

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Being SJLC 2023 – Week 2

January 29, 2023– 10:30 a.m.

Lutheran Service Book, Holy Communion, Setting 2



ST. JOHN'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Prayer before worship

Lord God, You revealed Yourself through Jesus, the Messiah. As I come before You in worship this day, I humbly pray that You would open my heart and mind to Your Word, turn me from sin, and strengthen the light of Christ within me. Amen.

## Pre-Service Music

"Salix from 'Plymouth Suite'" (Percy Whitlock)

## Ringing of the Bells

## Welcome

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### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

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

**C** Amen.

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

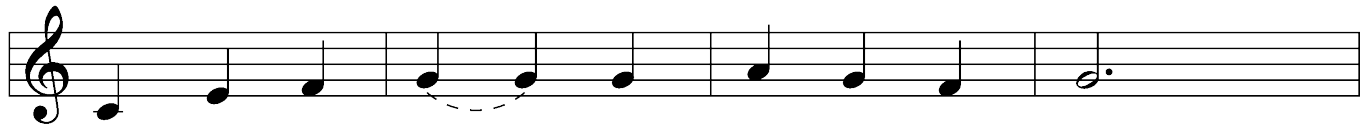
**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

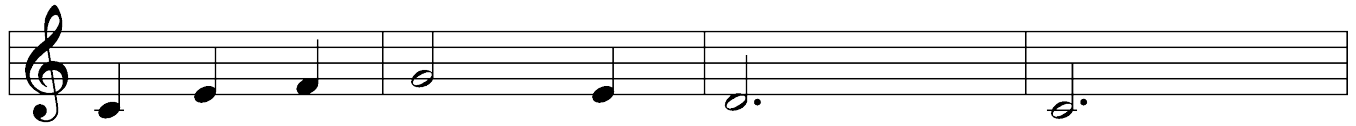
**C** Amen.

Opening Hymn

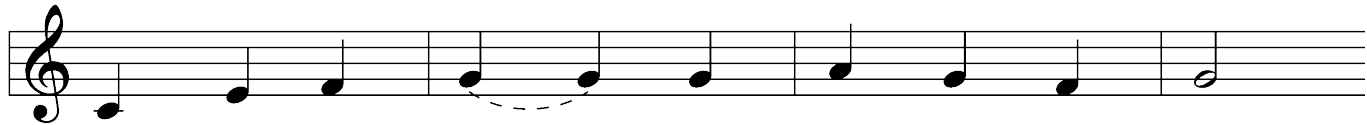
"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" (LSB 411)



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



I want to fol - low Je - sus.  
 I want to look at Je - sus.  
 I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world.  
 Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,  
 When we have run with pa - tience the race,



The star of my life is Je - sus.  
 And show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
 We shall know the joy of Je - sus.

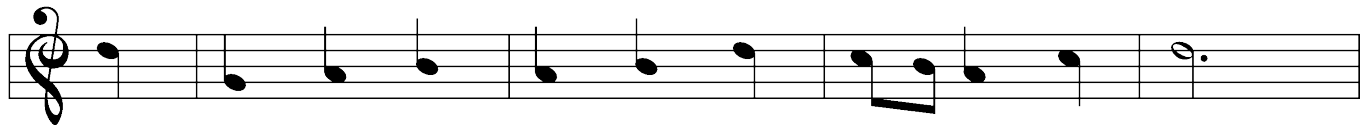
*Refrain*



In Him there is no dark - ness at all.



The night and the day are both a - like.  
 The Lamp is the light of the cit - y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.



## Greeting

**P** The grace of God in Christ Jesus, poured out in every gift of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

## Gloria in Excelsis



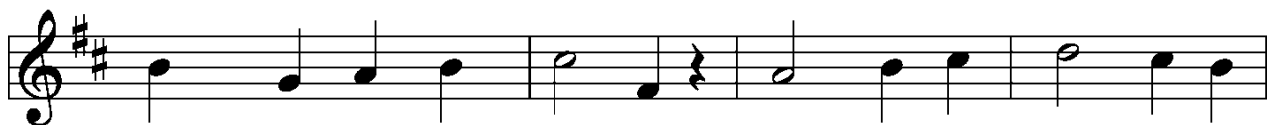
**A** Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to His peo-ple on earth.



