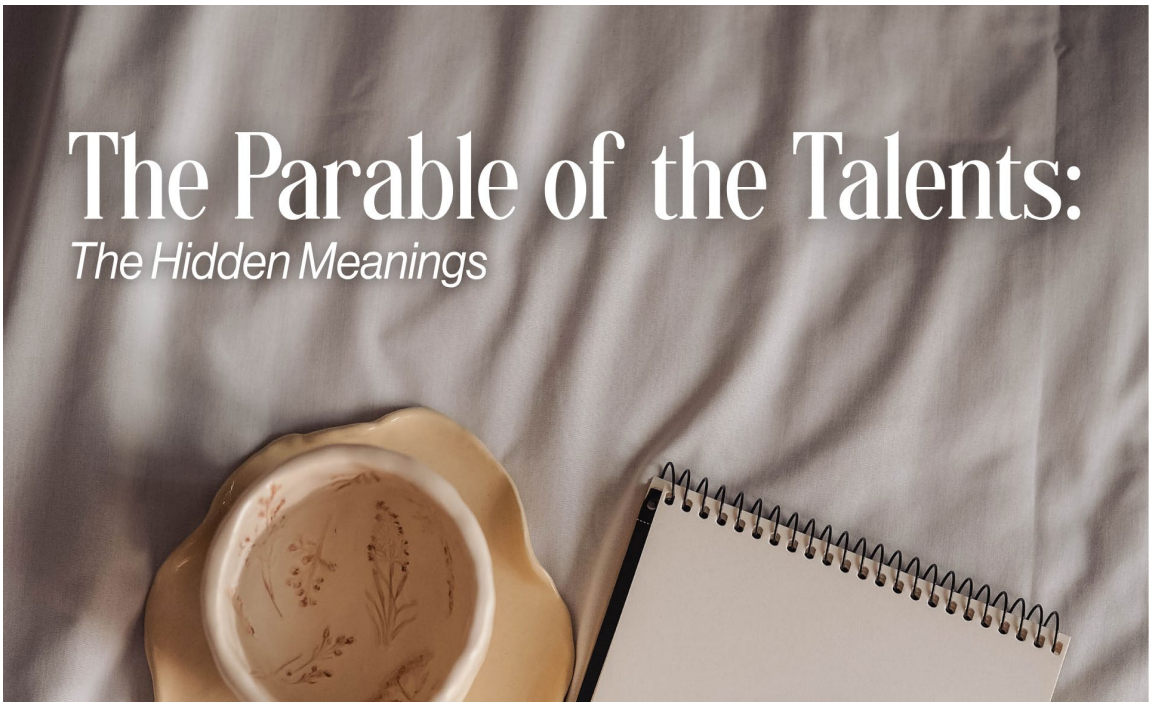
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE



TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

NOVEMBER 15, 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



What do you expect to feel when Jesus Christ returns? For many of us, the "long time" of waiting can quietly turn into a season of anxiety, leaving us wondering if we have done enough to survive a final divine audit. But if you are rooted in the Gospel, His return isn't a terrifying court martial—it is a family reunion. This Sunday, we dig into Matthew 25 to see how Christ drops the crushing weight of the Law forever, trading our messy performance for His flawless righteousness. The waiting is almost over. Come discover the explosive, unexpected joy of a Master who isn't coming back to judge your resume, but to welcome you home.

THE PRELUDE

THE TOLLING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

Please stand

INVOCATION HYMN 941 We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God



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Tune: Gustav Holst, 1874–1934, alt.
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INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

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

EXHORTATION

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.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Hear my prayer, O LORD;

C **give ear to my pleas for mercy!**

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we have not lived as children of the light. We have fallen into complacency, forgetting who You are and who we are. We have grown comfortable in habits that do not honor You. We have buried what You have given us rather than loving our neighbor with those gifts. We have become complacent in our thoughts, our words, and our actions. 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. God has not destined you for wrath but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

