

The Feast of the Holy Cross

& Papua New Guinea Companionship Celebration

ELW Holy Communion Setting One

September 14 & 15, 2024

10:30 AM



*Altar crucifix, from Bethel Town
Congregation, West New Britain,
Papua New Guinea*

Our Saviour Lutheran Church

www.oslc-warrenton.org

GATHERING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The presiding minister leads the prayer of preparation.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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 Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

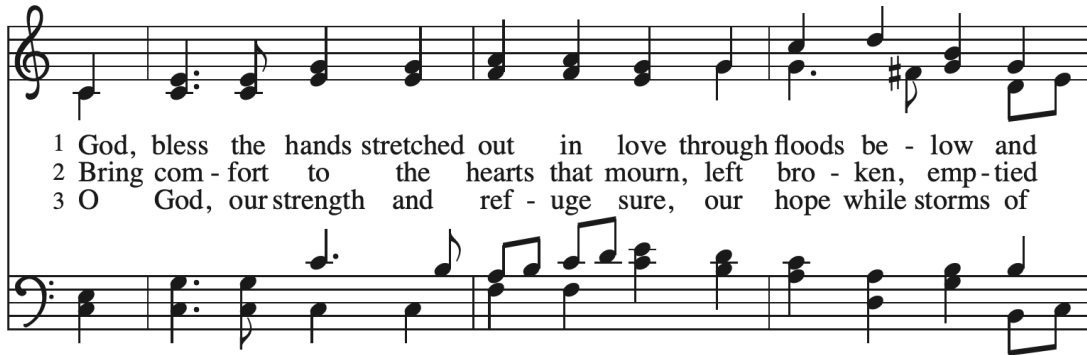
Amen.

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 a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

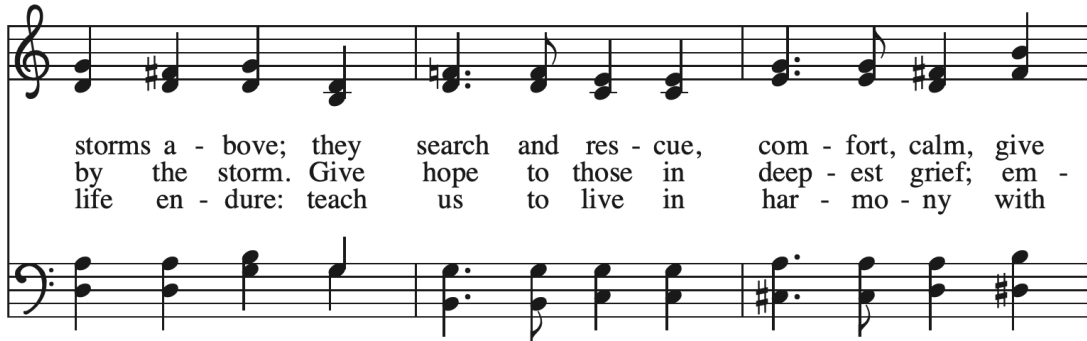
Amen.

The assembly stands.

The service continues with gathering song.



1 God, bless the hands stretched out in love through floods be - low and
 2 Bring com - fort to the hearts that mourn, left bro - ken, emp - tied
 3 O God, our strength and ref - uge sure, our hope while storms of



storms a - bove; they search and res - cue, com - fort, calm, give
 by the storm. Give hope to those in deep - est grief; em -
 life en - dure: teach us to live in har - mo - ny with



shel - ter, of - fer heal - ing balm. Oh, guard them by your
 pow - er us to bring re - lief. To you, O God, we
 earth and riv - er, sky and sea, pre - serv - ing wa - ters,



stead - fast hand; reach out in love to help us stand.
 raise our hands. Save us, we pray, from sink - ing sands.
 air, and lands as ho - ly work for hu - man hands.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876
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GREETING

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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

And also with you.

