




ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE



Blessed are the
pure in heart,
for they shall
see God.

Matthew 5:8

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 1, 2026

WELCOME! TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S HOLY COMMUNION



For baptized Christians (Matthew 28:19) who have been instructed in the faith (Galatians 6:6), The Lord's Supper is our participation in the body and blood of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 10:16), as the one body of Christ (1 Corinthians 10:17), to receive forgiveness of sin (Matthew 26:28) and to proclaim the Lord's death until He comes (1 Corinthians 11:26).

So that those who partake of the Lord's Supper do so in a worthy manner (1 Corinthians 11:27) and not to their harm (1 Corinthians 11:29), let us each examine ourselves (1 Corinthians 11:28):

- Do you believe that you are a sinner? That you have sinned in thought, word and deed?
- Are you sorry for your sin?
- Do you trust that Jesus Christ gives forgiveness of sin through His Supper?
- Do you believe that the body and blood of Jesus are present in, with and under the bread and wine?
- Do you seek to lead godly lives by the power of the Holy Spirit?

Please speak to a pastor or usher if you have questions. Gluten-free wafers are provided upon request. Non-alcoholic grape juice is provided in the center of each communion tray. Those who are not communing may come forward for a blessing from the pastor.

AS WE GATHER



"That was a foolish decision." Maybe you have said that to yourself after a thoughtless word or action. Our human foolishness is noted in two hymns in *Lutheran Service Book*. In the paraphrase of Psalm 23 in "The King of Love My Shepherd Is," we sing of our Good Shepherd: "Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love He sought me" (*LSB* 709:3). And in a hymn based on the parable of the prodigal son, we sing, "As rebels, Lord, who foolishly have wandered" (*LSB* 612:1). Foolishness is not generally seen as a positive attribute. But Paul reminds his Corinthian readers and us that we are called to a certain special foolishness in Christ. "But God chose what is foolish . . . ; God chose what is weak . . . ; God chose what is low" (1 Corinthians 1:27–28). And Paul writes to the Ephesians, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who . . . chose us in Him before the foundation of the world" (Ephesians 1:3–4). We can live as reflections of God's most gracious choosing!


THE PRELUDE

THE TOLLING OF THE BELL & WELCOME


INVOCATION HYMN

837 Lift High the Cross


Refrain



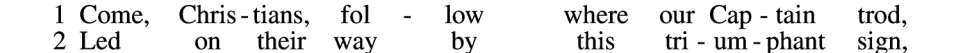
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till



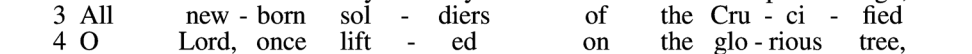
all the world a - dore His sa - cred name.




1 Come, Chris-tians, fol - low where our Cap - tain trod,



2 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,




3 All new - born sol - diers of the Cru - ci - fied

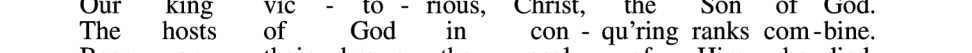


4 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,

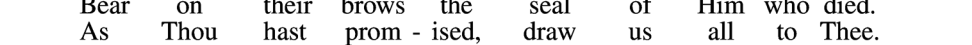
Refrain



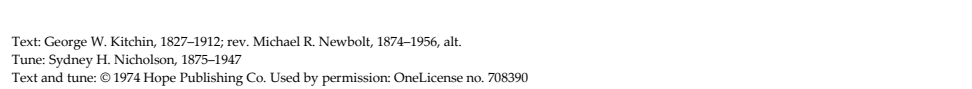
Our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.



The hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.



Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.



As Thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to Thee.

