St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Chester, Vermont
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 2026



relude 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 690

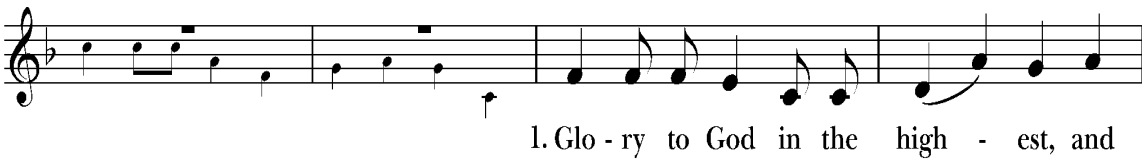

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this bar - ren land; I am weak, but thou art might - y; hold me with thy power - ful hand; bread of hea - ven,
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun-tain, whence the heal - ing stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my jour - ney through; strong de - liv - erer,
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious fears sub - side; death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me safe on Ca - naan's side; songs of prais - es,



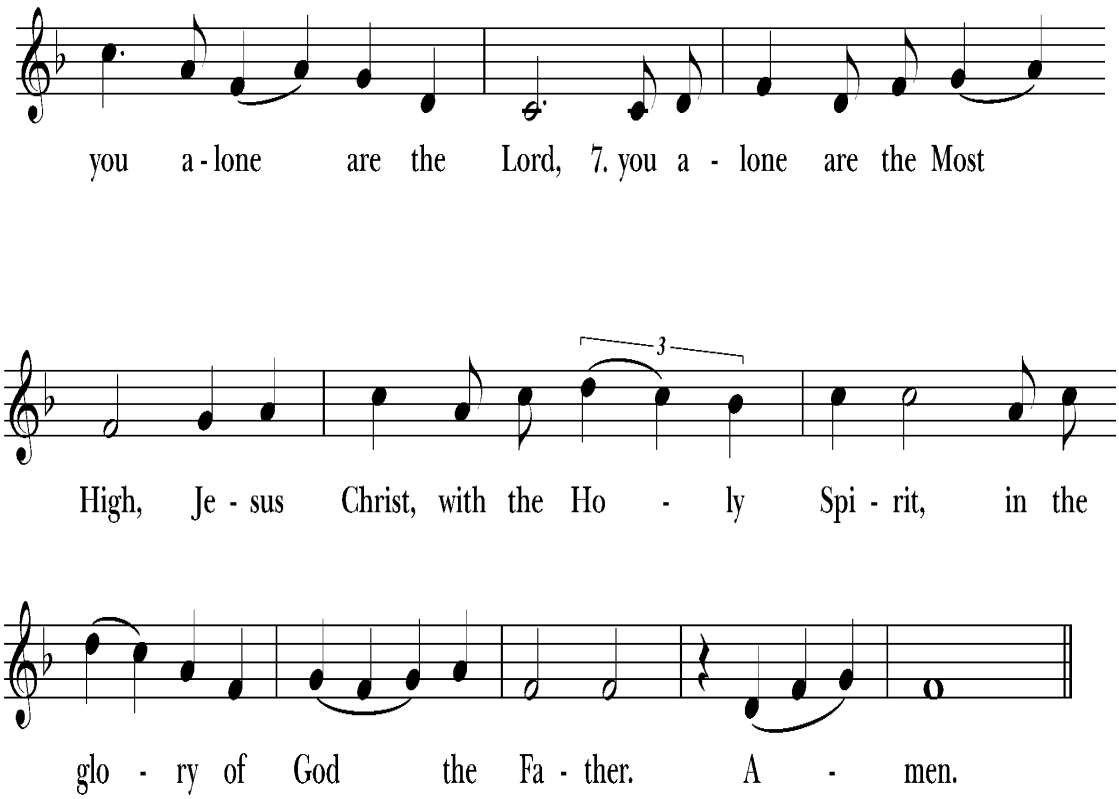
Presider *Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.*
People *Glory to God for ever and ever.*
Presider Let us pray.
Presider and people

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***




peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y 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,



Presider God be with you.
People And also with you.
Presider Let us pray.
Collect for the the 24th Sunday after Pentecost
Presider and people
O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*. (Book of Common Prayer)

The First Reading – Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Reader A reading from Joshua
1Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the
elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented
themselves before God. 2And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the
Lord, the God of Israel: 'Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons
Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods.
3aThen I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him
through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.'

14 "Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in
faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the
River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. 15 Now if you are unwilling to serve
the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your
ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites
in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve
the Lord."
16 Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the
Lord to serve other gods; 17 for it is the Lord our God who brought us and
our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and
who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way
that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; 18 and
the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the
land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God."
19 But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a
holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or
your sins. 20 If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn
and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." 21 And
the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the Lord!" 22 Then Joshua said
to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen
the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." 23 He said, "Then
put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to
the Lord, the God of Israel." 24 The people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God
we will serve, and him we will obey." 25 So Joshua made a covenant with the
people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Reader *Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.*
People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 78:1-7

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.