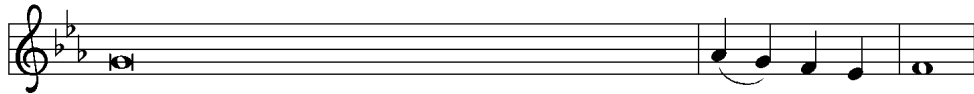
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



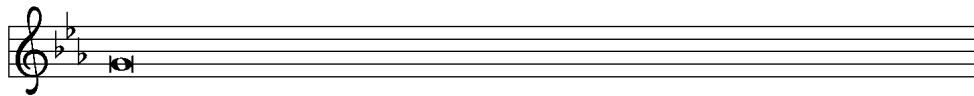
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



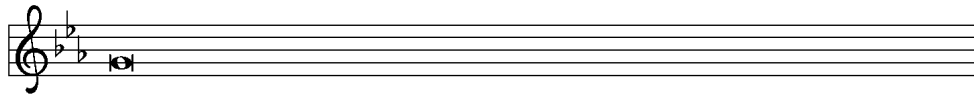
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



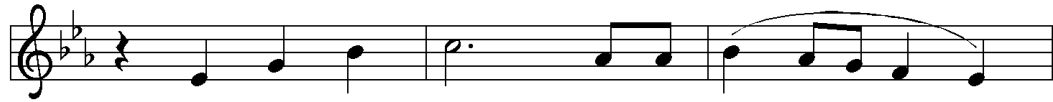
Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

based on the Gloria in Excelsis



Glo - ry to God in the high -



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



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. 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.



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



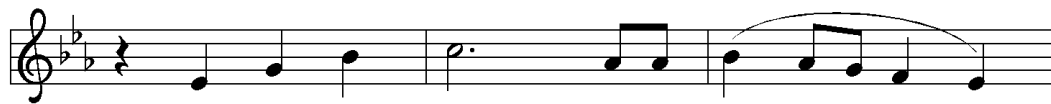
lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,



Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of



God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo - ry to God in the high -



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Children come forward as we sing:

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine**

WORD

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

FIRST READING: NUMBERS 21:4B-9

A reading from the book of Numbers.

From Mount Horeb the Israelites set out,] ^{4b}but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.”

⁶Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died.

⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.”

So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.”

⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 98:1-4

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done ¹ marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have ¹ won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made ¹ known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight ¹ of the nations. R**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the ¹ house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory ¹ of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, ¹ all you lands;
lift up your voice, re- ¹ joice, and sing. R**

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-25

A reading from the book of First Corinthians

[*Paul writes,*]

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

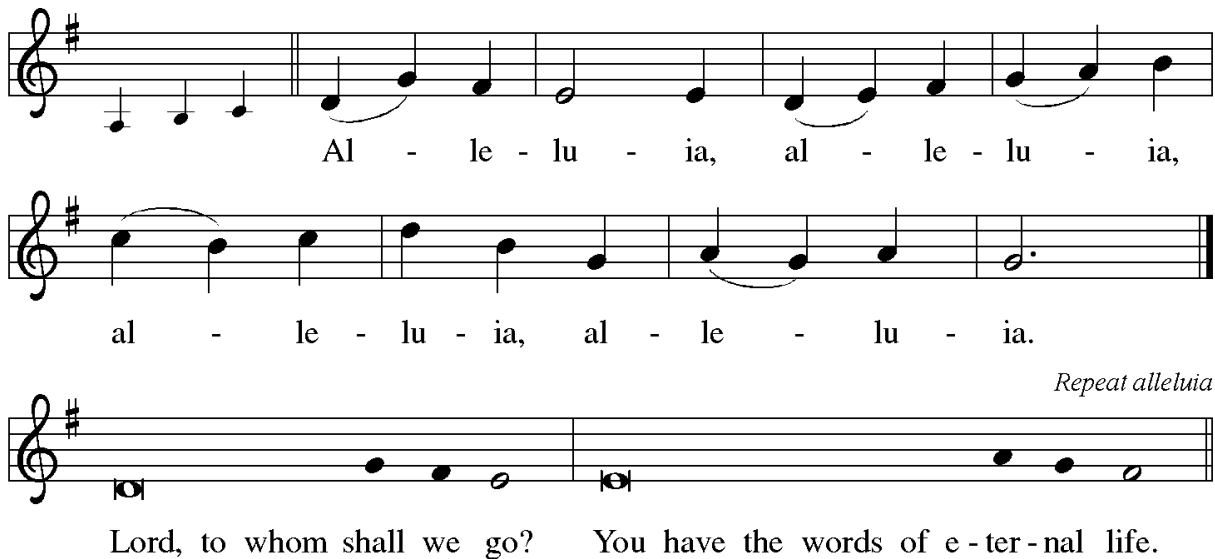
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

based on John 6:6

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL: John 3:13-17

The holy gospel according to Saint John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[*Jesus said:*] ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lift High the Cross

ELW 660

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

- 1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*
- 2 All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died. *Refrain*
- 3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. *Refrain*
- 4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956

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NICENE CREED

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 and the Son, 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 INTERCESSION

An assisting minister leads the assembly in prayer.

