

***To those who are  
visiting today:***

Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church! We are delighted to have you here.

If you do not have a church home, you are cordially invited to join the St. John parish family.

**Sound amplifying devices,**

which are electronically connected to our speaker system, are available to those who have a hearing impairment. The units are light-weight, cordless, and simple to operate.

Please speak to an usher if you would like to use one.



The Rev. Joshua Ball  
Pastor  
(586) 749-5286

Mr. Erwin Aufdemberge  
Director of Parish Music

***Prayers as you await the beginning  
of the Divine Service are found  
inside the front cover of the hymnal.***

***The Psalms in the front section of  
the hymnal will also aid your  
pre-service meditation.***

# ***St. John Evangelical-Lutheran Church***

62657 North Avenue Ray Township, Michigan 48096  
(586) 749-5286

*The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod*

**Web site:** [www.stjohnray.com](http://www.stjohnray.com) **E-mail:** [pastorjtball@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjtball@gmail.com)

***The Twelfth Sunday after the Feast of Trinity***

***August 23, 2026***

## **Welcome, Visitors to St. John Lutheran Church!**

### ***Concerning the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion:***

The Lord's Supper is the true Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ for repentant sinners to eat and drink.

In addition, receiving this blessed Sacrament of the Altar is a public expression that you are one with the faith that is believed, taught, and confessed by that congregation. St. John Ev.-Lutheran Church is a member congregation of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LC-MS.) Our pastors and congregations subscribe to the Confessions contained in the Book of Concord of 1580 as the correct interpretation of the Holy Scriptures, and faithful proclamation of the Christian faith. Therefore, communicant members in good standing of LC-MS congregations, and churches in altar and pulpit fellowship with the LC-MS, are invited to commune at St. John.

Not all Christians believe in communion practice of this kind, however we ask your kindness in respecting our practice. We rejoice at the faith of all who belong to our Lord's Church, and are glad that you are here with us today.

Adult and youth catechism instruction is always available, without obligation.

### ***The Sign of the Cross, kneeling and other Church Customs***

The hymnal places a cross ✠ at certain points in the service where you may cross yourself. This is a very ancient and good – but *optional* – symbol and custom among Lutherans and many other Christians. Two examples are at the Invocation (“In the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”) and in the final sentence of the Nicene Creed.

*What does making the sign of the cross mean?*

It means “I belong to the true, living God: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit”, for the sign of the cross is His sign. On the cross, God the Son willingly died in our place to pay for all our sins. God's sign was placed on your forehead and heart at Holy Baptism to “mark you as belonging to Christ the crucified.”

Please kneel where indicated *if you are able* (or stand with head bowed.)

Kneeling is a sign of humility and thanksgiving before God. Martin Luther encouraged Lutherans to follow the ancient custom of kneeling for these words in the Nicene Creed: “came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man.” Why? This outward action shows our humility and thanksgiving that God has made Himself our Brother by becoming a true Man. Those words in the Creed are, therefore, marked [ ▼ ▲ ] for those who desire to kneel. You could also bow your head at those words.

*Another ancient and good custom* is bowing the head whenever the name “Jesus” is spoken during the Divine Service. This is an outward way to give honor and glory to our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

### **The Calendar for the Week:**

|                                 |                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u><b>Today:</b></u> 8/23       | 9:00 am <b>Divine Service</b> Altar Server: Andrew Upton Crucifer: Ezra Ball                                             |
| <u><b>Monday:</b></u> 8/24      | 6:00 pm <b>Divine Service</b>                                                                                            |
| <u><b>Next Sunday:</b></u> 8/30 | 9:00 am <b>Divine Service</b> Altar Server: Ron Heimke Crucifer: Ezra Ball<br>Church Picnic following the Divine Service |
| <u><b>Next Monday:</b></u> 9/1  | 6:00 pm <b>Divine Service</b>                                                                                            |

**Last Week's Attendance** **Sunday:** 51 **Monday:** 10

**Offering** Current: \$4,452 Missions: \$5 Building Fund: \$5

*To meet our budgetary requirements, an average weekly collection of \$3,635 is required.*

