

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Chester, Vermont
The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
October 11, 2026



Prelude Selected and played by Karlaine Livingston

After the prelude, the bell is rung ten times to summon the people of Chester to join us for the Eucharist on this Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost. Then we observe a moment of silence before the opening hymn.

Entrance Hymn 7



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true, the on - ly Light,
 2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pan - ied by thee;
 3 Vis - it then this soul of mine! Pierce the gloom of sin and grief!




Sun of Right-eous - ness, a - rise! Tri-umph o'er the shades of night:
 joy-less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer - cy's beams I see,
 Fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine; scat - ter all my un - be - lief;




Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.
 till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
 more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.



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



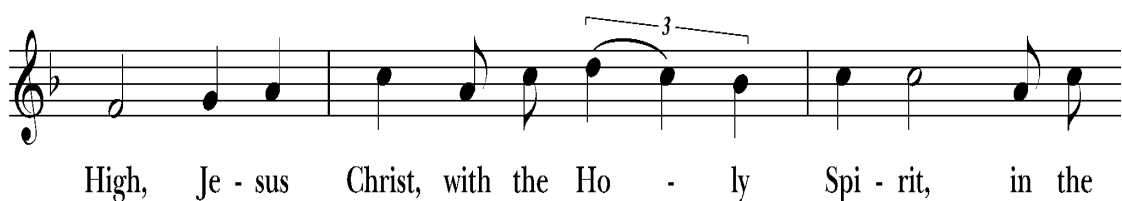
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you



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 -



Presider God be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

Collect for the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Presider and people

God of Aaron, Miriam, and Moses, you stayed the hand of your wrath when we fell into idolatry and discord; and when we forgot our deliverance, your love for us remained unchanging. Transform us and our world into a place of justice, love, and peace. Welcome us to your wedding feast where all are invited to be gathered in. Amen. (Revised Common Lectionary Prayers.)

The First Reading – Exodus 32:1-14

Reader A reading from Exodus.

¹When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of

him.” ²Aaron said to them, “Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” ³So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. ⁴He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” ⁵When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord.” ⁶They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

⁷The Lord said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’” ⁹The Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.”

¹¹But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’” ¹⁴And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Psalms 106:1-6, 19-23

¹Hallelujah!

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, *
for his mercy endures for ever.

²Who can declare the mighty acts of the Lord *
or show forth all his praise?

³Happy are those who act with justice *

and always do what is right!

⁴Remember me, O Lord, with the favor you have for your people, *
and visit me with your saving help;

⁵That I may see the prosperity of your elect
and be glad with the gladness of your people, *
that I may glory with your inheritance.

⁶We have sinned as our forebears did; *
we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.

¹⁹Israel made a bull-calf at Horeb *
and worshiped a molten image;

²⁰And so they exchanged their Glory *
for the image of an ox that feeds on grass.

²¹They forgot God their Savior, *
who had done great things in Egypt,

²²Wonderful deeds in the land of Ham, *
and fearful things at the Red Sea.

²³So he would have destroyed them,
had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, *
to turn away his wrath from consuming them.

