

*September 19, 2021*  
*Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost*



**ST. STEPHEN**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church

\*Congregation is invited to stand as able  
Please be aware that video cameras are in use during our hybrid (combined) Worship Service and that images are being shared with the online participants.

Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them a flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

**Our Mission**

We respond to Christ's love by feeding those who hunger in body, mind, and spirit.

**Prelude**

*"Sonatina for Worship no. 1 "*

by Robert W. Jones

**Gathering**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**\*Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our provider,

**help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn?**

**Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ☩ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

## Gathering Hymn

*"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"*

Hymn#588 vs. 1,2,4

- 1 There's a wideness in God's mercy,  
like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in God's justice  
which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows  
are more felt than up in heav'n.  
There is no place where earth's failings  
have such kindly judgment giv'n.
- 2 There is welcome for the sinner,  
and a promised grace made good;  
there is mercy with the Savior;  
there is healing in his blood.  
There is grace enough for thousands  
of new worlds as great as this;  
there is room for fresh creations  
in that upper home of bliss.
- 4 'Tis not all we owe to Jesus;  
it is something more than all:  
greater good because of evil,  
larger mercy through the fall.  
Make our love, O God, more faithful;  
let us take you at your word,  
and our lives will be thanksgiving  
for the goodness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt.  
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## \*Apostolic Greeting

The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God, and the light of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

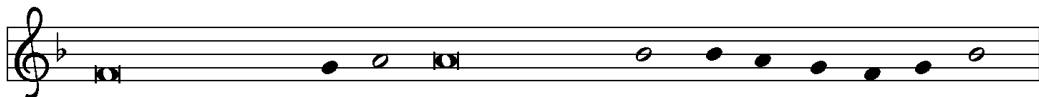
## \*Kyrie



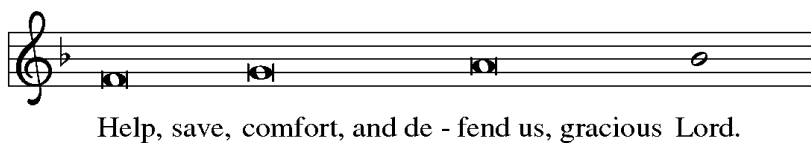
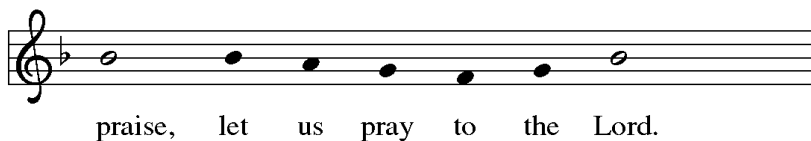
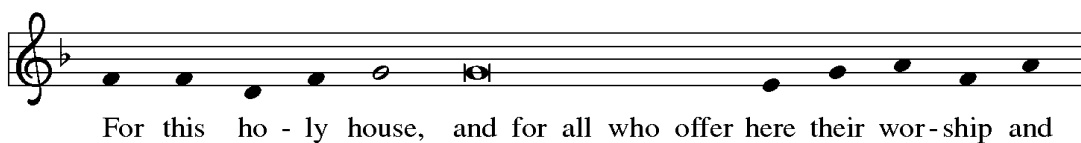
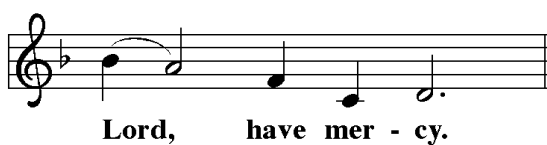
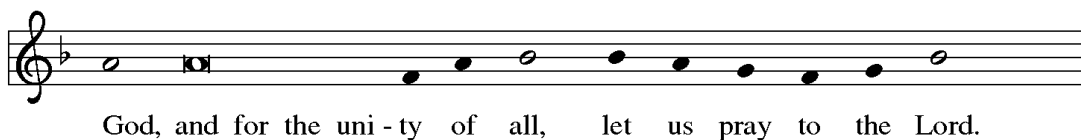
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



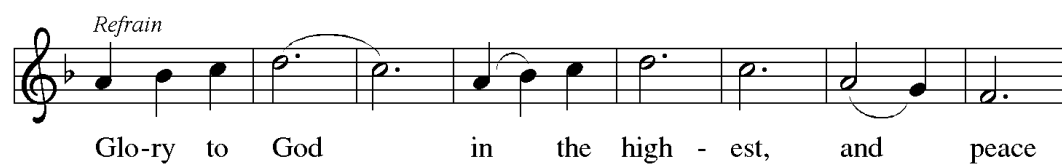
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



### **\*Canticle of Praise**



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - mighty God and Fa-ther,

we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

*Refrain*

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace

to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:

have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right

hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

*Refrain*

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace  
to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the  
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.  
3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a -  
lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly  
Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.  
*Final refrain*  
Glo - ry to God in the high - est.  
A - men, a - men.

