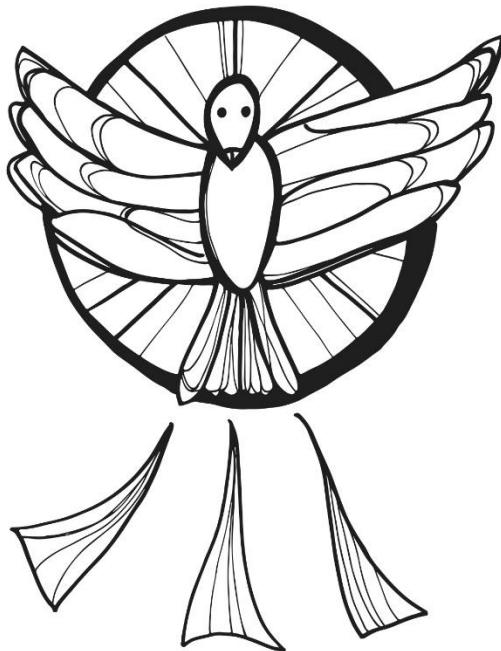


Order of Worship
Baptism of Our Lord
January 11, 2026



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
www.gracelakeland.com

Baptism of Our Lord. In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism, we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

*=ALL STAND for this part of worship

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Spirit Medley with "Spirit of the Living God" & "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"* arr. Mark Hayes

*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams.

Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow.

Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you.

You are the fountain of resurrection.

Praise to you for your saving waters:

Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well.

The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock.

Naaman washes his leprosy away,

and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

Praise to you for the water of baptism and for your Word
that saves us in this sacrament.

Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation.

Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears.

Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us.

Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMNBaptized in Water*

ELW 456



1 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the
2 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the
3 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the



blood of Christ our king: heirs of sal - va - tion, trust-ing his
tomb with Christ our king: one with his ris - ing, freed and for -
sign of Christ our king: born of the Spir - it, we are God's



prom - ise, faith-ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
giv - en, thank-ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

PRESENTATION FOR HOLY BAPTISM

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word, God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Haze, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to be baptized into Christ?

Candidate: I do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:
People of God, do you promise to support Haze and pray for them in their new life in Christ?

We do.

The assembly stands.

***PROFESSION OF FAITH**

The presiding minister addresses the full assembly:

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin,
and confess the faith of the church.

***Three Renunciation Questions**

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

We renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

We renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

We renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

*BAPTISM OF HAZE O'NEILL

Haze, I baptize you
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Blessed be God: **the source of all life,
the word of salvation, the spirit of mercy.**

The presiding minister continues:

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit,
you give your children new birth, cleanse them from sin,
and raise them to eternal life.

Laying both hands on the head of the newly baptized, the minister prays:
Sustain Haze with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and
understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the
fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized.
Haze, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit
and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

WELCOME

A lighted candle is given to the newly baptized as assisting minister says:
Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me
will have the light of life.”

*Ministers and baptismal group face the assembly.
Assisting minister leads the assembly in the welcome.*

*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.

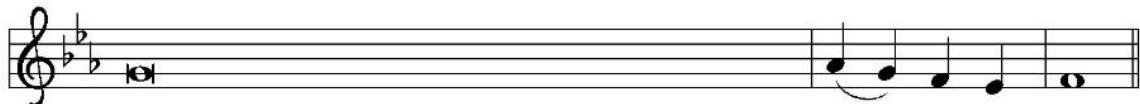
* KYRIE (*Continued on next page*)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



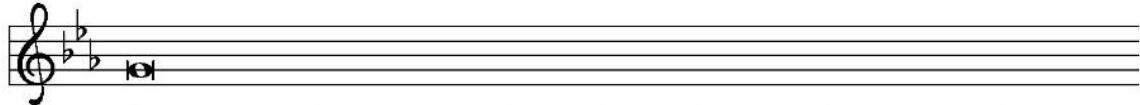
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



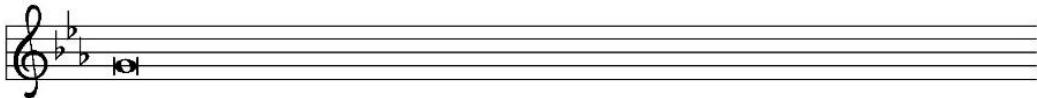
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

