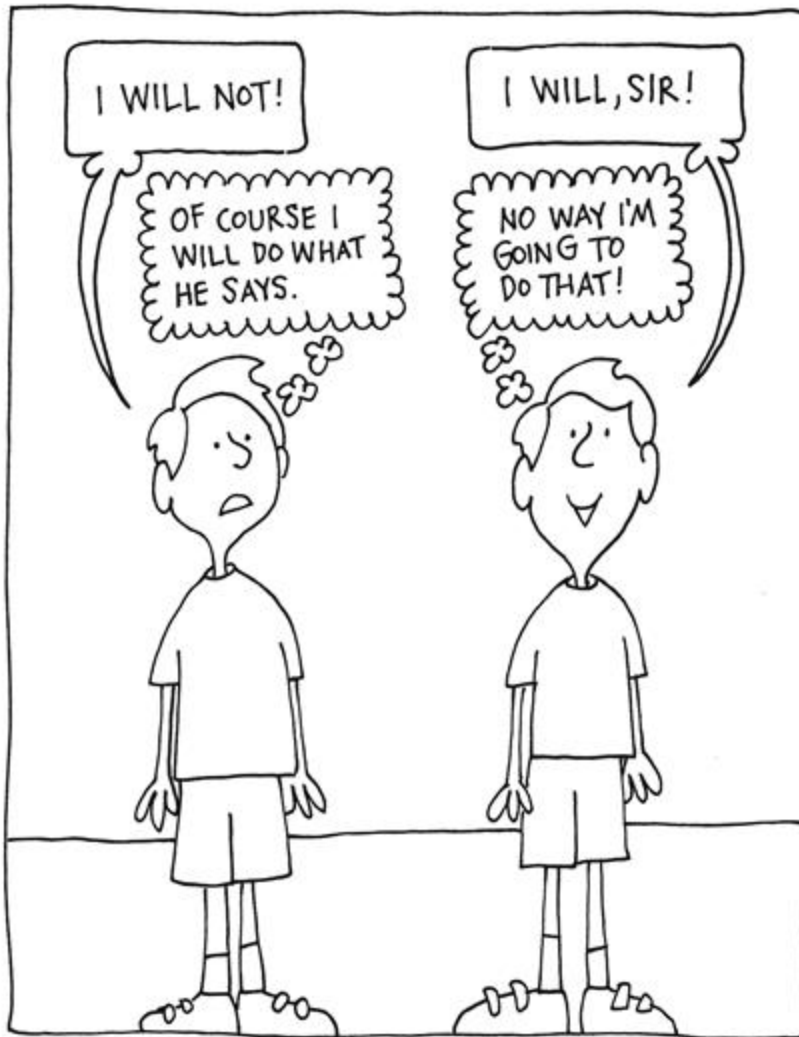


St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Chester, Vermont
The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2026



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 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost. Then we observe a moment of silence before the opening hymn.

Entrance Hymn 450

6 Let ev - ery kin - dred, ev - ery tribe, on this ter - res - trial

1 All hail the power of Je - sus' Name! Let an - gels pros - trate
 2 Crown him, ye mar - tyrs of our God, who from his al - tar
 3 Hail him, the Heir of Da - vid's line, whom Da - vid Lord did
 * 4 Ye heirs of Is - rael's cho - sen race, ye ran - somed of the
 * 5 Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get the worm - wood and the

ball, to him a - scribe, and

1 fall; bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and
 2 call: praise him whose way of pain ye trod, and
 3 call, the God in - car - nate, Man di - vine, and
 4 fall, hail him who saves you by his grace, and
 5 gall, go, spread your tro - phies at his feet, and

crown him Lord of all! to him a -

1 crown him Lord of all! bring forth the roy - al
 2 crown him Lord of all! praise him whose way of
 3 crown him Lord of all! the God in - car - nate,
 4 crown him Lord of all! hail him who saves you
 5 crown him Lord of all! go, spread your tro - phies

scribe, and crown him Lord of all!