### **\*Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Word**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

### **The First Lesson**

**Proverbs 31:10-31**

*This passage, which ends the book of Proverbs, describes the good wife. She is a supremely capable and hardworking person, who runs the household and also engages in commercial ventures. She cares both for her family and for the poor, and she fears the Lord.*

A reading from the book of the Proverbs, the 31st chapter.

- <sup>10</sup> A capable wife who can find?  
She is far more precious than jewels.
- <sup>11</sup> The heart of her husband trusts in her,  
and he will have no lack of gain.
- <sup>12</sup> She does him good, and not harm,  
all the days of her life.
- <sup>13</sup> She seeks wool and flax,  
and works with willing hands.
- <sup>14</sup> She is like the ships of the merchant,  
she brings her food from far away.
- <sup>15</sup> She rises while it is still night  
and provides food for her household  
and tasks for her servant-girls.
- <sup>16</sup> She considers a field and buys it;  
with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.
- <sup>17</sup> She girds herself with strength,  
and makes her arms strong.
- <sup>18</sup> She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.  
Her lamp does not go out at night.
- <sup>19</sup> She puts her hands to the distaff,  
and her hands hold the spindle.
- <sup>20</sup> She opens her hand to the poor,  
and reaches out her hands to the needy.
- <sup>21</sup> She is not afraid for her household when it snows,  
for all her household are clothed in crimson.
- <sup>22</sup> She makes herself coverings;  
her clothing is fine linen and purple.
- <sup>23</sup> Her husband is known in the city gates,  
taking his seat among the elders of the land.
- <sup>24</sup> She makes linen garments and sells them;  
she supplies the merchant with sashes.
- <sup>25</sup> Strength and dignity are her clothing,  
and she laughs at the time to come.
- <sup>26</sup> She opens her mouth with wisdom,  
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
- <sup>27</sup> She looks well to the ways of her household,  
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
- <sup>28</sup> Her children rise up and call her happy;  
her husband too, and he praises her:
- <sup>29</sup> "Many women have done excellently,  
but you surpass them all."
- <sup>30</sup> Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,  
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

<sup>31</sup>Give her a share in the fruit of her hands,  
and let her works praise her in the city gates.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm**

## **Psalm 1**

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel <sup>1</sup> of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats <sup>1</sup> of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup>**Their delight is in the law <sup>1</sup> of the LORD,  
and they meditate on God's teaching <sup>1</sup> day and night.**

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that  
<sup>1</sup> do not wither;  
everything they <sup>1</sup> do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup>**It is not so <sup>1</sup> with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind <sup>1</sup> blows away.**

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when <sup>1</sup> judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council <sup>1</sup> of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup>**For the LORD knows the way <sup>1</sup> of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall <sup>1</sup> be destroyed.**

## **The Second Lesson**

## **James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a**

*The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.*

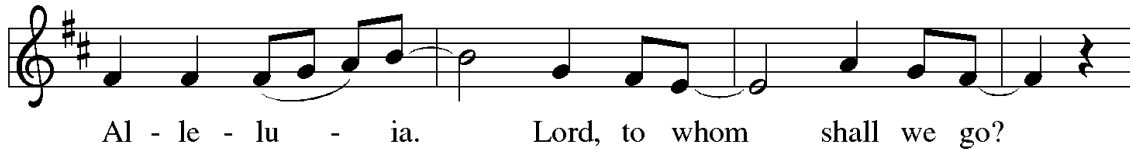
A reading from St. James' epistle, the 3rd chapter.

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup>For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.<sup>4:</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8a</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

### **\*Gospel Acclamation**



### **\*Gospel Reading**

**Mark 9:30-37**

*Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.*

A reading from the Gospel according to St. Mark, the 9th chapter. **Glory to You O Lord.**

<sup>30</sup>[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;<sup>31</sup>for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again."

