



THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 23, 2026

The prophet Isaiah calls the people to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus of Nazareth declares that the Church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and mercy are keys to the Church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world, but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table, we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

Prelude

Prelude on a Rouen Melody

Healey Willan
(1880-1968)

Order for Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be God – Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit – who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: **Amen**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God, the whole company of heaven, and our sisters and brothers in this community.

silence for reflection

P: Holy and gracious God,

C: **we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have lived only for the present, without regard for generations to come. We have sought the realms of this world, rather than your promised reign of justice and peace. Have mercy on us, forgive our sins, and bring us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

P: How blessed are those whose sins are forgiven. In the mercy of almighty God, I announce to you the entire forgiveness of your sins. In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

ENTRANCE RITE

Hymn

The Church's One Foundation



1 The church's one foun-da-tion is Je-sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E-lect from ev-'ry na-tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn-ful won-der this world sees her op-pressed,
4 Through toil and trib-u-la-tion and tu-mult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has u-nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
by schisms. . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
Oh, bless - ed heav'n-ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

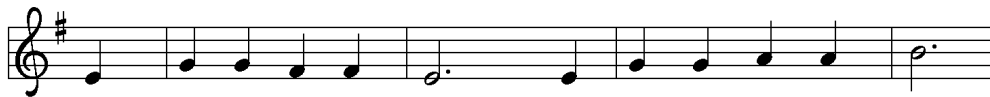
Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900
Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

Apostolic Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

Hymn of Praise



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:

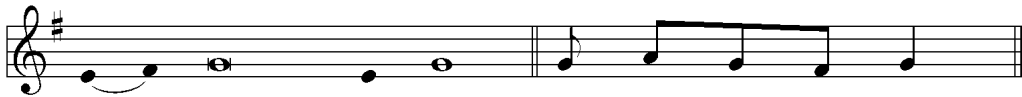


we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

Salutation and Prayer of the Day



☩ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.

P: Let us pray.

ALL: O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson - Isaiah 51:1-6

*Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants,
so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.*

¹Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,
you that seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

²Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

³For the LORD will comfort Zion;
 he will comfort all her waste places,
 and will make her wilderness like Eden,
 her desert like the garden of the LORD;
 joy and gladness will be found in her,
 thanksgiving and the voice of song.
⁴Listen to me, my people,
 and give heed to me, my nation;
 for a teaching will go out from me,
 and my justice for a light to the peoples.
⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,
 my salvation has gone out
 and my arms will rule the peoples;
 the coastlands wait for me,
 and for my arm they hope.
⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
 and look at the earth beneath;
 for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
 the earth will wear out like a garment,
 and those who live on it will die like gnats;
 but my salvation will be forever,
 and my deliverance will never be ended.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 138

(sung in unison)

*The psalm is a hymn of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord on high,
 who has saved God's servant and cares for the lowly.*

1I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with | my whole heart;
 before the gods I will | sing your praise.
2I will bow down toward your holy temple and | praise your name,
 because of your | love and faithfulness;
3for you have glori- | fied your name
 and your word a- | bove all things.
4When I called, you | answered me;
 you increased my | strength within me.
5All the kings of the earth will praise | you, O Lord,
 when they have heard the words | of your mouth.
6They will sing of the ways | of the Lord,
 that great is the glory | of the Lord.
7Though the Lord be high, he cares | for the lowly;
 he perceives the haughty | from afar.
8Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you | keep me safe;
 you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right | hand shall save me.
9The Lord will make good his pur- | pose for me;
 O Lord, your love endures forever; do not abandon the works | of your hands.

Second Lesson - Romans 12:1-8

*In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives.
Our values and viewpoints are not molded by this age, but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work.
God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms
of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.*

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia Verse



Holy Gospel - Matthew 16:13-20

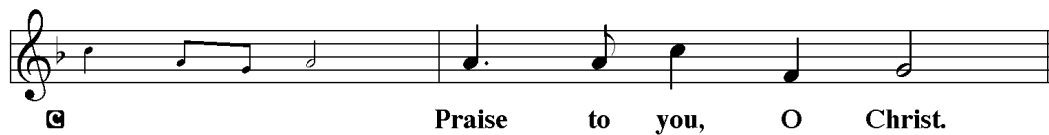
P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.