Let us pray to the Father through his Son, who suffered on the cross for the world's redemption.

Fill with your Spirit Christ's broken body, the Church ... Give to Christian people everywhere a deep longing to take up the cross and to understand its mysterious glory. By the Saviour's cross and passion,

Lord, save us and help us.

Bless those who lead the Church's worship, including Elizabeth and Phyllis our bishops, Jack the bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea, and Toby the pastor of our companion congregation, Good Shepherd in Bialla. In the preaching of the word and the celebration of the sacraments draw your people close to you. By the Saviour's cross and passion,

Lord, save us and help us.

Give your grace to those who preach your word to the nations, including Lutheran missionaries like Andrew and Meredith. Help us to witness to the faith we have received

by our words and in our deeds, and daily conform us more and more to Christ, that we may glory in his cross. By the Saviour's cross and passion,

Lord, save us and help us.

Look in your mercy upon the world you loved so much that you sent your Son to suffer and to die. Where there is death bring new life, especially to Ukraine, Sudan, Israel and Gaza. By the Saviour's cross and passion,

Lord, save us and help us.

Bring healing by the wounds of Christ to all who are weighed down by pain and injustice (*including ...*). By the Saviour's cross and passion,

Lord, save us and help us.

Welcome into paradise all who have left this world in your friendship (*including ...*) According to your promises, bring them with all your saints to share in the benefits of Christ's death and resurrection. By the Saviour's cross and passion,

Lord, save us and help us.

Remembering the Cross, O God, we commend to your care those for whom we pray, trusting in the power of the Resurrection.

Amen.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

Let us offer to God what God has first given to us: our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of his gracious love.

Amen

An offering is received for the work of the Church, including the care of those in need.

OFFERTORY SONG

ELW 885

We rise to sing as the offering is brought forward.

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711, alt.

OFFERING PRAYER

After the table is set, the assisting minister may lead the following prayer.

Let us pray together.

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.

DIALOGUE

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

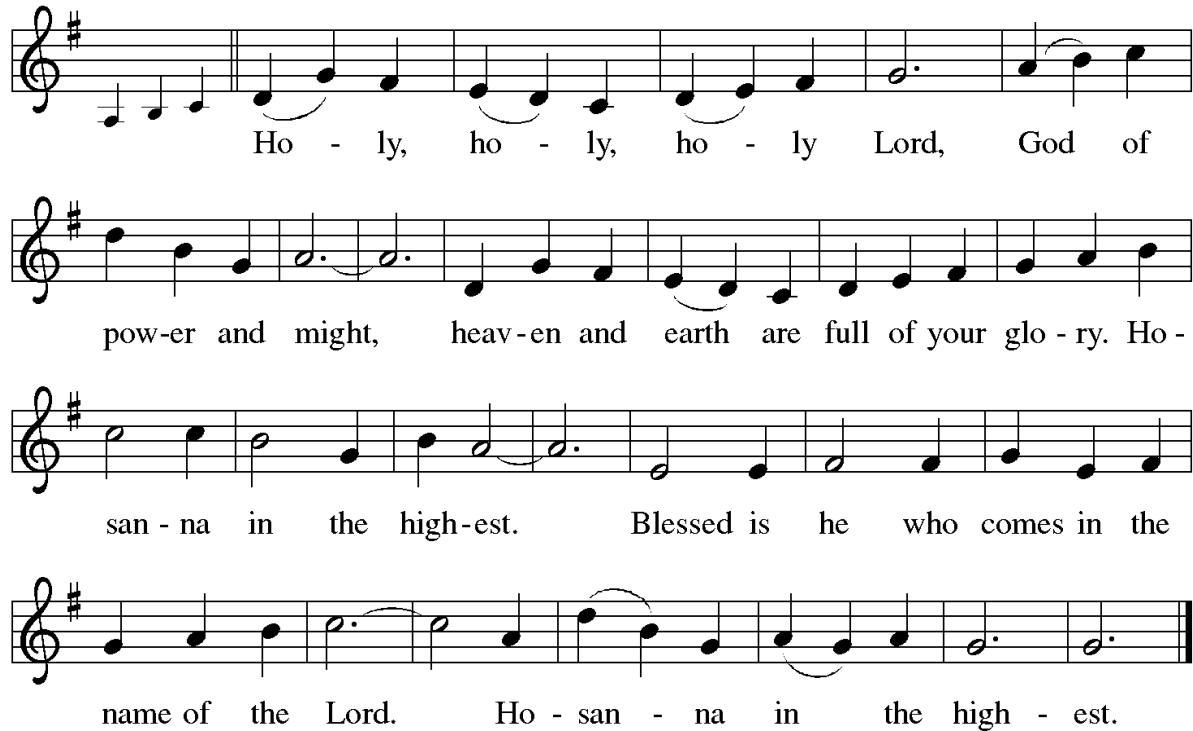
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. 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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Isaiah 6:6 & Psalm 118:26