**C** Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther: We wor - ship You, we give You thanks, we



praise You for Your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



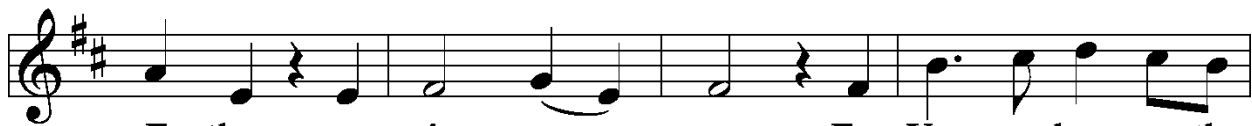
Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God: You



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. 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. A - men.

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray:

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### Children's Message

Children's Ministry Ensemble

"Jesus Loves Me" (William Bradbury)

*Jesus loves me! This I know,*

*For the Bible tells me so.*

*Little ones to Him belong;*

*They are weak, but He is strong.*

*Yes, Jesus loves me!*

*Yes, Jesus loves me!*

*Yes, Jesus loves me!*

*The Bible tells me so.*

*Please join in reading aloud the highlighted portion of Scripture  
and consider committing this passage to memory in the week ahead.*

<sup>1</sup>Hear what the LORD says:

Arise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth,  
for the LORD has an indictment against his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup>"O my people, what have I done to you?  
How have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup>For I brought you up from the land of Egypt  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

<sup>5</sup>O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised,  
and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

<sup>6</sup>"With what shall I come before the LORD,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

<sup>7</sup>Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

<sup>8</sup>**He has told you, O man, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?**

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

- L** O LORD, who shall sojourn in your tent?  
Who shall dwell on your holy hill?
- C** **He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart;**
- L** who does not slander with his tongue  
and does no evil to his neighbor,  
nor takes up a reproach against his friend;
- C** **in whose eyes a vile person is despised,  
but who honors those who fear the LORD;  
who swears to his own hurt and does not change;**
- L** who does not put out his money at interest  
and does not take a bribe against the innocent.  
He who does these things shall never be moved.

**Epistle**

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

<sup>18</sup>The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

<sup>26</sup>For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. <sup>31</sup>Therefore, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

### Alleluia and Verse



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

### Holy Gospel

St. Matthew 5:1-12

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.



**G** Praise to You, O Christ.

<sup>1</sup>Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

<sup>2</sup>And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup>"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup>"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

<sup>10</sup>"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



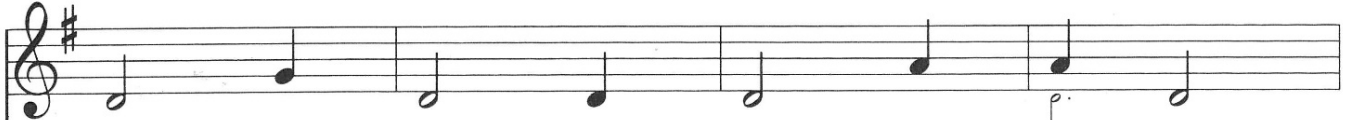
**G** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

**Sermon**

"Being SJLC 2023: Connecting"

**Hymn of the Day**

"Blest Are They" (WOV 764)



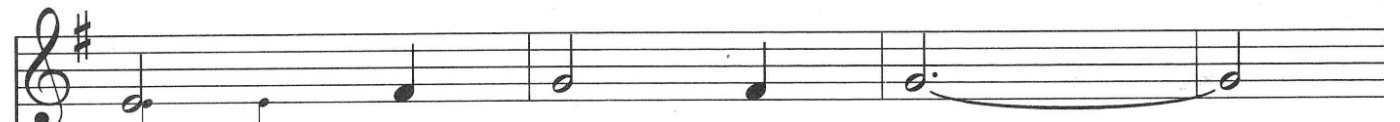
1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it;  
 2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; . . . .  
 3 Blest are they . . . . who show mer - cy;  
 4 Blest are they . . . . who seek peace; . . . .  
 5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, . . . .



