father,  
mother against daughter  
and daughter against mother,  
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law  
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

<sup>54</sup> He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens. <sup>55</sup> And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. <sup>56</sup> You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**The Rev. Dr. Olga-Maria Cruz**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*



1 Christ is the life of all that is, God's pure cre - a - tive Word,  
 2 Christ is the death of all that is, a broad and beck - 'ning tomb,  
 3 Christ is the death of all that is, a bright, con - sum - ing fire,  
 4 Christ is the life of all that is, Be - gin - ning and the End;



whose pow'r be - yond and through all space the worlds to Be - ing stirred.  
 who wel - comes us from well - worn ways to dark-ness of the womb.  
 whose flames re - quire our pri - or self as kin-dling for the pyre.  
 cre - a - tive force, most peace - ful death, trans - form - ing burn - ing brand.



Christ is the life be - yond all time, cre - a - tion's birth and breath,  
 Christ is the death, the sink - ing down past all de - sire and fear,  
 Christ is the death of dust - y days of un - cre - a - tive strife,  
 Christ is the life, in whose wise love cre - a - tion lives and dies



whose la - bor brings all things to be and brings all things to death.  
 whose prom - ise in the gen - tle dark bids new - ness to ap - pear.  
 for out from fire we tread up - on the thresh - old of new life.  
 and thus for - ev - er - more shall bless the Source, the liv - ing Christ.

## **\*APOSTLES' CREED**

We now profess the faith we share using the words of 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**

Let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Loving God, raise up faithful leaders for your church around the world. Inspire global missionaries with a spirit of accompaniment, as they walk alongside our partners in the gospel in solidarity, interdependence, and mutuality.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, safeguard rivers and lakes, especially Lake Morton and Lake Hollingsworth, from pollution. Sustain the work of conservationists, policy makers, and advocacy groups seeking to protect fresh water sources. For flash flooding in Wisconsin, evacuations in Alaska, and all facing storms and floods, we pray. Be a sure refuge to evacuees and empower those battling wildfires across

Europe. Heal your whole creation, that out of flame and ashes new growth will spring forth. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, bridge divisions and heal partisan conflict in our nation. Bring an end to war and genocide, especially in Gaza, Thailand, Cambodia, Colombia, South Sudan, Myanmar, Ukraine, and Ethiopia. We pray for victims of gun violence, especially in Atlanta, Georgia and Austin, Texas. Strengthen cooperative efforts among lawmakers including Lakeland City Council, and those who enact policies that protect our neighbors. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, embrace all who suffer in isolation: for those who are incarcerated or detained, those who are fleeing from unsafe environments, and those who are sick or homebound—especially *Mary, Mabel, Doris, June, Barbara, Ann, Julie, Carol, Anne, Judy, Tom, Lydia, Brian, James & Grace, Wil, Amy, Bob & Jane, Barbara, Scott, Ron & Flo, Mac, Monica, Tom & Leona, Avery, Doris, John, Tim, Arleen, Betty, Linda, Jeff, Henry, Gary, Greg, Helen & Ron, and Max & Michelle.*

Reassure them of your care in all times and places. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered, whether silently or aloud.*

Loving God, guide the leaders of this congregation. In these late summer weeks, inspire their planning for the year ahead. Kindle in us a spirit of collaboration and support for their work. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, with thanksgiving we remember the cloud of witnesses who surround us. Inspire us with the example of their faith, and enable us to run with perseverance the race set before us, until that day when we join their unending praise. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the One who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## \*SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
And also with you.

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY

*Sonata in G minor (Adagio)*

Benedetto Marcello

### \*OFFERING SONG

*As the Grains of Wheat*

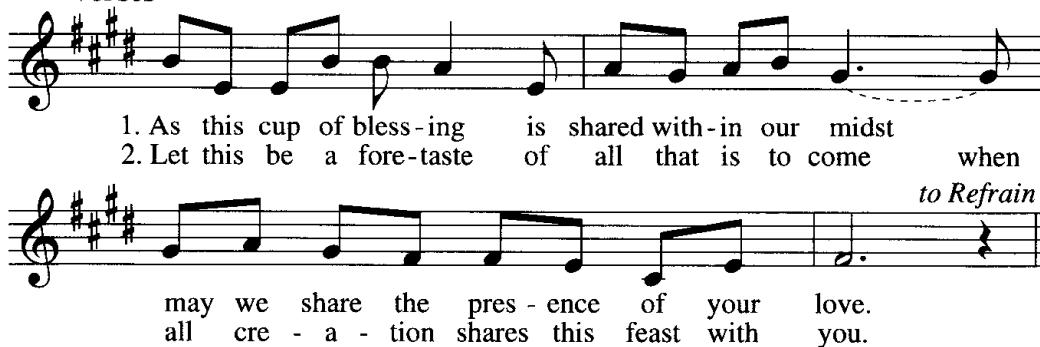
#### Refrain

*Congregation:*



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;  
so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be  
gath-ered in - to one in you.

