



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE

*"The stone the
builders rejected
has become the
cornerstone."*

MATTHEW 21:42



NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 4, 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



We've all been there: the flashing red and blue lights appear in the rearview mirror, and our brains instantly start spinning an elaborate defense case to the police officer. We laugh at that driver, but he represents all of us. When our shortcomings are exposed, our default human setting isn't confession—it's self-justification. We try to patch up a crumbling soul with the heavy masonry of human effort, building a spiritual "Leaning Tower of Pisa" that only sinks faster into the mud. This Sunday, we're diving into Matthew 21 to see how Jesus shatters our pride, invites us to finally drop our tools, and replaces our failed self-righteousness with His unshakeable mountain of grace.

THE PRELUDE

THE TOLLING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

Please stand

INVOCATION HYMN

909 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
2 To this tem - ple, where we call You, Come, O Lord of
3 Grant, we pray, to all Your faith - ful All the gifts they
△ 4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, Praise and hon - or
cor - ner - stone, Cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
hosts, and stay; Come with all Your lov - ing - kind - ness,
ask to gain; What they gain from You, for - ev - er
to the Son, Praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,
Bind - ing all the Church in one; Ho - ly Zi - on's
Hear Your peo - ple as they pray; And Your full - est
With the bless - ed to re - tain; And here - af - ter
Ev - er three and ev - er one: One in might and
help for - ev - er And our con - fi - dence a - lone.
ben - e - dic - tion Shed with - in these walls to - day.
in Your glo - ry Ev - er - more with You to reign.
one in glo - ry While un - end - ing a - ges run!

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Ghost.

G Amen.

Please sit

BAPTISM | 10:45am

JOHN PHILLIP DOERRIES

Philip Doerries

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.

CONFESSION OF SINS & ABSOLUTION

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.

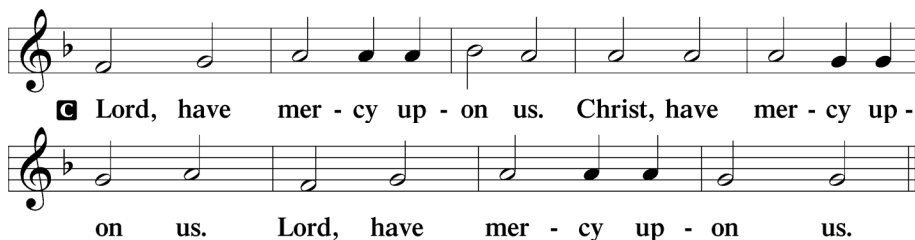
C Amen.