theirs is the king - dom of God.  
 they shall in - her - it the earth.  
 mer - cy shall . . . be theirs.  
 they are the chil - dren of God.  
 all . . . . be - cause . . . of me. Re -



Blest are they . . . . full . . . . of sor - row; . . .  
 Blest are they who hun - ger and thirst; . . . .  
 Blest are they, the pure . . . . of heart . . . .  
 Blest are they who suf - fer in faith; the  
 ioice. be glad, . . . . yours is the king - dom; . . .



they . . . . shall be con - soled.  
 they . . . . shall have their fill.  
 they . . . . shall see God!  
 glo - ry of God is theirs.  
 shine . . . . for all to see.



*Refrain*

Re - jice and be glad!

Bless - ed are you,

ho - ly are you. Re - jice and be

glad! Yours is the king - dom of

God!

To stanzas      End

Text and Music: David Haas, b. 1957; arr. David Hass and Michael Joncas, b. 1951. © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

## Profession of Faith

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, † and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **Prayer of the Church**

**P** Drawn to the light of Christ, made bold in the waters of Baptism, and filled with the Spirit, we lift up our prayers in confidence that God loves and listens to us.

*Special petitions are announced, followed by a brief silence. Each petition closes with the words*

*"Lord in Your mercy." Please respond by saying, "hear our prayer."*

*The prayers conclude with:*

**P** Good and gracious God, we ask all these things and whatever else you see that we need with a sure and certain hope in your goodness and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C Amen.**

### **Announcements**

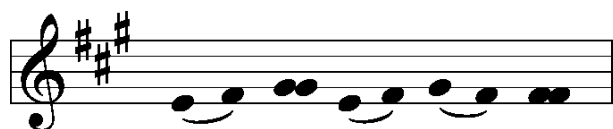
#### **Offertory Prayer**

**L** Let us pray:

Loving God, you sent your only Son to live among us, bringing us your grace and truth. As we prepare to receive the gift of Christ's presence once again, all we have to offer is what you have given us. Receive all that we have and all that we are to your glory and for your service, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

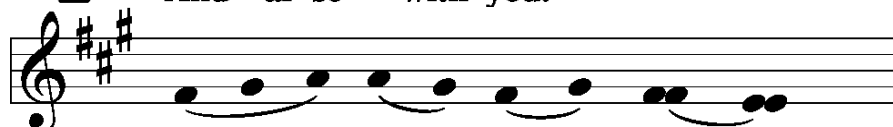
**Preface**



**P** The Lord be with you.



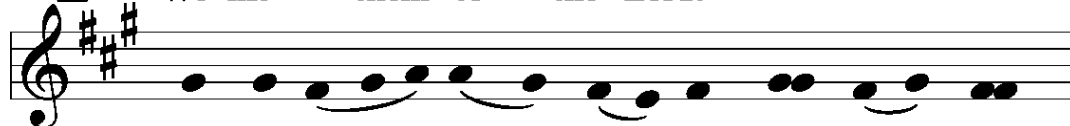
**C** And al-so with you.