1 di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all!
 2 pain ye trod, and crown him Lord of all!
 3 Man di - vine, and crown him Lord of all!
 4 by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
 5 at his feet, and crown him Lord of all!

6 Let every kindred, every tribe,
 on this terrestrial ball,
 to him all majesty ascribe,
 and crown him Lord of all!

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 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Presider and people

Welcoming God, you receive and bless all who come to you in humility.

Show us our false pride that we may repent of all conceit and arrogance

and, caring for one another, may honor Jesus to the glory of your name.

Amen.

The First Reading – Exodus 17:1-7

Reader A reading from Exodus.

1 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. 2 The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" 3 But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" 4 So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." 5 The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. 6 I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7 He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

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

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

1. Hear my teaching, O my people; * incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
2. I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
3. That which we have heard and known, and what our forebears have told us, * we will not hide from their children.
4. We will recount to generations to come your praiseworthy deeds and your power, O God, *
and the wonderful works you have done.
12. You worked marvels in the sight of their forebears, * in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.
13. You split open the sea and let them pass through; * you made the waters stand up like walls.
14. You led them with a cloud by day * and all the night through with a glow of fire.
15. You split the hard rocks in the wilderness * and gave them drink as from the great deep.

16. You brought streams out of the cliffs, and streams to benefit the whole earth.

Second Reading Philippians 2:1-13

Reader A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

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

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. You brought streams out of the cliff, and the waters gushed out like rivers.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn 685 *The Hymnal 1982*

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.

God be in my head, and in my un - der - stand - ing;

God be in mine eyes, and in my look - ing;

God be in my mouth, and in my speak - ing;

God be in my heart, and in my think - ing;

God be at mine end, and at my de - part - ing.

The Holy Gospel – Matthew 21:23-32

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, O Christ.

[Jesus said,] ¹"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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

Beloved in Christ, in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Humbly then, let us approach our God, saying, "To will and work for your good pleasure, *O Lord, enable us.*"

Christ Jesus, strengthen our tongues to declare you as Lord of our lives. May we, your Church, glorify your Heavenly Parent in word and deed.

Silence

To will and work for your good pleasure,
O Lord, enable us.

Christ Jesus, you chose not to exploit your equality with God, but humbled yourself to be with us. Give us your heart for the marginalized and poor. And may all people, especially those in power, follow your example of humility.

Silence

To will and work for your good pleasure,
O Lord, enable us.

Christ Jesus, by your birth in human likeness you blessed all of creation. Remind us that your feet have trod our soil and tasted our waters. Give us the will to care for this precious planet.

Silence

To will and work for your good pleasure,

O Lord, enable us.

Christ Jesus, you rule the world with love and compassion. Give to our local leaders compassion and vision that the people of our region might live as neighbors, looking out for each other's interests.

Silence

To will and work for your good pleasure,

O Lord, enable us.

Christ Jesus, you became obedient to the point of death that we might have abundant life. Work marvels in the lives of the sick and sorrowful. May they recount to generations the wonderful deeds you have done in their lives.

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

To will and work for your good pleasure,

O Lord, enable us.

The Presider adds a concluding collect.

Gracious and merciful God, who honors the last as well as the first, hear the prayers we offer this day and welcome your people into your kingdom; through 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.

