

Traditional Worship

October 18, 2026

Time after Pentecost

Lectionary 29

In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes.

When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

Chorale & Two Variations on ST. BRIDE – Baited, the Question Rose
- Theodore Beck & Healy Willan

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 #853 *

When Morning Gilds the Skies

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS *

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
whose mercy is everlasting and whose love endures forever.

Assembly: **Amen.**

Leader: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Silence for reflection.

Leader: Gracious and merciful God,

**Assembly: we confess that we do not always give you the honor
and trust you deserve.**

**We put our own desires before your will,
seek our own interests before the needs of our neighbors,
and hold tightly to what we have
rather than sharing your gifts generously.**

**We have failed to love you with our whole hearts
and to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

Forgive us, renew us, and turn our hearts toward you.

**Teach us to live faithfully, to serve humbly,
and to reflect your love in all that we do.**

Amen.

Leader: Hear the good news:

God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger
and abounding in steadfast love.

Through Jesus Christ, God forgives our sins, frees us from guilt,
and makes us new.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.

As we receive this gift of grace,
may we walk in the freedom of forgiveness
and share God's love with the world.

Assembly: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE *

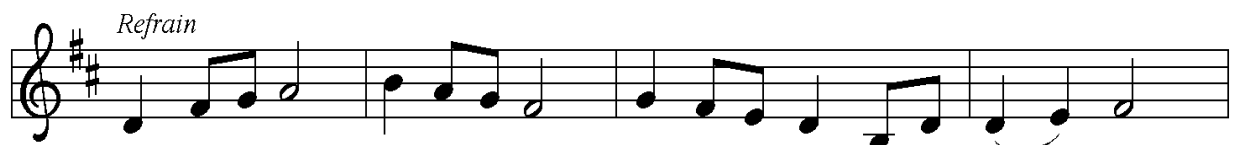
Glory to God

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.



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.

Sovereign God,
you turn the ways of the world toward your purposes
and call us to live as people of your kingdom.
Give us wisdom to discern what is yours,
courage to act with justice and compassion,
and generous hearts to serve our neighbors.
Keep us faithful in all things, that our lives may give glory to you;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Assembly: Amen.

CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM (11:10)

I'd Rather Have Jesus – arr. Joseph Martin

*Give me Jesus, give me Jesus.
You can have all this world. Give me Jesus.*

*I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold.
I'd rather be his than have riches untold.
I'd rather have Jesus than houses or lands.
I'd rather be led by his nail pierced hand...*

*Than to be the king of a vast domain, and be held in sin's dread sway.
I'd rather have Jesus than anything this world affords today.*

*He's fairer than lilies of rarest bloom.
He's sweeter than honey from out of the comb.
He's all that my hungering spirit needs.
I'd rather have Jesus and let him lead...*

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Exodus 33:12-23

Moses successfully interceded with God to accompany Israel to the promised land after their sin with the golden calf. In response to a request to display the divine glory, God recites a sentence that appears frequently in the Hebrew Scriptures: "I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious." Moses is not allowed to see God's face, but only God's back.

¹² Moses said to the LORD, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' ¹³ Now if I have found favor in your sight, please show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider, too, that this nation is your people." ¹⁴ He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." ¹⁵ And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not bring us up from here. ¹⁶ For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."

¹⁷ The LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have asked, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." ¹⁸ Moses said, "Please show me your glory." ¹⁹ And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you the name, 'The LORD,' and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. ²⁰ But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one shall see me and live."

²¹ And the LORD continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, ²² and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; ²³ then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 96:1-9

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 Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
- ² Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.
- ³ Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.
- ⁴ For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods...*Refrain*
- ⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.
- ⁶ Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.
- ⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- ⁸ Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.
- ⁹ Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth...*Refrain*

SECOND READING

I Thessalonians 1:1-10

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

- ¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.
- ² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly
- ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and
steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *



HOLY GOSPEL*

Matthew 22:15-22

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

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

Assembly: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites?
¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" ²¹ They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