**In today's readings: Faith Comes from Hearing.** A man who was deaf and therefore also had an impediment in his speech was brought to Jesus (Mark 7:31–37). In the same way, all are by nature deaf toward God and therefore also unable to confess the faith rightly. For “faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ” (Rom. 10:9–17). Jesus put His fingers into the man’s ears, and He spat and touched His tongue. Even so in Holy Baptism, water sanctified by the words of Jesus’ mouth is applied to us; and the finger of God, that is, the life-giving Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 3:4–11) is put into our ears in the hearing of the baptismal Gospel. Jesus’ sighing “Ephphatha” opened the man’s ears, and his tongue was loosed to speak plainly as Isaiah prophesied of the Messiah, “In that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book” (Is. 29:18–24) So also, He who sighed and breathed His last on the cross for us has given us to hear and believe in Him and has opened our lips that our mouths may declare His praise.

**You can prepare for next week's Divine Service by reading:** 2 Chronicles 28:8–15; Galatians 3:15–22; Luke 10:23–37.  
Suggested Book of Concord reading: Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration II:11-14; VI:20-21.

**The Sacrament of Individual Confession & Absolution** is available by scheduling an appointment with Pastor Ball. The rite for individual, private confession comes from Luther’s Small Catechism and is found in our hymnal on Pages 292-293.

**Church Picnic Next Sunday** August 30 following the Divine Service. Please stay and enjoy an afternoon of fun, food, and fellowship. Signup sheets for the potluck are in the Narthex. The St. John Missions Society is providing hamburgers, hotdogs, and buns.

**Truth, goodness, beauty.** Issues, Etc. is a podcast and radio talk show produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. Recent teachings include: What Is Critical Theory?; The Reliability of the Bible; The Population Bust; The Term “Flesh” in the Bible; and more. You can listen at your convenience at [issuesetc.org](http://issuesetc.org), the LPR mobile app or a podcast provider.

### **August Calendar**

- ♦ Church Picnic. Next Sunday, August 30 following the Divine Service..

**The Preparatory Office**

Please stand when the bells are rung. You may give reverence to our Lord by turning to face His cross as it comes down the center aisle and by bowing as it passes.

**Processional Hymn: #908** *Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear*

**The Invocation, Confession and Absolution** *Please stand*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Congregation: Amen.**

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help ✠ is in the name of the Lord, **C: Who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord, **C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

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

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C: I, a poor miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.**

*The pastor stands:*

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

**The Liturgy of the Word**

**The Introit** *(Please stand)*

**The Antiphon:**

Cantor: Make haste, O God, to de- | liver me!\*

O LORD, make haste to | help me!

**All: Let them be put to shame and con- | fusion\*  
who | seek my life. (Psalm 70:1-2)**

**Psalm:**

Cantor: Let them be | turned back\*

and brought to dishonor who de- | sire my hurt!

**All: May all those who seek | You rejoice\*  
and be | glad in You!**

Cantor: You are my help and my de- | liverer;\*

O LORD, do | not delay! (Psalm 70:2, 4, 5)

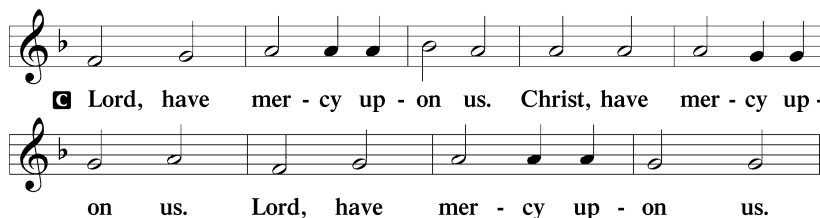
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***

