

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Chester, Vermont
The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
August 24, 2025




Musical prelude selected and played by Karlaine Livingston

*Following the prelude, the bell is rung ten times, summoning all within range to come join us for worship.
Then a moment of silence is observed.*

Entrance Hymn 304, *The Hymnal* 1982

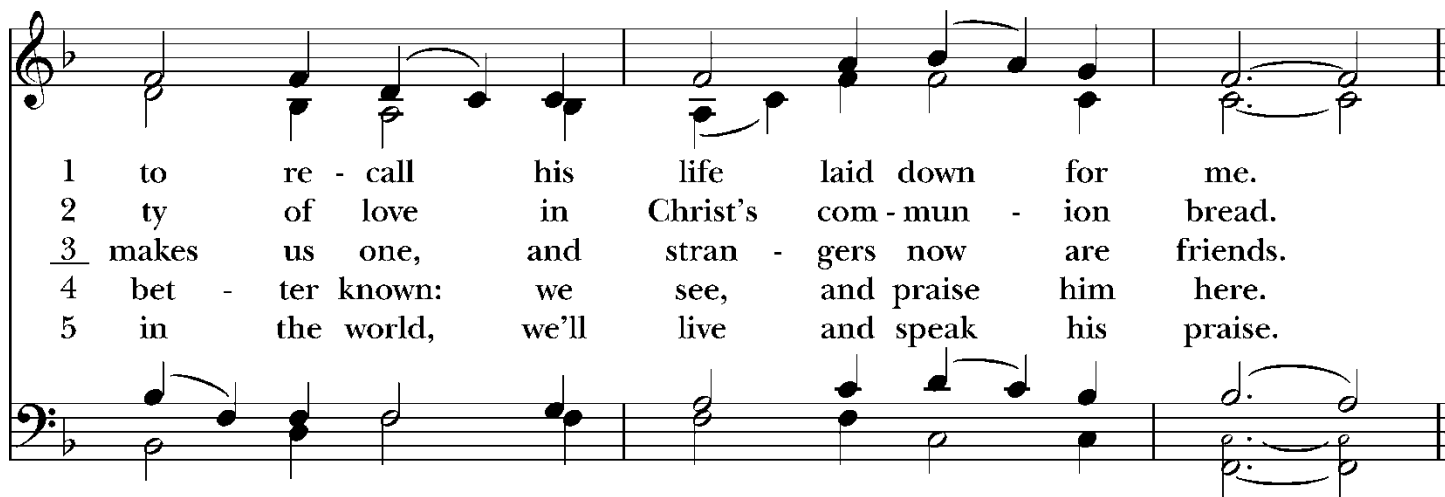
Unison or harmony



1 I come with joy to meet my Lord, for -
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to
3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each
4 And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, we'll



1 giv - en, loved, and free, in awe and won - der
2 find, as all are fed, the new com - mu - ni -
3 proud di - vi - sion ends. That love that made us
4 pres - ence, al - ways near, is in such friend - ship
5 go our dif - ferent ways, and as his peo - ple



1 to re - call his life laid down for me.
2 ty of love in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.
3 makes us one, and stran - gers now are friends.
4 bet - ter known: we see, and praise him here.
5 in the world, we'll live and speak his praise.

Presider Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People Glory to God for ever and ever.

Presider Let us pray.

Presider and people

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Song of Praise S-280 *The Hymnal 1982 Service Music*

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and

peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly

King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we

give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus

Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you

take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy



on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -



ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,



you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most



High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the



glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Presider God be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

Collect for the Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Presider and people

Living God, you formed us in the womb and appointed us to be prophets to the nations. Stretch out your hand to cure our infirmity and dispel our fear, that we may know the freedom of serving you in Christ and proclaim the wonders you have done. Amen. (*Revised Common Lectionary Prayers*)

The First Reading Jeremiah 1:4-10

Reader A reading from Jeremiah.

4 Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, 5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." 6 Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." 7 But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. 8 Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD." 9 Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. 10 See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 71:1-6

1 In you, O God, have I taken refuge; * let me never be ashamed.

2 In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; *
incline your ear to me and save me.

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; *
you are my crag and my stronghold.

4 Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, *
from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.

5 For you are my hope, O God, *my confidence since I was young.

6 I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother's womb you have been my strength; *my praise shall be always of you.