<sup>32</sup>But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup>Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" <sup>34</sup>But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." <sup>36</sup>Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You O Christ.**

### **Sermon**

The Reverend Matthew Best

### **Hymn of the Day**

*"All are Welcome"*

Hymn#641 vs. 1,2,5

- 1 Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

### *Refrain*

*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*



- 2 Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: *Refrain*
- 5 Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: *Refrain*

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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### **\*Apostles Creed**

AM: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us profess 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 Intercession**

*Congregational response after each petition:*

AM: ...Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of community, we pray for the church around the world. Unite us in our love for you. Help us overcome our divisions, that we are encouraged to work together for your sake. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, we pray for this hurting earth. Awaken in us a new desire to care for this world and empower us to support agencies, organizations, and individual efforts to heal our environment. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of cooperation, we pray for nations of the world embroiled in conflict. Inspire leaders to listen to each other and work towards peaceful solutions to disagreements. Protect the vulnerable, especially children, who cannot find safety in their home or country. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of comfort, we pray for all who live with mental or physical illness. Help them find appropriate care. Bring healing and wholeness when the path forward seems bleak. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, we pray for the young people of this congregation. Renew in us your call to welcome the children in our midst. As they grow, strengthen their faith and our commitment to them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of consolation, we give you thanks for our loved ones who have died and pray for all who grieve today. Shine your grace on all your saints. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**\*Peace**

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us show a sign of that peace!

**\*Offering**

The offering, whether in person or through digital means, is an act of worship. Worship, at its core, is a reverent love and devotion accorded to God. We give because God loves us first, and we are called to love God and neighbor as a result. The offering is one way we show our love of God.

To assist you in this act of worship, there are several ways to make your offering: Go to [www.StStephenLC.org](http://www.StStephenLC.org) and scroll to the bottom of the page, and click **DONATE**.

Text your offering dollar amount to 717-685-6947. Text "help" for options.

Use Engage from your smart phone or Internet connected device at <https://engage.suran.com/sslc/> or QR code below:



Set up regular electronic offerings by contacting Kevin, our office manager, at 717-766- 2168, Monday through Thursday from 9am – 2pm, or by email at [office@StStephenLC.org](mailto:office@StStephenLC.org) to get set up.

Mail in your check, made payable to St. Stephen Lutheran Church. Our address is  
30 W. Main St., PO Box 266, New Kingstown, PA 17072.

The offerings are used to carry out the ministry of the church, to share the Good News, to provide pastoral care, to worship as a community, and to create an environment where Jesus encounters people and their lives are transformed. All of these things continue to take place. Thank you for your generosity.

#### **\*Offertory Prayer**

Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life,  
you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has  
been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here,  
your body for the life of the world.

**Amen**

#### **Meal**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

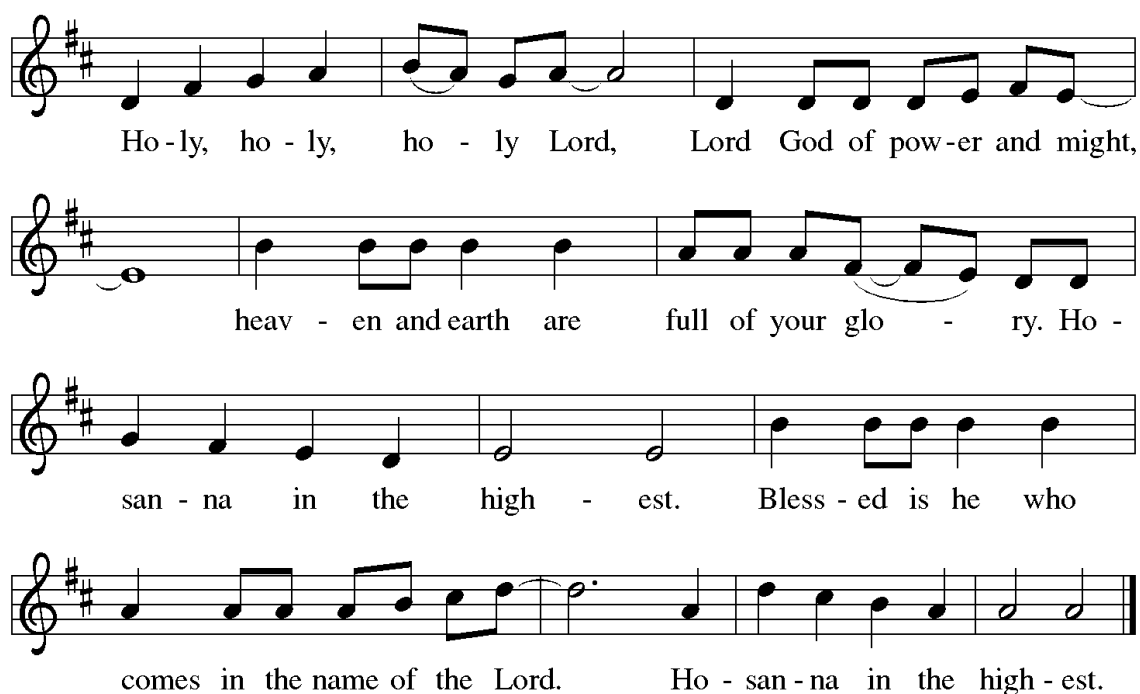
#### **\*The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. **And also 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.**