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956, alt.
Tune: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947
Text and tune: © 1974 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 708390

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Ghost.
- C** Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

EXHORTATION

Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 124:8; Psalm 32:5

- P** 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 Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

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

CONFESSION OF SINS

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

ABSOLUTION

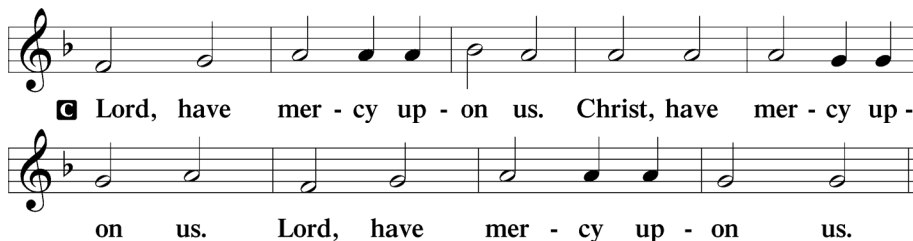
- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Ghost.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

Stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

KYRIE

Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



The musical score is written on ten staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are printed below the staves, aligned with the corresponding musical notes. The text is as follows:

Glory be to God on high: 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,



SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

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 A - men.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Micah 6:1–8

A The Old Testament Reading is from Micah, chapter 6.

¹Hear what the LORD says:

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

²Hear, 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.

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

⁴For 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.

⁵O 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.”

⁶“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?

⁷Will 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?”

⁸He 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?

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 15; antiphon: Psalm 16:1

A 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;

A 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;

A 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.

A The Epistle is from 1 Corinthians, chapter 1.

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

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

²⁰Where 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? ²¹For 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. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

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

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

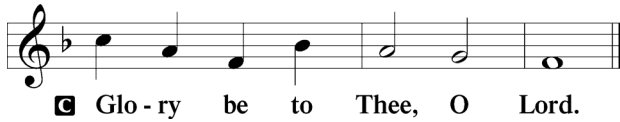
Stand

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

John 6:68



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



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

²And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

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

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

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

⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

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

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

¹¹"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

¹²Rejoice 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.





1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and
 2 As You, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, So may we for
 3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and
 4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and



truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us
 oth - ers live. Free - ly have Your gifts been grant - ed;
 Prince of Peace; Hush the storm of strife and pas - sion,
 truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us



Hal - lows all our hu - man race, You our Head, who, throned in
 Free - ly may Your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and Yours the
 Bid its cru - el dis - cords cease. By Your pa - tient years of
 Hal - lows all our hu - man race: By Your pray - ing, by Your



glo - ry, For Your own will ev - er plead: Fill us with Your
 sil - ver, Yours the wealth of land and sea; We but stew - ards
 toil - ing, By Your si - lent hours of pain, Quench our fe - vered
 will - ing That Your peo - ple should be one, Grant, O grant our



love and pit - y, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.
 of Your boun - ty Held in sol - emn trust will be.
 thirst of plea - sure, Stem our self - ish greed of gain.
 hope's fru - i - tion: Here on earth Your will be done.

SERMON

Yours, Is the Kingdom of Heaven

Pastor Mark Stapleton

Stand

NICENE CREED

**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 Ghost 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 sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
and He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost,
The Lord and Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spake 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 ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Kneel

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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




Let us pray for all people who call out to God in their distress. For our brothers and sisters who are poor in spirit because of outside oppression or personal problems, that God would remind them of their heavenly citizenship, let us pray to the Lord.

C Bless them for Jesus' sake, O Lord.

- P** For those who mourn, that by their faith in Christ's resurrection they would be comforted, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Bless them for Jesus' sake, O Lord.
- P** For those who are meek as they thirst for righteousness, that God would raise up local and national leaders to provide security and justice for all, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Bless them for Jesus' sake, O Lord.
- P** For those who reflect the mercy of God as they tend to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those under their care, that God would give them wisdom and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Bless them for Jesus' sake, O Lord.
- P** For those who single-mindedly focus on sharing God's peace with conflicted people around them, that God would keep them strong in faith to use every opportunity at their disposal, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Bless them for Jesus' sake, O Lord.
- P** For the Church wherever people gather around Word and Sacrament, that God would alleviate persecution they may be enduring and let the Church grow in faith and numbers, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Bless them for Jesus' sake, O Lord. Amen

Sit

OFFERING

Ways to Give	IN-PERSON 	MAIL 505 S Park Road La Grange IL 60525	ONLINE VANCO			
	directpay@stjohnslagrang.org					

Stand

OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10-12



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.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

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.