**And to the Holy | Spirit;**

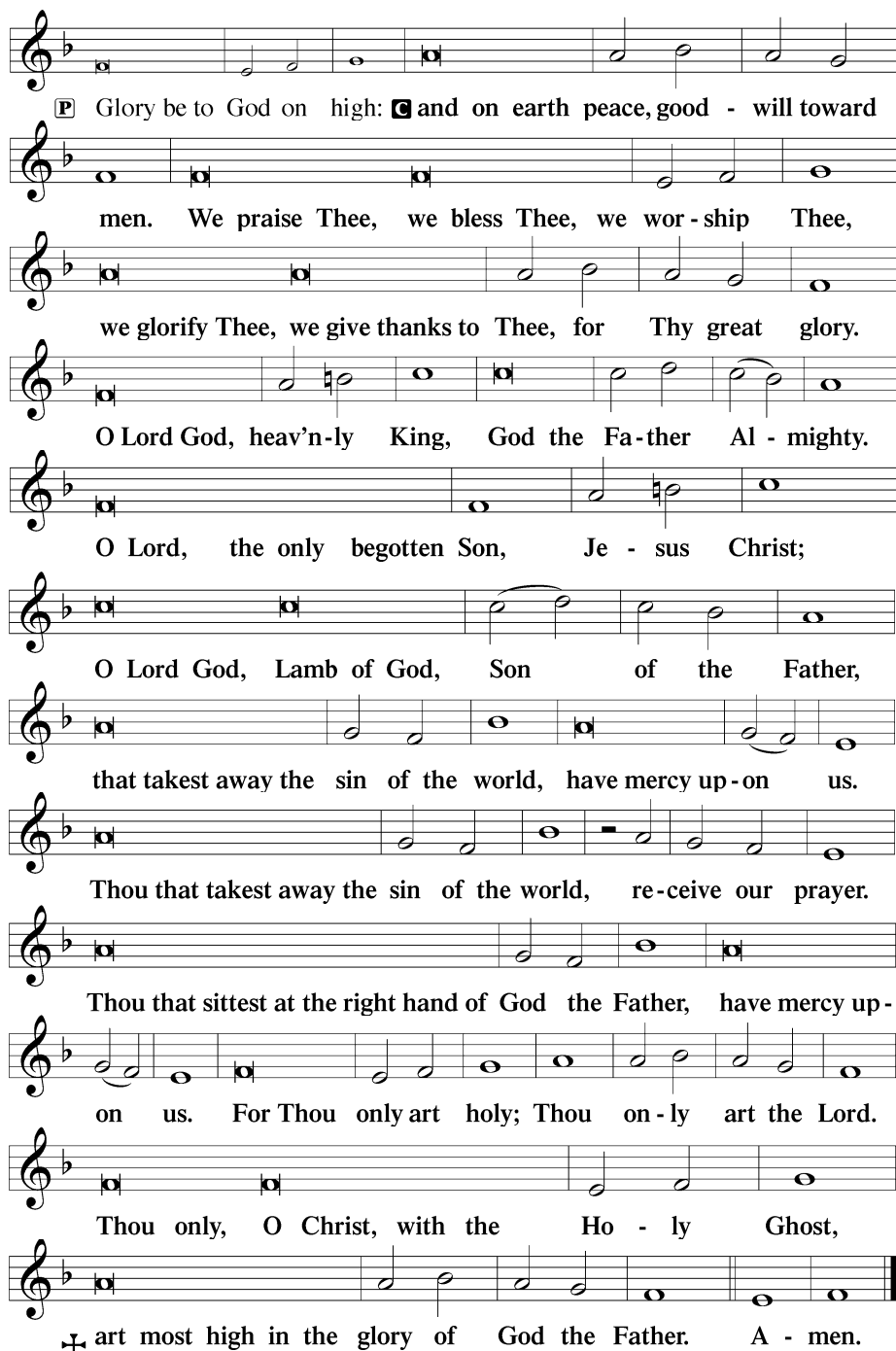
**As it was in the be- | ginning,\***

**Is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

**The Antiphon – as above**

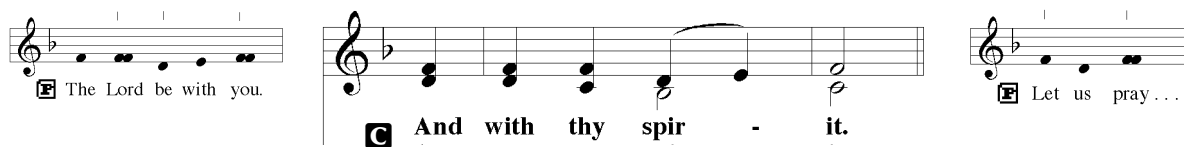
**The Kyrie**

## The Gloria in Excelsis (Glory to God in the Highest)



**P** Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward  
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,  
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.  
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.  
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.  
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-  
on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.  
Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,  
† art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## The Salutation and Collect of the Day



**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And with thy spir - it.  
**P** Let us pray...

**P:** Almighty and merciful God, by Your gift alone Your faithful people render true and laudable service. Help us steadfastly to live in this life according to Your promises and finally attain Your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - - - men.

## The Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 29:17-24

After the reading — P: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

### The Gradual



Cantor: I will bless the LORD | at all times;\*

His praise shall continually be | in my mouth.

All: My soul makes its boast | in the LORD;\*

let the humble hear | and be glad. (Psalm 34:1-2)

### The Epistle Reading: Romans 10:9-17

After the reading — P: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

### The Alleluia and Verse — *Please stand*



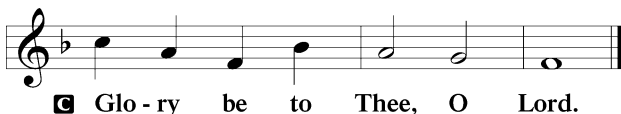
Cantor: Sing aloud to | God our strength;\*

shout for joy to the God of Ja- | cob. (Psalm 81:1)

All: The Alleluia – as above

### Announcement of the Holy Gospel: St. Mark 7:31-37

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. \_\_\_ the \_\_\_ chapter. ✙ ✙ ✙



### Response to the Gospel

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



### The Nicene Creed: Confessed by all.

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things, visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation ▼ came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man; ▲ and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy \*Christian and Apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life  $\text{✙}$  of the world to come. Amen.

\*The ancient text reads: one holy *catholic* and apostolic Church.