#### Verses



1. As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst  
2. Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when  
to Refrain  
may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.



## \*OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God,  
in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good, and the harvest is plentiful.  
Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor,  
that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
Amen.

## \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

### DIALOGUE

The musical score is written for a Presider and a Congregation. It consists of four lines of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The Presider's parts are marked with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps. The Congregation's parts are marked with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps. The lyrics are: "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 God thanks and praise."

*Presider:*                      *Congregation:*

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

*Presider:*                      *Congregation:*

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

*Presider:*                      *Congregation:*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is

right to give God thanks and praise.

## \*PREFACE

It is our duty and delight  
that we should everywhere and always  
offer thanks and praise to you, oh God,  
through Jesus Christ;  
who calls us to follow his way  
of humble service and love.  
And so, with the church on earth,  
all creation and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

*Congregation:*

The musical score is written for a congregation and consists of five staves of music. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 6/8. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!' The score ends with a double bar line.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!  
Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, 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 handed over,  
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.**

## **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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**

The kingdom of God is set before you.

Eat and rejoice.

**Thanks be to God.**

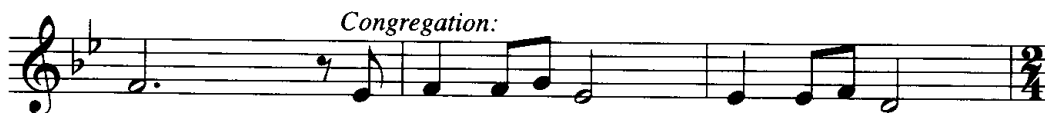
## **COMMUNION**

The baptized children of God are invited by the Lord to the Lord's Table where we receive Jesus' very body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. We commune at the communion rail where we receive the Body and Blood of Christ. Gluten free bread and grape juice are available. If you wish to commune, but cannot come forward, let an usher know and Pastor will come to you. If you do not wish to commune, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. You may wish to remain at the rail for a time of personal prayer following which you may return to your pew down the side aisle.

## LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
 you break the chains of ha - tred and  
 you are the way of jus - tice and  
 you are the way of mer - cy and



world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,  
 fear:  
 peace:  
 love.

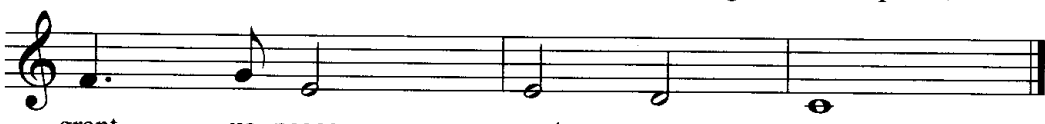
### Final Stanza



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION HYMN(S)

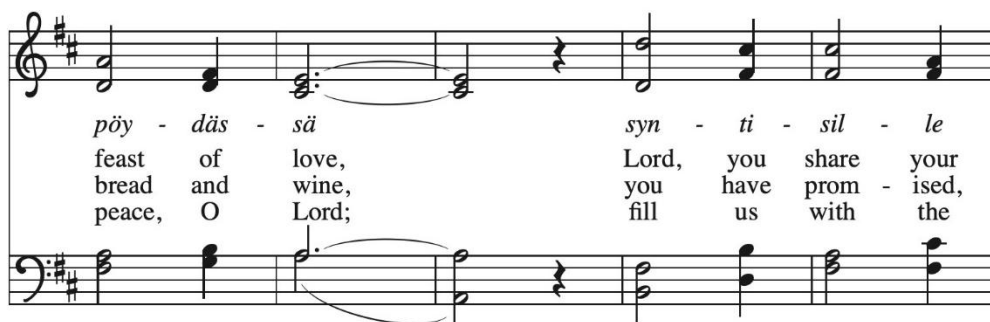
*In This Feast of Love*  
*Let Us Break Bread Together*  
*(next page)*

ACS 962  
 ELW 471

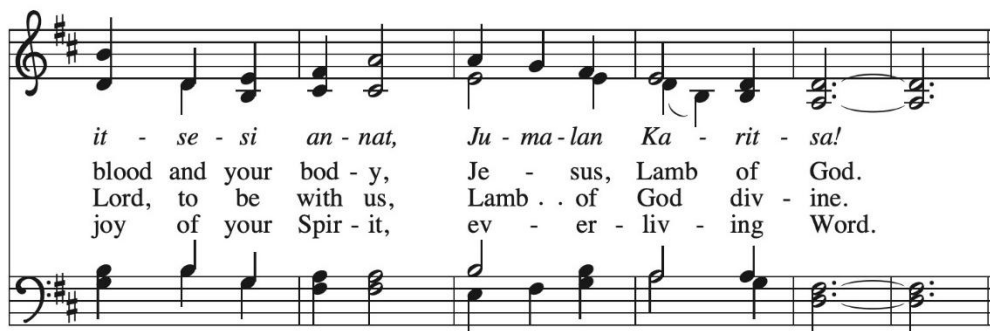
# In This Feast of Love



*Täs - sä pöy - däs - sä,* *täs - sä*  
 1 In this feast of love, in this  
 2 In this bread and wine, in this  
 3 Grant us peace, O Lord, grant us