Please stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

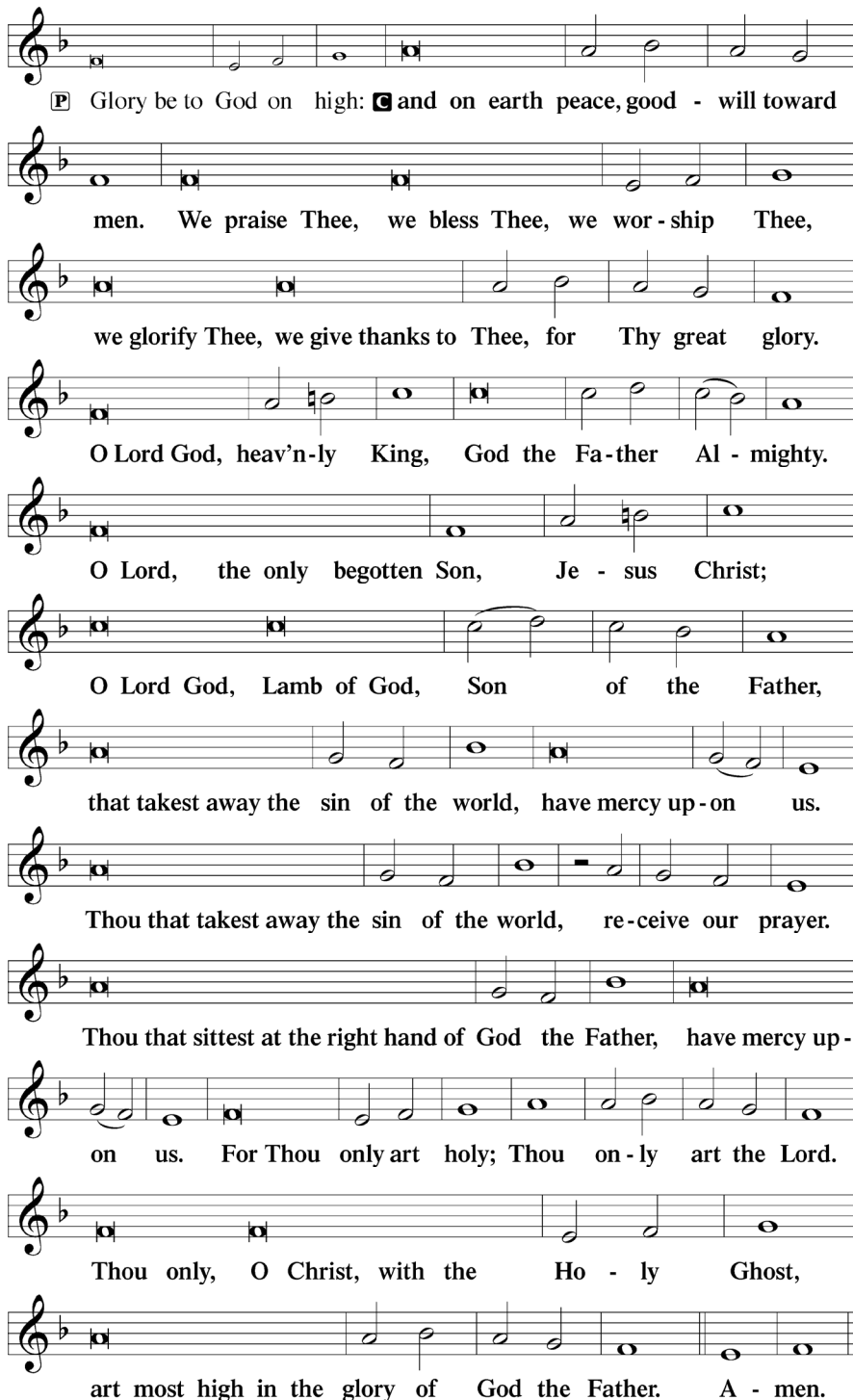
KYRIE

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.

Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; 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.

Please sit

FIRST READING

Isaiah 5:1–7

A The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 5.

¹Let me sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.
²He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
and he looked for it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.
³And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.
⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard,
that I have not done in it?
When I looked for it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?
⁵And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard.

I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured;
 I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.
⁶I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed,
 and briers and thorns shall grow up;
 I will also command the clouds
 that they rain no rain upon it.
⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
 is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah
 are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice,
 but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalms 80:7–19

- A** Restore us, O God of hosts;
 let your face shine, that we may be saved!
- C** **You brought a vine out of Egypt;
 you drove out the nations and planted it.**
- A** You cleared the ground for it;
 it took deep root and filled the land.
- C** **The mountains were covered with its shade,
 the mighty cedars with its branches.**
- A** It sent out its branches to the sea
 and its shoots to the River.
- C** **Why then have you broken down its walls,
 so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?**
- A** The boar from the forest ravages it,
 and all that move in the field feed on it.
- C** **Turn again, O God of hosts!
 Look down from heaven, and see;
 have regard for this vine,**
- A** the stock that your right hand planted,
 and for the son whom you made strong for yourself.
- C** **They have burned it with fire; they have cut it down;
 may they perish at the rebuke of your face!**
- A** But let your hand be on the man of your right hand,
 the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself!

C Then we shall not turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call upon your name!

A Restore us, O LORD God of hosts!
Let your face shine, that we may be saved!

EPISTLE

Philippians 3:4b–14

A The Old Testament Reading is from Philippians, chapter 3.

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. ⁷But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith — ¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand

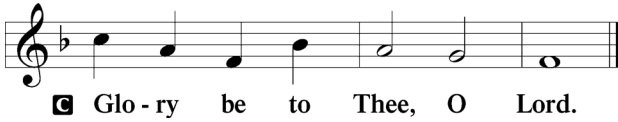
ALLELUIA

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 twenty-first chapter.



³³[Jesus said:] “Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. ³⁴When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ ³⁹And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

“‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. ⁴⁴And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
 2 He sent no an - gel to our race,
 3 For us bap - tized, for us He bore taught;
 4 For us He prayed; for us He taught;

Be - yond all thought and fan - ta - sy,
 Of high - er or low - er place,
 His ho - ly fast and hun - gered sore;
 For us His dai - ly works He wrought,

That God, the Son of God, should take
 But wore the robe of hu - man frame,
 For us temp - ta - tion sharp He knew;
 By words and signs and ac - tions thus

Our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
 And to this world Him - self He came.
 For us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
 Still seek - ing not Him - self but us.

5 For us by wickedness betrayed,
 For us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
 He bore the shameful cross and death;
 For us He gave His dying breath.

6 For us He rose from death again;
 For us He went on high to reign;
 For us He sent His Spirit here
 To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

Text: attr. Thomas à Kempis, 1380–1471; tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819–85, alt.

Tune: English, 15th cent.