***THIS IS THE FEAST** (*Continued on next pages*)

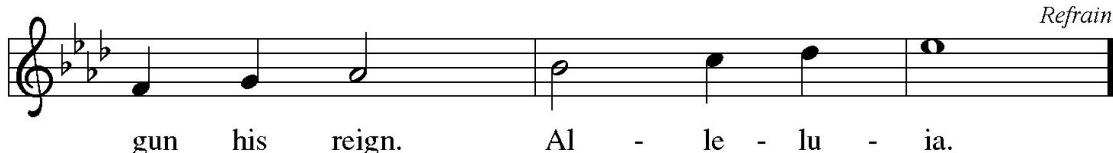
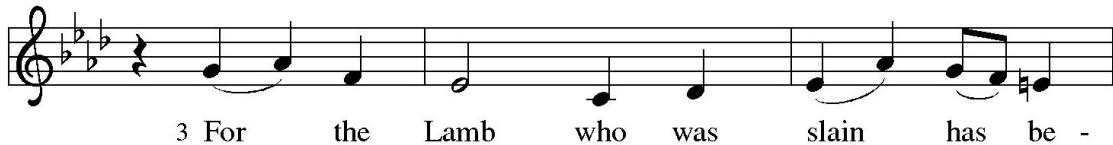
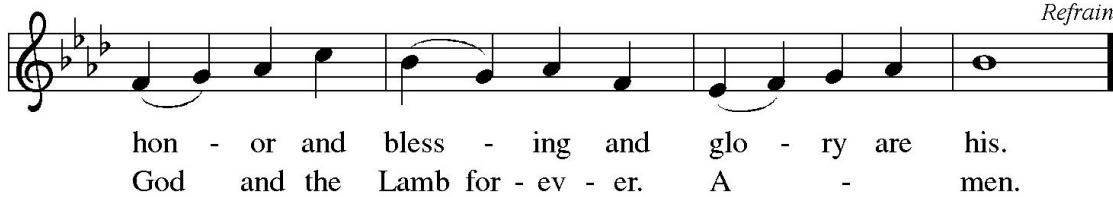
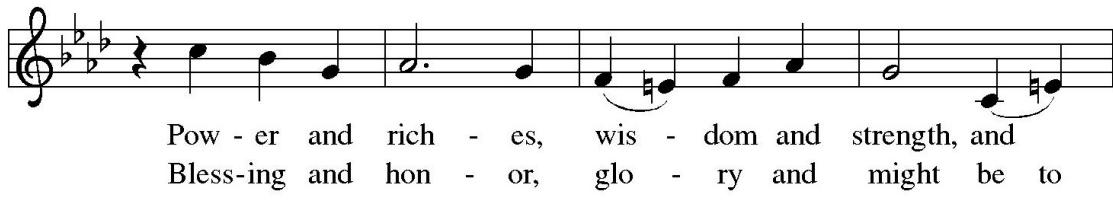
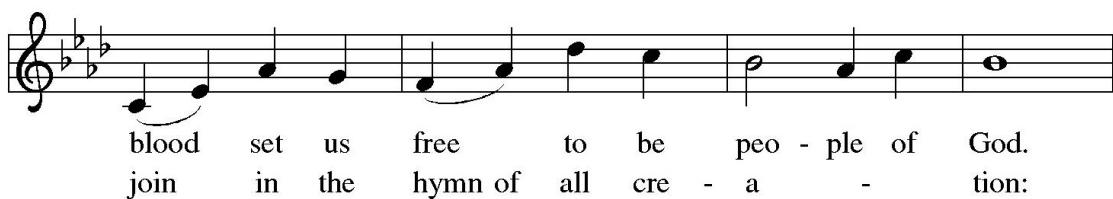
Refrain



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



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



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together:

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your holy people, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 42:1-9

¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
 my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
 he will bring forth justice to the nations.

² He will not cry out or lift up his voice
 or make it heard in the street;

³ a bruised reed he will not break,
 and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
 he will faithfully bring forth justice.

⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed
 until he has established justice in the earth,
 and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵ Thus says God, the Lord,
 who created the heavens and stretched them out,
 who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
 and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶ I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;
 I have taken you by the hand and kept you;

I have given you as a covenant to the people,
 a light to the nations,

⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
 from the prison those who sit in darkness.

⁸ I am the Lord; that is my name;
 my glory I give to no other,

nor my praise to idols.

⁹ See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 29 (*We will read the Psalm responsively, by whole verse.*)

¹ Ascribe to the Lord, you gods,
 ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

² **Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name;
 worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**

³ The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
 the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

⁴ **The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;
 the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.**

⁵ The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;
 the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶ **the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
 and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

⁷ The voice of the Lord
 bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸ **The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
 the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

⁹ The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
 And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰ **The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;
 the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

¹¹ O Lord, give strength to your people;
 give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.