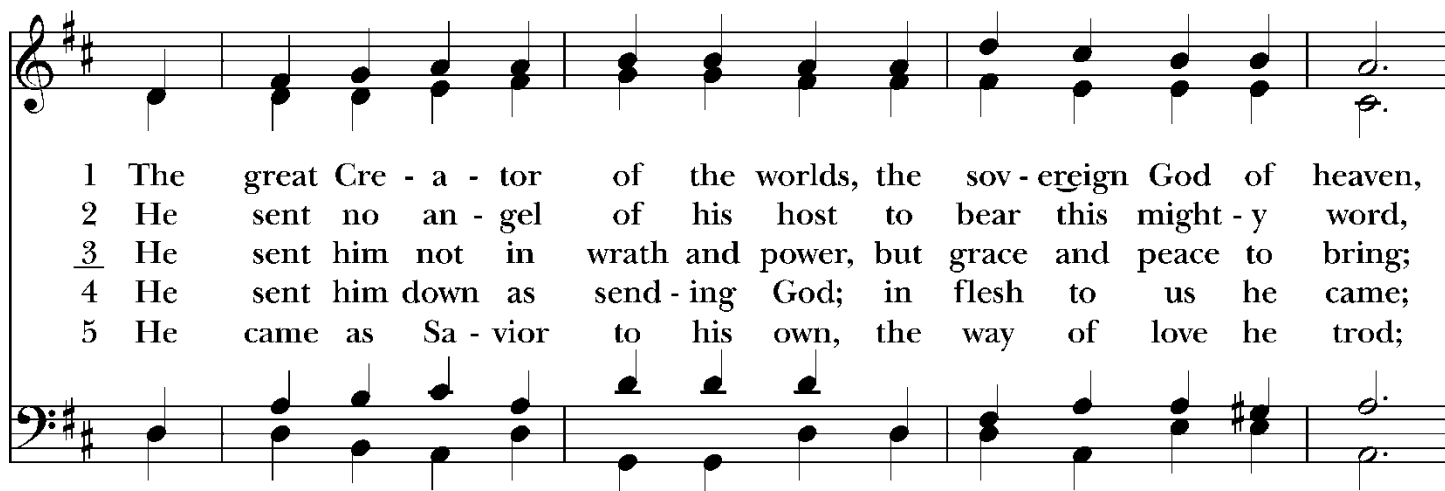
The Peace *Presider* The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

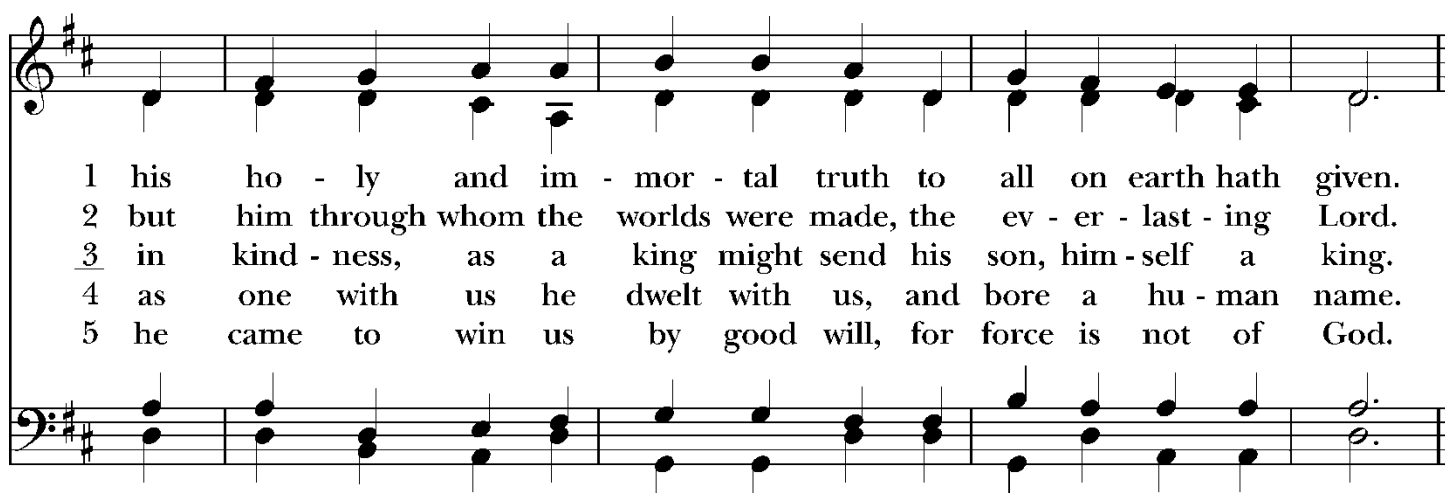
Offertory Sentence

"Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name. Make his deeds known forever." (Psalm 145)