Second Reading Philippians 4:1-9

Reader A reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians

¹My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

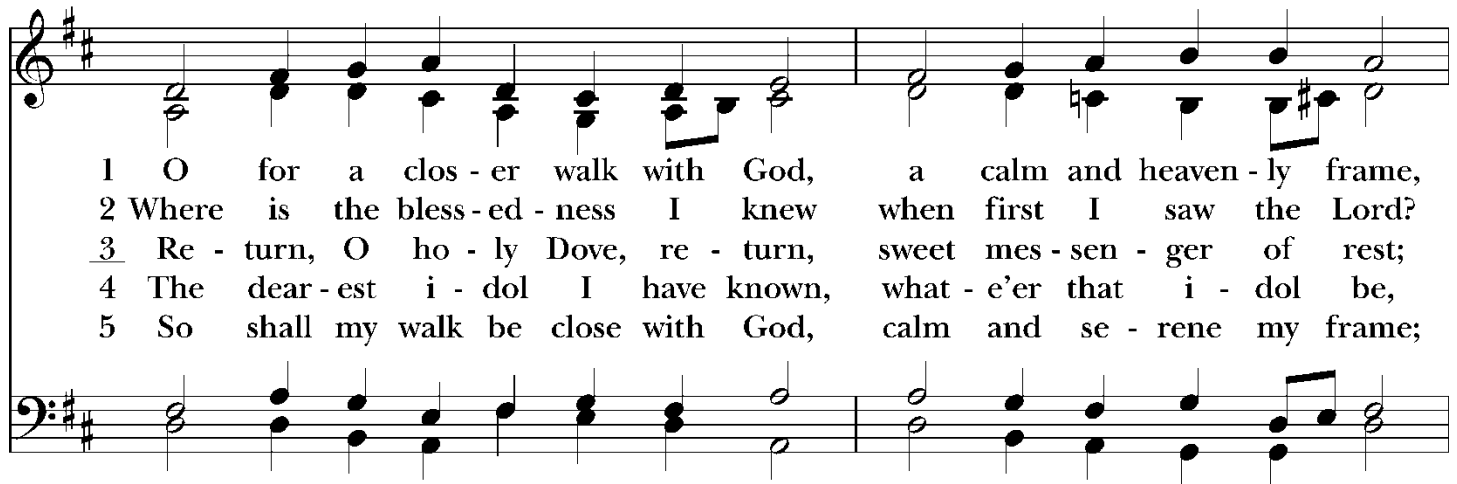
²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

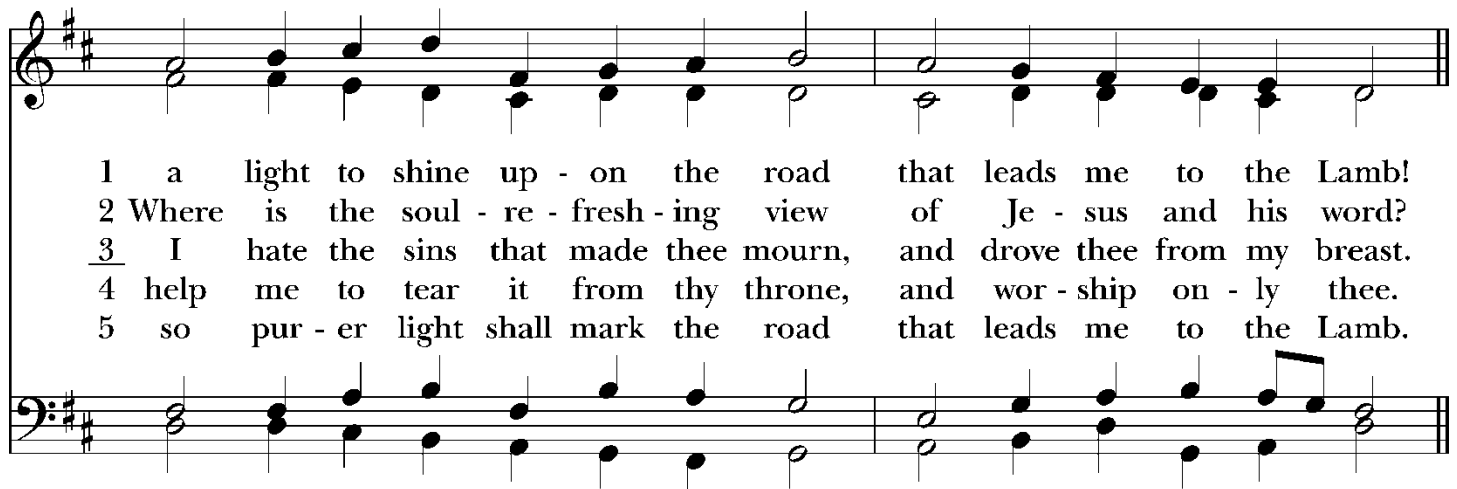
⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these

things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Sequence Hymn 684



1 O for a clos - er walk with God, a calm and heaven - ly frame,
2 Where is the bless - ed - ness I knew when first I saw the Lord?
3 Re - turn, O ho - ly Dove, re - turn, sweet mes - sen - ger of rest;
4 The dear - est i - dol I have known, what - e'er that i - dol be,
5 So shall my walk be close with God, calm and se - rene my frame;