At a climactic point in Jesus of Nazareth's ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a Church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



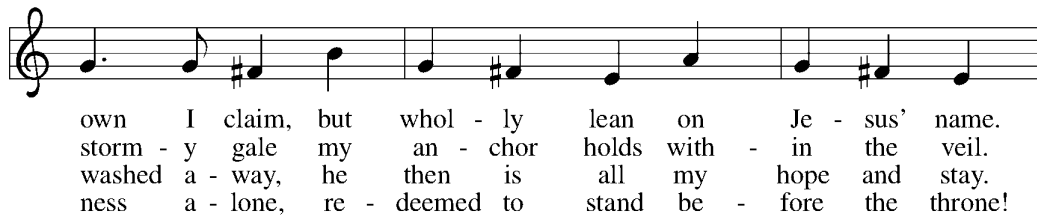
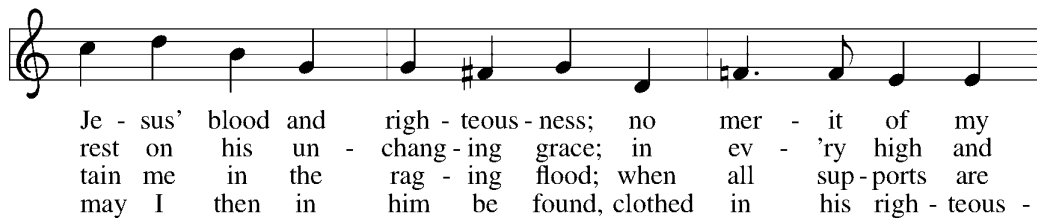
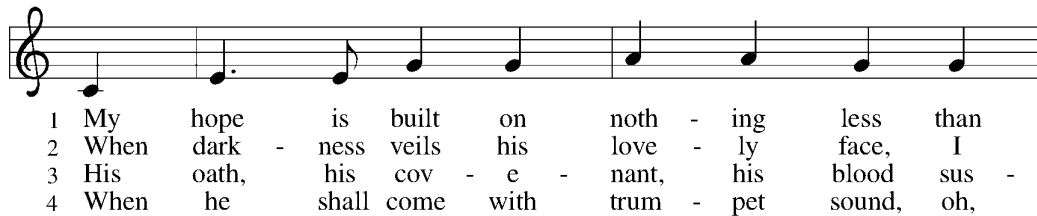
Sermon

The Reverend Becky Cloud

silence for reflection

Hymn

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.
Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

Apostles' Creed

P: Using the words of our ancestors in the faith as expressed in the Apostles' Creed, we proclaim the triune God whom we believe:

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

The Prayers

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

A: Gracious God, you are our foundation in Jesus Christ, your Son, whom we confess as the living Lord. Bless the Church so that Christians around the globe may stand firm on the rock who is the Christ. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You call forth praises from the far reaches of the universe to the smallest of creatures. Join our songs to theirs, that a spirit of praise and thanksgiving will arouse us to cherish and care for this wondrous home you give us. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Bless the leaders of nations, that they govern with integrity and attend to the needs of the poor. Help those in power to regard those in need with mercy, so that they fulfill your loving purposes in their care for all peoples. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Though we walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve us, deliver us, and fulfill your purpose for us. According to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness to those who are sick or in need of care, to those who are bereaved, or in trouble or adversity. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: In Holy Baptism, you welcome us into the Church, in which we, though many, are made one in Christ Jesus. May we recognize in ourselves and in one another the unique gifts you have given us for building-up the body of Christ and God's mission through this congregation for the sake of the world. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You are the everlasting Rock from which we were hewn, and you restore your people to joy and gladness. In blessed memory and hope, we thank you for the lives of our beloved dead. Bring us with them to your eternal presence. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen

LITURGY OF THE MEAL

The Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

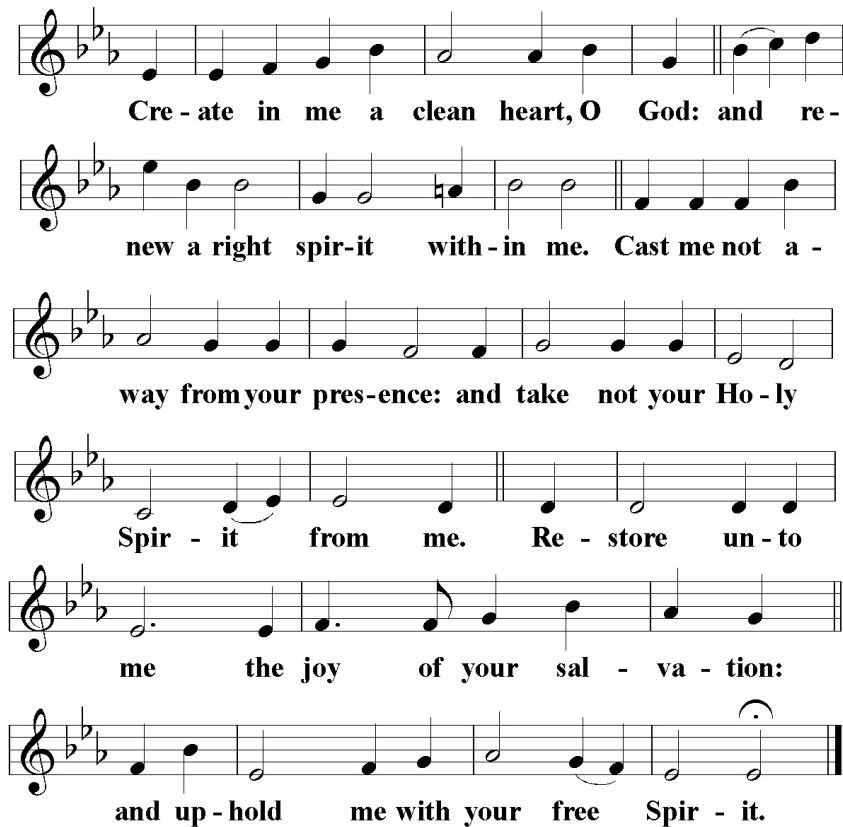
Offering

Organ Offertory

Prelude on *Campian*

Healey Willan

Offertory



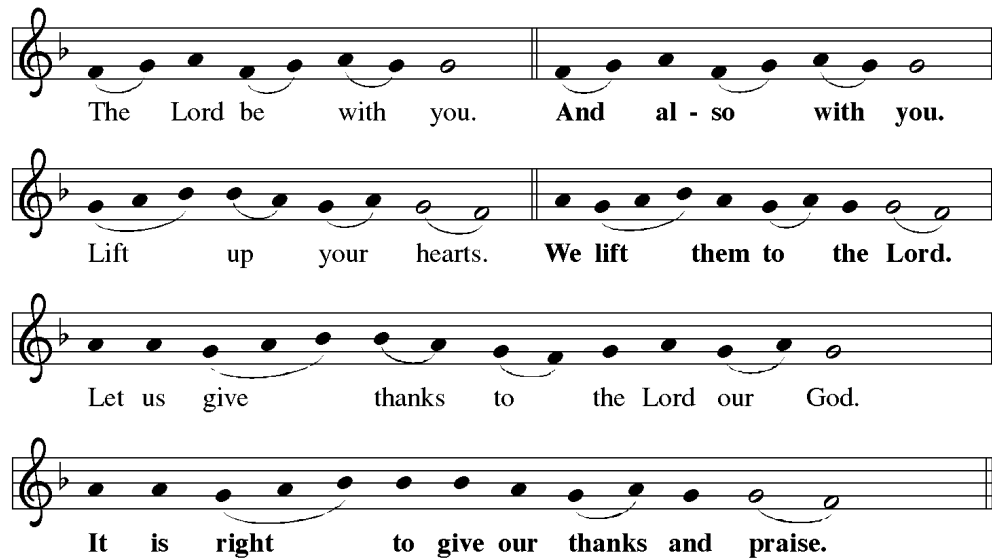
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence: and take not your Ho - ly
Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to
me the joy of your sal - va - tion:
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

