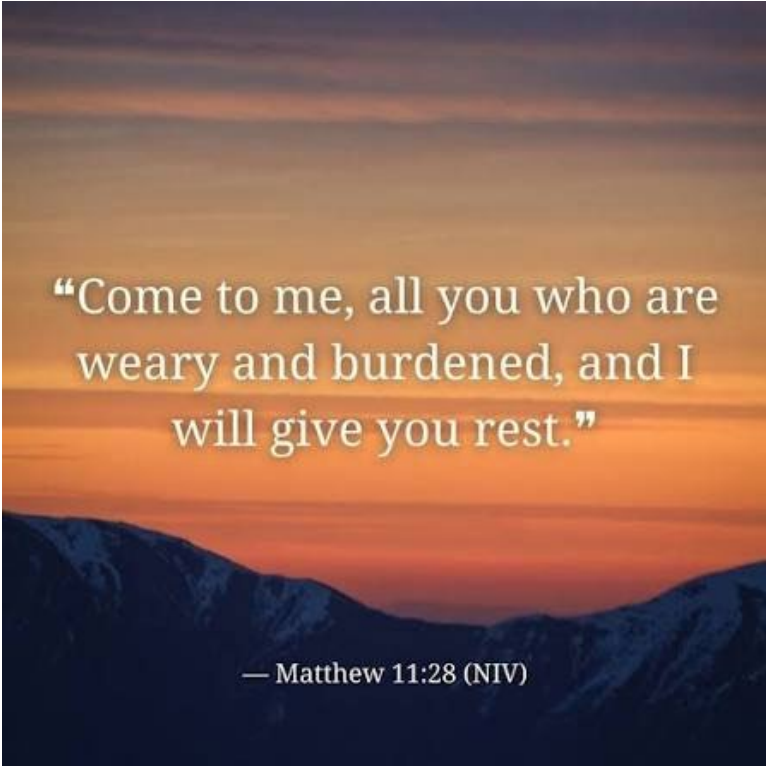




ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE



“Come to me, all you who are
weary and burdened, and I
will give you rest.”

— Matthew 11:28 (NIV)

SIXTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 5, 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



The secular calendar seems always to try to overshadow the Church Year. The rhythm of the church and her time cycles apart from such holidays. We do not ignore Independence Day weekend and yet we do not allow it to overwhelm the Good News of Christ that transcends all things. Today our Lord contrasts the wisdom of the world with the hidden wisdom of God—something a child can discern by faith. Because our Lord has accomplished all things for us and our salvation, we rejoice in His easy yoke. We wait upon the Lord, putting our trust neither in flesh and blood nor in princes or earthly powers but in Christ alone. This promise of rest in Christ is given not to the few but to all who come heavy laden with sin, guilt, shame, sorrow, and death. No wonder the little child understands! Thanks be to God.

THE PRELUDE

THE TOLLING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

Please stand

INVOCATION HYMN

717 Eternal Father, Strong to Save



1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, Whose arm hath bound the
2 O Christ, whose voice the wa - ters heard And hushed their rag - ing
3 Most Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood Up - on the cha - os



rest - less wave, Who bidd'st the might - y o - cean deep Its
at Thy word, Who walk - edst on the foam - ing deep And
dark and rude, And bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, And



own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: O hear us when we
calm a - mid its rage didst sleep: O hear us when we
give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace: O hear us when we



cry to Thee For those in per - il on the sea.
cry to Thee For those in per - il on the sea.
cry to Thee For those in per - il on the sea.

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.

Please Kneel/Sit

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

- 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.
- 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.

Please stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

KYRIE

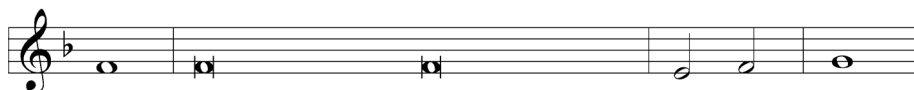
Mark 10:47

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



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;



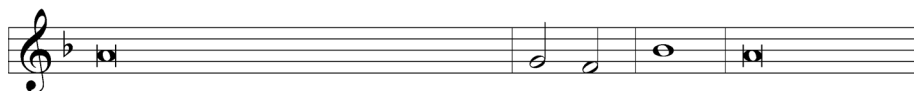
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.



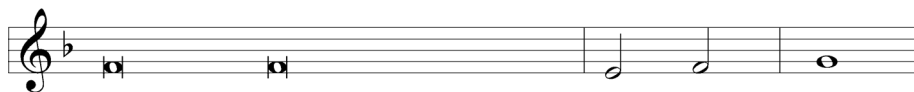
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



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,



art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to seek and to save the lost. Graciously open our ears and our hearts to hear His call and to follow Him by faith that we may feast with Him forever in His kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Please sit

FIRST READING

Zechariah 9:9-12

A The Old Testament Reading is from Zechariah, chapter 9.