## The Preaching of the Gospel

**Hymn of the Day: #545** *Word of God, Come Down on Earth*

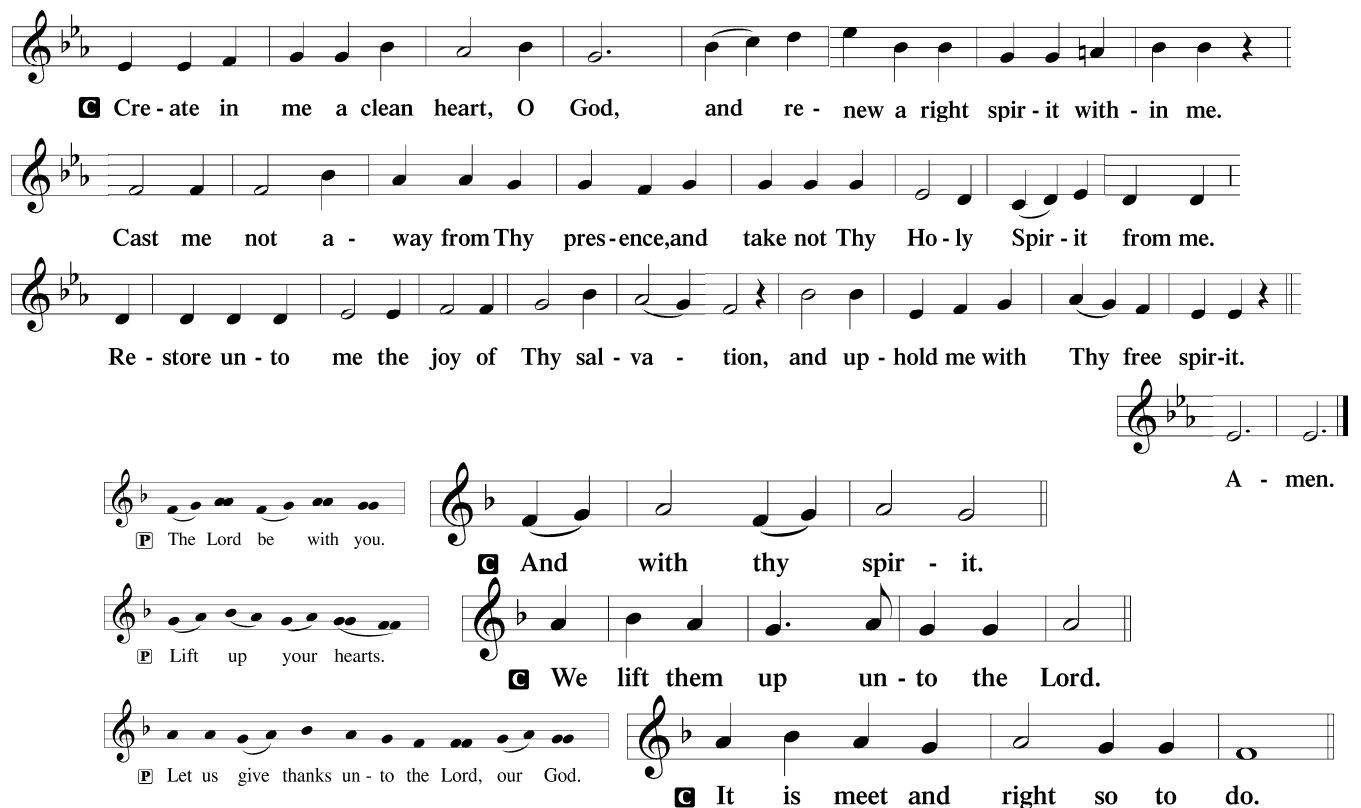
**The Prayer of the Church - *Please kneel***

**The Offering**

## *The Liturgy of the Holy Eucharist*

*Please stand when the offering is brought forward.*

## The Offertory



**C** Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

Cast me not a - way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it from me.

Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it.

A - men.

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.

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

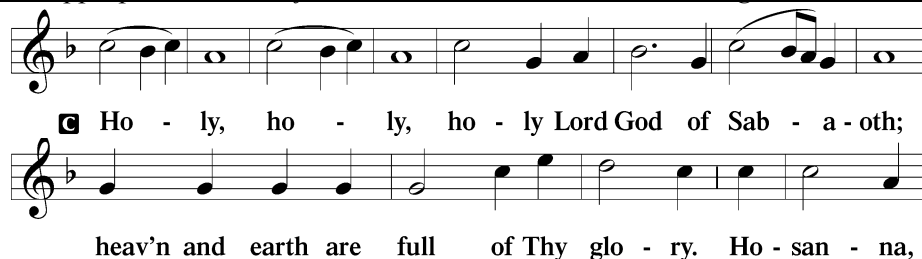
**C** It is meet and right so to do.

## The Proper Preface

It is good, right, and salutary ... evermore praising You and saying:

## The *Sanctus* (Holy, Holy, Holy)

*It is appropriate to kneel for the Sanctus and to remain kneeling until the distribution.*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;

heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,

ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,  
 bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He, that com-eth in the name of the Lord.  
 Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

### The Our Father *(spoken by all)*

**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.

### The *Verba Christi* *(The Words of Christ by which He instituted the Blessed Sacrament)*

#### The *Pax Domini* *(The Peace of the Lord)*

✠ **P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.  
**A** A - men.