1 a light to shine up - on the road that leads me to the Lamb!
2 Where is the soul - re - fresh - ing view of Je - sus and his word?
3 I hate the sins that made thee mourn, and drove thee from my breast.
4 help me to tear it from thy throne, and wor - ship on - ly thee.
5 so pur - er light shall mark the road that leads me to the Lamb.

The Holy Gospel Matthew 22:1-14

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew
¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite

everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen."

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Rev. Dr. Bruce 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

Prayers of the People

Deacon or presider

Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice. Let us humbly approach our God, saying, "Remember us with favor, O Lord; visit us with your saving help."

Intercessor

God our Savior, strengthen your Church to stand firm in your love. May we struggle not with one another, but instead struggle beside one another in the work of the gospel.

Silence

Remember us with favor, O Lord;

Visit us with your saving help.

God our Savior, you make happy those who act with justice. May the leaders and people of the nations dedicate themselves to pure and honorable dealings. Let your justice reign on this earth.

Silence

Remember us with favor, O Lord;

Visit us with your saving help.

God our Savior, you are good to us. You have blessed us with a rich creation and a beautiful planet for our home. May we cherish the gifts you have given us.

Invite the congregation to add their thanksgivings, followed by silence.

Remember us with favor, O Lord;

Visit us with your saving help.

God our Savior, deliver our community from worry. Make us a people of prayer, a congregation who intercedes for our neighbors.

Silence

Remember us with favor, O Lord;

Visit us with your saving help.

God our Savior, you are always near. Assure the lonely; heal the sick; do mighty acts in the lives of the downcast. With thankful hearts, trusting in your mercy, we make our requests known to you.

Invite the congregation to add their petitions, followed by silence.

Remember us with favor, O Lord;

Visit us with your saving help.

God our Savior, your mercy endures forever. May those who have died glory in your inheritance and feast at your heavenly banquet for all eternity.

Silence

Remember us with favor, O Lord;

Visit us with your saving help.

The Presider adds a concluding collect.

Forgiving God, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

"The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." (Philippians)

Offertory Hymn 481 *The Hymnal 1982*



1 Re - jice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a - dore! Mor -
2 The Lord the Sa - vior reigns, the God of truth and love: when
3 His king - dom can - not fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven; the
4 Re - jice in glo - rious hope! Our Lord the Judge shall come, and



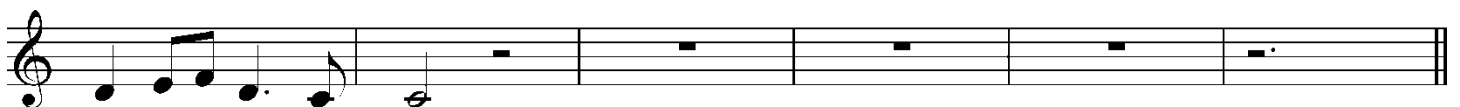
tals, give thanks and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more.
he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove. Lift
keys of death and hell to Christ the Lord are given.
take his ser - vants up to their e - ter - nal home.



up your heart! lift up your voice! Re-joyce! a - gain I say, re -



joyce! up your heart! lift up your voice! Re-joyce! a -



gain I say, re - joyce!

Offertory Presentation Hymn 380 Verse 3 "Doxology"

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

Eucharistic Prayer *The- people remain standing.*

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 God 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 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:

Presider and people S125 *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 lyrics are: '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 score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes, with some phrases connected by slurs.

