



EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 19, 2026

It is an age-old question: Why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds, Jesus of Nazareth suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

Prelude

O Holy Spirit, Enter In

arr. Robert Hobby
(b.1962)

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

Entrance Hymn

O Holy Spirit, Enter In



1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, en - ter in, and in our hearts your
2 Left to our - selves, we sure - ly stray; oh, lead us on the
3 O might - y Rock, O Source of life, let your good Word in



work be - gin, and make our hearts your dwell - ing. Sun of the soul,
nar - row way, with wis - est coun - sel guide us; and give us stead -
doubt and strife be in us strong - ly burn - ing, that we be faith -

O Light di-vine, a-round and in us bright-ly shine, your strength
fast-ness, that we may fol-low you for-ev-er free, no mat-
ful un-to death and live in love and ho-ly faith, from you

in us up-well-ing. In your ra-diance life from heav-en now is
ter who de-rides us. Gent-ly heal those hearts now bro-ken; give some
true wis-dom learn-ing. Lord, your mer-cy on us show-er; by your

giv-en o-ver-flow-ing, gift of gifts be-yond all know-ing.
to-ken you are near us, whom we trust to light and cheer us.
pow-er Christ con-fess-ing, we will cher-ish all your bless-ing.

Text: Michael Schirmer, 1606–1673; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, adapt.
Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

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

(sung in unison)

Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy.

Christ, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have

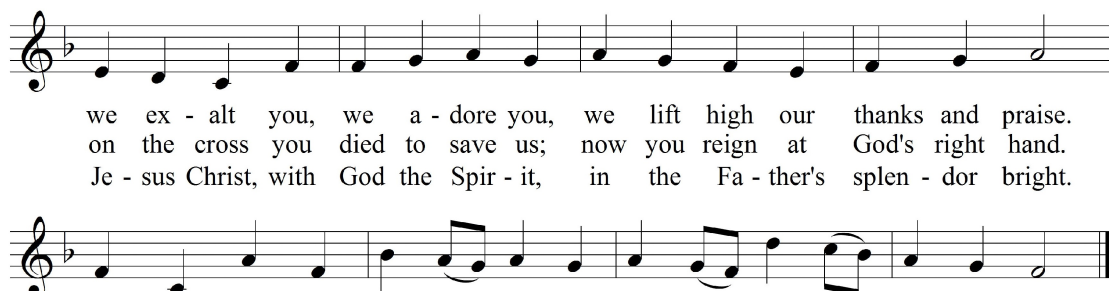
mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have

mer-cy, have mer-cy.

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;

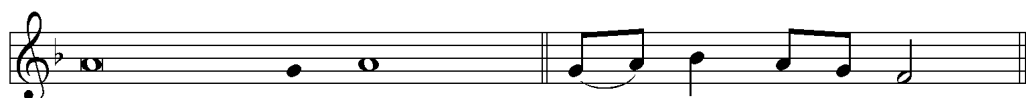
Might-y God of all cre-a-tion, Fa-ther of sur-pass-ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav-ior, you have come from heav'n a-bove;
Ho-ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



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: Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson - Isaiah 44:6–8

God claims the right to sole rule, because God announces things that actually do happen, while supposed divine opponents remain silent. God is Israel's redeemer, that is, the best brother or sister they ever had.

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.
Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

⁸Do not fear, or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 86:11–17

(sung in unison)

This psalm is a prayer to the gracious and loving Lord for mercy and guidance.

Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk¹ in your truth;*
knit my heart to you that I may¹ fear your name.
¹²**I will thank you, O LORD my God, with¹ all my heart,***
and glorify your name for-¹ evermore.

¹³For great is your | love toward me;*
 you have delivered me from the neth- | ermost pit.
¹⁴The arrogant rise up against me, O God,
 and a band of violent men | seeks my life;*
 they have not set you be- | fore their eyes.
¹⁵But you, O LORD, are gracious and full | of compassion,*
 slow to anger, and full of kind- | ness and truth.
¹⁶Turn to me and have mer- | cy upon me;*
 give your strength to your servant; and save the child | of your handmaid.
¹⁷Show me a sign of your favor,
 so that those who hate me may see it and | be ashamed;*
 because you, O LORD, have helped me and com- | forted me.

Second Lesson - Romans 8:12–25

For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.

