

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Christ the King

Third & Terry, Longmont, Colorado
(303) 776-2800 | www.firstluth.org
Pastor Garrett Struessel and Deacon Korra Looschen

Christ the King
Sunday, November 23, 2025
9:30 a.m.

We welcome you to worship!
Please fill out the blue worship card and place it in the offering plate later in the service.

GATHERING



PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTRODUCTION

Jeremiah's promise of the execution of "justice and righteousness in the land" finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It appears utterly contradictory that a king should be crucified with a criminal. This victory appears for all the world as humiliating defeat. Yet through the gate of death Jesus opens the door to paradise.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,

you have shown us the ways of your heart, yet we stray from your paths. We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression and do not embrace the freedom of your faithful promises. We ignore our neighbors. We exploit the earth. We reject your abundance, trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love. Repair our relationships, restore what we have broken, renew our hearts, and bring us to new life.

Amen.

Hear the good news: God the Faithful One loves you, ☩ in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven, and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free. **Amen.**

Jesus Shall Reign



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
 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
 throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
 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.
 fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

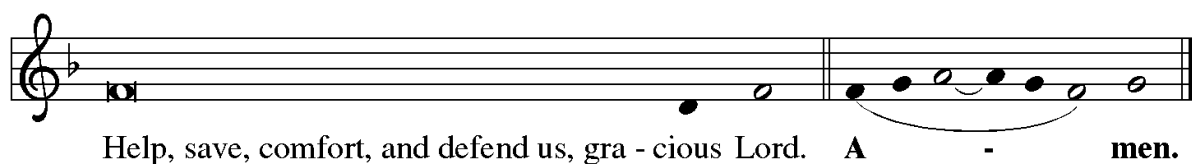
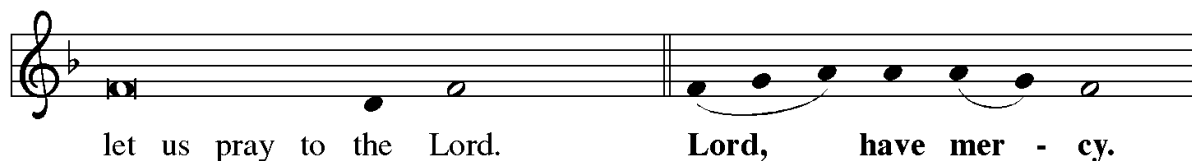
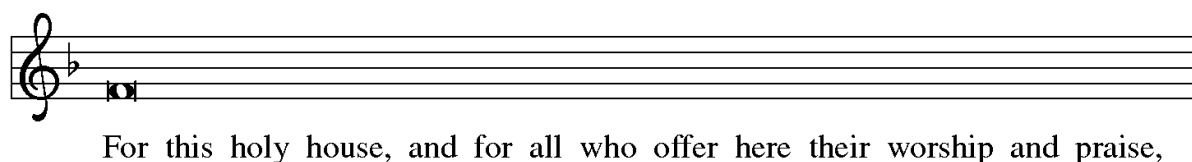
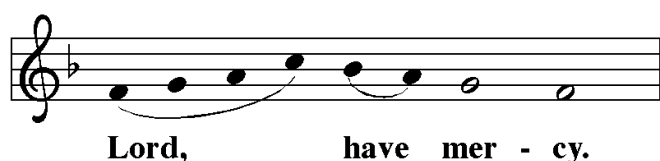
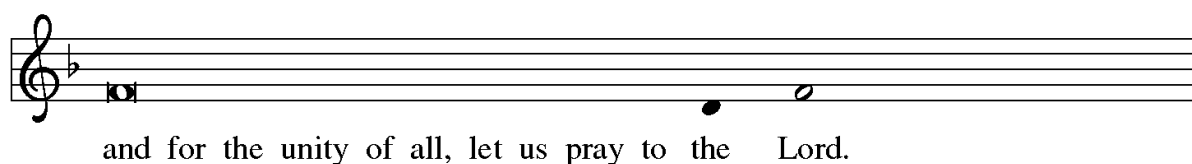
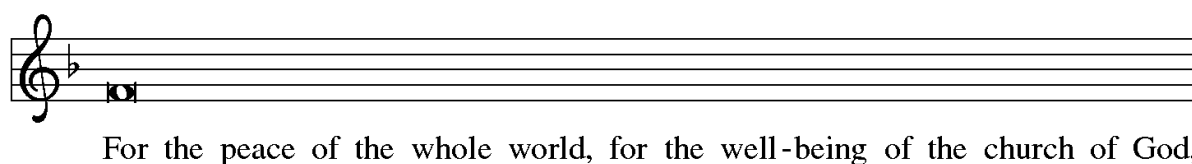
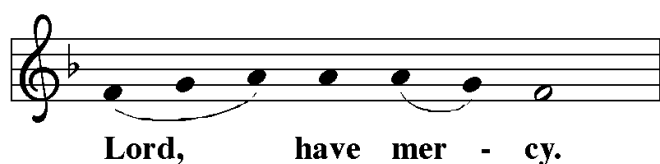
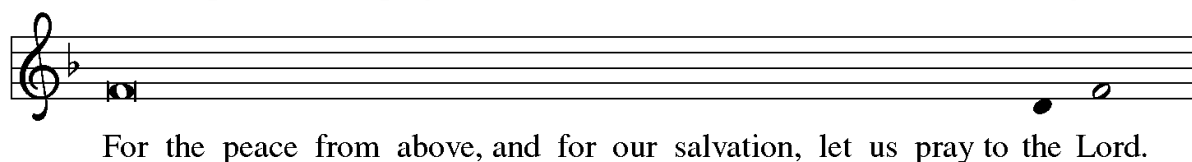
REETING