SECOND READING:

Acts 10:34-43

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality," ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That

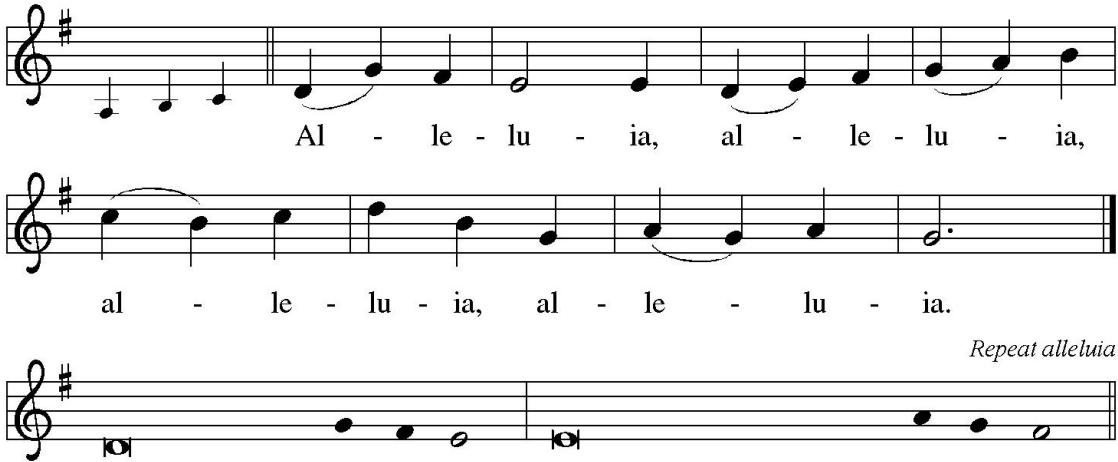
message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We stand for the reading of the Gospel.



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

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

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

*GOSPEL:

Matthew 3:13-17

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 3rd chapter:

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when

Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him.¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Olga-Maria Cruz

Silence is kept for reflection.

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized

ELW 304



1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spir - it on you
2 God called you, "My be - lov - ed Son"; you are God's ser - vant
3 Straight-way and stead - fast un - til death you then o - obeyed the
4 Bap - tize us with your Spir - it, Lord; your cross on us be



came, as peace - ful as a dove, and yet as
true, sent to pro - claim the reign of heav'n, God's
call to serve with free and will - ing heart, to
signed, that like - wise in God's ser - vice we may



ur - gent as a flame, as ur - gent as a flame.
ho - ly will to do, God's ho - ly will to do.
give your life for all, to give your life for all.
per - fect free - dom find, may per - fect free - dom find.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

Steadfast God, give courage to your servant church. Heal our divisions and unite us in mission. Uphold our lay leaders, missionaries, pastors, and bishops, and all who proclaim hope in a broken world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Restoring God, cleanse the life-giving waters of rivers, seas, and springs, especially Lake Morton and Lake Hollingsworth. Motivate us to preserve the beauty and bounty of your good creation. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Righteous God, you guide the nations. Reconcile warring enemies and end cycles of retribution. Defend the rights of prisoners, detainees, and all who flee from persecution. Sustain international aid workers and peacemakers. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Compassionate God, you care for all in distress. Provide safety and support for those seeking asylum or in need of shelter. Be near to the dying, and comfort all who are grieving or ill, especially for *Mary, Mabel, Doris, June, Ann, Julie, Carol, Anne, Judy, Jeff, Gloria, Brian, James & Grace, Katie, Wil, Amy, Bob & Jane, Scott, Lynda, Ron & Flo, Mac, Monica, Avery, Doris, John, Abby, Mike, Tim, Arleen & Richard, Betty, Linda, Henry, Glenn, Gary, Connie, Greg, Beverly & Ray, Helen & Ron, Phyllis, and Max*. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Loving God, awaken the gifts of the Spirit in this congregation, that we may serve Christ by loving one another, our neighbors, and our enemies. We pray for travelers and those who are homebound. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Protecting God, we pray for all who suffer from any violence. With your mercy, bind up their wounds, restore their bodies, and heal their hearts. Comfort the mourners and embrace the lonely. Grant us courage to change this broken world. Make us advocates for a stable society, alive with hope in you. We ask this through the one once wounded for our transgressions and now standing with us in our sorrows. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Promising God, in baptism we die and rise with Christ. We give thanks for those who have gone before us, and we trust that we will join them in your everlasting peace. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

Amen.