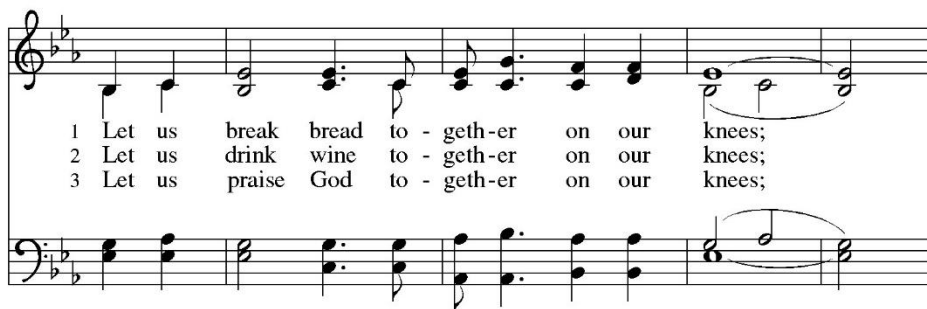


*pöy - däs - sä* *syn - ti - sil - le*  
 feast of love, Lord, you share your  
 bread and wine, you have prom - ised,  
 peace, O Lord; fill us with the

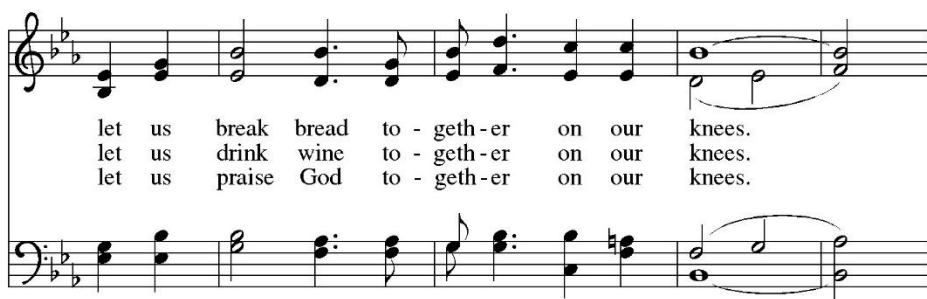


*it - se - si an - nat,* *Ju - ma - lan Ka - rit - sa!*  
 blood and your bod - y, Je - sus, Lamb of God.  
 Lord, to be with us, Lamb . of God div - ine.  
 joy of your Spir - it, ev - er - liv - ing Word.

# Let Us Break Bread Together



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;  
 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

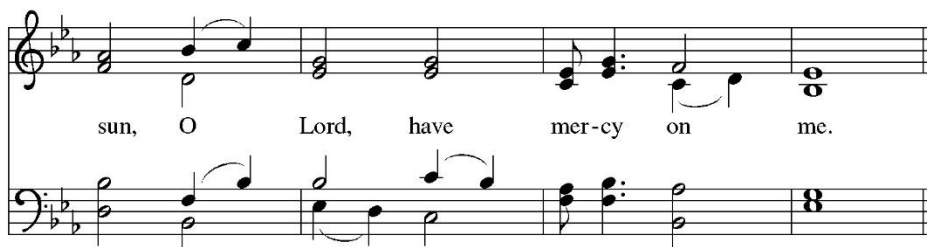


let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.  
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

*Refrain*



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

**\*POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

**Mothering God,  
you gathered us to your table  
and we drank deeply of your grace.  
Send us out by your Spirit  
to love our neighbors as ourselves  
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.  
Amen.**



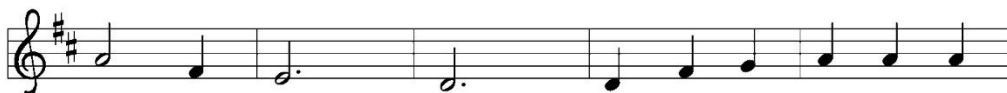
**\*SENDING HYMN**

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

ELW 815



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to  
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to  
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give  
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,  
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.  
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

*Refrain*



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

## \*BENEDICTION

The love of God abound in you;  
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;  
and the life of the Spirit  
✠ bless you and give you peace.  
**Amen.**

## \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Spirit of Christ is with you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**    *The Head That Once Was Crowned With Thorns*    arr. Charles Callahan

## PERMISSIONS

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