

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 3, 2023 – 10:30 a.m.

With One Voice, Holy Communion, Setting Five



ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Prayer before worship:

Almighty God, you pour out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and supplication. Deliver us, as we come into your presence, from cold hearts and wandering thoughts, that with steady minds and burning zeal we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Pre-Service Music

"Introduction & Variations" (Piet Post)

Ringling of the Bells

Welcome

Brief Order for Confession & Forgiveness

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

C Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel or be seated, as able

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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 us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Opening Hymn

"For the Fruits of His Creation" (LSB 894)



1 For the fruits of His cre - a - tion, Thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har-vests of the Spir - it, Thanks be to God.

For His gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, Thanks be to God. For the
In the help we give our neigh-bor, God's will is done. In our
For the good we all in - her - it, Thanks be to God. For the

plow - ing, sow-ing, reap - ing, Si - lent growth while we are sleep-ing,
world-wide task of car - ing For the hun - gry and de - spair-ing,
won - ders that as-tound us, For the truths that still con-found us,

Fu - ture needs in earth's safe-keep-ing, Thanks be to God.
In the har-vests we are shar-ing, God's will is done.
Most of all, that love has found us, Thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Tune: Welsh, 18th cent.

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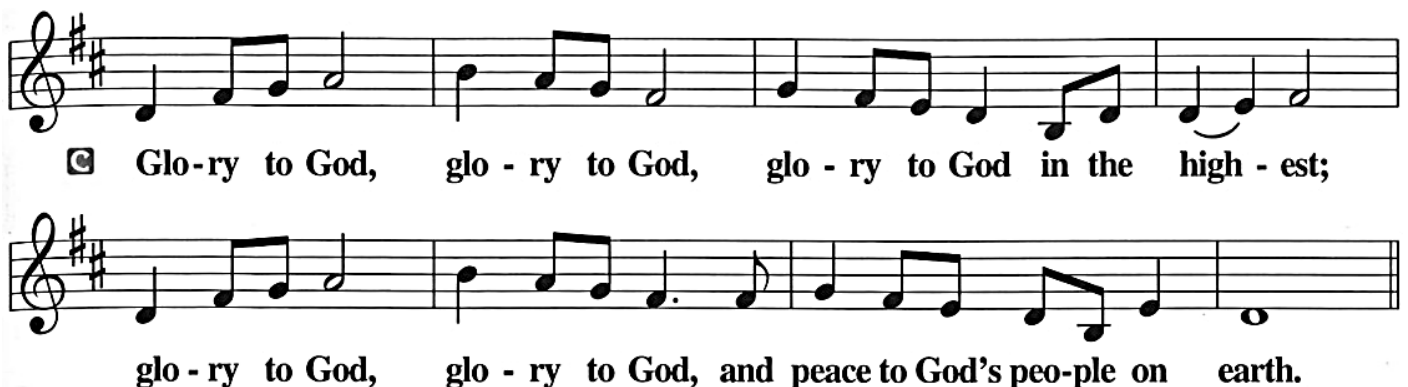
Tune: Public domain

Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

G And also with you.

Hymn of Praise



G Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



I 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.



Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



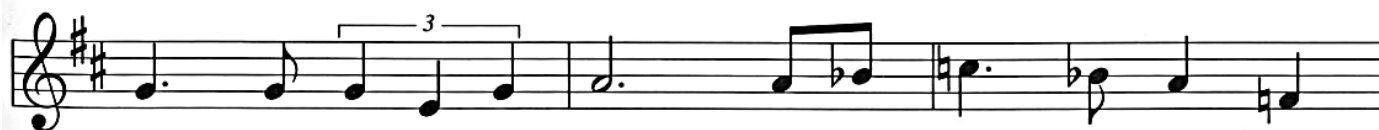
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



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



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



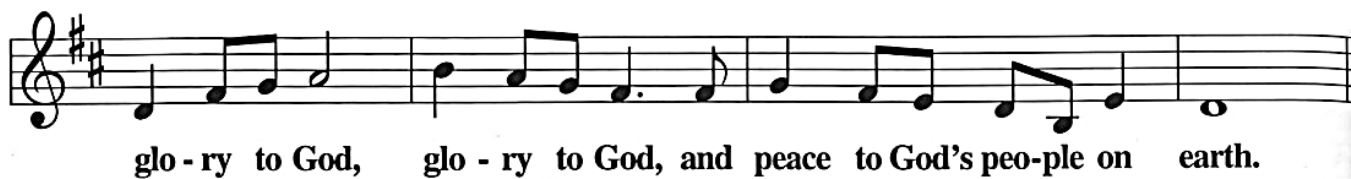
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



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



Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray:
O God, the source of all that is just and good, nourish in us every virtue and bring to completion every good intent that we may grow in grace and bring forth the fruit of good works; 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

First Reading

Jeremiah 15:15-21

¹⁵O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and take vengeance for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance take me not away;
know that for your sake I bear reproach.

¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,
for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷I did not sit in the company of revelers,
nor did I rejoice;
I sat alone, because your hand was upon me,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Will you be to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail?

¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD:
"If you return, I will restore you,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,
you shall be as my mouth.
They shall turn to you,
but you shall not turn to them.

²⁰And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
declares the LORD.

²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless."

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm *(spoken responsively)*

Psalm 26

L Vindicate me, O LORD,
for I have walked in my integrity,*
and I have trusted in the LORD without | wavering.

C Prove me, O LORD, and | try me;*
test my heart | and my mind.

L For your steadfast love is before my eyes,*
and I walk in your | faithfulness.

C I do not sit with men of | falsehood,*
nor do I consort with | hypocrites.

L I hate the assembly of evil- | doers,*
and I will not sit with the | wicked.

C I wash my hands in | innocence*
and go around your altar, | O LORD,
L proclaiming thanksgiving | aloud,*
and telling all your | wondrous deeds.

C O LORD, I love the habitation | of your house*
and the place where your | glory dwells.

L Do not sweep my soul away with | sinners,*
nor my life with blood- | thirsty men,

C in whose hands are evil de- | vices,*
and whose right hands are | full of bribes.

L But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity;*
redeem me, and be gracious to me.

C My foot stands on | level ground;*
in the great assembly I will | bless the LORD.

Second Reading

Romans 12:9-21

⁹Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. ¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Alleluia Verse



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

G Glory to you, O Lord.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 16:21-28

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

²¹From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man." ²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? ²⁷For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. ²⁸Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

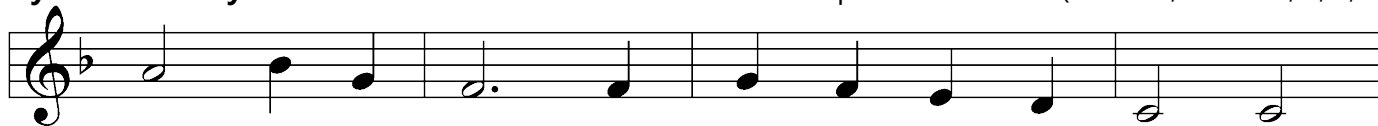
G Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

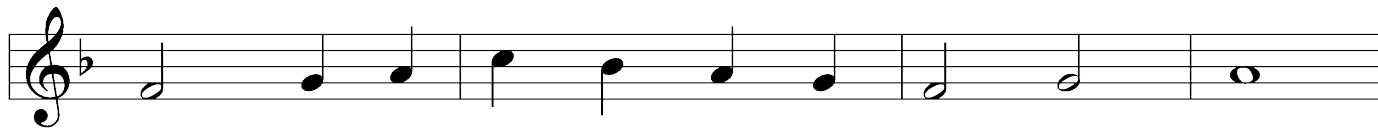
"Quo Vadis?"

Hymn of the Day

"Hope of the World" (LSB 690, verses 1, 2, 4, 5)



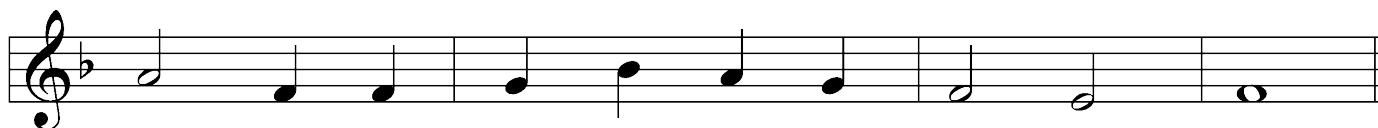
1 Hope of the world, Thou Christ of great com - pas - sion;
 2 Hope of the world, God's gift from high - est heav - en,
 4 Hope of the world, who by Thy cross didst save us
 5 Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death vic - to - rious,



Speak to our fear - ful hearts by con - flict rent.
 Bring - ing to hun - gry souls the bread of life,
 From death and dark de - spair, from sin and guilt,
 Who by this sign didst con - quer grief and pain,



Save us, Thy peo - ple, from con - sum - ing pas - sion,
 Still let Thy Spir - it un - to us be giv - en
 We ren - der back the love Thy mer - cy gave us;
 We would be faith - ful to Thy Gos - pel glo - rious.



Who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.
 To heal earth's wounds and end our bit - ter strife.
 Take Thou our lives and use them as Thou wilt.
 Thou art our Lord! Thou dost for - ev - er reign!

Text: Georgia Harkness, 1891-1974

Tune: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-79

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Profession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit

And born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

Was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

And is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Special prayer requests are announced followed by a brief silence for private prayer.