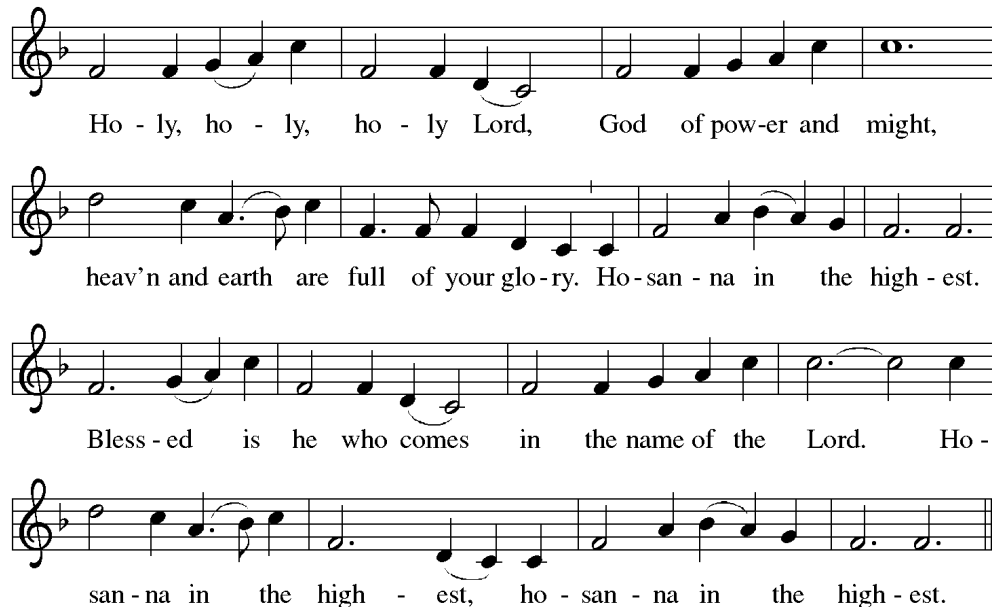
C: **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Great Thanksgiving