**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

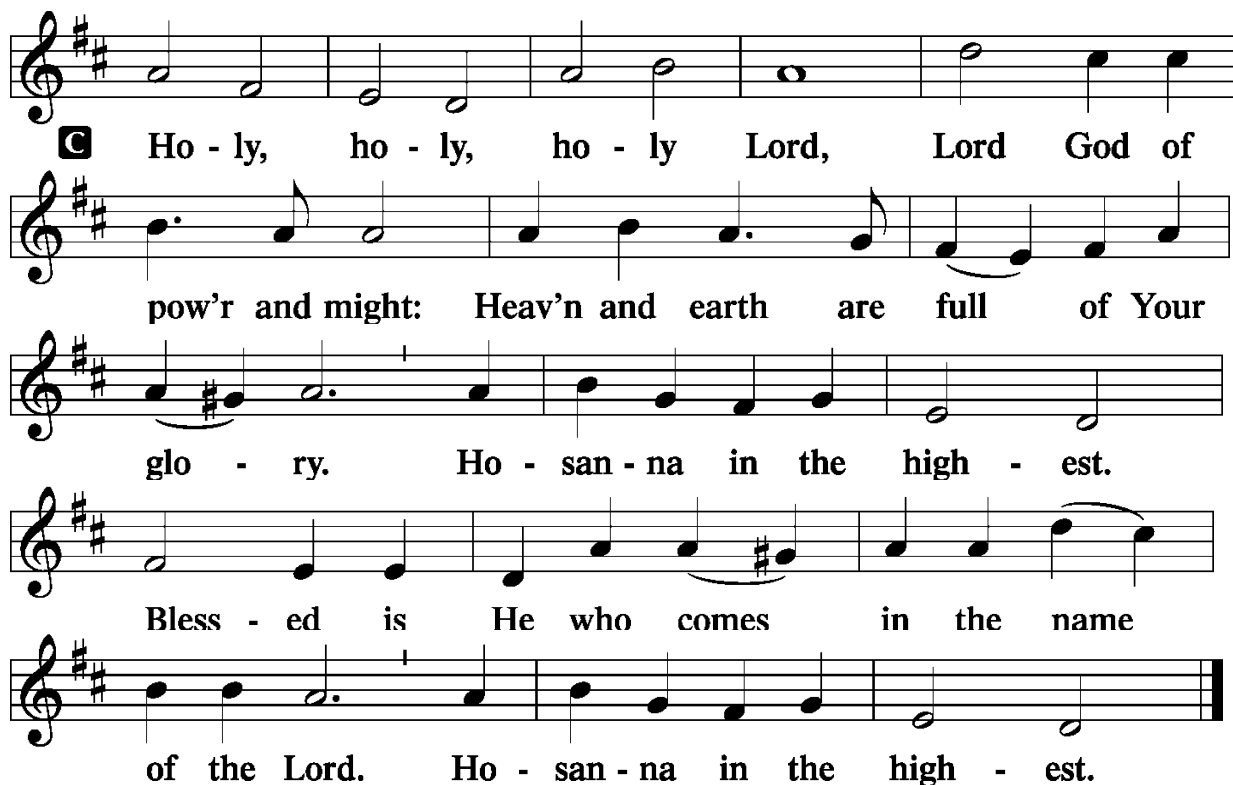


**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**Preface for Epiphany**

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of  
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your  
glo - ry. 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.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- P** In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Proclamation of Christ

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

### **C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## Lord's Prayer

*Matthew 6:9-13*

- C 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.**

## Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C Amen.**

## Agnus Dei



**C** 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.

## Distribution

Lutheran Christians believe and teach that in the Sacrament of the Altar, Christ's body and blood are given to those who receive the bread and wine. With the bread and wine, the gifts of His body and blood are given to Christ's people for forgiveness of sins, strength for our journey of faith, and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. All who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and who trust His words that these gifts are given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins, are invited to receive the Eucharist.

Please follow the direction of the ushers to come to the Lord's Table. The bread will be distributed first. **Gluten-free wafers** are available for those who may need these. Please indicate this to the pastor at the distribution. The wine is then received by individual glasses only. Non-alcoholic grape juice is available for those who for medical or recovery purposes must abstain from alcohol.

Children who do not receive the Sacrament are invited to come forward and receive a blessing. Please cross arms over chest so the pastor and lay assistant are able to distinguish children who do commune from those who do not yet receive the Sacrament.

For additional self-preparation to receive the Sacrament, please see "Christian Questions with Their Answers" beginning on page 1351 in the pew Bible.

## Music at the Distribution

Choir Anthem

"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies" (Rachel Aarons)

*Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ, the true, the only Light,  
Sun of Righteousness, arise,  
Triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near;  
Day-star, in my heart appear.*

*Dark and cheerless is the morn  
Unaccompanied by Thee;  
Joyless is the day's return  
Till Thy mercy's beams I see;  
Till they inward light impart,  
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.*

*Visit then this soul of mine,  
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
Fill me, Radiancy divine,  
Scatter all my unbelief;  
More and more Thyself display,  
Shining to the perfect day.*