During the season after Pentecost each petition ends with the phrase: "Lord in your mercy."

Please respond by saying: "Hear our prayer."

The prayers end with the words:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

*Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying,
"Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the
bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).*

Announcements

Offertory Prayer

L Merciful God,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up to the Lord.

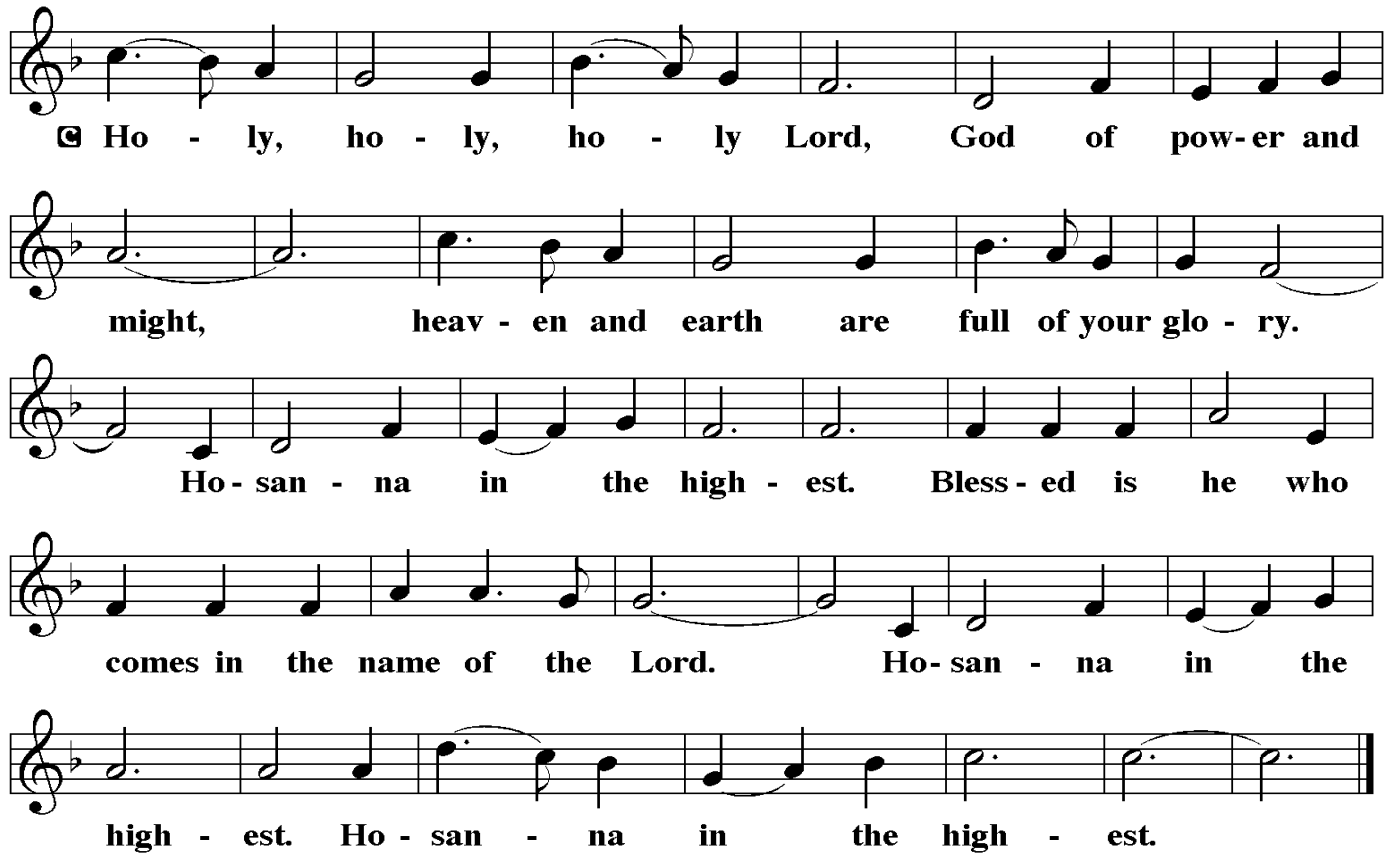
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Preface

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus



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. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

- P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- 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.**

Agnus Dei

☐ 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.

Please be seated

Distribution of Holy Communion

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 Distribution

"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"

(LSB 641)



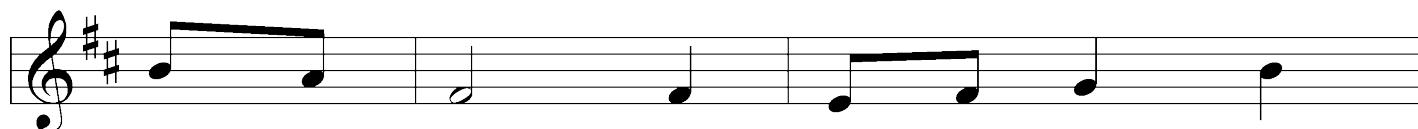
You sat-is-fy the hun-gry heart With gift of fin-est wheat.