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

behold, your king is coming to you;

righteous and having salvation is he,

humble and mounted on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall speak peace to the nations;

his rule shall be from sea to sea,

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

- ¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 145:1–14

A I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.

C **Every day I will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

A Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,
and his greatness is unsearchable.

C **One generation shall commend your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.**

A On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

C **They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,
and I will declare your greatness.**

A They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

C **The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

A The LORD is good to all,
and his mercy is over all that he has made.

C **All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,
and all your saints shall bless you!**

A They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power,
to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

C **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.**

A The LORD is faithful in all his words
and kind in all his works.

C **The LORD upholds all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.**

A The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 7.

¹Or do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? ²Thus a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. ³Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.

⁴Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. ⁵For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. ⁶But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve not under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit.

⁷What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.” ⁸But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. Apart from the law, sin lies dead. ⁹I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. ¹⁰The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. ¹¹For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. ¹²So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

¹³Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand

ALLELUIA

John 6:68



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

²⁵At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Please sit





1 "Come un - to Me, ye wea - ry, And I will give you rest."
 2 "Come un - to Me, ye wan - d'ers, And I will give you light."
 3 "Come un - to Me, ye faint - ing, And I will give you life."
 4 "And who - so - ev - er com - eth, I will not cast him out."



O bless - ed voice of Je - sus, Which comes to hearts op-pressed!
 O lov - ing voice of Je - sus, Which comes to cheer the night!
 O cheer - ing voice of Je - sus, Which comes to aid our strife!
 O pa - tient love of Je - sus, Which drives a - way our doubt,



It tells of ben - e - dic - tion, Of par - don, grace, and peace,
 Our hearts were filled with sad - ness, And we had lost our way;
 The foe is stern and ea - ger, The fight is fierce and long;
 Which, though we be un - wor - thy Of love so great and free,



Of joy that hath no end - ing, Of love that can - not cease.
 But Thou hast brought us glad - ness And songs at break of day.
 But Thou hast made us might - y And strong - er than the strong.
 In - vites us ver - y sin - ners To come, dear Lord, to Thee!

SERMON

The Yoke of Freedom

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 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.

Please kneel or sit

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

Almighty and most holy God, we thank and praise You for all You provide us freely by Your grace. We are especially thankful for the freedoms we enjoy and celebrate today as we gather to worship You. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We pray for the leaders of our nation, state, and community. We acknowledge that You have placed them in these positions to govern us and all people of this land. Grant them wisdom and lead them to make decisions that are in line with Your will for all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Amid the thorns of this life, we lean on Your grace, knowing that it is sufficient for us and in our weakness Your strength shines through. We ask for Your grace

and healing for those who grieve. We ask for Your grace and healing for those struggling in body, mind, and spirit, [*especially . . .*]. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We live in a nation and in communities where we are thankful to have brothers and sisters in Christ, yet there are also many who have either disconnected from You and Your Church or who have never known You. Lead us to share Your grace with others. Guide our conversations and grow our relationships with those who do not share the hope we have. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord God, We come before You today with hearts full of gratitude as we mark a historic milestone - 250 years of our nation's journey. As we step into the next era of our history, do not let us become complacent or take our freedoms for granted. Lord, in Your mercy.

C hear our prayer.

P No matter where life takes us, we know we are in Your hands. So, we confidently come before You as Your children and place these prayers and all our concerns into Your gracious hands, in Jesus' name.

C Amen.

Please sit

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Please stand

OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10-12



C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



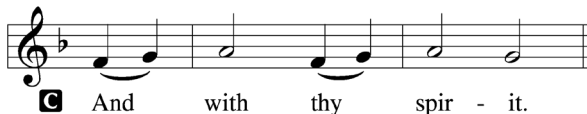
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

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.

