

Now the Feast and Celebration

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7404 S. Mason Ave.

Chicago, IL 60638

*A service of worship prepared with Holy Communion
and without/lay-led settings. Follow the page numbers as needed.*

Welcome to Worship!

[assembly edition, SMLC, 2025]

A note from St. Mary's Lead Pastor, The Rev. Dr. Jordan Miller-Stubbendick—

*When using **Now the Feast and Celebration**, the assisting minister will lead the confession and forgiveness. Usually, this portion of the liturgy is led by an ordained pastor, but it does not have to be.*

According to Martin Luther's Small Catechism, authority to forgive sins is given to the church on earth. Although this power is usually exercised by a pastor, any Christian can offer forgiveness to another by proclaiming God's forgiveness through the Gospel and the promises of baptism.

Take comfort in knowing that when we confess our sins during worship, whether a pastor or a lay person proclaims forgiveness, it is ultimately and always God who graciously forgives all our sins and frees us to live in God's abundant love.

Please stand in body or spirit

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Assisting Minister: If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Let us confess our sin to God who is faithful and just and who has promised to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence

AM: Most merciful God...

Congregation: have mercy on us.

ALL: We confess to you that 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 trusted you with our whole heart; we have not loved one another in deed and in truth. In your compassion forgive our sins and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our light and our truth. Amen.

AM: With joy, I proclaim to you that Almighty God, rich in mercy, abundant in love, forgives you all your sin and grants you newness of life in Jesus Christ.

C: Thanks be to God!

NOW THE FEAST

Refrain

Congregation:



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 *(see yellow page)*

AM: The Lord be with you.

C: And, also with you.

AM: Let us pray together... **Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD *(see yellow page)*

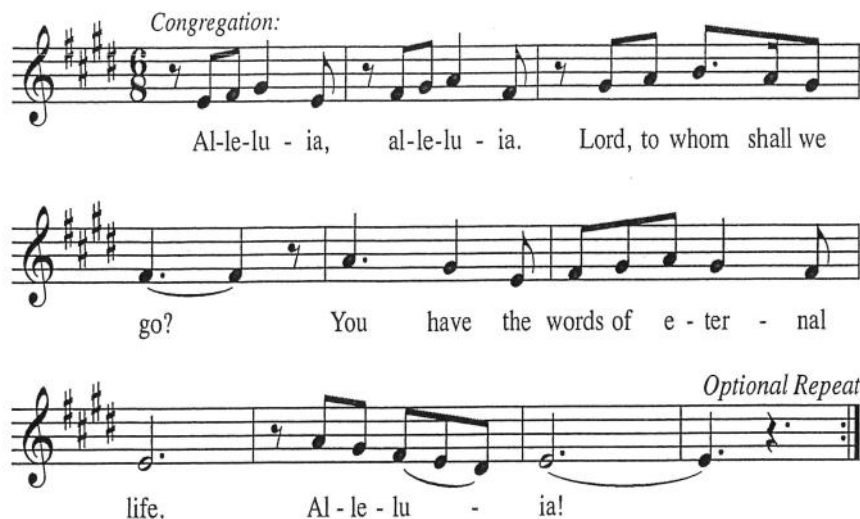
FIRST LESSON

PSALM

SECOND LESSON

Please stand for Gospel Acclamation (sung once)

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 LESSON

AM/Pastor: The holy gospel according to St. _____, the _____ chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

AM/Pastor: The gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

APOSTLES' CREED *[lay-led worship only/skip this if having communion]*

AM: With the whole church, let us confess our faith 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 THE PEOPLE

**WHEN THERE IS NOT AN ORDAINED PASTOR PRESENT,
SKIP TO PAGE 8. OTHERWISE, EUCHARISTIC SERVICE CONTINUES...**

PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Please be seated.

OFFERING (pass the plate)

OFFERING HYMN "As the Grains of Wheat"