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. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal 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, 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.**

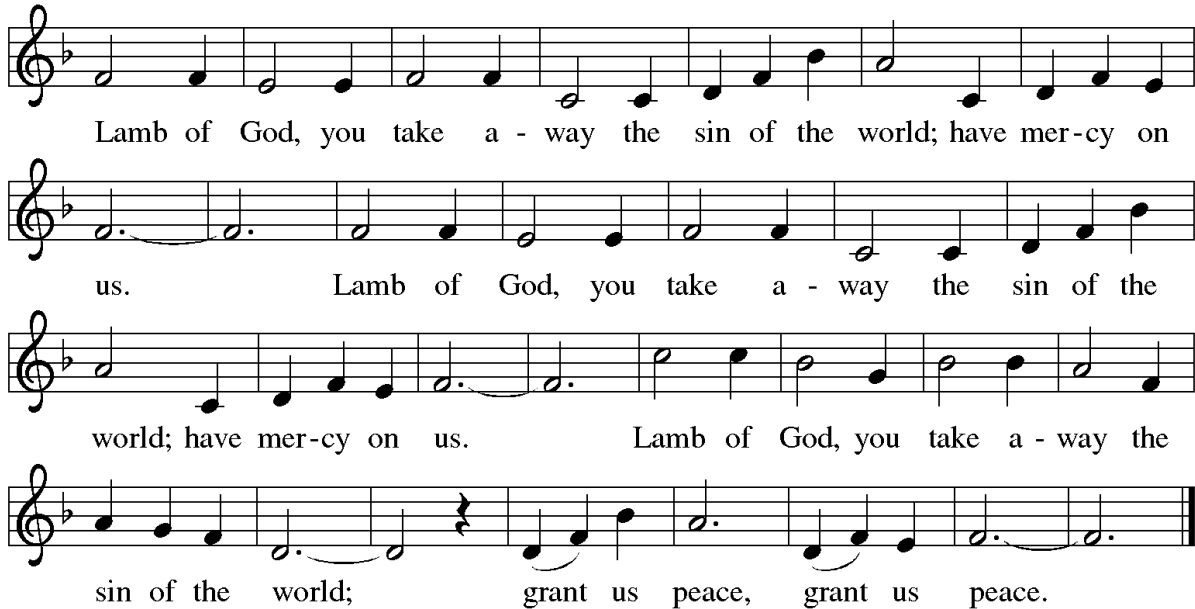
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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**

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.

**Come!**



Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948  
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The Body and Blood of Christ given and shed for you

### **\*Post Communion Prayer**

Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life,  
we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in  
this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.  
**Amen.**

### **Sending**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

### **\*Blessing**

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ☩ be upon you now  
and forever.

**Amen.**

**Sending Hymn***"All Depends on Our Possessing"*

Hymn#589 vs. 1,3,4

- 1 All depends on our possessing  
God's free grace and constant blessing,  
though all earthly wealth depart.  
They who trust with faith unshaken  
by their God are not forsaken  
and will keep a dauntless heart.
- 3 When with sorrow I am stricken,  
hope my heart anew will quicken,  
all my longing shall be stilled.  
To your lovingkindness tender  
all my being I surrender:  
Lord, on you alone I build.
- 4 Well you know what best to grant me;  
all the longing hopes that haunt me,  
joy and sorrow, have their day.  
I shall doubt your wisdom never;  
as you will, so be it ever;  
I commit to you my way.

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Nürnberg, 1676; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

**\*Dismissal**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude***"Fantasia on 'Forest Green'"*

arranged by Lani Smith

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