

Traditional Worship

September 27, 2026

Time after Pentecost

Lectionary 26

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

Partita on "O God, My Faithful God" – arr. Flor Peeters

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL *

As the bell is rung the assembly stands for the Opening Hymn.

*A * in the order of service indicates that those who are able are invited to stand.*

WELCOME *

Leader: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

Assembly: **And also with you.**

OPENING HYMN #807 *

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS *

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose mercy is new every morning.

Assembly: **Amen.**

Leader: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Leader: Merciful God,

Assembly: we confess that we have not always followed your will.

We have said “yes” with our lips

while our lives have sometimes said “no.”

We have resisted your call to repentance

and have been slow to show mercy, quick to judge,

and reluctant to change our ways.

Forgive us, Lord, when our words and actions do not agree.

Turn our hearts toward you and give us courage to live what we profess.

Make us faithful in our words, faithful in our actions,

and faithful in love toward our neighbors.

Amen.

Leader: Hear the good news:

God does not turn away anyone who comes with a sincere heart.

In Jesus Christ, God meets us with mercy, forgives our sin,

and calls us into newness of life.

By the grace of Christ, our sins are forgiven.

God strengthens us to follow Christ, to seek what is right,

and to bear the fruit of repentance in our daily lives.

Assembly: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE *

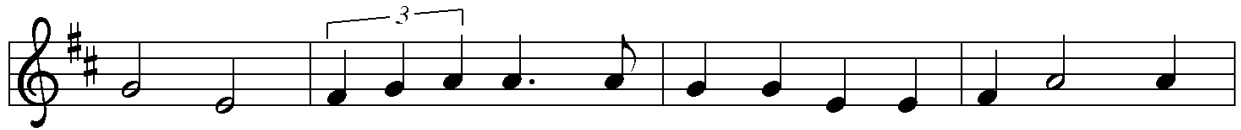
Glory to God

Refrain



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

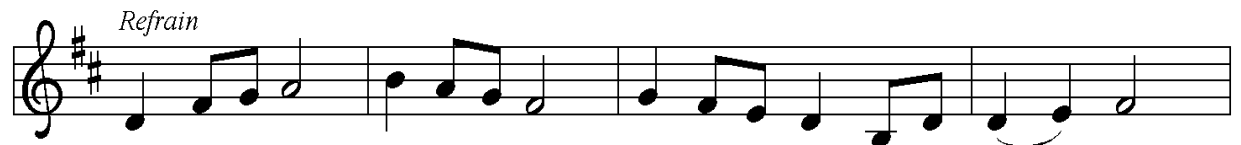
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



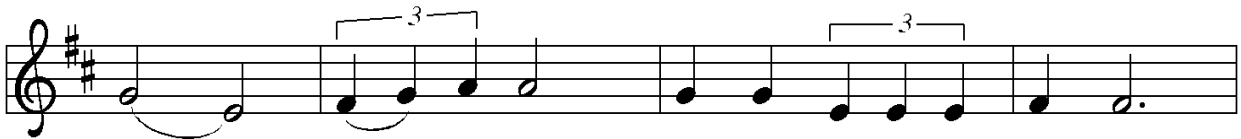
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



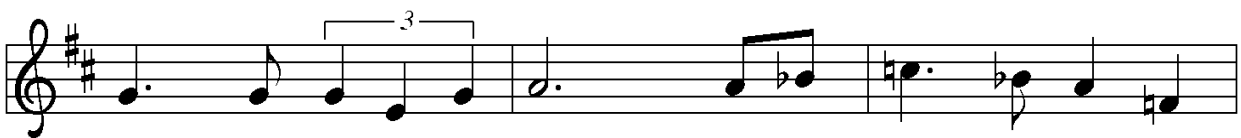
glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



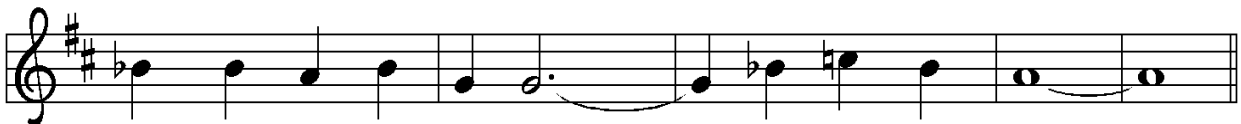
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