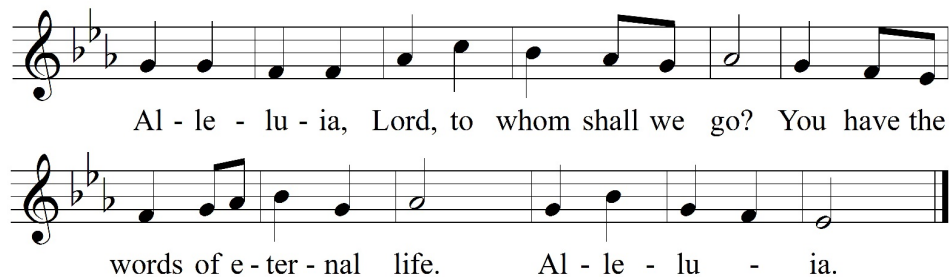
¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh — ¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ — if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

L: The word of the Lord.

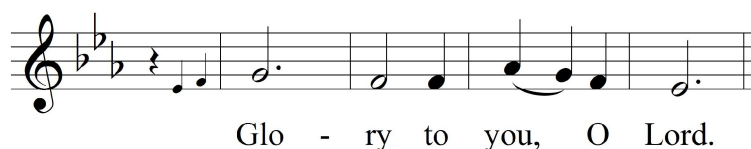
C: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia Verse



Holy Gospel - Matthew 13:24-30

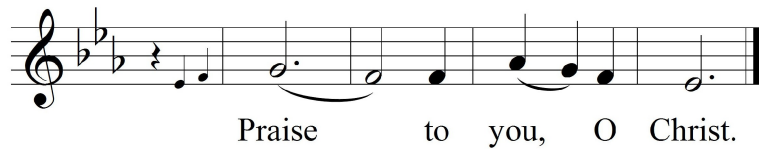
P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.



Jesus of Nazareth tells a parable about the co-existence of good and evil in this world.

²⁴Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon

Pastor Roberts

silence for reflection

Hymn of the Day

The Reign of God Like Farmer's Field

1 The reign of God, like farm - er's field, bears
 2 The reign of God is like a pearl on
 3 Though hid - den now, the reign of God may,
 4 Like mus - tard tree, the reign of God from
 5 The reign of God is come in Christ; the

weeds a - long with wheat; the good and bad are
 bar - ren land con - cealed. If once you find that
 yet un - no - ticed, grow; from deep with - in it
 ti - ny seed will spread, till birds of ev - 'ry
 reign of God is near. A - blaze a - mong us,

in - ter - twined till har - vest is com - plete.
 pre - cious pearl, go out and buy that field.
 ris - es up, like yeast in swell - ing dough.
 feath - er come to nest, and there be fed.
 kin - dling hearts, the reign of God is here!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: DUNLAP'S CREEK, Samuel McFarland, fl. 1816

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The 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: O God, in a world of wheat and weeds, you call your Church to announce the gospel of reconciliation and truth both near and far. Guide us to seek your wisdom and share it, trusting your Spirit bearing witness among us. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You brought forth all creation and called it good. Inspire policymakers to protect air, lands, and seas. Guide us to protect areas and people impacted by natural disasters and global climate change. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You desire peace among nations and peoples. Help us guard against hatred and violence, and advocate for those who live in fear. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You are gracious and merciful, comforting those who suffer any affliction. Help us sustain your people living with illness and disease, work for the release of those unjustly imprisoned, and provide shelter for those who are unhoused. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You name each of us as your children. Guide our congregation's worship ministry to proclaim your grace, our hospitality ministry to welcome all, our education ministry to equip us for faithful living, and our social ministry to live out the gospel in our community. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You send faithful people to proclaim freedom from bondage and to renew your Church. Encourage us by the witness of the faithful departed, so that we live into that same hope that sustained them. 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

O Holy Spirit, Enter In

arr. Johann Pachelbel
(1653-1706)