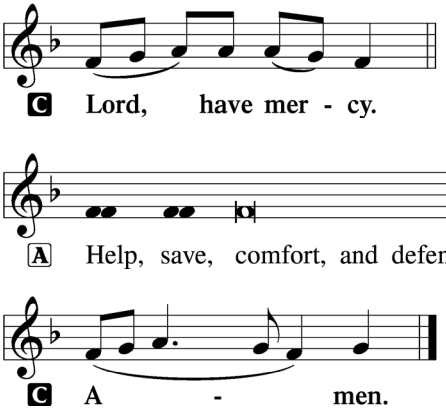
C **Amen.**

Please stand

KYRIE

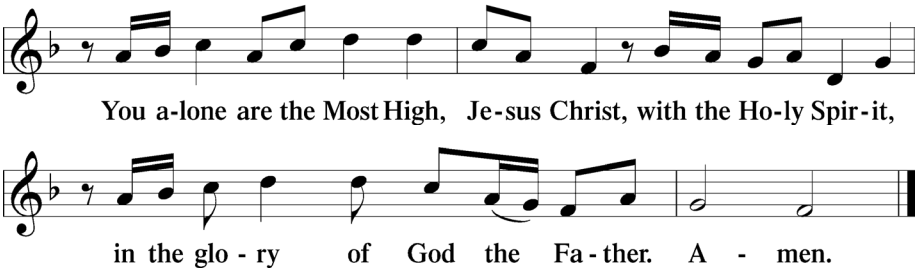
Mark 10:47





HYMN OF PRAISE: Gloria in Excelsis





SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Please sit

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 1:7–16

A The Old Testament Reading is from Zephaniah, chapter 1.

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests.
8 And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice—
"I will punish the officials and the king's sons
and all who array themselves in foreign attire.
9 On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold,
and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud.
10 "On that day," declares the LORD,
"a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate,
a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills.
11 Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar!
For all the traders are no more;
all who weigh out silver are cut off.

12At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the men who are complacent,
those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do ill.' 13Their goods shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them."
14The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;
the mighty man cries aloud there.
15A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness, 16a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM *Psalm 90:1–12; antiphon: v. 17*

A Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.
C **Before the mountains were brought forth,**
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
A You return man to dust
and say, "Return, O children of man!"
C **For a thousand years in your sight**
are but as yesterday when it is past,
or as a watch in the night.
A You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning:
C **in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;**
in the evening it fades and withers.
A For we are brought to an end by your anger;
by your wrath we are dismayed.
C **You have set our iniquities before you,**
our secret sins in the light of your presence.
A For all our days pass away under your wrath;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

C [1]**The years of our life are seventy,**
or even by reason of strength eighty;
yet their span is but toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.

A Who considers the power of your anger,
and your wrath according to the fear of you?

C **So teach us to number our days**
that we may get a heart of wisdom.

EPISTLE *1 Thessalonians 5:1–11*

A The Epistle is from 1 Thessalonians, chapter 5.

[1]Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. [2]For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3]While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. [4]But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. [5]For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. [6]So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. [7]For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. [8]But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9]For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10]who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. [11]Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