Offertory Hymn 489 The Hymnal 1982



1 The great Cre - a - tor of the worlds, the sov - ereign God of heaven,
 2 He sent no an - gel of his host to bear this might - y word,
 3 He sent him not in wrath and power, but grace and peace to bring;
 4 He sent him down as send - ing God; in flesh to us he came;
 5 He came as Sa - vior to his own, the way of love he trod;



1 his ho - ly and im - mor - tal truth to all on earth hath given.
 2 but him through whom the worlds were made, the ev - er - last - ing Lord.
 3 in kind - ness, as a king might send his son, him - self a king.
 4 as one with us he dwelt with us, and bore a hu - man name.
 5 he came to win us by good will, for force is not of God.

6 Not to oppress, but summon all
 their truest life to find,
 in love God sent his Son to save,
 not to condemn mankind.

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

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 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.

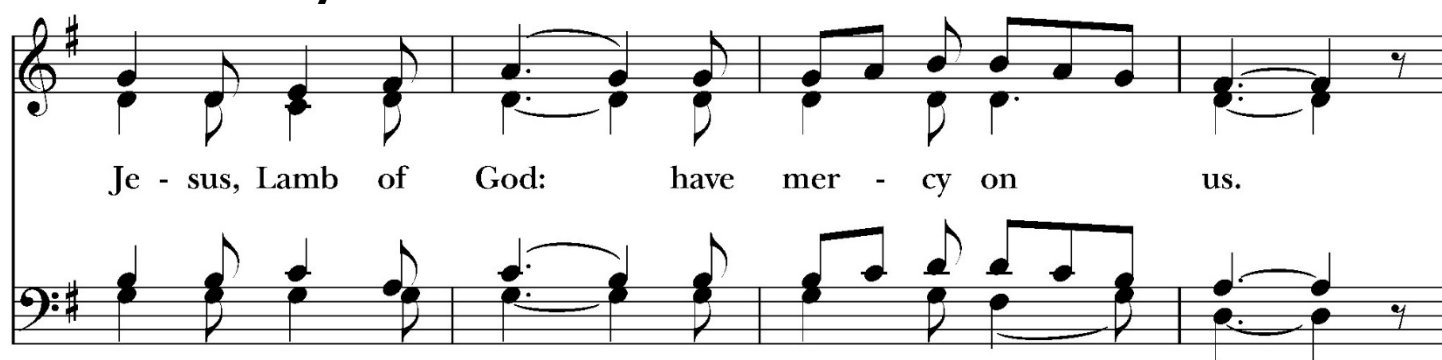
Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

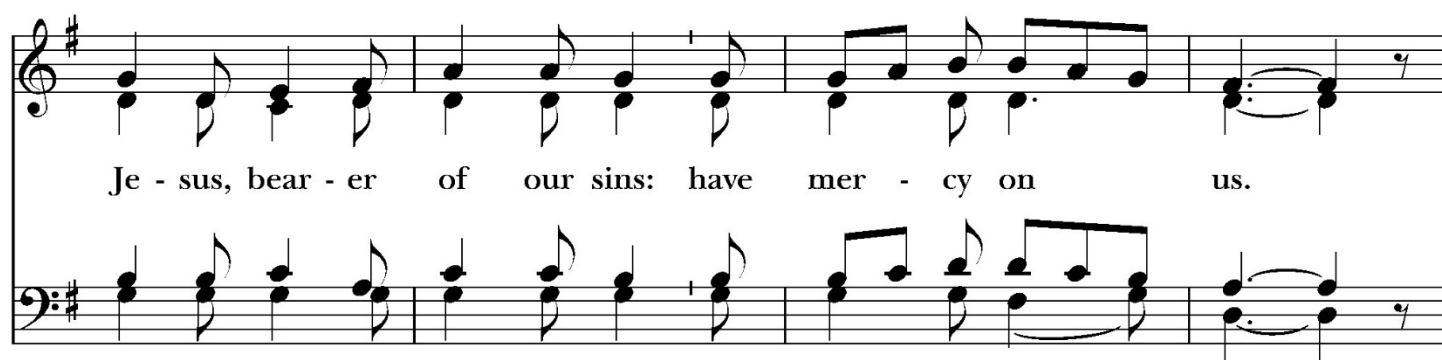
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