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

Page 138

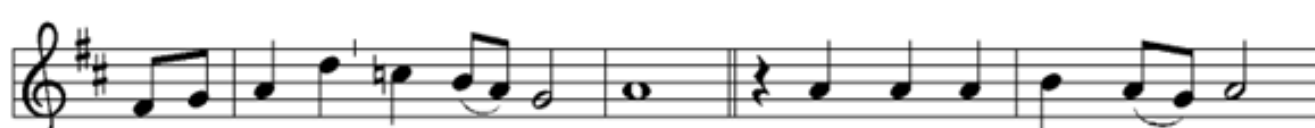


This Is the Feast

Refrain



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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

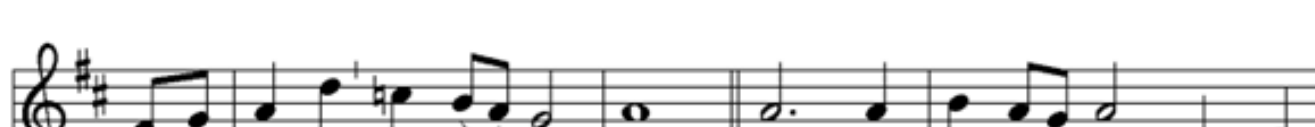


who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain



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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



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

Refrain



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

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

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

Refrain



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

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

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

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

ANTHEM

“Rejoice, The Lord is King” by Jonathan Willcocks

Chancel Choir

WORD

READINGS

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Today’s reading builds on the common, ancient Near Eastern metaphor of the king as shepherd. Judah’s unjust rulers have caused their people, their “flock,” to be scattered. Nevertheless, God will raise up a new and righteous shepherd who will rule a restored Judah.

¹ Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. ² Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So, I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. ³ Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴ I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord. ⁵ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God

Colossians 1:11-20

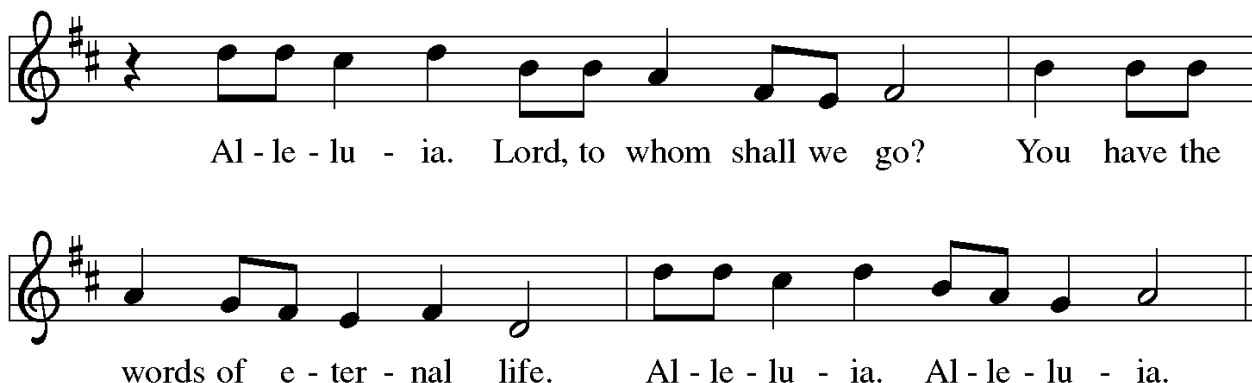
An early Christian hymn praises the mystery of the political, personal, and mystical Christ, the one who was present at creation and is eternally reigning with God.

¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 23rd chapter beginning at the 33rd verse.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 23:33-43

Amid scoffing and slander from those who sarcastically call him Messiah and king, Jesus reveals that to be Messiah and king is to give one's life for others. Here he uses his power to welcome a despised sinner to paradise but puts his own death into God's hands.

³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ [[Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." ³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." ⁴³ He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Garrett Struessel

THE APOSTLE'S 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

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERTORY

"Praise! Praise!" arr. By Patrick M. Liebergen

Chancel Choir

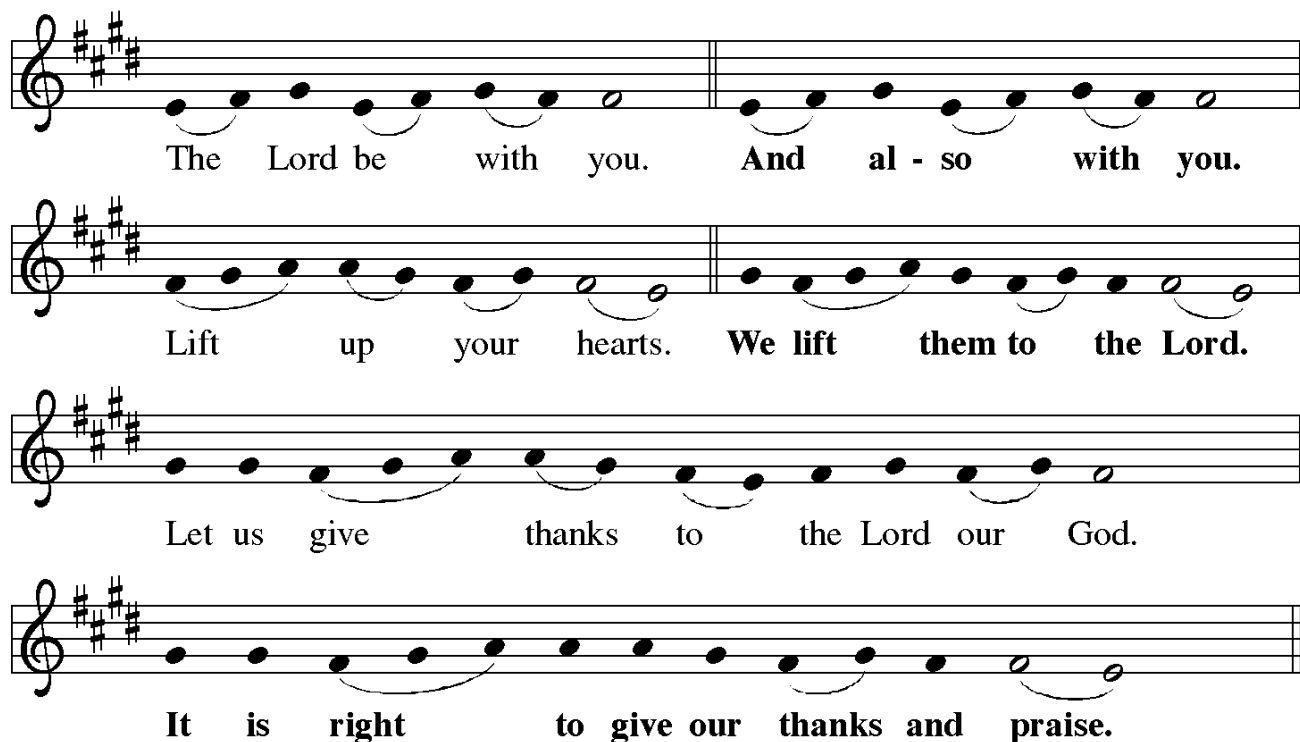
OFFERING PRAYER

God of healing and hope,

you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The musical notation for 'The Great Thanksgiving' is presented in four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are written below the notes, which are connected by slurs. The first staff contains the lyrics 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.' The second staff contains 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff contains 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth staff contains 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