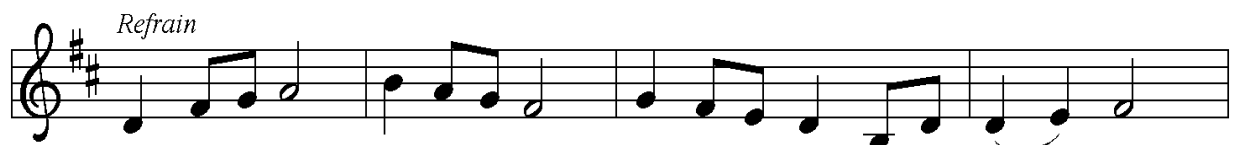
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir-it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on



earth, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY *

Leader: Let us pray.

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings.
Give us your grace to overcome them,
keep us from those things that harm us,
and guide us in the way of salvation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Assembly: Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

¹ The word of the LORD came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³ As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin.

³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 25:1-9

*The Psalm Refrain is sung by the Cantor and then the Assembly joins in the Psalm Refrain.
The Cantor sings the Psalm Verses and the Assembly joins in the Psalm Refrain as indicated.*



- ¹ To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
- ² My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- ³ Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.
- ⁴ Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths...*Refrain*
- ⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.
- ⁶ Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.
- ⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
- ⁸ You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.
- ⁹ You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way...*Refrain*

SECOND READING

Philippians 2:21-13

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

- ¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a human,
⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,
¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but
much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is
God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *



HOLY GOSPEL*

Matthew 21:23-32

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

Assembly: Glory to you, O Lord.

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him."

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY #806 *

O God, My Faithful God

APOSTLE'S CREED *

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.

PRAYERS *

The assembly responds to each petition ending in "Hear us, O God,"

Assembly: Your mercy is great.

The assembly responds to the final petition ending with "We ask this in Jesus' name."

Assembly: Amen.

PEACE *

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

Assembly: And also with you!

The assembly greets each other with "peace be with you...and also with you."

You're invited to share God's peace with those around you.

If you're worshipping on Facebook, you may also greet one another in the comments.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

In Christ's body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission.

OFFERING

Lord, Here Am I – John Ness Beck

As we respond to hearing God's Word and prepare to feast at God's table we contemplate the many ways we serve the Kingdom of God through our time, talents, and gifts.

Offering plates will be passed among the assembly by the ushers.

Gifts can also be given electronically using this QR Code.



*Master, Thou callest, I gladly obey; only direct me, and I'll find Thy way.
Teach me the mission appointed for me, what is my labor, and where it shall be.*

Master, Thou callest, and this I reply, "Ready and willing, Lord, here am I."

*Willing, my Savior, to take up the cross; willing to suffer reproaches and loss.
Willing to follow, if Thou wilt but lead; only support me with grace in my need.*

*Living, or dying, I still would be Thine; yet I am mortal while Thou art divine.
Pardon, whenever I turn from the right; pity, and bring me again to the light.*

OFFERTORY *

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

The musical score is written on six staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and melodic, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come."