S 164 The Hymnal 1982



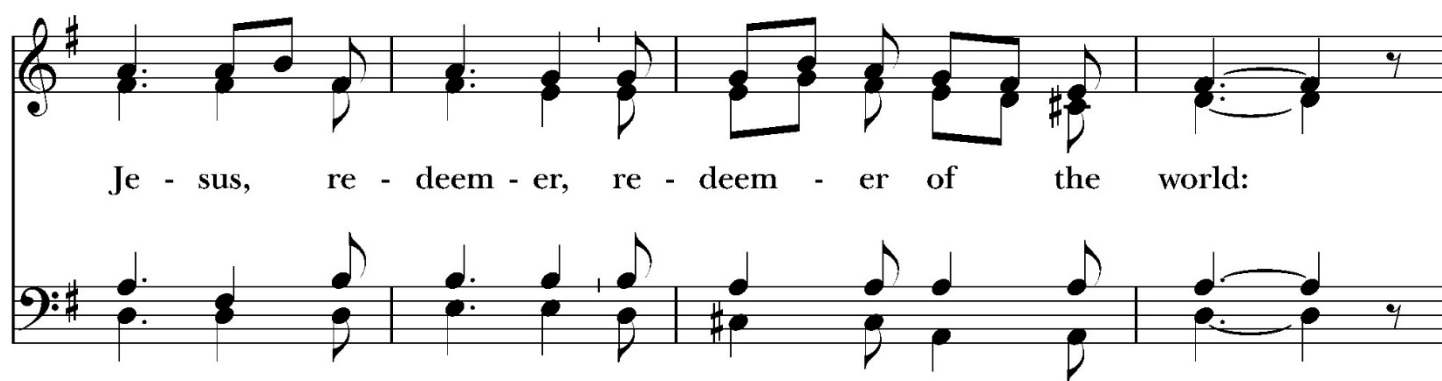
Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

The first system of musical notation is for the first line of the hymn. It consists of a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the notes.



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

The second system of musical notation is for the second line of the hymn. It continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are written below the notes.



Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

The third system of musical notation is for the third line of the hymn. It continues the melody and accompaniment from the previous systems. The lyrics are written below the notes.



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 439 *The Hymnal 1982*



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to
 3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this that
 God and to the Lamb, I will sing. To God and to the Lamb who
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free I'll



caused the Lord of bliss to lay a-side his crown for my
 is the great I AM, while mil-lions join the theme, I will
 sing and joy-ful be, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to lay a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme I will sing.
on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

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.