Text: Public domain

SERMON

"The 40-Foot Cornerstone"

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 in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs:

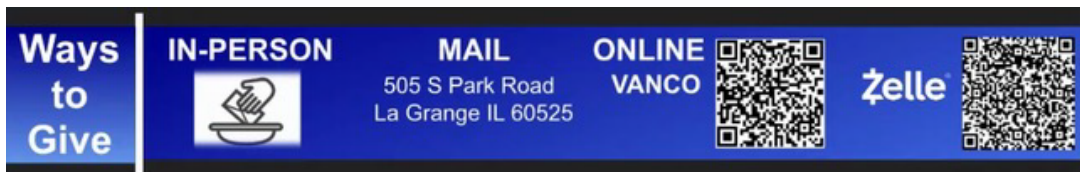
We pray for the Church, that God's people live confidently and never neglect the salvation won by Jesus Christ, but joyfully share the message of salvation in word and deed. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- P** We pray for the nations of the world, that the presence of Christ be experienced everywhere around the globe and that the Gospel message have free course in every land. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** We pray for our families and for those who share in our Christian fellowship and join with us in worship. Grant that we never take them for granted, but help us to encourage the labors in which we work together to the glory of God. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** We pray for those with special concerns and needs this day: those who are hospitalized or shut in, those who are grieving, the unemployed and underemployed, the chronically ill, and all those whose needs are not known to us, [*and especially . . .*]. Grant that we bring Your blessing to situations of need in all places. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** As we bring our prayers to You, Lord, we remember the faithful Christians whose earthly lives have been completed and who now are in Your eternal keeping. Help us to follow their examples of faith and faithfulness. And at the last, reunite us with them in the joy of Your heavenly kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** These things and all else that we should have asked, grant to us with Your blessing for the sake of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- C** **Amen.**

Please sit

OFFERING



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.

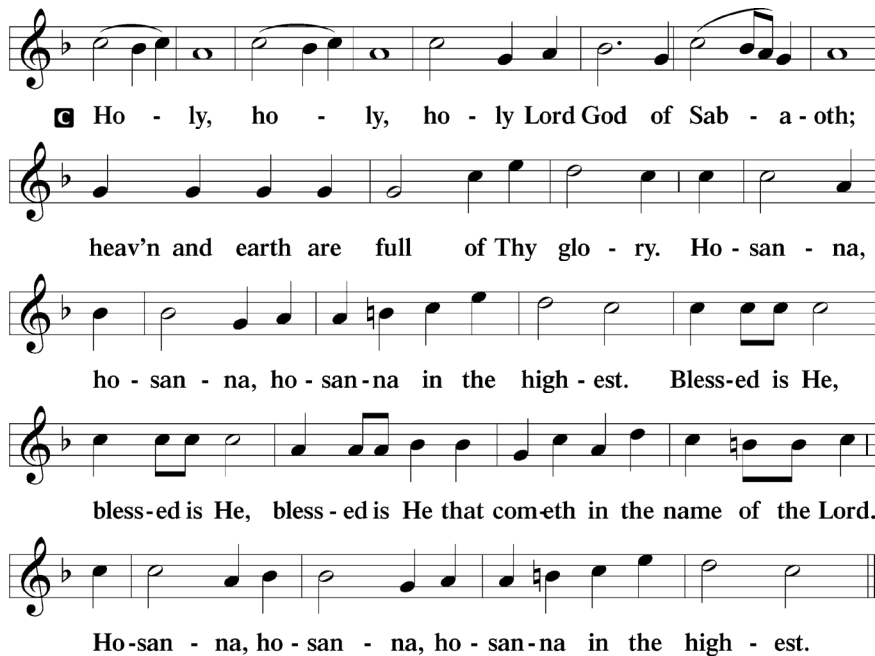
C It is meet and right so to do.

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, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. 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

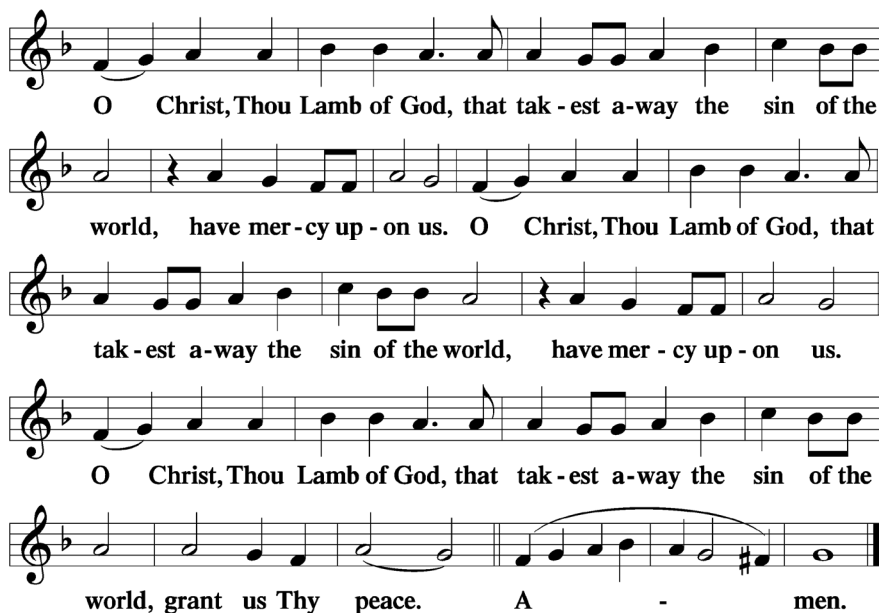
- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.