The Second Reading – Hebrews 12:18-29

Reader A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

¹⁸You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, ¹⁹and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. ²⁰(For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an

animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death." ²¹Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") ²²But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

²⁵See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! ²⁶At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." ²⁷This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken — that is, created things — so that what cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; ²⁹for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn 522 *The Hymnal 1982*

Descant

4 Blest in - hab - it - ants of Zi - on, washed in the Re -

1 Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, ci - ty

2 See! the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e -

3 Round each ha - bi - ta - tion hov - ering, see the cloud and

4 Blest in - hab - it - ants of Zi - on, washed in the Re -

deem - er's blood! Whom their souls re -

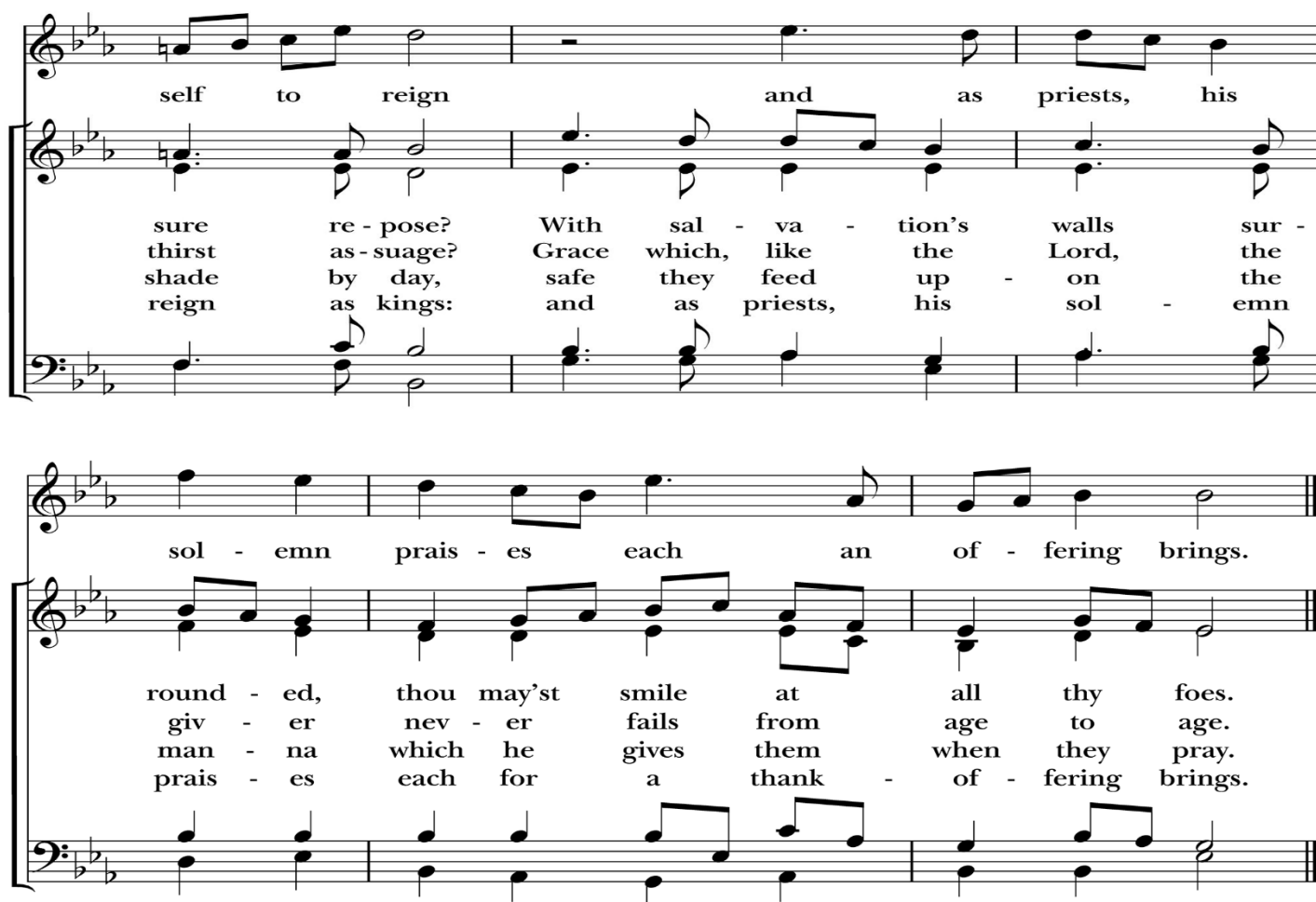
of our God; he whose word can - not be
 ter - nal love, well sup - ply thy sons and
 fire ap - pear for a glo - ry and
 deem - er's blood! Je - sus, whom their souls re -

ly on, makes them kings and priests to God.

bro - ken formed thee for his own a - bode;
 daugh - ters and all fear of want re - move.
 cov - ering, show - ing that the Lord is near.
 ly on, makes them kings and priests to God.