ALLELUIA



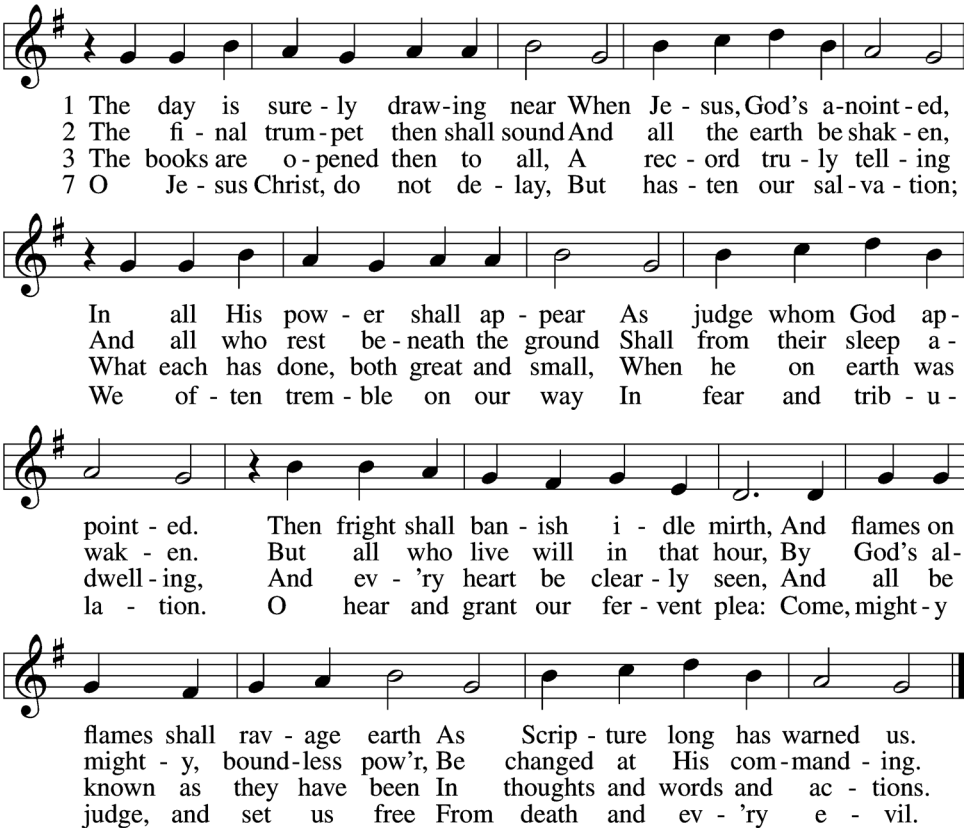
P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

14[Jesus said:] "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants
and entrusted to them his property. 15To one he gave five talents, to another two, to
another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16He who had
received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents
more. 17So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. 18But he who had
received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.
19Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with
them. 20And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents
more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents
more.' 21His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have
been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'
22And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered
to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' 23His master said to him,
'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set
you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' 24He also who had received the
one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping
where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, 25so I was afraid,
and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 26But
his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap
where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? 27Then you ought to
have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have
received what was my own with interest. 28So take the talent from him and give it
to him who has the ten talents. 29For to everyone who has will more be given, and
he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be
taken away. 30And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place
there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Please sit

SERMON HYMN 508 The Day Is Surely Drawing Near



SERMON **"Grace in the Hanger, Living for the Reunion"**
Rev. 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 Let us pray for the Church around the world, for ourselves in this place, for people in positions of authority, for families, and for all in need.

Guide and protect Your Church, Lord Jesus, as it endeavors to share the Gospel in the many circumstances of this sin-ridden world. Embolden leaders to speak Your Word with conviction, open the ears of those who hear the Good News in all circumstances, and grant increase of faith and numbers wherever people gather around Word and Sacrament.

C **Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we pray.**

P O Holy Spirit, strengthen this congregation so that we are a beacon of Your gracious love, calling one and all to join us to celebrate the Good News shining in this darkened world.

C **Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we pray.**

P Lord over all, guide and protect the officers of nations; armed forces deployed and police at home; leaders of large corporations; those who work in the media; those who grow, tend, and distribute food; and all who respond in emergencies, that together they work for the common good.

C **Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we pray.**

P Lord our God, hear the prayers of Your people near and dear to us, [*including . . .*], as well as those known only to You. As fits Your gracious plans for them, give healing, relief, and comfort, so that they may live out each day in peace and joy.