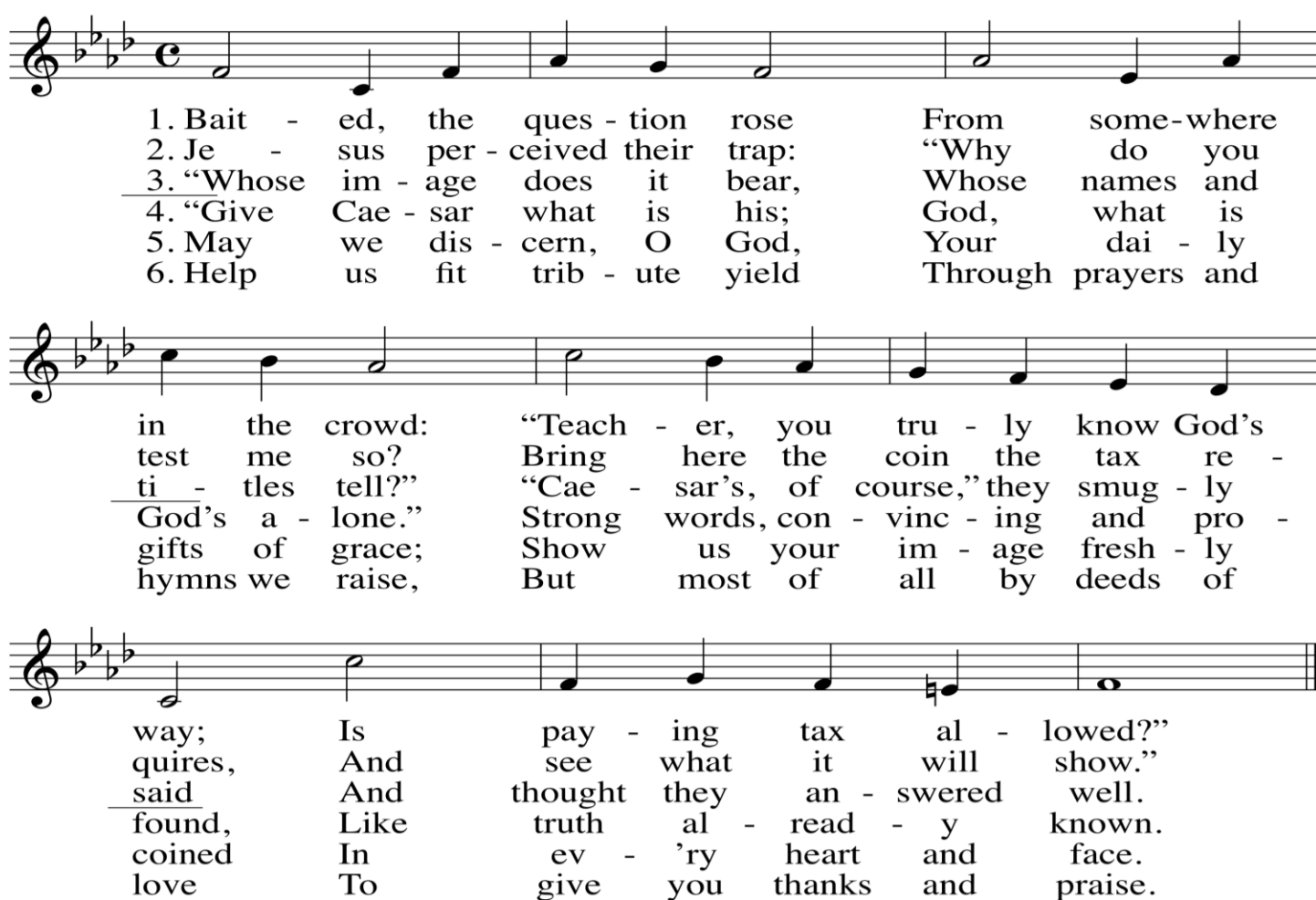
Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *

Baited, the Question Rose



1. Bait - ed, the ques - tion rose From some - where
 2. Je - sus per - ceived their trap: "Why do you
 3. "Whose im - age does it bear, Whose names and
 4. "Give Cae - sar what is his; God, what is
 5. May we dis - cern, O God, Your dai - ly
 6. Help us fit trib - ute yield Through prayers and

in the crowd: "Teach - er, you tru - ly know God's
 test me so? Bring here the coin the tax re -
 ti - tles tell?" "Cae - sar's, of course," they smug - ly
 God's a - lone." Strong words, con - vinc - ing and pro -
 gifts of grace; Show us your im - age fresh - ly
 hymns we raise, But most of all by deeds of

way; Is pay - ing tax al - lowed?"
 quires, And see what it will show."
 said And thought they an - swered well.
 found, Like truth al - read - y known.
 coined In ev - 'ry heart and face.
 love To give you thanks and praise.

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 "through Jesus Christ, our Lord."

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

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.



8:00 – *Give Me Jesus* - arr. Moses Hogan

In the morning when I rise, give me Jesus.

You may have all this world, give me Jesus.

Dark midnight was my cry...

Oh, when I come to die...

