



# ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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## ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE



## FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JUNE 21, 2026

## WELCOME! TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S HOLY COMMUNION

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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

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Polls tell us that many of us live in fear and struggle with depression. Jesus calls us not to be afraid—not because we have no enemies but because He is stronger than them all. God knows the score—from every bird that falls from the sky to every hair on our head. He has invested His love and mercy in us in Christ and will not turn away from us. This promise is sure. Because of this, we can surrender our fears of being known as His children. Everyone who confesses Him on earth, Christ will confess him before His Father in heaven. From this promise comes the strength to live the new life given to us in our Baptism and to make known what Christ has done by His death and resurrection—for us and for all the world. We are called to judge not by the times but by the promises of God. Neither will He disappoint us nor will He forsake us.

## THE PRELUDE

## THE TOLLING OF THE BELL

## WELCOME

*Please stand*

## INVOCATION HYMN

659 Lord of Our Life



1 Lord of our life and God of our sal - va - tion, Star of our  
2 See round Your ark the hun - gry bil - lows curl - ing; See how Your  
3 Lord, be our light when world - ly dark - ness veils us; Lord, be our  
4 Peace in our hearts, where sin - ful thoughts are rag - ing, Peace in Your



night and hope of ev - 'ry na - tion: Hear and re - ceive Your  
foes their ban - ners are un - furl - ing And with great spite their  
shield when earth - ly ar - mor fails us; And in the day when  
Church, our trou - bled souls as - suag - ing, Peace when the world its



Church's sup - pli - ca - tion, Lord God Al - might - y.  
fi - ery darts are hurl - ing, O Lord, pre - serve us.  
hell it - self as - sails us, Grant us Your peace, Lord:  
end - less war is wag - ing, Peace in Your heav - en.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

## INVOCATION

**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.

*Please kneel*

*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  $\dagger$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

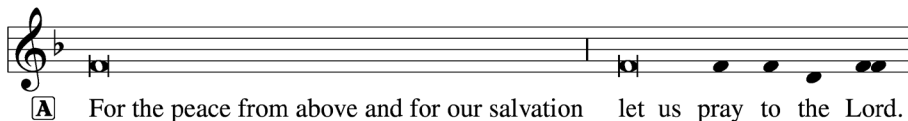
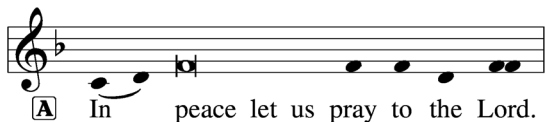
*Please stand*

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

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### KYRIE

*Mark 10:47*





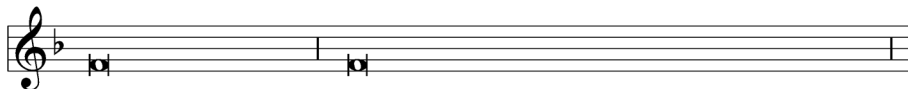
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



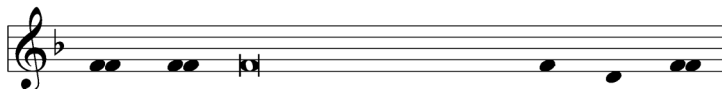
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



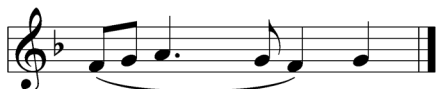
let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



**C** A - men.

### HYMN OF PRAISE: This Is the Feast



**C** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



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



1 — Wor- thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and  
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and  
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to  
 5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*  
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*  
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*  
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*  
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*



*Final Refrain*  
 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



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

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

O God, because Your abiding presence always goes with us, keep us aware of Your daily mercies that we may live secure and content in Your eternal love; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Please sit*