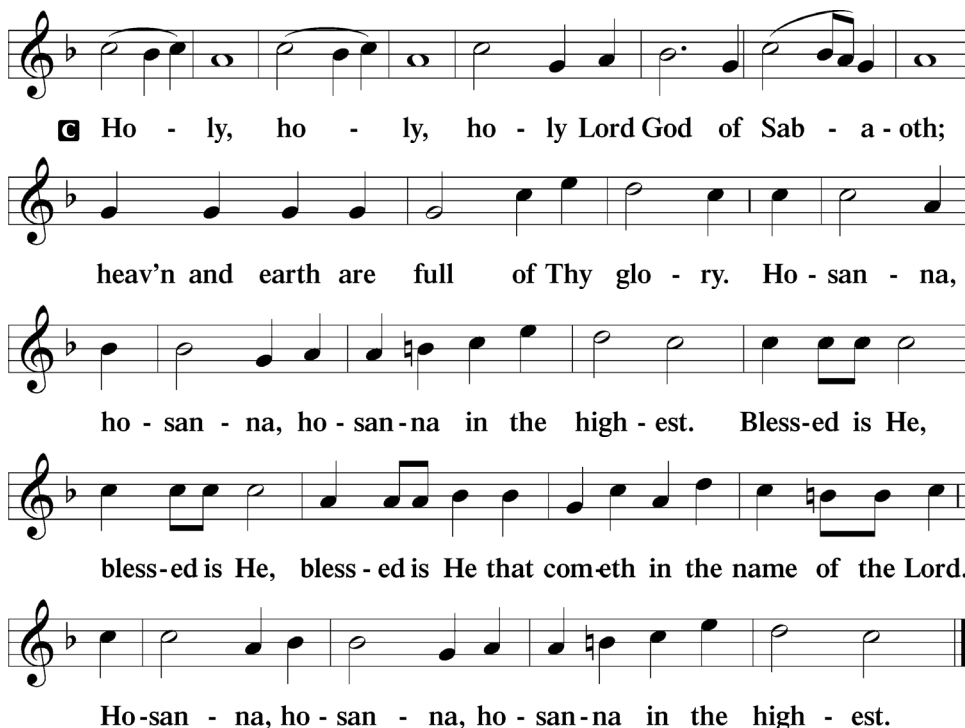
P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

- P** It is truly meet, 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

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

- 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.

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 brake it and gave it to His disciples saying "Take eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
After the same manner also, He took the cup when He had supped, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of it; this cup is the New Testament in My Blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. This do, as oft ye drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