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Shine, Jesus, Shine

Kendrick

*OFFERING SONG

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW s.181

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

*OFFERING PRAYER

God of majesty,
no eye has seen, no ear has heard
what you have prepared for those who love you,
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.
Use what we have gathered
to feed us with the reign of God come near,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

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.

*PREFACE

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.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:
you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.

In the night in which he was handed over,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks.
He 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.”

Together as the body of Christ,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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

***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.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

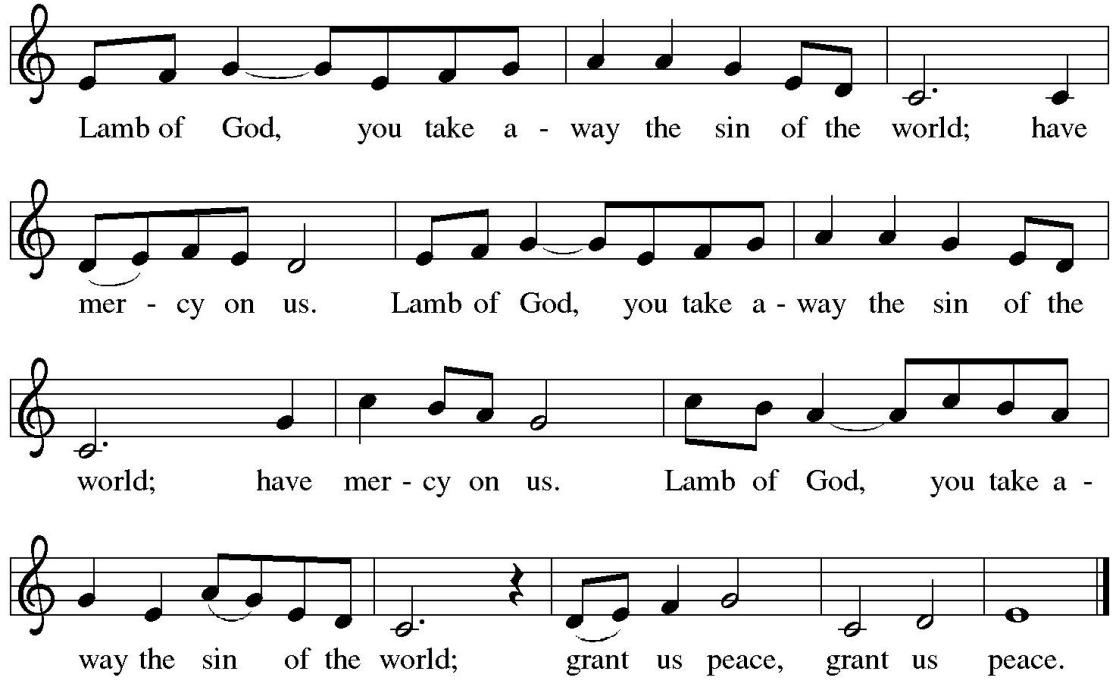
Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Come to the table; taste and see.

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 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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN(S)

Spirit of Gentleness
Shall We Gather at the River
(on the following pages)

ELW 396
ELW 423

Refrain

Spir - it, Spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the wil - der - ness

call - ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest - less - ness,

stir me from plac - id - ness, wind, wind on the sea.

- 1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the deep,
- 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the sand,
- 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a hill,
- 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient schemes.

then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;
 and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;
 then you whis - pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;
 From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;

and o - ver the e - ons you called to each thing:
 and when they were blind - ed with i - dols and lies,
 and down in the cit - y you called once a - gain,
 our wom - en see vi - sions, our men clear their eyes.

Refrain

"A - - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings."
 then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.
 when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.
 With . . . bold new de - ci - sions your peo-ple a - rise.



1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
3 Ere we reach the shin-ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv - er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow-ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

*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.

Radiant God,

we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

In the sacrament of his body and blood

you have drawn us to your heart.

Send us from this table with delight,

that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,

and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

ACS 988



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in Je - sus' name
2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the bur - dened free;
3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter joy like seed
4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel to pro - claim.



to bring glad tid - ings to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.
where hope is dim, to share a dream and help the blind to see.
and, all our days, to cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.
God's Spir - it has em - pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

*BENEDICTION

May the triune God,

who has put a new song in your mouth

and tuned your heart for praise

☩ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Be Thou My Vision

arr. Mary McDonald

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