**A** The Old Testament Reading is from Jeremiah, chapter 20.

<sup>7</sup>O LORD, you have deceived me,  
and I was deceived;  
you are stronger than I,  
and you have prevailed.  
I have become a laughingstock all the day;  
everyone mocks me.  
<sup>8</sup>For whenever I speak, I cry out,  
I shout, "Violence and destruction!"  
For the word of the LORD has become for me  
a reproach and derision all day long.  
<sup>9</sup>If I say, "I will not mention him,  
or speak any more in his name,"  
there is in my heart as it were a burning fire  
shut up in my bones,  
and I am weary with holding it in,  
and I cannot.  
<sup>10</sup>For I hear many whispering.  
Terror is on every side!  
"Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"  
say all my close friends,  
watching for my fall.  
"Perhaps he will be deceived;  
then we can overcome him  
and take our revenge on him."  
<sup>11</sup>But the LORD is with me as a dread warrior;  
therefore my persecutors will stumble;  
they will not overcome me.  
They will be greatly shamed,  
for they will not succeed.  
Their eternal dishonor  
will never be forgotten.  
<sup>12</sup>O LORD of hosts, who tests the righteous,  
who sees the heart and the mind,  
let me see your vengeance upon them,

for to you have I committed my cause.  
<sup>13</sup>Sing to the LORD;  
praise the LORD!  
For he has delivered the life of the needy  
from the hand of evildoers.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

*Psalm 91:1–10*

**A** He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

**C** **I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress,  
my God, in whom I trust.”**

**A** For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler  
and from the deadly pestilence.

**C** **He will cover you with his pinions,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.**

**A** You will not fear the terror of the night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day,  
nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness,  
nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.

**C** **A thousand may fall at your side,  
ten thousand at your right hand,  
but it will not come near you.**

**A** You will only look with your eyes  
and see the recompense of the wicked.

**C** **Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—  
the Most High, who is my refuge—  
no evil shall be allowed to befall you,  
no plague come near your tent.**

**A** The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 6.

<sup>12</sup>Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. <sup>13</sup>Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. <sup>14</sup>For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

<sup>15</sup>What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup>But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, <sup>18</sup>and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. <sup>19</sup>I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

<sup>20</sup>When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. <sup>21</sup>But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. <sup>22</sup>But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. <sup>23</sup>For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Please stand*

#### ALLELUIA AND VERSE



**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>11</sup>And he said, “There was a man who had two sons.  
<sup>12</sup>And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup>Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. <sup>14</sup>And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup>And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.



<sup>17</sup>“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’” <sup>20</sup>And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup>But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. <sup>23</sup>And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. <sup>24</sup>For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

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

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

*Please sit*



1 Fa - ther most ho - ly, mer - ci - ful, and ten - der; Je - sus, our  
 2 Trin - i - ty bless - ed, u - ni - ty un - shak - en, Good - ness un -  
 3 Mak - er of all things, all Thy crea - tures praise Thee; All for Thy  
 Δ 4 Lord God Al - might - y, un - to Thee be glo - ry, One in three



Sav - ior, with the Fa - ther reign - ing; Spir - it of com - fort,  
 bound - ed, ver - y God of heav - en, Light of the an - gels,  
 wor - ship were and are cre - at - ed; Now, as we al - so  
 per - sons, o - ver all ex - alt - ed! Glo - ry we of - fer,



ad - vo - cate, de - fend - er, Light nev - er wan - ing;  
 joy of those for - sak - en, Hope of all liv - ing,  
 wor - ship Thee de - vout - ly, Hear Thou our voic - es.  
 praise Thee and a - dore Thee, Now and for - ev - er.

SERMON

The Love of the Father... Part II

Pastor Mark Stapleton

*Please stand*

NICENE CREED

**C** 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 at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will 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 ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

*Please kneel*

#### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** We pray, O Lord, for Your holy church throughout the world. As at creation You spoke and it was created, so by Your mighty Word spoken into the hearts and through the witness of prophets and apostles, Your church has grown over all the earth throughout the ages. Continue to speak Your blessing and power to and through all pastors and teachers, and inspire the shared witness of all Your people to the joy and salvation of many people. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** As nations continue to be disrupted by conflicts and wars, send leaders who know and desire the ways of peace. Grant unity of purpose especially to our country that we may live in peace. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Loving God, we pray for all fathers – living and deceased - stepfathers, adoptive fathers, and foster fathers. Bless them with wisdom, patience, and

strength. Grant them the grace to guide their children with love and to be models of integrity, compassion, and faith. Lord, in your mercy.