*(Distribution Hymn on the next page)*

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

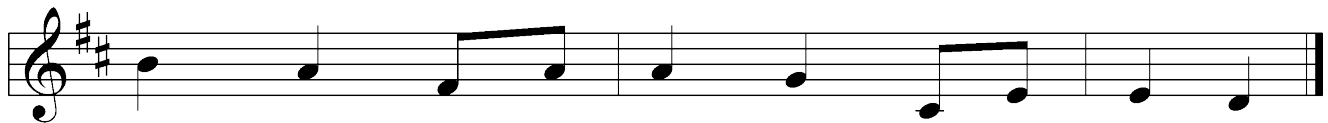
(LSB 725)



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly  
 2 God His own doth tend and nour - ish; In His  
 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the  
 4 Though He giv - eth or He tak - eth, God His



in His bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird nor star in  
 ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things He  
 Lord His chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them His grace He  
 chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose



heav - en Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.  
 spares them; In His might - y arms He bears them.  
 show - eth, And their sor - rows all He know - eth.  
 sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870-1958 Tune: Lofsånger och andeliga visor, 1873, Sweden Text: Public domain Tune: Public domain

**Dismissal**

**Post-Communion Canticle**



**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what



He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -



joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-



es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -



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



## Post-Communion Collect

**L** Let us pray:

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Benediction

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

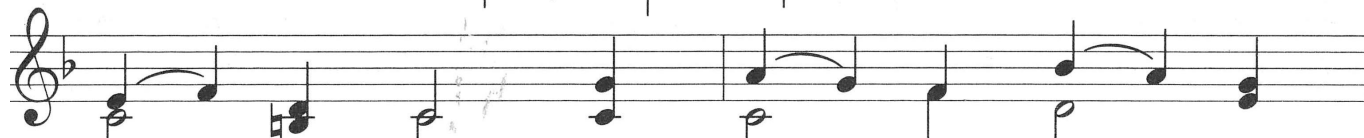
**C** Amen.

## Sending Hymn

"The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve" (WOV 723)



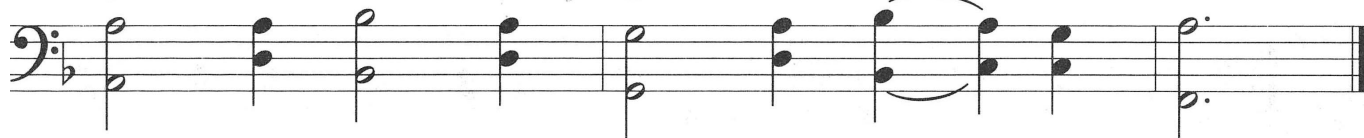
1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in  
2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the  
3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter  
4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the Gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings  
bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to  
joy like seed and, all our days, to  
to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.  
share a dream and help the blind to see.  
cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.  
pow - er'd us; we go in Je - sus' name.



Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

Text © 1993 Delores Dufner, OSB, admin. OCP Publications

CHESTERFIELD  
C M

## Postlude

"Recessional on 'St. Anne'" (Gordon Young)

## **Our Ministry Of Worship**

Guest Officiant/Preacher	Pastor Rueter
Welcome & Children's Message	Jennifer Hills, Director of Discipleship
Lay Assistant	Michael Nordvall
Communion Lay Assistant	Tish Nordvall
Organist/Pianist	David Leahey, Director of Music
Acolyte	Caleb Rempe
Crucifer	Grace Rempe
Ushers	Barbara Pate Kevin Schleicher
Altar Care	Paulette Kornis
AV Operator	Mark Gilbertson Jurgen Gobien
Welcome Host	Joe Godwin
Nursery	Caitlin Hulshizer Janet Smith



This weekend's flowers are given by Cheryl Folmer and family  
in loving memory of our parents, Elmer James & Carol Jean Folmer,  
on their wedding anniversary.



Please visit our website at [www.sjlc.com](http://www.sjlc.com) for devotional readings for use in the week  
ahead or to learn more about our life together as a congregation.

St. John's Lutheran Church · 5952 Franconia Road · Alexandria, VA 22310  
703-971-2210

To view the current edition of our electronic weekly newsletter, *Midweek Update*, scan this QR Code



## **Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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