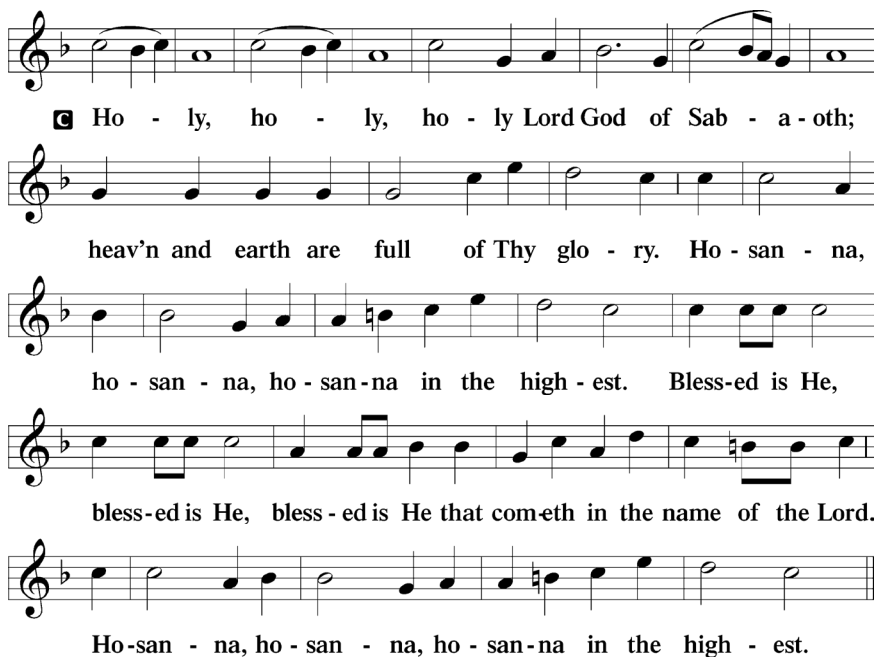
PROPER PREFACE

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, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given

us life everlasting. 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



■ 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

- Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
■ 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.



C A - men.

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

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.



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy
2 Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,



blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to
soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each
con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -
heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to



Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.



1 Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side; Bear pa-tient-
 2 Be still, my soul; your God will un-der-take To guide the
 3 Be still, my soul; though dear-est friends de-part And all is
 4 Be still, my soul; the hour is has-t'ning on When we shall



ly the cross of grief or pain; Leave to your God to or-der
 fu-ture as He has the past. Your hope, your con-fi-dence let
 dark-ened in this vale of tears; Then you will bet-ter know His
 be for-ev-er with the Lord, When dis-ap-point-ment, grief, and



and pro-vide; In ev-'ry change He faith-ful will re-
 noth-ing shake; All now mys-te-rious shall be bright at
 love, His heart, Who comes to soothe your sor-rows and your
 fear are gone, Sor-row for-got, love's pur-est joys re-



main. Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'n-ly Friend
 last. Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
 fears. Be still, my soul; your Je-sus can re-pay
 stored. Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,



Through thorn-y ways leads to a joy-ful end.
 His voice who ruled them while He dwelt be-low.
 From His own full-ness all He takes a-way.
 All safe and bless-ed we shall meet at last.

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.

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

Psalms 107:1

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

C and His mercy endureth forever.

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.

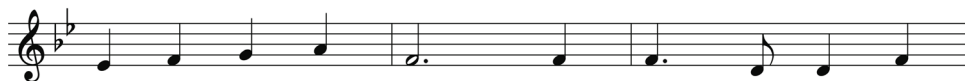
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ☩ give you peace.



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



1. O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, For
 2. O beau - ti - ful for pil - grim feet, Whose
 3. O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved In
 4. O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream That



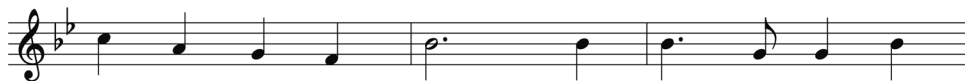
am - ber waves of grain, For pur - ple moun - tain
 stern, im - pas - sioned stress A thor - ough - fare for
 lib - er - at - ing strife, Who more than self their
 sees be - yond the years Thine al - a - bas - ter



maj - es - ties A - bove the fruit - ed plain! A -
 free - dom beat A - cross the wil - der - ness! A -
 coun - try loved, And mer - cy more than life! A -
 cit - ies gleam, Un - dimmed by hu - man tears! A -



mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God
 mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God
 mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May
 mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God



shed his grace on thee, And crown thy good with
 mend thine ev - 'ry flaw, Con - firm thy soul in
 God thy gold re - fine, Till all suc - cess be
 shed his grace on thee, And crown thy good with



broth - er - hood From sea to shin - ing sea.
 self - con - trol, Thy lib - er - ty in law.
 no - ble - ness, And ev - 'ry gain di - vine.
 broth - er - hood From sea to shin - ing sea.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE



SERVING IN WORSHIP

Rev. Mark Stapleton, Homilist & Liturgist

Fred Locker, Guest Organist

Sue Kunz, Lector | 8:00am

Kirk Farney, Lector | 10:45am

ALTAR FLOWERS

Dedication for the Altar Flowers on the 250th Anniversary of America. Flowers were donated by Greg and Linda Sensmeier. In thankful praise of God's rich and continued blessings of the United States of America on the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and in honor of the Founding Fathers and all Americans that uphold our nation's ideals and serve and protect our nation and Constitution.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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MATTHEW 10:40-42

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