11:10 – *Air* from *English Suite* – Michael Helman

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING *

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

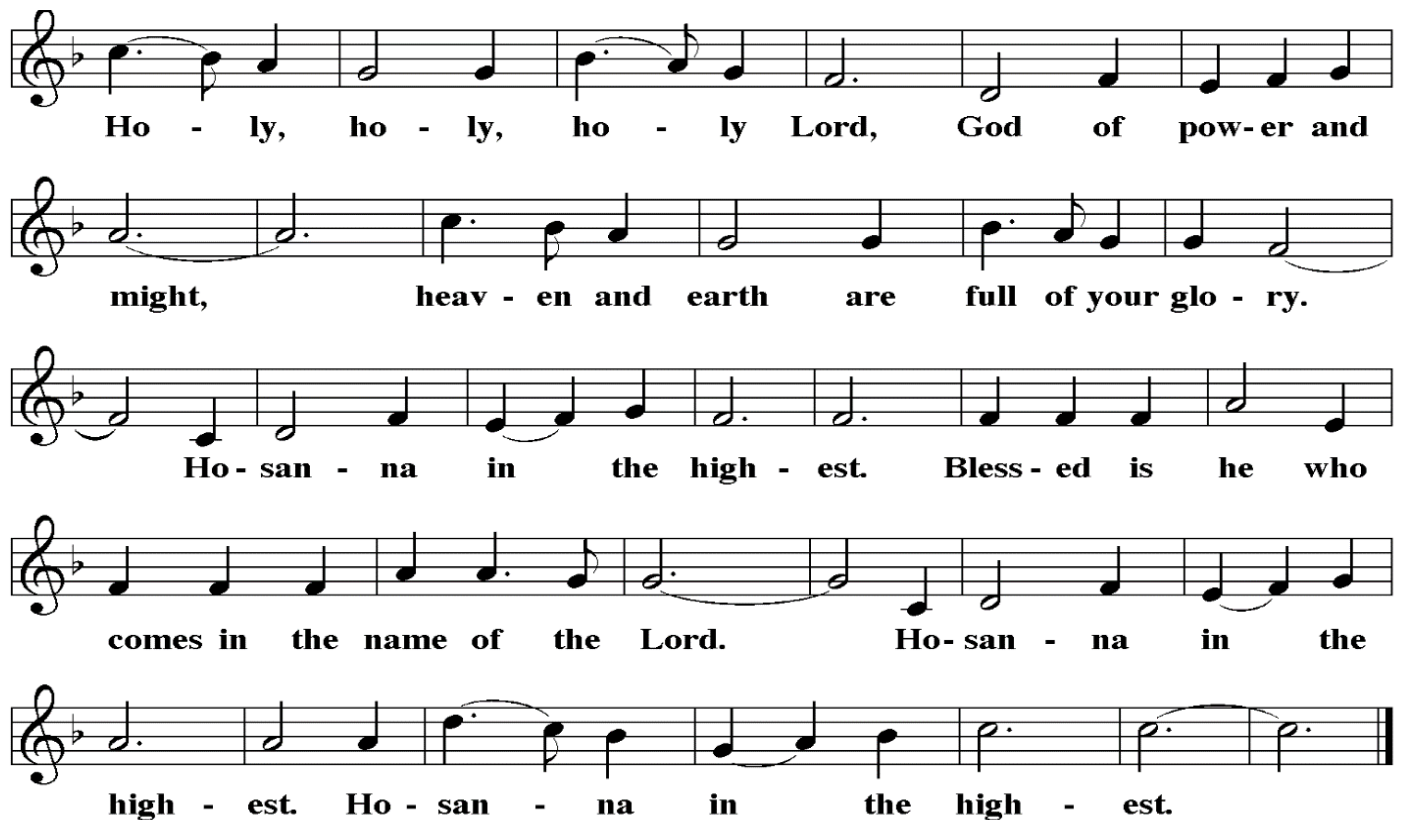
Leader: Lift up your hearts.

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 give to you what is yours:
our hearts, our lives, and our love.
In Christ, you have shown us the fullness of your grace,
freeing us from sin and drawing us into your abundant mercy.
At this table, you nourish us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
strengthening us to serve our neighbors
and to bear witness to your love in the world.
And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth
and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION *