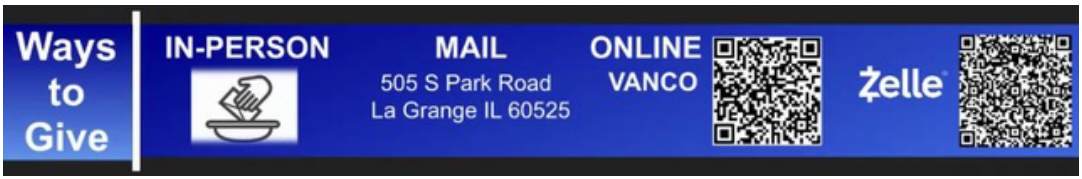
C **Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we pray.**

P These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Please sit

OFFERING



ANTHEM | 10:45am

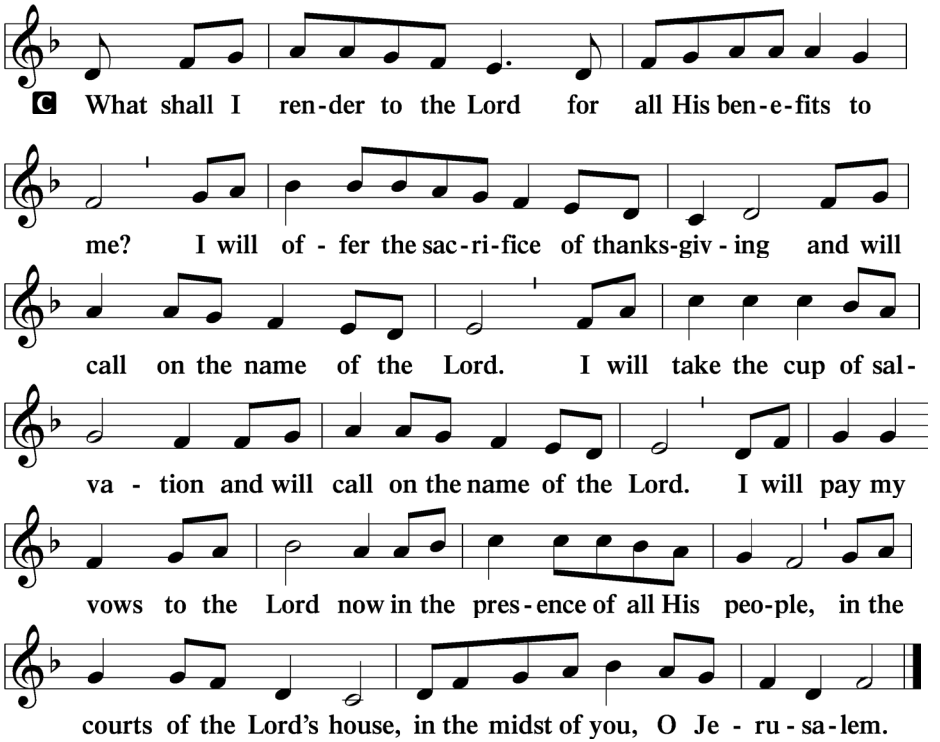
ARISE, O GOD, AND SHINE

Walter J. Pelz (b.1926)

Arise, O God, and shine in all they saving might
and prosper each design to spread thy glorious light.
Let healing streams of mercy flow that all the earth thy truth may know.

Please stand

OFFERTORY *Psalm 116:12–13, 17–19*



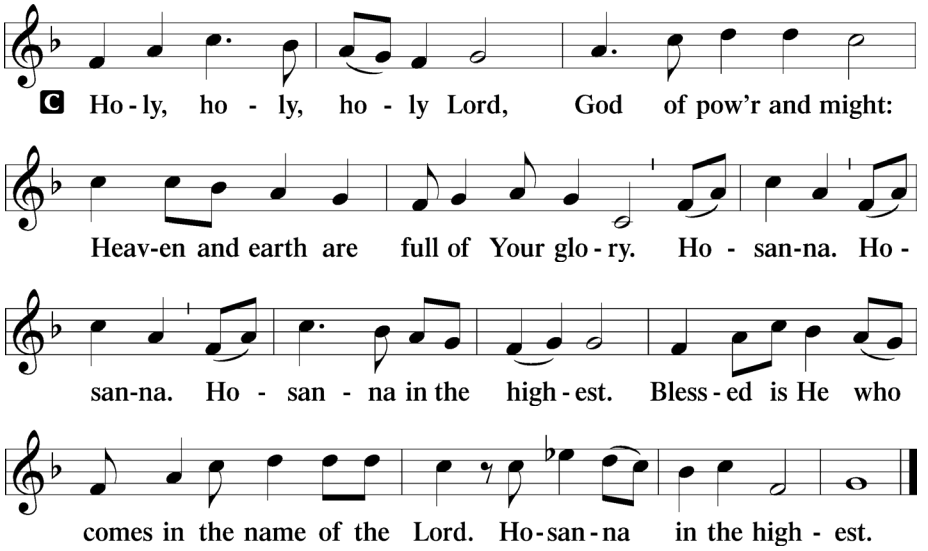
SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