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Hear our prayers for all who are in trouble, adversity, need, and sickness, *[especially...]*. Touch each one who calls on You with Your healing and steady hand and give them courage even in their trials. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Remembering all Your saints, the faithful who have gone before us, especially those most dear to us, keep us in firm faith all our days with the joyous prospect of the day of resurrection and life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**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.

*Please sit*

## OFFERING



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## STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

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*Please stand*

## OFFERTORY

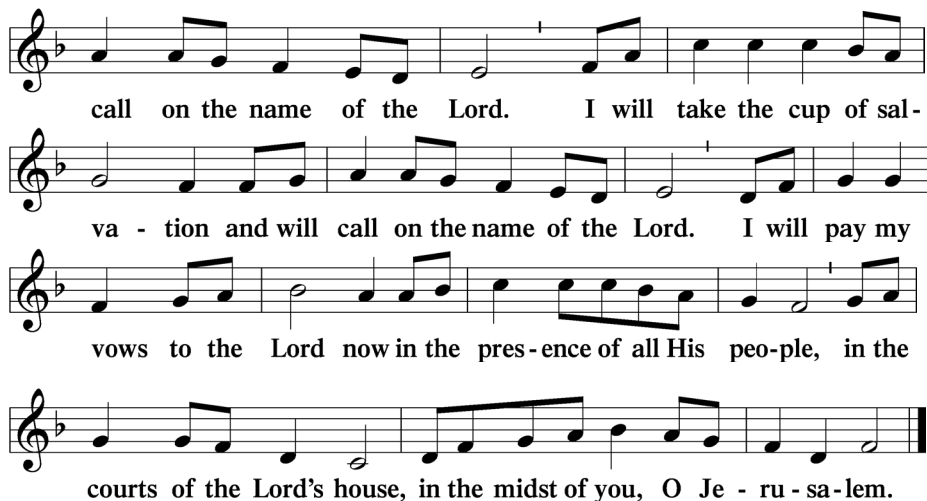
*Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19*



**C** What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to



me? I will of-fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv-ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-  
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the  
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

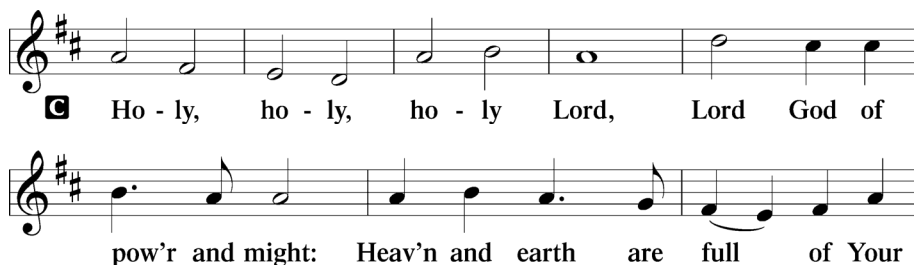
## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

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### PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also 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.**
- 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. 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



**C** 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.

## 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."

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

- 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**

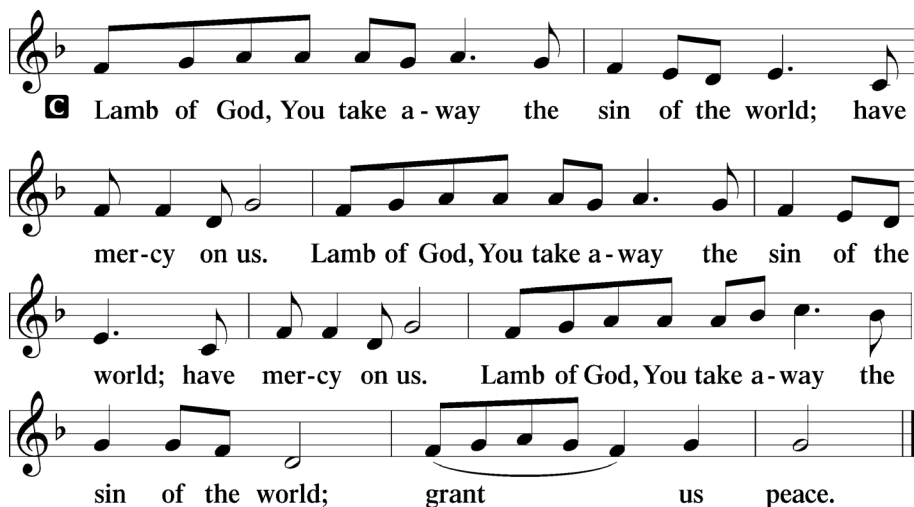
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## PAX DOMINI