P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus



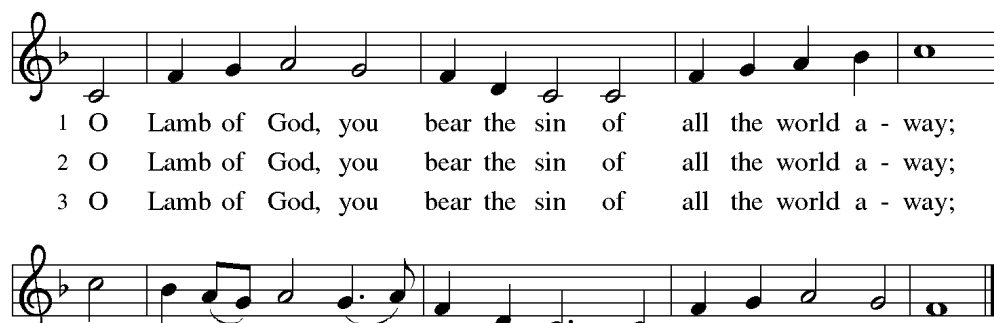
Eucharistic Prayer

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**

Communion with our Risen Lord

Agnus Dei

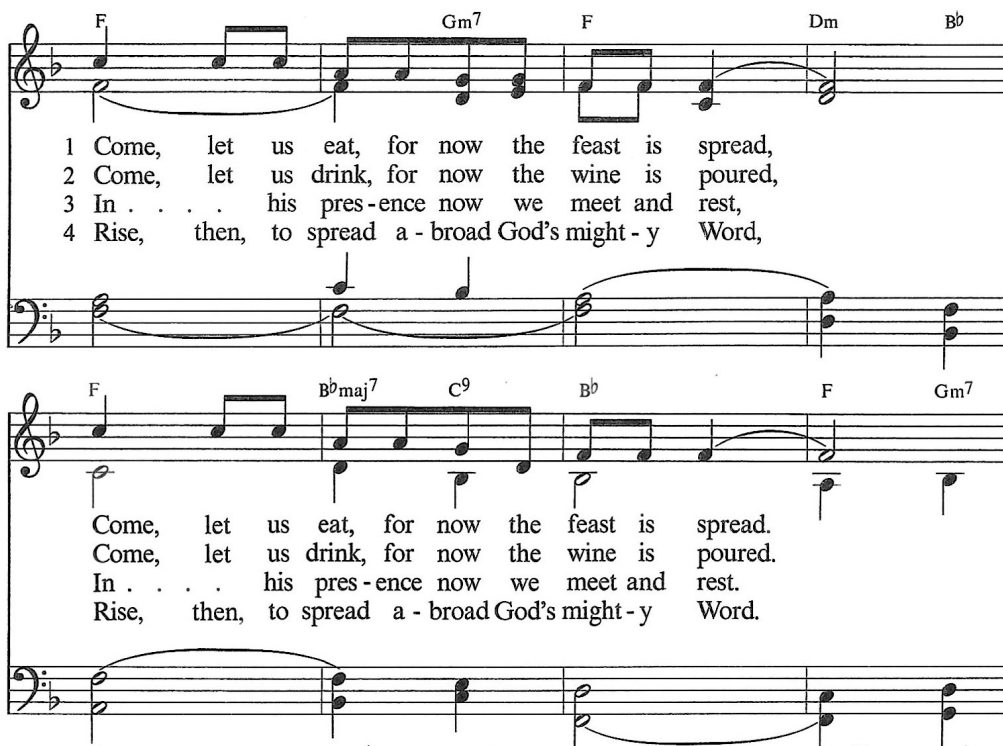


1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Hymn

Come, Let Us Eat



1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
3 In . . . his pres-ence now we meet and rest,
4 Rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y Word,

Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
In . . . his pres-ence now we meet and rest.
Rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y Word.

Our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er,
 Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er,
 In the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er,
 Je - sus ris - en will bring in the King - dom,

Our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er.
 Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er.
 In the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er.
 Je - sus ris - en will bring in the King - dom.

© Text: *Billema Kwillia*, b. c. 1925, sts. 1-3; *Gilbert E. Doan*, b. 1930, st. 4, alt.;
 tr. *Margaret D. Miller*, b. 1927, sts. 1-3, alt.
 © Tune: *Billema Kwillia*, b. c. 1925

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Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

Post-Communion Hymn

Sent Forth By God's Blessing

*Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
 the people of God from his dwelling take leave.*

*The supper is ended. Oh, now be extended
 the fruits of this service in all who believe.*

*The seed of his teaching, receptive souls reaching,
 shall blossom in action for God and for all.*

*His grace did invite us, his love shall unite us
 to work for God's kingdom and answer his call.*

Post-Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that you welcome us to your table and satisfy our deepest hunger and thirst. By your gifts of word and holy meal, strengthen us to take up the cross as we go about our callings in this world, following after Jesus the Christ, our servant Lord.