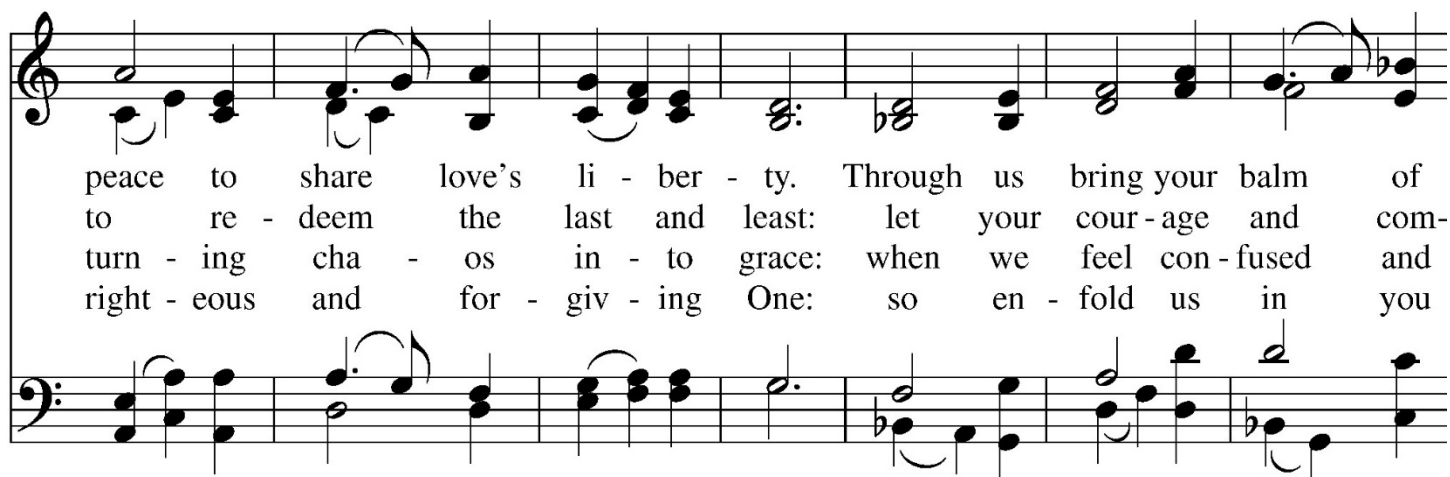
Closing Hymn 782 *Wonder, Love, and Praise*



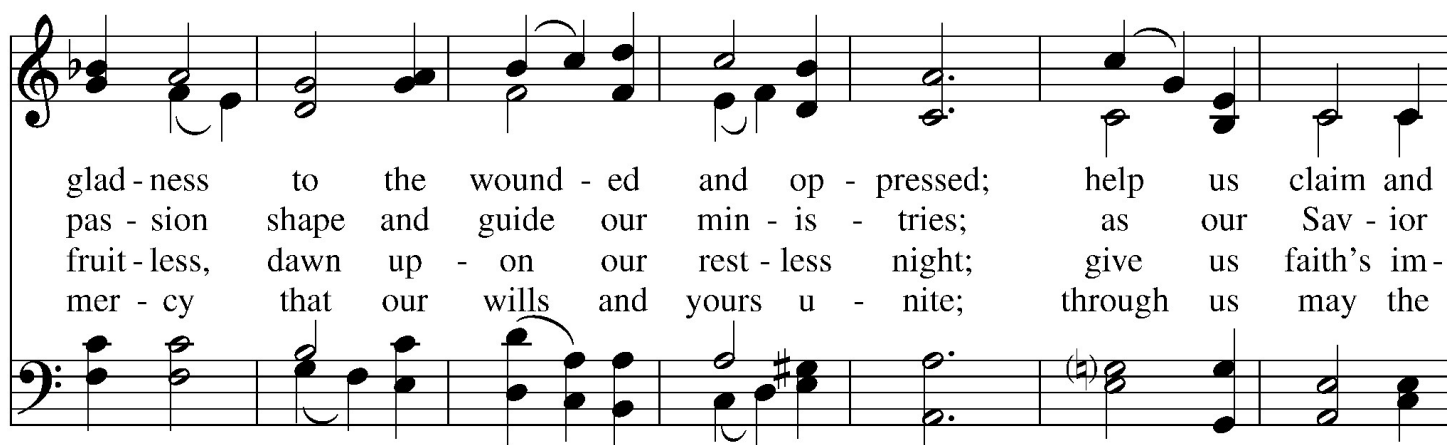
1. Gra - cious Spir - it, give your ser - vants joy to set sin's
2. Word made flesh, who gave up glo - ry to be - come our
3. Lov - ing God, who birthed cre - a - tion from the noth - ing -
4. Tri - une God, e - ter - nal Be - ing, nev - er end - ing,