### The *Agnus Dei* *(Lamb of God)*

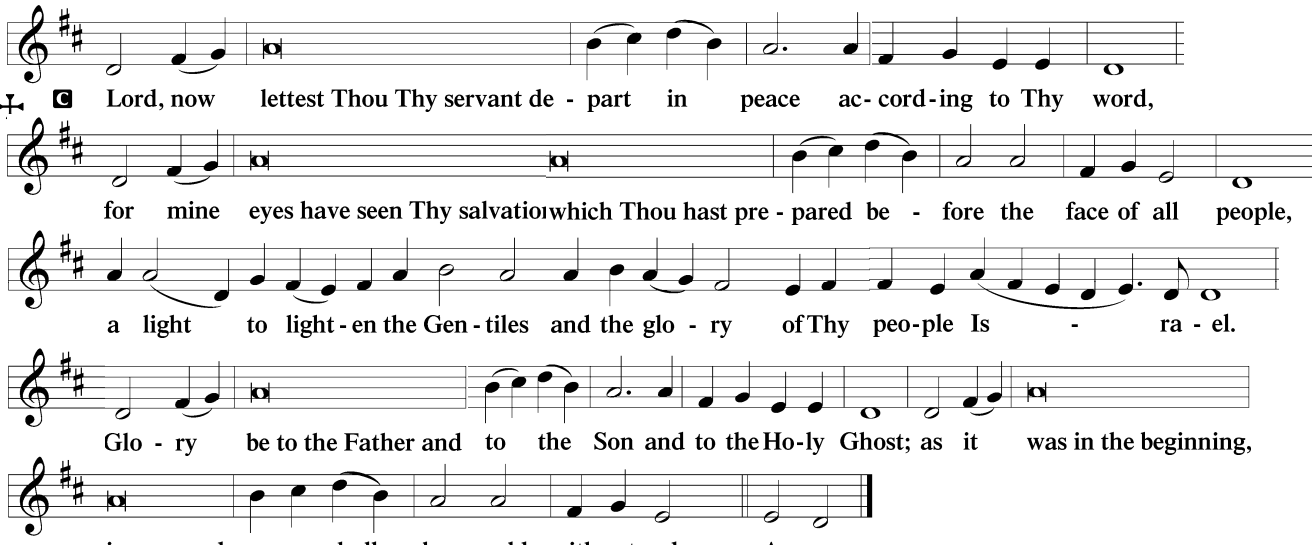
**A** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the  
 world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that  
 tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.  
 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the  
 world, grant us Thy peace. ✠ A - men.

### The Holy Communion — Hymns sung during distribution of the Sacrament:

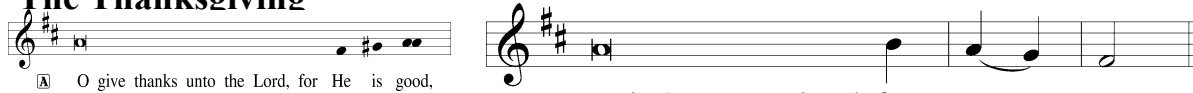
#528 *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

#524 *How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds*

*Prayers for before and after receiving the Sacrament  
 are found inside the front cover of the hymnal.*

**The Nunc Dimittis**


Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac - cord - ing to Thy word,  
 for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
 a light to light - en the Gen - tles and the glo - ry of Thy peo - ple Is - ra - el.  
 Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

**The Thanksgiving**


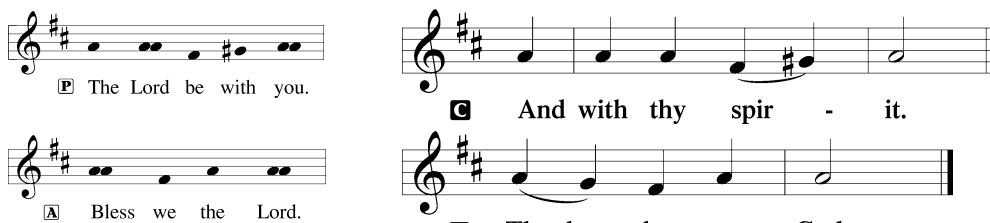
A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
 and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

**The Post-Communion Collect**

P: 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 in 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.



A - men.

**The Salutation and *Benedicamus***


P The Lord be with you.  
 A Bless we the Lord.  
 And with thy spir - it.  
 Thanks be to God.

**The Benediction**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance on you and ✠ give you peace.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

**Silent Prayer****Recessional Hymn: #578 *Thy Strong Word***

✠ *Soli Deo Gloria* ✠