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

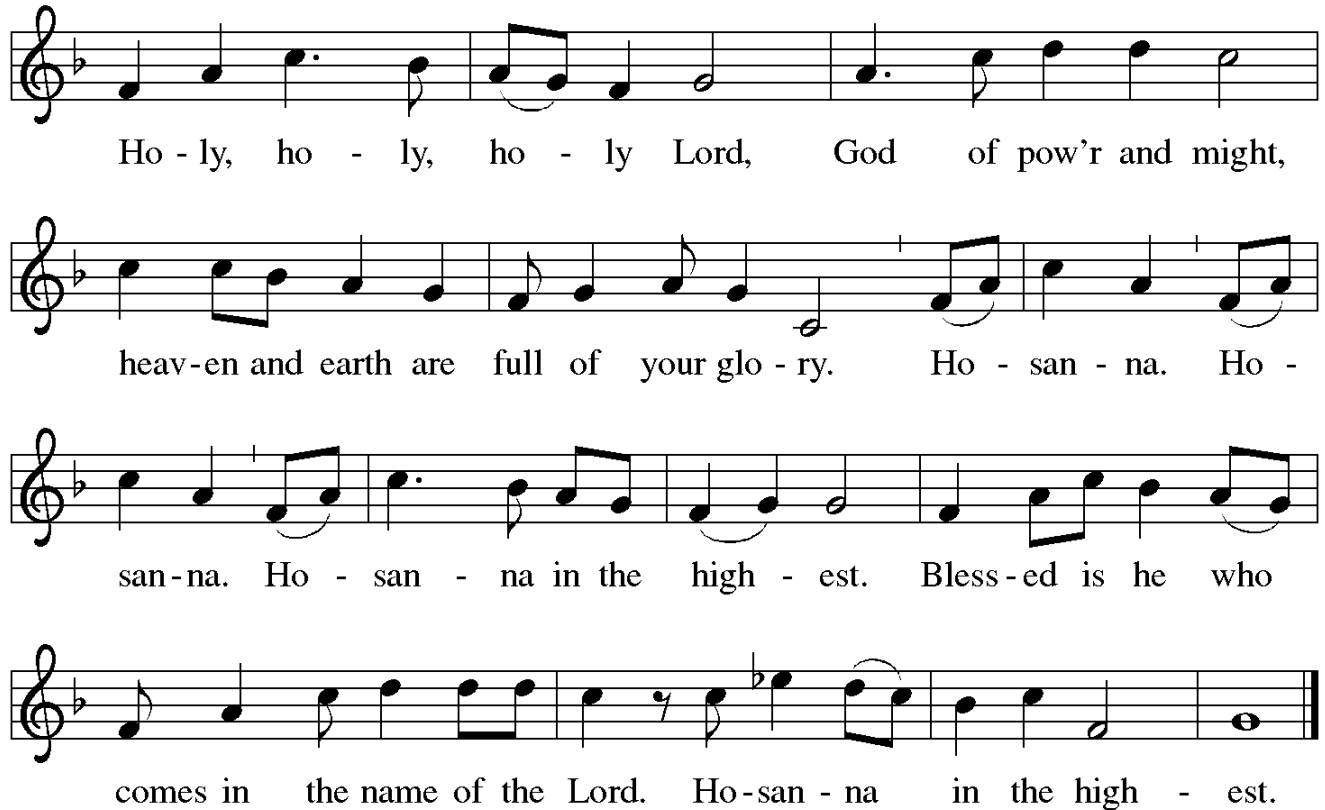
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Page 144

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

SHARING OF COMMUNION (for those of you at home)

All are welcome who come trusting in the gift of God's presence in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation shared in this meal. "The body of Christ, broken for you", and "the blood of Christ shed for you", include the promise of forgiveness, life and salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hear these words and partake of the bread/cracker and wine/juice, giving it to each other, if possible:

"The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you."