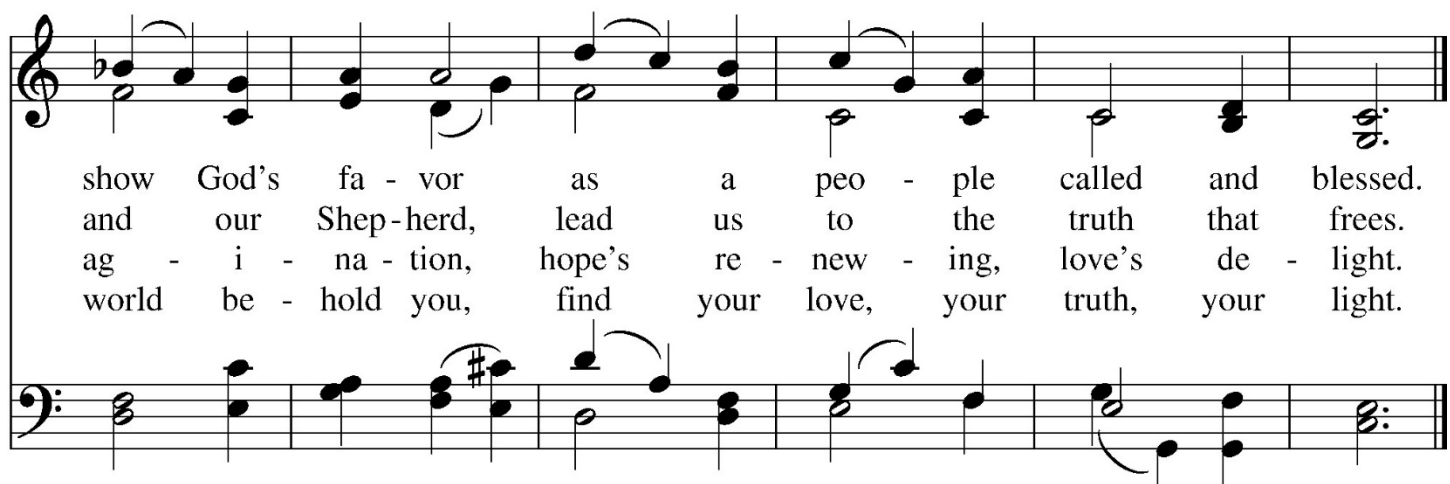
cap - tives free, hope to heal the bro - ken - heart - ed,
great high priest, tak - ing on our hu - man na - ture
ness of space, kin - dling life where all was emp - ty,
un - be - gun, bound - less grace and per - fect jus - tice,



peace to share love's li - ber - ty. Through us bring your balm of
 to re - deem the last and least: let your cour - age and com -
 turn - ing cha - os in - to grace: when we feel con - fused and
 right - eous and for - giv - ing One: so en - fold us in you



glad - ness to the wound - ed and op - pressed; help us claim and
 pas - sion shape and guide our min - is - tries; as our Sav - ior
 fruit - less, dawn up - on our rest - less night; give us faith's im -
 mer - cy that our wills and yours u - nite; through us may the



show God's fa - vor as a peo - ple called and blessed.
 and our Shep - herd, lead us to the truth that frees.
 ag - i - na - tion, hope's re - new - ing, love's de - light.
 world be - hold you, find your love, your truth, your light.

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 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, slowly read next Sunday's scriptures. Jot down questions and thoughts you may have. Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19; Philippians 3:3b-14; Matthew 21:33-48.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost October 4, 2026 Holy Eucharist 10-11:15

The Rev. Susan Kershaw, Presiding

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost October 11 Holy Eucharist

10-11:15 AM. Rev. Susan Kershaw Presiding

Twenty-first Sunday after Penntecost October 18, 2026

Holy Eucharist 10-11:15 AM Rev. Dr. Bruce MacDuffie Presiding

OTHER EVENTS

Reading group finally resumes after coffee hour