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. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

On behalf of the assembly, the presiding minister offers a sacrifice of praise and thanks.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able;

we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine,

so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

The presiding minister may introduce the Lord's Prayer.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The presiding minister addresses the assembly in the words of Psalm 34.

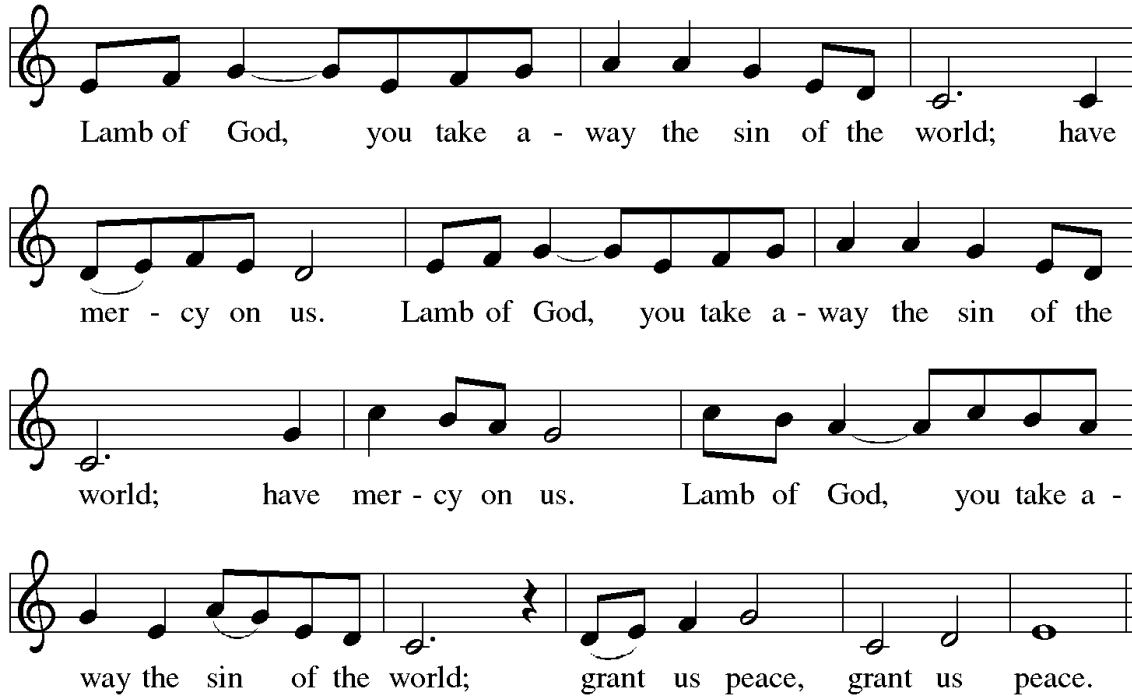
Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Happy are those who take refuge in him.

The assembly may be seated.

CANTICLE: LAMB OF GOD

based on John 1:29



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.

COMMUNION

We believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine. All baptized Christians are invited to his table. To learn about being baptized, speak to a pastor.

You may eat the Body and drink the Blood from the cup, or you may dip the Body into the Blood before consuming them together. Alternatively, you may cross your arms in front of your chest to ask for a blessing instead of either or both elements. Those who refrain may do so trusting that Christ is fully present according to his promise.

COMMUNION SONG

A hymn may be sung or the organ may play quietly as the assembly comes forward to share in the Meal.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The presiding minister blesses those who have shared in the meal.

The true Body of our Lord Jesus Christ and his most precious Blood strengthen you and preserve you unto everlasting life.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The assisting minister leads prayer after communion.

Let us pray.

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.

SENDING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

What a Fellowship

ELW 774

- 1 What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain

Leaning, leaning, (*Leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,*)
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, (*leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,*)
leaning on the everlasting arms.

- 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms. *Refrain*

- 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms. *Refrain*

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839-1929

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister sends the assembly into mission.

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Liturgical Elements

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