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, sit, or kneel as is comfortable.

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 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 The Hymnal 1982

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:

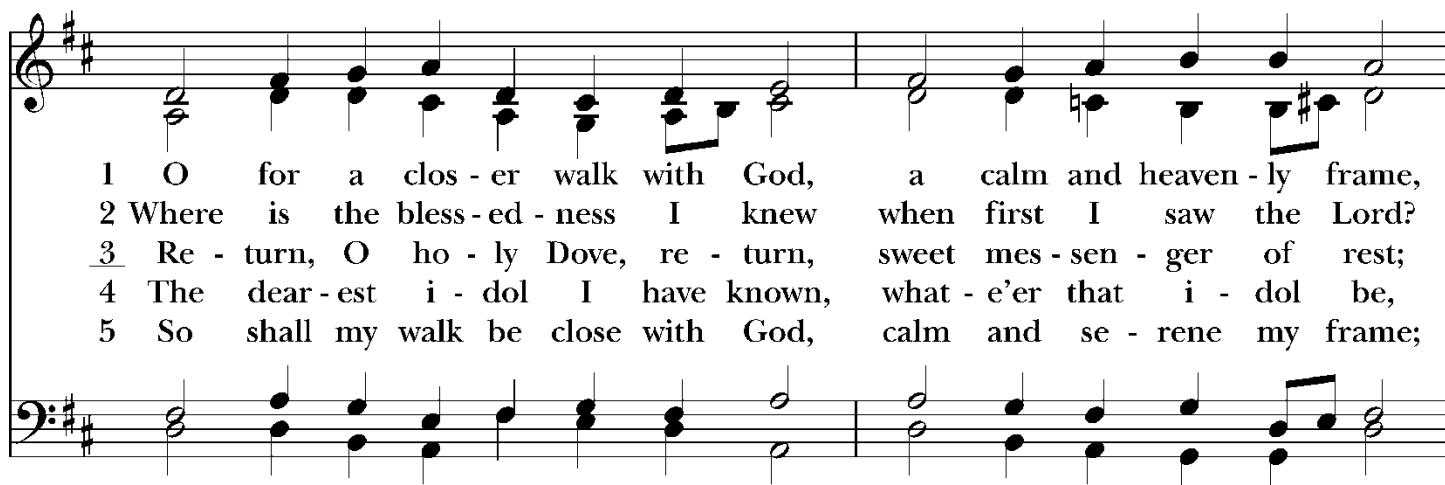
give us your peace, give us your peace.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The first system has the lyrics 'Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:'. The second system has the lyrics 'give us your peace, give us your peace.' The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with many chords and some melodic lines.

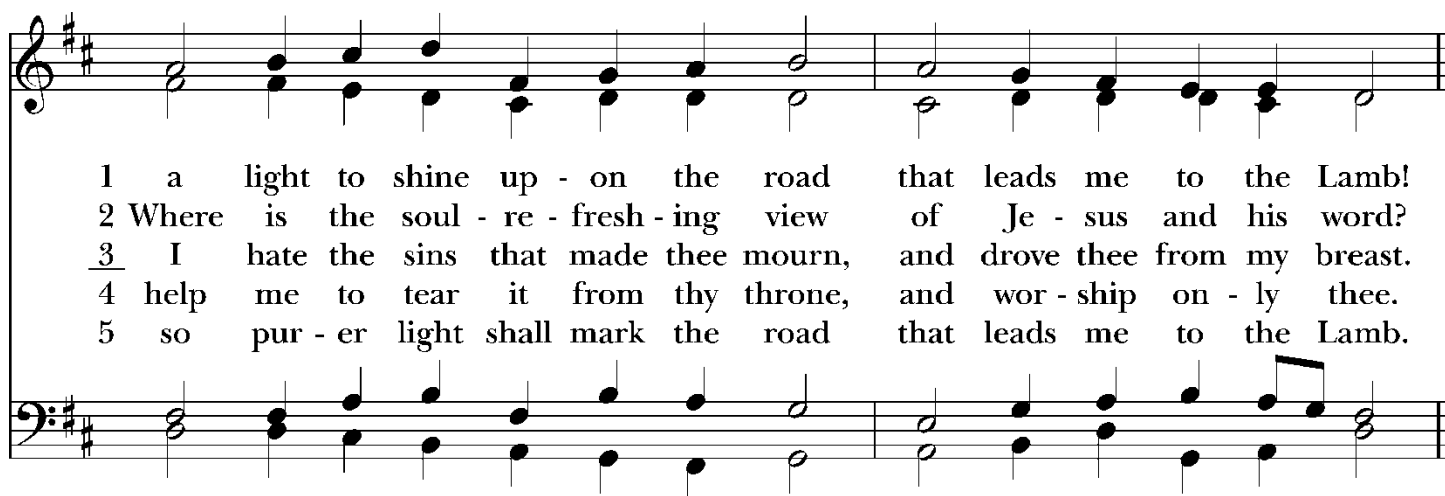
Presider The Holy Gifts of God for the Holy People of God.