COMMUNION

All are welcome who come trusting in the gift of God's presence in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation, shared in this meal. "The body of Christ, broken for you", and "the blood of Christ shed for you", include the promise of the forgiveness of sin, life and salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord. The ushers will invite you to come forward for communion. We invite everyone to receive communion if you so desire. The invitation to receive Holy Communion is from Christ Jesus; therefore "all are welcome". In our serving communion trays, wine is darker red on

the outside, and grape juice is the lighter color in the center. We serve only gluten-free bread prepared in a kitchen excluding wheat flour, to include everyone regardless of wheat-gluten sensitivities. Come, taste and see, that the Lord is good.

LAMB OF GOD

Page 146

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.

COMMUNION HYMNS

"Christ, Be Our Light"

ELW 715

"Beautiful Savior"

ELW 838

"Jesus, Remember Me"

ELW 616

Christ, Be Our Light

ELW 715

1. Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
 2. Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
 3. Long-ing for food man-y are hun-gry. Long-ing for
 4. Long-ing for shel-ter, man-y are home-less. Long-ing for
 5. Man-y the gifts, man-y the peo-ple, man-y the

truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man-y de-spair. Your word a lone
 wa-ter man-y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man-y are cold. Make us your build-ing,
 hearts that yearn to be-long. Let us be ser-vants

your ho-ly peo-ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv-ing voice.
 bro-ken for oth-ers, shared un-til all are fed.
 shel-ter-ing oth-ers, walls made of liv-ing stone.
 to one an-oth-er, signs of your king-dom come.

Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the

dark-ness. Christ be our light! Shine in your church

gath-ered to-day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: Bernadette Farrell

Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell, admin. OCP Publications

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT
 9 8 9 6 and refrain

1. Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2. Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3. Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4. Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904
 Music: Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU
 5 5 7 5 5 8

Jesus, Remember Me

ELW 616

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The first system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It contains a melody of eighth and quarter notes. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment of chords and single notes.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to you king - dom.

The second system of music also consists of two staves in the same key signature and clefs as the first. It continues the melody and accompaniment, ending with a double bar line and repeat dots. The lyrics are identical to the first system.

Text: Luke 29:42; Taizé Community

Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

Text and music © 1981 Les Presses de Taizé, admin GIA Publications, Inc.

REMEMBER ME

6 8 6 8

COMMUNION BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of field and flower, wheat and grape, you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world. Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst, and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name.

Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

ELW 855 vs. 1,3,5

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Crown Him with Many Crowns

ELW 855

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

how the heav'n - ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own. A -
 arm those crim - son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn; fruit
 wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied. No
 rose vic - to - rious in the — strife for those he came to save. His
 a - tor of the roll ing spheres in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime. All

wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, and
 of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem, the
 an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight, but
 glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high, who
 hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me; thy

hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.
 down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 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: George J. Elvey, 1816-1893

DIADEMATA
SMD

WELCOME to Worship!

WELCOME to worship! We are so glad you are here!

LARGE-PRINT BULLETINS & HYMNS are available from the ushers.

KIDS WORSHIP BAGS are available to use during the church service. Pick one up in the narthex so they can enjoy looking through a children's Bible, coloring in the coloring pages, or playing with one of the toys. Kids worship bags are labeled according to age ranges. Please return the bags after service. Thank you for bringing your kids to church

ADDITIONAL PARKING is available in the Ahlberg Chapel parking lot, one-half block north of the church on Terry Street.

RESTROOMS are located on the upper level of the church, along the hallway leading to the Big Room. There are handicap accessible restrooms on the lower level near the elevator, and in the Big Room.

We love seeing you in worship!

Scan the QR Code for the Following!

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Preacher/Presider

The Rev. Garrett Struessel

Worship Assistant

Deacon Korra Looschen

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John Oppenlander

Rick Samson

Ushers

Herb Hergott

Vicki Hergott

Reader

Char Lemkee

Communion Assistants

Dwight Tilford

Vicki Shiveley

Choir Director

Sally Campbell

Pianist/Organist

Gary Elmquist