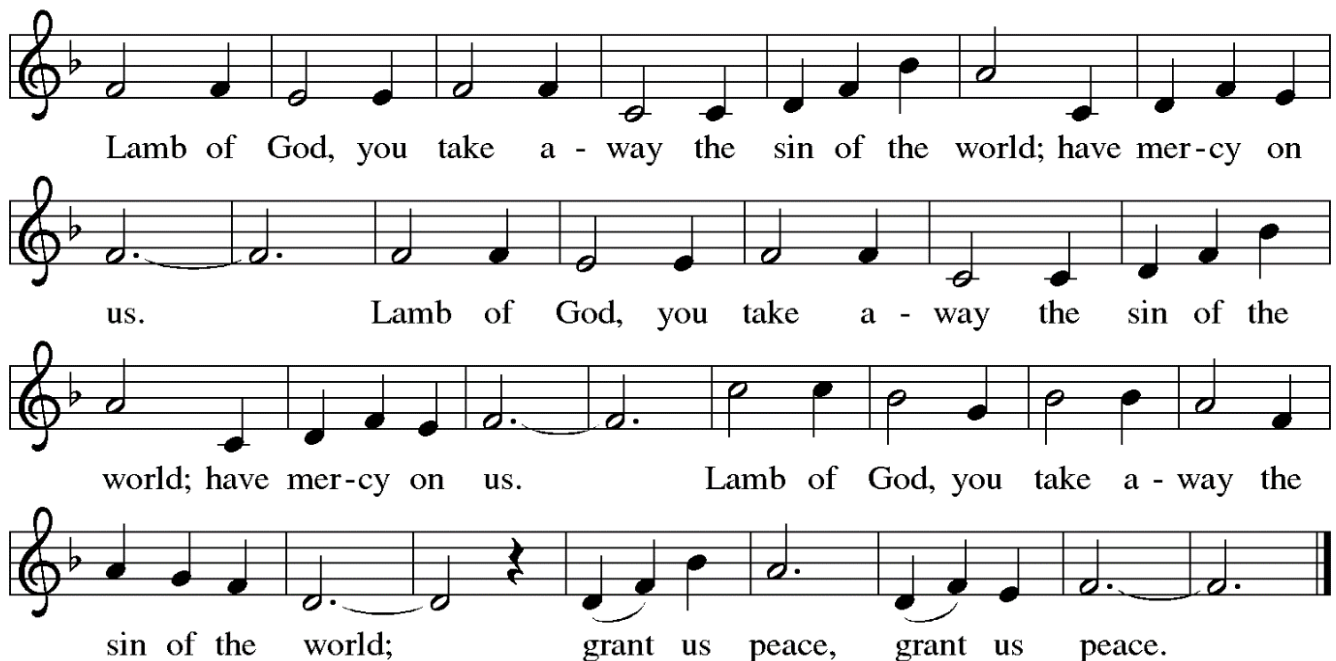
Leader: In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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 *



The musical notation is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, using quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating where a single note spans multiple syllables.

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 extends the invitation to all people to come and feast.

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:

8:00 - Mediation – *Thine the Amen* – arr. Kevin Hildebrand
Hymn #826

11:10 - Meditation – *When Morning Gilds the Skies* – arr. Karen Roth
Hymn #826 – *Thine the Amen*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Let us pray.

Gracious God,

we give you thanks for nourishing us with the body
and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through this holy meal, strengthen our faith, renew our hope,
and deepen our love for you and our neighbors.

As we go forth from this table,

help us to use the gifts you have entrusted to us with generosity,
to seek justice with courage, and to serve others with compassion.

May our lives reflect your grace and give glory to you,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Assembly: Amen.

SENDING

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

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION & SERVICE

BLESSING *

Leader: May God, the giver of every good gift,
 bless you with wisdom to discern what is right,
 courage to stand for justice, and generous hearts to share God's love.
May Jesus Christ, who calls us to give to God what belongs to God,
 guide your choices, shape your service,
 and remind you that your whole life rests in God's gracious hands.
May the Holy Spirit strengthen you to love your neighbors,
 serve with compassion,
 and bear witness to God's goodness wherever you go.
Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and always.

Assembly: **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN #705 *

God of Grace and God of Glory

DISMISSAL *

Leader: Go in peace.
 Give your lives to God in faith, serve your neighbors in love,
 and let your actions proclaim God's grace.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *

Improvisation on CWM RHONDDA – arr. Paul Manz

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SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor Leslie Fox Lott, Transition Pastor
Pastor Denny Asp, Associate Pastor
Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Director of Youth & Family
Susan Quintenz, Lector & Communion Assistant 8:00
Carolyn Martin, Lector & Communion Assistant 11:10
Chad Baker, Director of Worship & Music
Ruth Peart, Cantor
Jane McFadden, Chancel Choir Accompanist

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FLOWER DEDICATION:

*The altar flowers are given in memory of our parents,
Joe & Joan Fritz, Orlan Kopp, and Pastor Tom & Mary Ann Wolfe,
by Brad and Judy Kopp.*

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