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.

Communion Hymn 684 *The Hymnal 1982*



1 O for a clos - er walk with God, a calm and heaven - ly frame,
 2 Where is the bless - ed - ness I knew when first I saw the Lord?
 3 Re - turn, O ho - ly Dove, re - turn, sweet mes - sen - ger of rest;
 4 The dear - est i - dol I have known, what - e'er that i - dol be,
 5 So shall my walk be close with God, calm and se - rene my frame;



1 a light to shine up - on the road that leads me to the Lamb!
 2 Where is the soul - re - fresh - ing view of Je - sus and his word?
 3 I hate the sins that made thee mourn, and drove thee from my breast.
 4 help me to tear it from thy throne, and wor - ship on - ly thee.
 5 so pur - er light shall mark the road that leads me to the Lamb.

Post Communion Prayer *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.

1 God the Om - ni - po - tent! King, who or - dain - est
 2 God the All - mer - ci - ful! earth hath for - sak - en
 3 God the All - right - eous One! earth hath de - fied thee;
 4 God the All - prov - i - dent! earth by thy chas - tening

thun - der thy clar - ion, the light - ning thy sword;
 thy ways all ho - ly, and slight - ed thy word;
 yet to e - ter - ni - ty stand - eth thy word,
 yet shall to free - dom and truth be re - stored;

show forth thy pi - ty on high where thou reign - est:
 bid not thy wrath in its ter - rors a - wak - en:
 false - hood and wrong shall not tar - ry be - side thee:
 through the thick dark - ness thy king - dom is haste - ning;

give to us peace in our time, O Lord.
 give to us peace in our time, O Lord.
 give to us peace in our time, O Lord.
 thou wilt give peace in thy time, O Lord.

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. Amen.

Postlude Selected and played by Karlaine Livingston

Announcements

Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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! To prepare for the next Sunday, the Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost, slowly read next Sunday's scriptures. Jot down questions and thoughts you may have. Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Wednesday, October 14 Midweek Eucharist 5:30-6PM
 Commemorating Samuel Isaac Joseph Scherechevsky**

**Sunday, October 18 The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
 Holy Eucharist 10-11:15 AM**

**Wednesday, October 21 Midweek Eucharist 5:30-6:00 P.M.
 Commemorating Cornelius the Centurion**

**Sunday, October 25 The Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
 Holy Eucharist 10:00-11:15 AM**

**Wednesday October 28 Midweek Eucharist 5:30-6:00 PM
 Commemorating James Hannigan and his Companions**

OTHER EVENTS

Reading Group Resumes on October 11 – each Sunday following Coffee hour

Vestry Meeting October 21 6:30-8:00 P.M. (unless a change to Vestry meeting
Day has been enacted.

Memory Café Thursday November 5 11:00 AM – 1:00 P.M.