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, 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



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

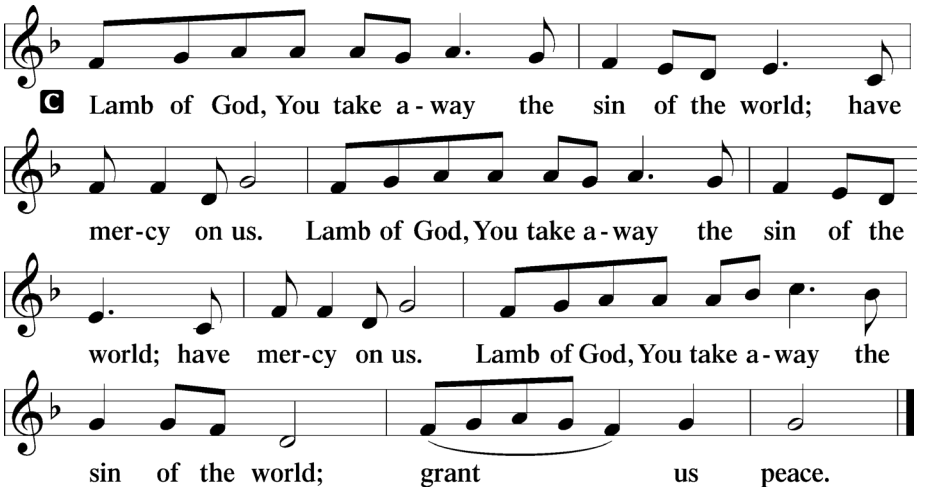
C **Our Father who art in heaven,**
hallowed be Thy name, thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is 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



Please sit

DISTRIBUTION HYMN 411 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



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Please stand

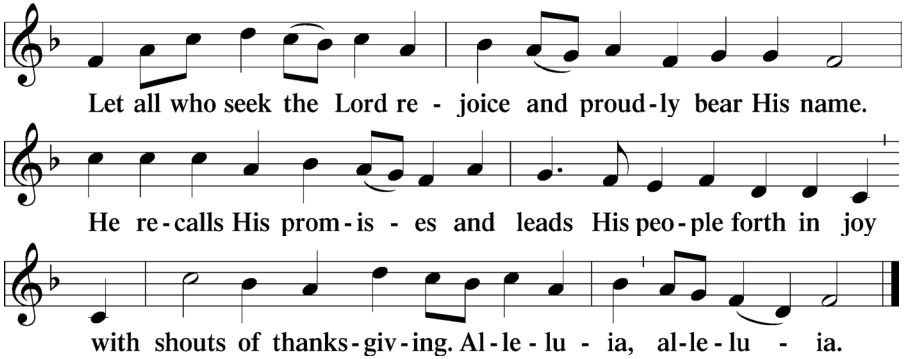
THE DISMISSAL

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.**

THANK THE LORD





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 562 All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall



Please sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Rev. Mark Stapleton, Homilist & Liturgist
Dr. Marc Brunelle, Director of Music/Organist
The Cantata Choir | 10:45am
Bonnie Kane, Lector | 10:45am
Avery Campagna, Acolyte | 8:00am

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers at the Altar are given to the Glory of God by Frank Moore and Christina Lass Moore with thanksgiving for God's blessings on our 18th wedding anniversary.