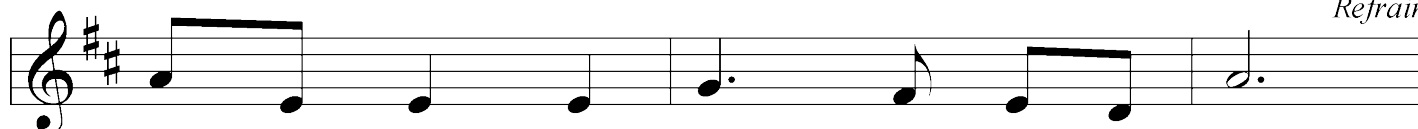
Come give to us, O sav-ing Lord, The bread of life to eat.



1 As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, They know and
2 With joy - ful lips we sing to You Our praise and
3 Is not the cup we bless and share The blood of
4 The mys - t'ry of Your pres - ence, Lord, No mor - tal
5 You give Your - self to us, O Lord; Then self - less



heed his voice; So when You call Your
grat - i - tude That You should count us
Christ out - poured? Do not one cup, one
tongue can tell: Whom all the world can -
let us be, To serve each oth - er



fam - 'ly, Lord, We fol - low and re - jice.
wor - thy, Lord, To share this heav'n - ly food.
loaf, de - clare Our one - ness in the Lord?
not con - tain Comes in our hearts to dwell.
in Your name In truth and char - i - ty.

Text: Omer E. Westendorf, 1916-97

Tune: Robert E. Kreutz, 1922-96

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1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing,
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing,
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised,

call - ing for you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's
 plead - ing for you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and
 prom - ised for you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has

wait - ing and watch - ing, watch - ing for you and for me.
 heed not his mer - cies, mer - cies for you and for me?
 mer - cy and par - don, par - don for you and for me.

Refrain D G D
 "Come home, come home! You who are
 Come home, come home!"

Refrain D G D
 "Come home, come home! You who are
 Come home, come home!"

wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,
 Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Dismissal

Post-Communion Cantic

"Thankful Hearts"

Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -
one what God has done. Let all who seek the
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God,
and lead us forth in joy with shouts
of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.
(Lent:) A - men, a - men.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

L Let us pray:

Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

G Amen.

Sending

Blessing

P Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

G Amen.

Benediction

L Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Sending Hymn

"Sent Forth by God's Blessing" (LSB 643)

1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, Our true faith con-fess-ing,
 2 With praise and thanks-giv-ing To God ev-er-liv-ing,
 The peo-ple of God from His dwell-ing take leave.
 The tasks of our ev-'ry-day life we will face.
 The Sup-er is end-ed. O now be ex-tend-ed
 Our faith ev-er shar-ing, In love ev-er car-ing,
 The fruits of this ser-vice in all who be-lieve.
 Em-brac-ing His chil-dren of each tribe and race.
 The seed of His teach-ing, Re-cep-tive souls reach-ing,
 With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;
 Shall blos-som in ac-tion for God and for all.
 U-nite us as one in this life that we share.
 His grace did in-vite us, His love shall u-nite us
 Then may all the liv-ing With praise and thanks-giv-ing
 To work for God's king-dom and an-swer His call.
 Give hon-or to Christ and His name that we bear.

Text: Omer E. Westendorf, 1916-97, alt.

Tune: Welsh

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Our Ministry Of Worship

Officiant/Preacher

Welcome & Children's Message

Lay Assistant

Communion Lay Assistant

Guest Organist/Pianist

Acolyte

Crucifer

Ushers

Altar Care

AV Operator

Welcome Host

Nursery

Rev. Gary Rueter

Jennifer Hills, Director of Discipleship

PJ Baunach

Barbara Pate

Elizabeth Miller

Caleb Rempe

Grace Rempe

Andrew Ehlers

Joe Godwin

Barbara Pate

Mark Gilbertson

Jurgen Gobien

Jan Swicord

Janet Smith





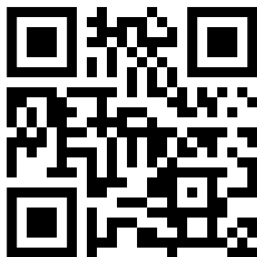
This weekend's **altar flowers**

Are given in recognition of Jack Meehan's 35th year
of ordination and anniversary at St. John's from the flower fund



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of our electronic weekly newsletter,

Midweek Update,
scan this QR Code



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