Offertory

Unison



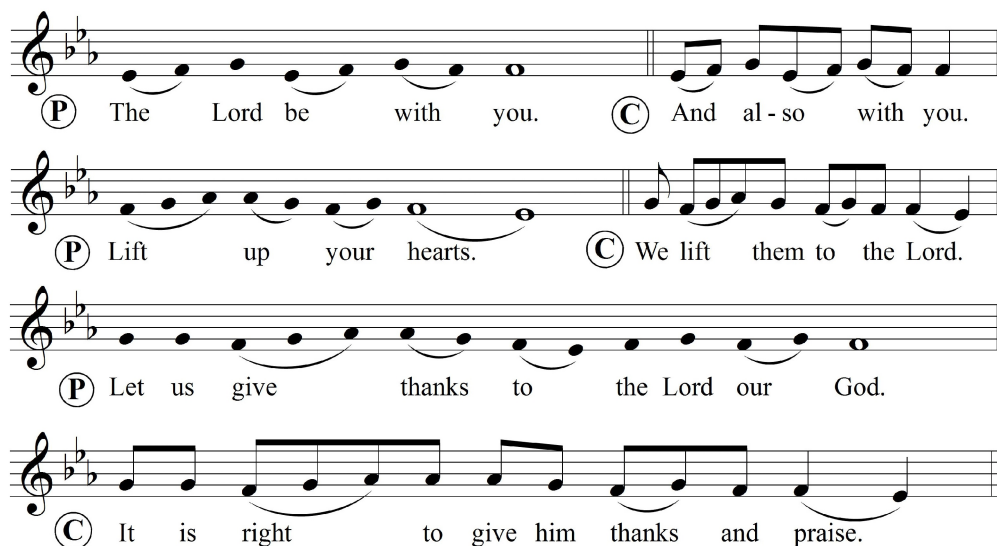
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence: and take not your Ho - ly
Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to
me the joy of your sal - va - tion:
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray. God our provider,

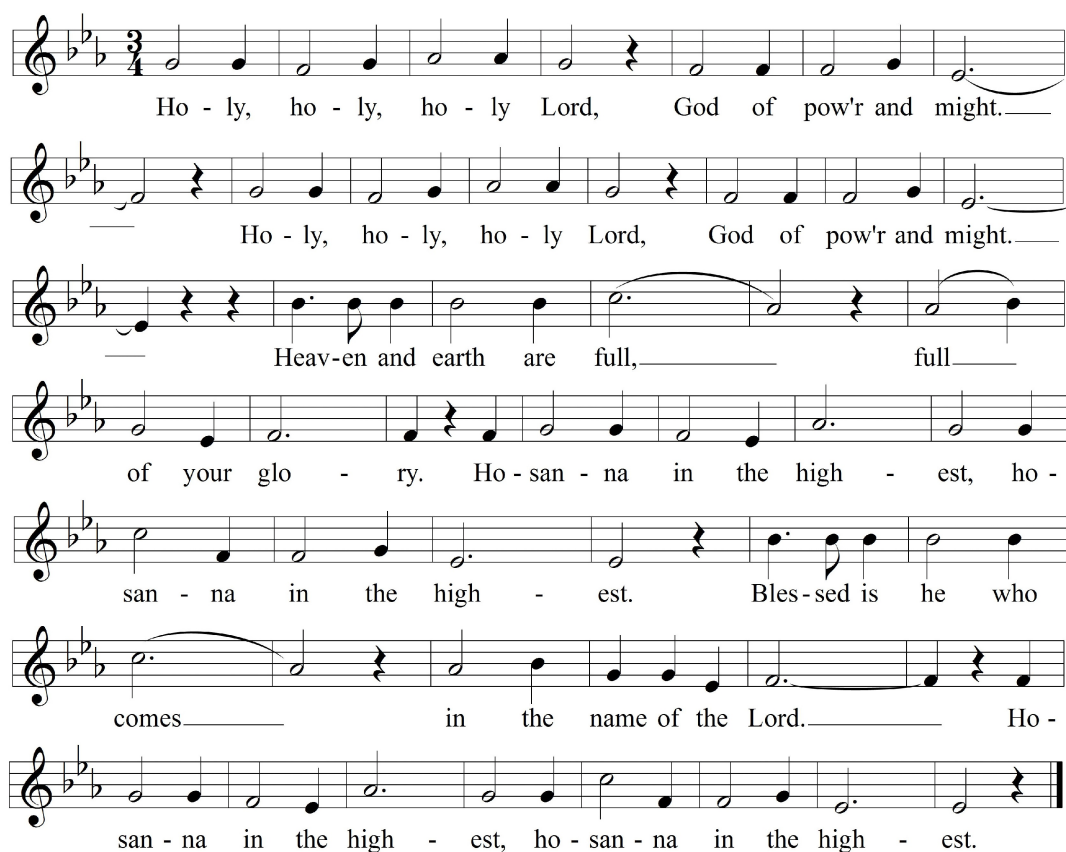
**C: you have not fed us with bread alone but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these
your gifts which we receive from your bounty; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen**

Great Thanksgiving



(P) The Lord be with you. (C) And al - so 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.