C: Amen

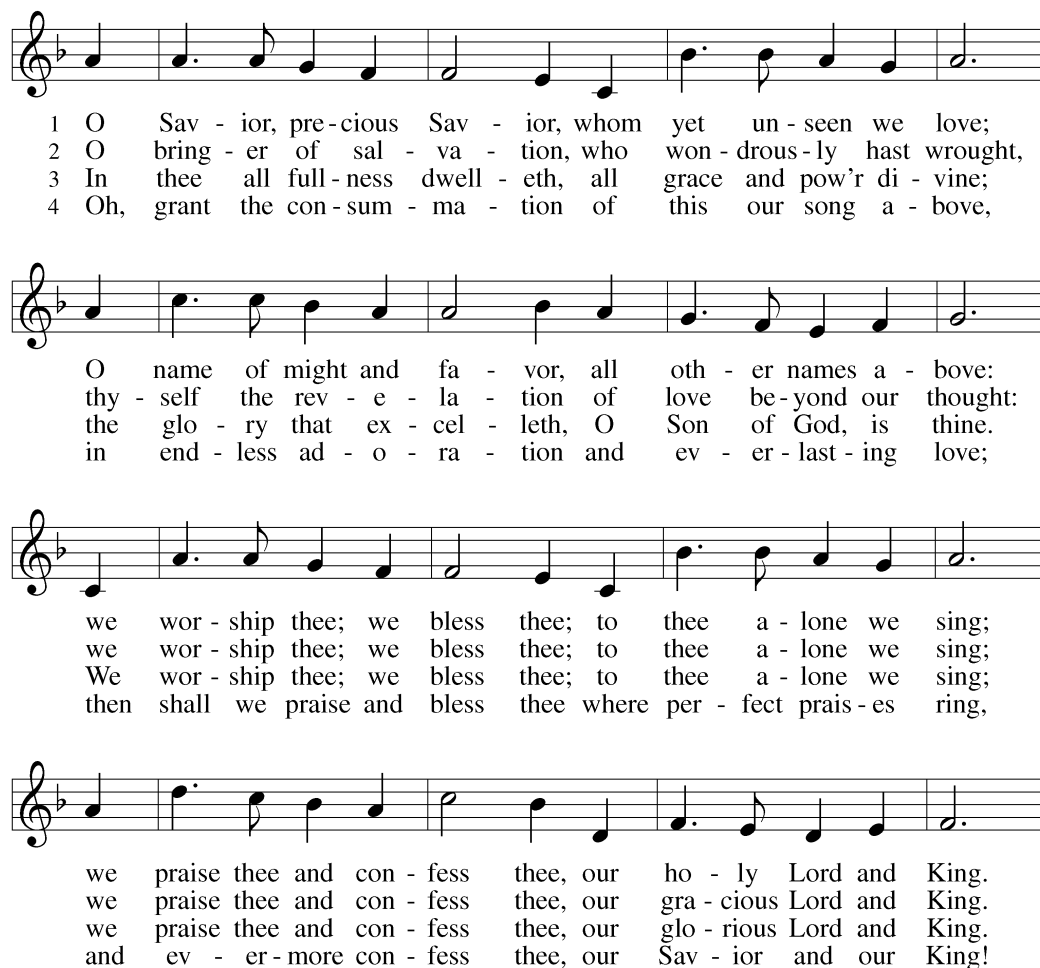
Benediction



Almighty God, Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, bless you now . . . and for - ever. A - men

Hymn

O Savior, Precious Savior



1 O Sav - ior, pre - cious Sav - ior, whom yet un - seen we love;
2 O bring - er of sal - va - tion, who won - drous - ly hast wrought,
3 In thee all full - ness dwell - eth, all grace and pow'r di - vine;
4 Oh, grant the con - sum - ma - tion of this our song a - bove,
O name of might and fa - vor, all oth - er names a - bove:
thy - self the rev - e - la - tion of love be - yond our thought:
the glo - ry that ex - cel - leth, O Son of God, is thine.
in end - less ad - o - ra - tion and ev - er - last - ing love;
we wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;
we wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;
We wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;
then shall we praise and bless thee where per - fect prais - es ring,
we praise thee and con - fess thee, our ho - ly Lord and King.
we praise thee and con - fess thee, our gra - cious Lord and King.
we praise thee and con - fess thee, our glo - rious Lord and King.
and ev - er - more con - fess thee, our Sav - ior and our King!

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879
Music: ANGEL'S STORY, Arthur H. Mann, 1850–1929

Dismissal

A: Our service now begins. Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Fughetta on *Iste Confessor*

Healey Willan

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

Sunday, August 23	8:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion
	10:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion with Livestream via YouTube
	11:45 a.m.	Junior Youth Splash Party (grades three - eight)
Monday, August 24	9:00 a.m.	Strength and Balance Exercise Class
	9:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga Class
Wednesday, August 26	12:10 p.m.	Service of Holy Communion
	7:00 p.m.	Adult Choir "Knock-off-the-Rust" Workshop
Friday, August 28	9:00 a.m.	Strength and Balance Exercise Class
	9:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga Class
Sunday, August 30	8:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion
	10:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion with Livestream via YouTube
	3:00 p.m.	A Gathering for Widows and Widowers
	5:00 p.m.	Senior Youth (grades nine - twelve)

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The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Nancy and Kim Hall
in honor of their fortieth wedding anniversary.

The candles are given to the glory of God by Nancy Childress.

Thanks to Greg Shaffer for sharing his musical talents with us today.
Organist-Choirmaster Bill Greene is on vacation.

Our appreciation to The Reverend Becky Cloud for preaching and presiding at worship today.
She is a retired United Methodist pastor who is active in the life of Holy Trinity.
Pastor Roberts is on vacation.

Our Mission: "To care actively in the name of Jesus Christ."

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
1000 Langhorne Road
Lynchburg, Virginia 24503**

Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity

President: Deb Serio
Organist-Choirmaster: J. William Greene
Parish Administrator: Ellie Quillen
Parish Nurse: Gail Midkiff

Pastor: Dennis S. Roberts
Director of Youth and Campus Ministries:
Susan H. Williams
Sextons: Linda Woody and Patricia Wiggington