GREAT THANKSGIVING *

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

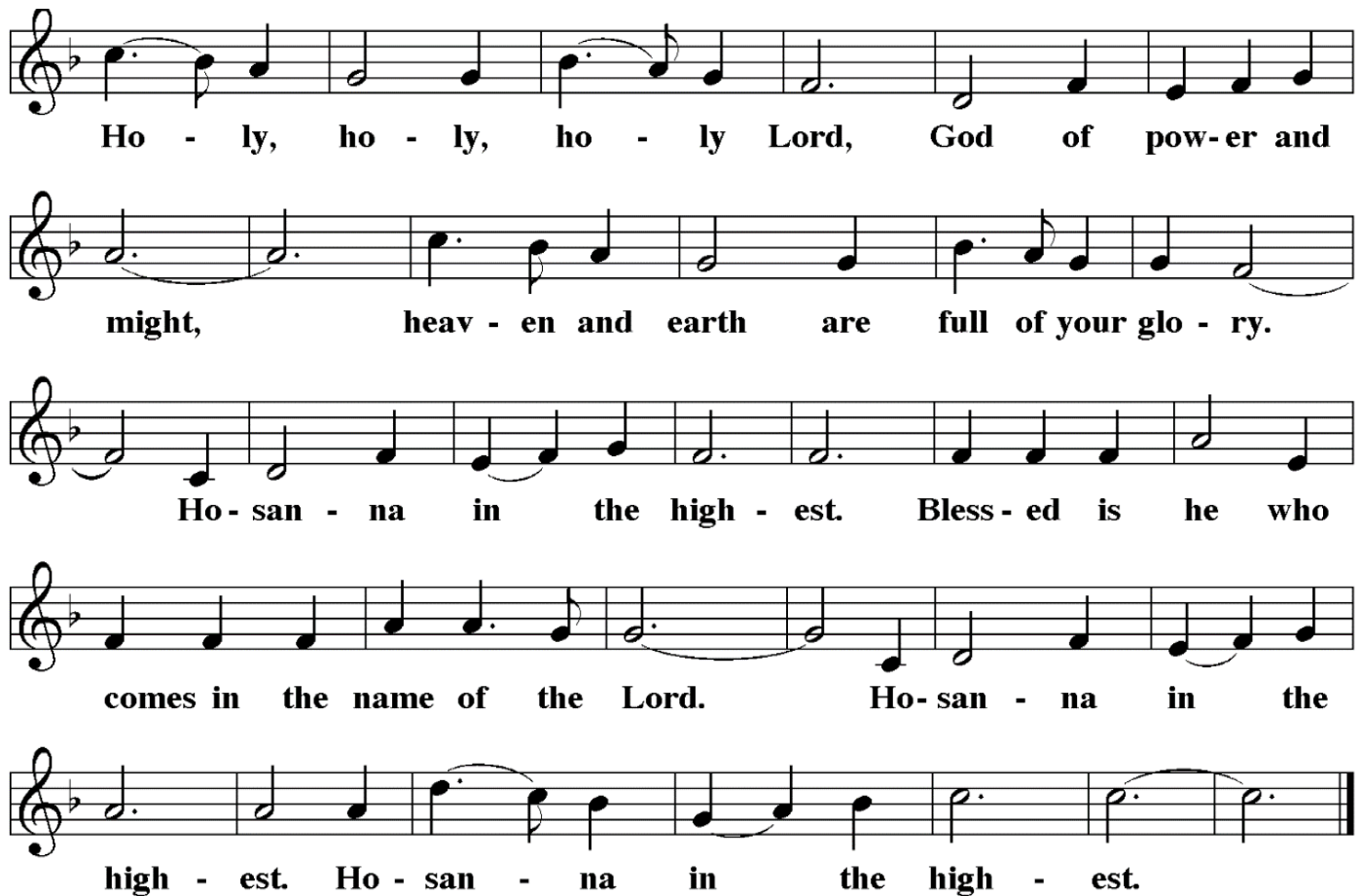
Leader: Lift up your hearts.

Assembly: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Assembly: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You call us to turn from our sinful ways and to follow you with faithful hearts.
When our words and actions fall short,
you meet us with mercy and invite us again into the life of grace.
And so, with all the saints and with the whole company of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