John 20:19

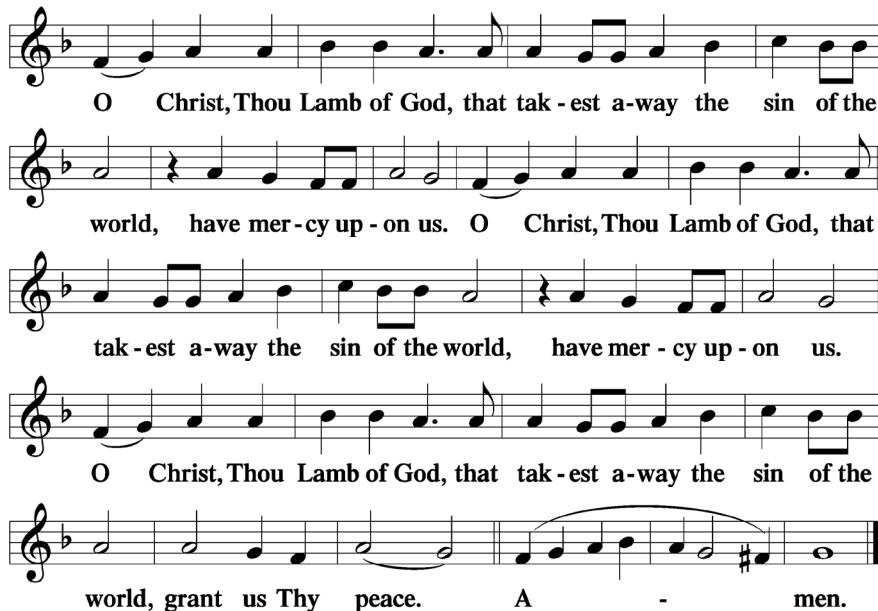
- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.



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).

AGNUS DEI

John 1:29





1 Lord, whose love through hum-ble ser-vice Bore the weight of
 2 Still Your chil-dren wan-der home-less; Still the hun-gry
 3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, Till Your love's re-
 4 Called by wor-ship to Your ser-vice, Forth in Your dear



hu-man need, Who up-on the cross, for-sak-en,
 cry for bread; Still the cap-tives long for free-dom;
 veal-ing light In its height and depth and great-ness,
 name we go, To the child, the youth, the a-ged,



Of-fered mer-cy's per-fect deed, We, Your ser-vants, bring the
 Still in grief we mourn our dead. As, O Lord, Your deep com-
 Dawns up-on our quick-ened sight, Mak-ing known the needs and
 Love in liv-ing deeds to show; Hope and health, good-will and



wor-ship Not of voice a-lone, but heart, Con-se-
 pas-sion Healed the sick and freed the soul, Use the
 bur-dens Your com-pas-sion bids us bear, Stir-ring
 com-fort, Coun-sel, aid, and peace we give, That Your



crat-ing to Your pur-pose Ev-'ry gift that You im-part.
 love Your Spir-it kin-dles Still to save and make us whole.
 us to tire-less striv-ing, Your a-bun-dant life to share.
 ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom May Your mer-cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-84, alt.

Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844, Philadelphia

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Tune: Public domain

1 Je - sus sat with His dis - ci - ples On a
2 "Bless-ed are the meek and hum - ble, All the
3 "Bless-ed are God's sons and daugh - ters, Mak - ing
moun - tain - side one day; As the crowds of peo-ple
earth to them is willed. Those who hun - ger to be
peace where there is strife. Bless - ed are the per - se -
gath - ered, He be - gan to teach and say:
ho - ly, They are bless'd and will be filled.
cut - ed, Who for righ - teous - ness lose life;
"Bless-ed are the poor in spir - it, Heav - en's
Yes, the mer - ci - ful are bless - ed, Mer - cy
Their re - ward is great in heav - en, In the
king - dom they will share. Bless-ed are the sad and
will to them be shown. And the pure in heart are
king - dom up a - bove— So be glad to share My
mourn - ing, Joy and com - fort will be theirs.
bless - ed, They have eyes for God a - lone.
suf - f'ring And re - joice to know My love."

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: Marty Haugen, 1950

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*Stand***THE DISMISSAL**

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C Amen.

C 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 - tiles 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 with - out end. A - men.

THANKSGIVING

Psalms 107:1

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P 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 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.



C A - men.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

BENEDICAMUS

P Bless we the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



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

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the
 3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a
 Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
 death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and
 trib - ute far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,
 count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
 sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all!

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Rev. Mark Stapleton, Homilist & Liturgist

Dr. Marc Brunelle, Director of Music/Organist

Sue Kunz, Lector | 8:00am

Bonnie Kane, Lector | 10:45am

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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