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 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound-less; My soul, be-lieve and
 2 By grace! None dare lay claim to mer - it; Our works and con - duct
 3 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior, Came down to earth to
 4 By grace! This ground of faith is cer - tain; As long as God is



doubt it not. Why stag - ger at this word of prom - ise?
 have no worth. God in His love sent our Re - deem - er,
 bear our sin. Was it be - cause of your own mer - it
 true, it stands. What saints have penned by in - spi - ra - tion,



Has Scrip - ture ev - er false - hood taught? No! Then this word must
 Christ Je - sus, to this sin - ful earth; His death did for our
 That Je - sus died your soul to win? No, it was grace, and
 What in His Word our God com - mands, Our faith in what our



true re - main: By grace you too will life ob - tain.
 sins a - tone, And we are saved by grace a - lone.
 grace a - lone, That brought Him from His heav'n - ly throne.
 God has done De - pends on grace— grace through His Son.

691 Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing



1 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's sow - ing, May we rip - en
 2 Lad - en branch - es free - ly bear - ing Gifts the Giv - er
 3 Root - ed deep in Christ our Mas - ter, Christ our pat - tern
 4 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's tend - ing, May we grow till



and in - crease,
 loves to bless;
 and our goal;
 har - vests cease;

Fruit to life e - ter - nal grow - ing,
 Here is fruit that grows by shar - ing,
 Teach us, as the years fly fast - er,
 Till we taste, in life un - end - ing,



Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926–2024

Tune: Ralph C. Schultz, 1932–2024

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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.

NUNC DIMITTIS

Luke 2:29–32





THANKSGIVING

Psalms 107:1

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



POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

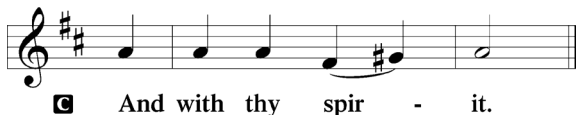
A Let us pray.

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.



SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.



BENEDICAMUS

P Bless we the Lord.



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.

CLOSING HYMN

760 What God Ordains Is Always Good



1 What God or - dains is al - ways good: His will is
2 What God or - dains is al - ways good: He nev - er
3 What God or - dains is al - ways good: His lov - ing
4 What God or - dains is al - ways good: He is my



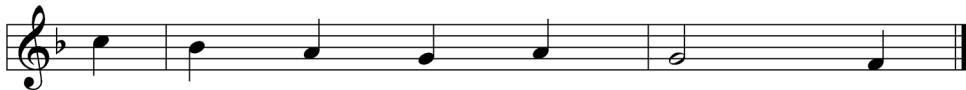
just and ho - ly. As He di - rects my life for me,
will de - ceive me; He leads me in His righ - teous way,
thought at - tends me; No poi - son can be in the cup
friend and Fa - ther; He suf - fers naught to do me harm



I fol - low meek and low - ly. My God in - deed
And nev - er will He leave me. I take con - tent
That my phy - si - cian sends me. My God is true;
Though man - y storms may gath - er. Now I may know



In ev - 'ry need Knows well how He will shield me;
What He has sent; His hand that sends me sad - ness
Each morn - ing new I trust His grace un - end - ing,
Both joy and woe; Some - day I shall see clear - ly



To Him, then, I will yield me.
Will turn my tears to glad - ness.
My life to Him com - mend - ing.
That He has loved me dear - ly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE



SERVING IN WORSHIP

Rev. Mark Stapleton, Liturgist & Homilist

Dr. Marc Brunelle, Director of Music/Organist

Art Schroeder, Lector | 8:00am

Mary Grether, Lector | 10:45am

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers at the Altar are given to the Glory of God by Amy Strombom in honor of her 50th birthday on September 29.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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The three pillars of Christian stewardship—**time, talent, and treasure**—are essential to the vitality and continued growth of our Music Ministry. In that spirit, the Board of Worship prayerfully invites you to consider contributing to the Music Fund. Your generosity enables us to continue offering music of excellence and beauty in praise of God and in service to His Church.

White Music Fund contribution envelopes are available in the pews, and gifts may also be made conveniently through our online giving options.

We are deeply grateful for your continued generosity and for the important role you play in sustaining the Music Ministry of St. John's.