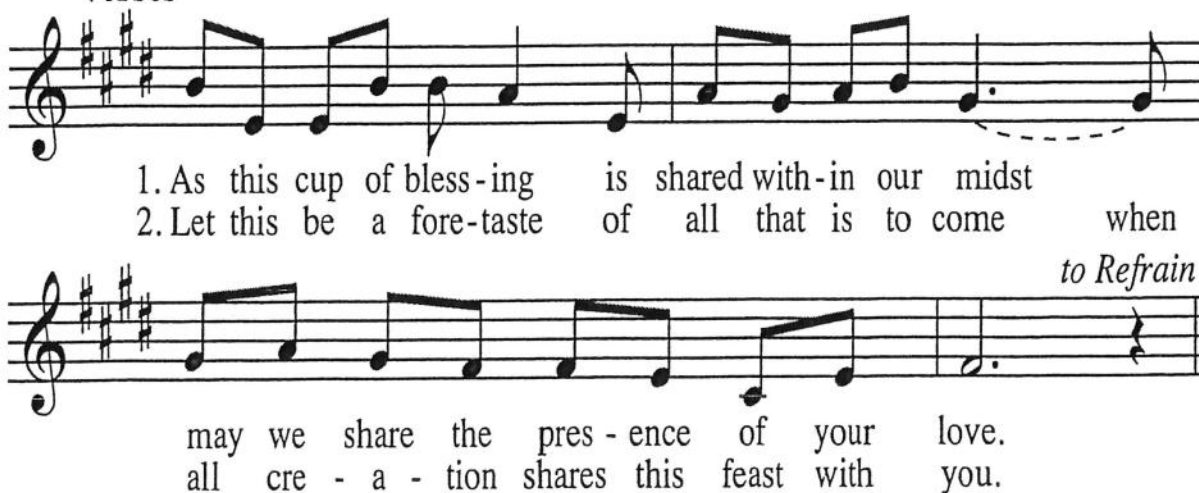
Refrain

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
may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

to Refrain

Please stand in body or spirit

OFFERING PRAYER

AM: Let us pray. Merciful God,

C: everything in heaven and earth belongs to you. We joyfully release what you have entrusted to us. May these gifts be signs of our whole lives returned to you, dedicated to the healing and unity of all creation, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

Pastor: It is indeed right...unending hymn:

"HOLY, HOLY, HOLY" sung once

Congregation:

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!

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Pastor: You are indeed holy,...even as we cry:

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit...whole creation.

C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Make us bold, O merciful God, to address you as our parent as we 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.**

Please be seated.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

[MUSICAL INTERLUDE]

Please stand in body or spirit.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: May the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

AM: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, for the blessings of this table. May our lives be made new by these gifts of grace and may your love be made known through us.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

AM: May God bless and keep us. May God's face shine on us and be gracious. May God look on us with favor and + give us peace.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

AM: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



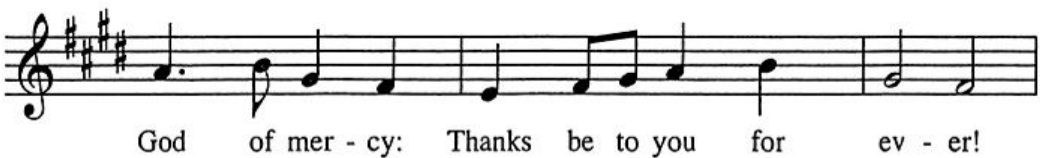
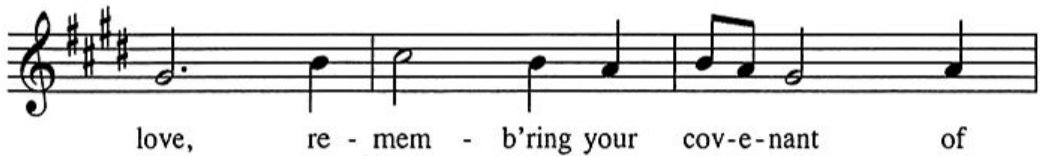
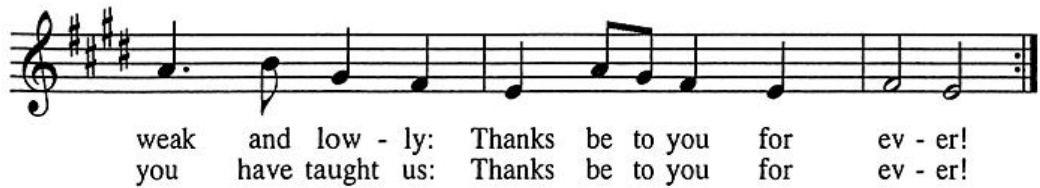
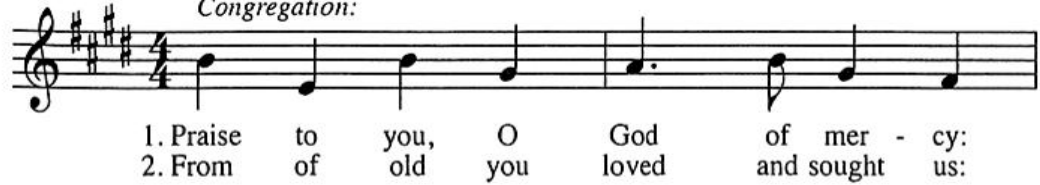
Lay-Led/no communion service continues here

OFFERING (pass the plate)

OFFERING HYMN

THANKS BE TO YOU

Congregation:



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C: everything in heaven and earth belongs to you. We joyfully release what you have entrusted to us. May these gifts be signs of our whole lives returned to you, dedicated to the healing and unity of all creation, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

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as we forgive those who trespass against us;
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For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
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