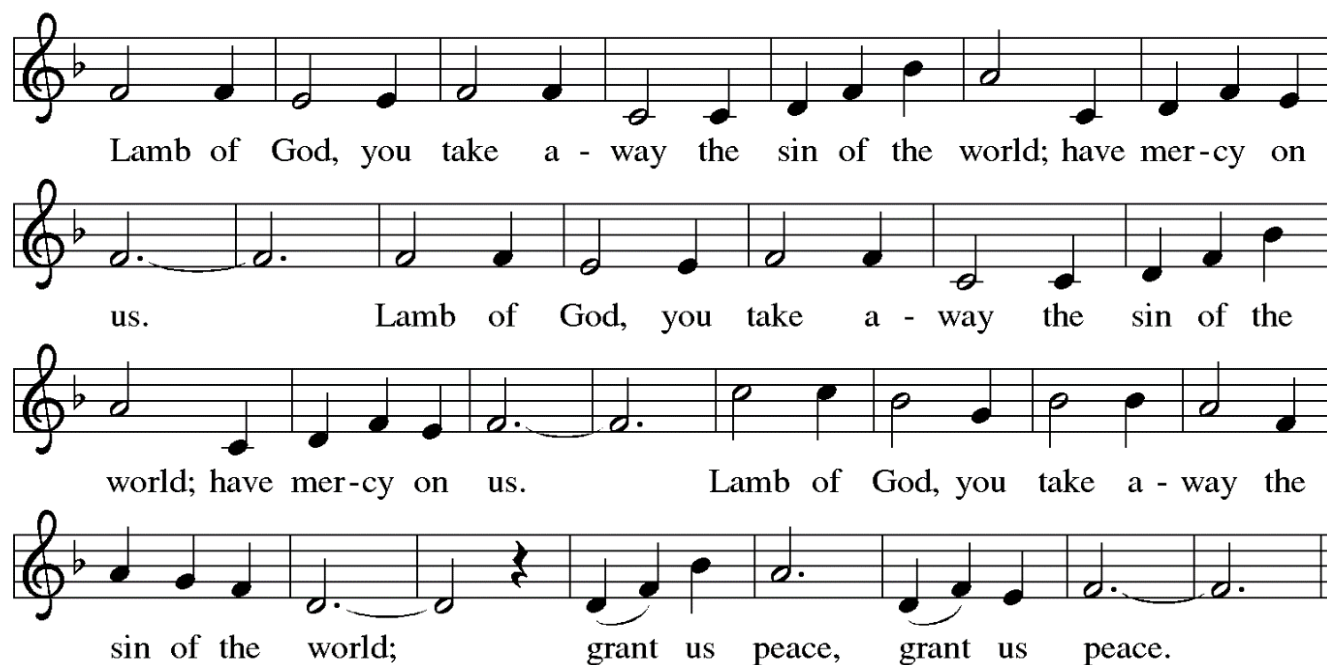
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *

LORD'S PRAYER *

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.

LAMB OF GOD *



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

HOLY COMMUNION

All those who confess Jesus as Lord and Savior are welcome to the table.

We invite you to come forward to receive the communion elements from the servers.

You will be handed a wafer from the server and are invited to select a cup of wine from the tray.

Pre-packaged elements of grape juice and gluten free wafers are available

in the baskets at the communion rail and at each entrance to the sanctuary.

You may partake of the elements at the communion rail and dispose of the cups and packaging in the baskets at the end of each communion rail or take the elements back to your pew to partake of them and dispose of the cups and packaging after the service.

"Bread from the Lord's Table" and/or a pastoral blessing are available for children who do not yet commune.

Leader: Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

As you are served communion:

Communion Server: The body of Christ, given for you.
 The blood of Christ, shed for you
Communion Receiver: Amen.

Music at Distribution – *Jesus, Still Lead On*
Organ Meditation – arr. Paul Manz
Hymn #624

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Let us pray.

Gracious God,
 you have fed us with the body and blood of Christ.
Strengthen us to live our faith through loving words and actions.
Send us forth in your grace to serve you and our neighbors;
 through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Assembly: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION & SERVICE

BLESSING *

Leader: Go now in the love of God.
 May Christ guide your steps, the Holy Spirit strengthen your hearts,
 and God's peace go with you.
 Share God's love, serve your neighbors,
 and be a blessing to all you meet.
 In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son,
 and of the Holy Spirit.

Assembly: Amen.

SENDING HYMN #810 *

O Jesus, I Have Promised

DISMISSAL *

Leader: Go in peace.
Serve the Lord and love your neighbor.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing – arr. Michael Burkhardt

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor Leslie Fox Lott, Transition Pastor

Dr. Ian McMichael, University Pastor & Executive Director of Spiritual & Religious Life
- Capital University.

Pastor Denny Asp, Associate Pastor

Dr. Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Director of Youth & Family

Ann Russell, Lector & Communion Assistant 8:00

Jane Baldwin, Lector & Communion Assistant 11:10

Chad Baker, Director of Worship & Music

Alyse Hancock-Phillips, Cantor

Jane McFadden, Chancel Choir Accompanist

FLOWER DEDICATION:

The altar flowers are given in loving memory of loved ones by Jane McFadden.

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