Proper Preface and Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might. —

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might. —

Heav-en and earth are full, — full —

of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -

san - na in the high - est. Bles-sed is he who

comes — in the name of the Lord. — Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

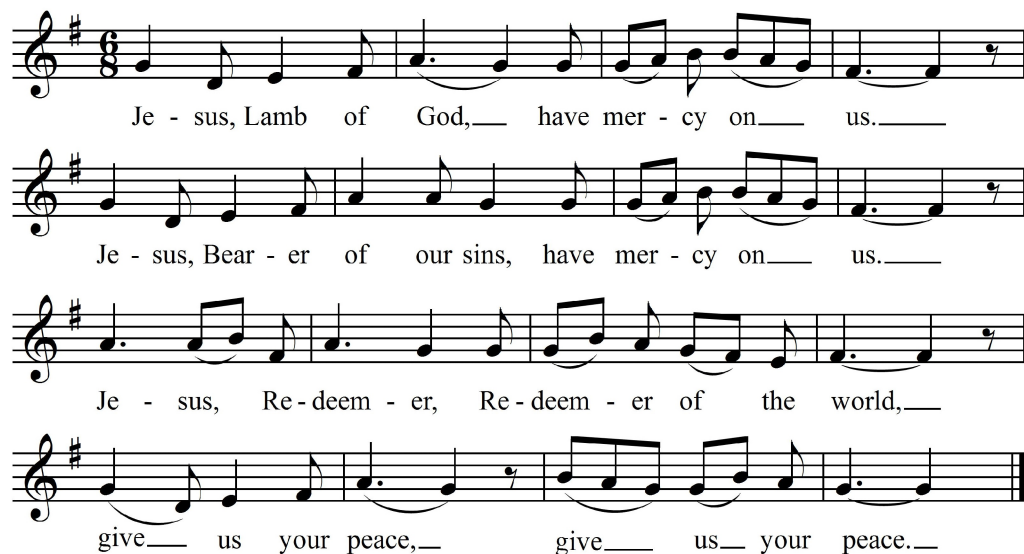
Eucharistic Prayer

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



Je - sus, Lamb of God, — have mer - cy on — us. —

Je - sus, Bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on — us. —

Je - sus, Re-deem - er, Re-deem - er of the world, —

give — us your peace, — give — us — your peace. —

Hymn

Praise and Thanksgiving



1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things
2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's
4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -



liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the
neigh - bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work
guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -
fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will



or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.
with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.
joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.
hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt.

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune

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Post -Communion Blessing

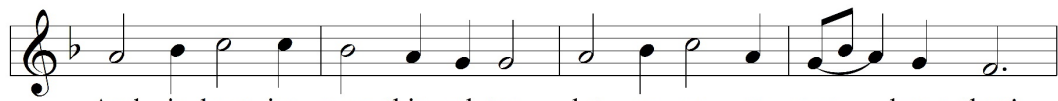
P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

Post-Communion Hymn



Come with us, O bless-ed Je-sus, with us ev - er - more to be.



And, in leav - ing now thine al - tar, let us nev - er - more leave thee!



Let thy bright ce - les - tial cho - rus nev - er cease the heav'n - ly strain;



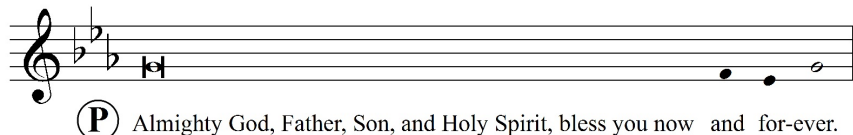
but in us, thy lov - ing chil - dren, come with peace, good will to reign.

Post-Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit, strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Benediction



Hymn

On What Has Now Been Sown



The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Mary Ann and Troy Doss
in honor Mitchell and Ginny for their birthdays.

The candles are given to the glory of God by Wilma and Les Beebe
in memory of Hilda and Clarence Beebe and Carol and Bob Selby.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY		
Sunday, July 19	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
Monday, July 20	9:00 a.m.	Strength and Balance Exercise Class
	9:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga Class
Wednesday, July 22	12:10 p.m.	Service of Holy Communion
	7:00 p.m.	Stewardship Committee
Thursday, July 23	9:00 a.m.	Parish Nurse in office (until 10:00 a.m.)
Friday, July 24	9:00 a.m.	Strength and Balance Exercise Class
	9:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga Class
Sunday, July 26	8:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion
	10:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion with Livestream via YouTube
	11:30 a.m.	Retirement Coffee Hour Reception for Carol Dee Robertson

Acolyte/Crucifer - Liam Martin
Assisting Minister - Bruce Gerlich
Lector - Barb Garman
Communion Assistant - Ellen Nygaard

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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: Carol Dee Robertson
Parish Nurse: Gail Midkiff

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

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