'Tis his love his peo - ple raise o - ver

on the Rock of A - ges found - ed, what can shake thy
 Who can faint, when such a riv - er ev - er will their
 Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner, light by night, and
 'Tis his love his peo - ple rais - es o - ver self to



self to reign and as priests, his
sure thirst shade reign re - pose? as - suage? by day, as kings: With Grace safe and sal - va - tion's walls Lord, sur - the the emn
sol - emn prais - es each an of - fering brings.
round - ed, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
giv - er nev - er fails from age to age.
man - na which he gives them when they pray.
prais - es each for a thank - of - fering brings.

Words: John Newton (1725-1807), alt. Music: *Austria*, Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1807); desc. Michael Y. Young, (b. 1939).
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The Holy Gospel – Luke 13:10-17

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory to you, O Christ.

10 Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. 11 And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. 12 When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." 13 When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. 14 But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." 15 But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? 16 And ought not this woman, a daughter of

Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?" 17 When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon *Rev. Dr. Bruce L. MacDuffie*

Nicene Creed Presider and people

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Deacon or presider

Hearing the word of Christ, who sets us free from our ailments, let us pray for all who suffer and hurt.

Intercessor

For this holy gathering, for the people of God in every place, and for all who seek the Lord.

Kyrie eleison.

For justice and righteousness among all peoples.

Kyrie eleison.

For students and teachers, and all those returning to their studies.

Kyrie eleison.

For abundant fruits of the earth, and for safety from violent storms.

Kyrie eleison.

For the hungry and the afflicted, travelers and those on vacation, prisoners, captives, and their families, and all those in danger and need.

Kyrie eleison.

For our city and those who live in it, and for our families, companions, and all those we love.

Kyrie eleison.

For those who rest in Christ and for all the dead.

Kyrie eleison.

Lifting our voices with all creation, with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

To you, O Gracious God.

Presider

God our consuming fire, hear the prayers we offer this day and continue the wonderful things that you have always done; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Confession of Sin

Presider Let us confess our sins to God. *Silence may be kept.*

Minister and People God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Absolution Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

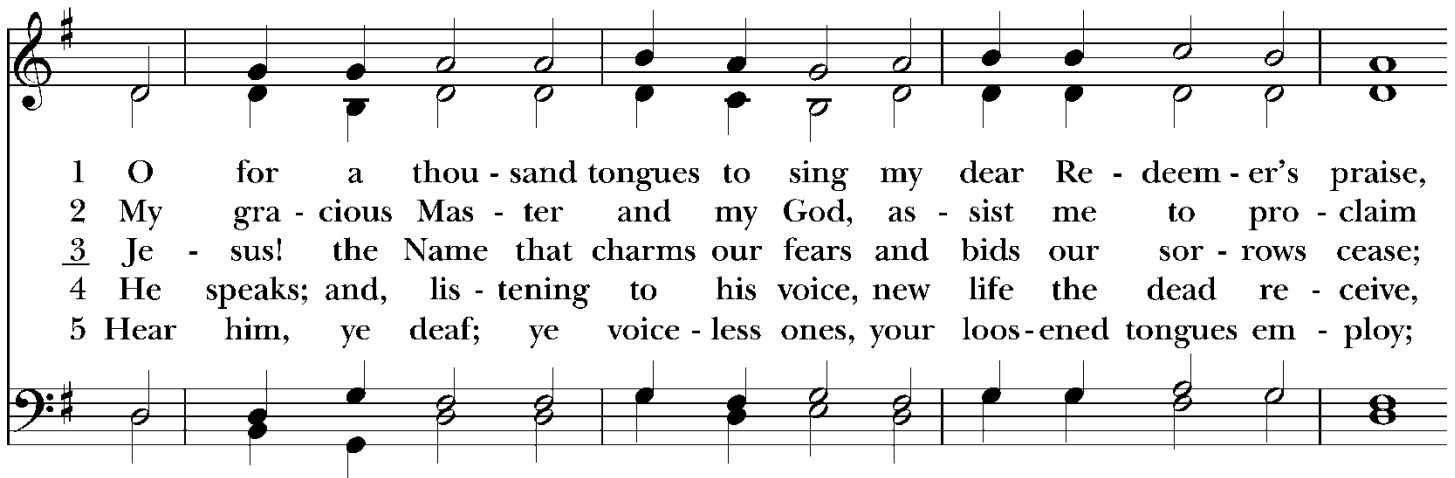
The Peace *Presider* The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