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

*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).*

## 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.

*Please sit*



1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord,  
 2 But if, for - get - ful, we should find  
 3 We mar - vel how Your saints be - come  
 4 In what You give us, Lord, to do,

When once we heed Your call: To live ac - cord - ing  
 Your yoke is hard to bear; If world - ly pres - sures  
 In hin - dranc - es more sure; Whose joy - ful vir - tues  
 To - geth - er or a - lone, In old rou - tines or

to Your Word And dai - ly learn, re - freshed, re - stored,  
 fray the mind, And love it - self can - not un - wind  
 put to shame The cas - ual way we wear Your name  
 ven - tures new, May we not cease to look to You,

That You are Lord of all And will not let us fall.  
 Its tan - gled skein of care: Our in - ward life re - pair.  
 And by our faults ob - scure Your pow'r to cleanse and cure.  
 The cross You hung up - on— All You en - deav - ored done.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Tune: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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Bartolomé Esteban Murillo, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, c.1660,  
 National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin, Ireland



1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee And hope in  
 2 What can these anx - ious cares a - vail thee, These nev - er -  
 3 Be pa - tient and a - wait His lei - sure In cheer - ful  
 4 God knows full well when times of glad - ness Shall be the



Him through all thy ways, He'll give thee strength, what - e'er be -  
 ceas - ing moans and sighs? What can it help if thou be -  
 hope, with heart con - tent To take what - e'er thy Fa - ther's  
 need - ful thing for thee. When He has tried thy soul with



tide thee, And bear thee through the e - vil days. Who trusts in  
 wail thee O'er each dark mo - ment as it flies? Our cross and  
 plea - sure And His dis - cern - ing love hath sent, Nor doubt our  
 sad - ness And from all guile has found thee free, He comes to



God's un - chang - ing love Builds on the rock that naught can move.  
 tri - als do but press The heav - ier for our bit - ter - ness.  
 in - most wants are known To Him who chose us for His own.  
 thee all un - a - ware And makes thee own His lov - ing care.

*Please 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.

### THANK THE LORD



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



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice 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

**A** 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** Amen.

## BENEDICTION

*Numbers 6:24–26*

**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.

## CLOSING HYMN

964 Lift Every Voice and Sing

1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing Till earth and heav - en ring,  
2 Ston-y the road we trod, Bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,  
3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,  
Ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty.  
Felt in the days when hope un - born had died;  
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;



Let our re-joic-ing rise High as the lis-t'ning skies,  
 Yet with a stead-y beat, Have not our wea-ry feet  
 Thou who hast by Thy might Led us in-to the light,



Let it re-sound loud as the roll-ing sea.  
 Come to the place for which our par-ents sighed?  
 Keep us for-ev-er in the path, we pray.



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
 We have come o-ver a way that with tears has been wa-tered;  
 Lest our feet stray from the plac-es, our God, where we met Thee;



Sing a song full of the hope that the pres-ent has brought us;  
 We have come, tread-ing our path through the blood of the slaugh-tered,  
 Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for-get Thee;



Fac-ing the ris-ing sun Of our new day be-gun,  
 Out from the gloom-y past, Till now we stand at last  
 Shad-owed be-neath Thy hand, May we for-ev-er stand,



Let us march on till vic-to-ry is won.  
 Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.  
 True to our God, true to our na-tive land.

*Please sit*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## POSTLUDE

## SERVING IN WORSHIP

Rev. Mark Stapleton, Homilist & Liturgist

Dr. Marc Brunelle, Director of Music/Organist

Sue Kunz, Lector | 8:45am

Bonnie Kane, Lector | 10:45am