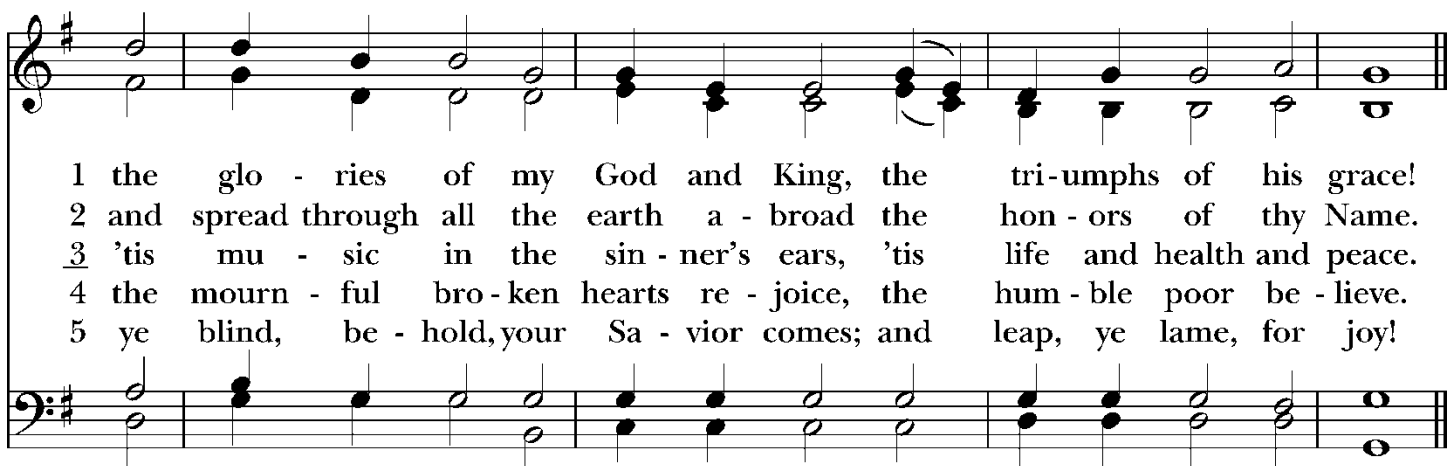
Offertory Sentence

"Let us give thanks, by which we offer to God and acceptable worship with reverence and awe. (Hebrews).

Offertory Hymn 493 *The Hymnal 1982*



1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my dear Re - deem - er's praise,
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim
3 Je - sus! the Name that charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease;
4 He speaks; and, lis - tening to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive,
5 Hear him, ye deaf; ye voice - less ones, your loos - ened tongues em - ploy;



1 the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace!
2 and spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy Name.
3 'tis mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
4 the mourn - ful bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.
5 ye blind, be - hold, your Sa - vior comes; and leap, ye lame, for joy!

6 Glory to God and praise and love
be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above,
the Church in earth and heaven.

Presentation of the offering "*The Doxology*", vs. 3, #380 *Hymnal 1982*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Eucharistic Prayer 3

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presider All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places,
our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word,
the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things.

You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out
from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave
breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you
create is a sign of hope for our journey; through Jesus Christ our Lord; For
you, O Father, are the source of light and life; you made us in your image,
and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. And so as the stars sing
your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with
joy:

(S -125 Service Music, The Hymnal 1982)

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second staff has a long note for 'Ho -' at the end. The third staff ends with a double bar line. The fourth staff has a long note for 'Ho -' at the end. The fifth staff ends with a double bar line.

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

The people stand or kneel.

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent;

you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise.

Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,

you have freed us from sin,

brought us into your life,

reconciled us to you,

and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said:

"Drink this, all of you:

this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood,

poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us:

the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension,

longing for Christ's coming in glory,

and presenting to you these gifts

your earth has formed and human hands have made,

we acclaim you, O Christ:

Presider and people

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us

and upon these gifts of bread and wine

that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ.

Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power,

may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with blessed Luke, the patron of this congregation, and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
we worship you our God and Creator
in voices of unending praise.

Blessed are you now and for ever. Amen.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us we are bold to say,

Presider and people

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, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

S-164 Service Music, *The Hymnal 1982*

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

The first line of musical notation is for a hymn in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a treble and bass staff. The melody is in the treble staff, starting on G4, moving to A4, B4, and then a half note G4. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines. The lyrics 'Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.' are written below the notes.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

The second line of musical notation continues the hymn. It follows the same musical structure as the first line, with a treble and bass staff. The melody continues from the previous line. The lyrics 'Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.' are written below the notes.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:
give us your peace, give us your peace.

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major (one sharp). The first system covers the lyrics 'Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:'. The second system covers 'give us your peace, give us your peace.' The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests and a final double bar line at the end of the second system.

Presider The Holy Gifts of God for the Holy People of God.

This is the table, not of the Church but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love God and who want to love God more. So come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time or ever before, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. It is Christ who invites you to be known and fed here. All are welcome to receive communion. (Special COVID precautions may be voiced here.)

1 Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
 2 Should my tears for ev - er flow, should my zeal no lan - guor know,
 3 While I draw this fleet-ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,

let the wa - ter and the blood from thy wound - ed side that flowed,
 all for sin could not a - tone: thou must save, and thou a - lone;
 when I rise to worlds un - known and be - hold thee on thy throne,

be of sin the dou - ble cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.
 in my hand no price I bring, sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
 Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Post-communion Prayer

Presider Let us pray.

Presider and People

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Closing Hymn 567 *The Hymnal 1982*

1 Thine arm, O Lord, in days of old was strong to
 2 And lo! thy touch brought life and health, gave hear - ing,
 3 Be thou our great de - liv - erer still, thou Lord of

heal and save; it tri - umphed o'er dis - ease and death,
 strength, and sight; and youth re - newed and fren - zy calmed
 life and death; re - store and quick - en, soothe and bless,

o'er dark - ness and the grave. To thee they went, the
 owned thee, the Lord of light: and now, O Lord, be
 with thine al - might - y breath: to hands that work and

blind, the deaf, the pal - sied, and the lame, the lep - er
 near to bless, al - might - y as of yore, in crowd - ed
 eyes that see, give wis - dom's heaven - ly lore, that whole and

set a - part and shunned, the sick with fe - vered frame.
 street, by rest - less couch, as by Gen - nes - aret's shore.
 sick, and weak and strong, may praise thee ev - er - more.

Closing Blessing

May the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah, and of Jesus Christ born of our sister Mary, and of the Holy Spirit, who broods over the world as a mother over her children, be upon you and remain with you always. The Lord God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the holy and undivided Trinity, guard you, save you, and bring you to that heavenly City, where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Postlude Selected and played by Karlaine Livingston

Announcements

Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

PLEASE!! Take this service leaflet with you. Read the scriptures again. Learn a hymn or two. Use the prayers of the people all this coming week. Blessings!

Preparing for Sunday. Next Sunday, August 10, the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prepare to more fully participate in worship by carefully reading the scripture lessons for next Sunday. Try reading them aloud even if to yourself. Write down or record what thoughts or questions come to you and send Fr. Bruce an email about them. At a personal level, I, Bruce, will try to respond, as will others, and we can get a conversation going. The scripture lessons for next Sunday include: Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 50:1-2. 8-18; Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Stuffing backpacks: Today, under the direction of Marcia Clinton, during coffee hour we stuff back packs with school supplies, readying them to students in need.

AFTER COFFEE AND BACK PACK STUFFING, THE READING GROUP CONTINUES TO SHARE AND LEARN FROM JULIAN OF NORWICH.

Worship Schedule

August 17 The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost Holy Eucharist

10-11:15 AM Reading group after coffee hour

August 20 Wednesday The Midweek Eucharist

5:30-6:00 P.M. Commemorating Bernard of Clairvaux pizza provided after Eucharist and before Vestry

August 24 The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Eucharist 10-11:15 AM Reading group
August 27 Midweek Eucharist 5:30-6:00 PM
Commemorating Thomas Gallaudet and Henry Winter Syle
August 31 The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost Holy Eucharist
10-11:15 AM Reading group after coffee hour

Other Events

Wednesday, August 20 Vestry Meeting 6:30-?
Thursday, August 21 Croquet match 6:00 -7:30 PM with supper snack and refreshments
Thursday August 28 Croquet Match 6:00 – 7:30 PM with pizza or burgers and Other refreshments