5. You gave your decrees to Jacob and established a law for Israel, *
which you commanded them to teach their children;

6. That the generations to come might know, and the children yet unborn, * that they in their turn might tell it to their children;

7. So that they might put their trust in you * and not forget your deeds, but keep your commandments;

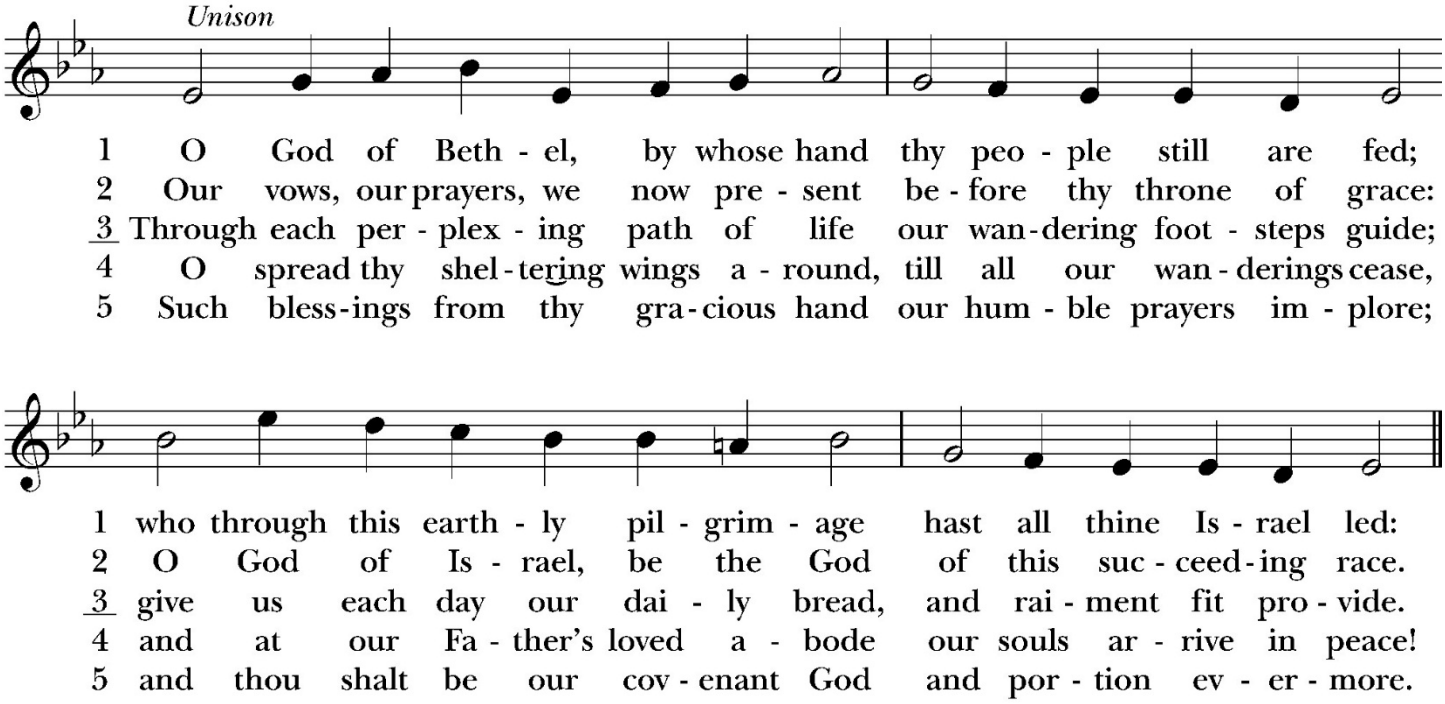
Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Reader A reading from Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians.

1 See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. 3 And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

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

Sequence Hymn 709 *The Hymnal 1982*



The Holy Gospel Matthew 25:1-13

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew
People Glory to you, O Christ.

[Jesus said,] 1"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids
took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2Five of them were foolish,
and five were wise. 3When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with
them; 4but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5As the bridegroom was
delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. 6But at midnight there was a
shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7Then all those
bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. 8The foolish said to the wise,
'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9But the wise replied,
'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the
dealers and buy some for yourselves.' 10And while they went to buy it, the
bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding
banquet; and the door was shut. 11Later the other bridesmaids came also,
saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' 12But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know
you.' 13Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."."

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Rev. Dr. Bruce MacDuffie

The 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

Alleluia! Let us join the countless throngs who sing God's praises, praying, "We bless you, O Lord; *your praise is ever in our mouth.*"

Intercessor

God of the pilgrim Church, you love us and call us your children: give your Church a hunger and a thirst for righteousness. Continue to nurture us by the example and fellowship of those saints who have journeyed before us.

Silence

We bless you, O Lord;

Your praise is ever in our mouths.

God of all people, you love us and call us your children: In a world of violence and war, you bless the peacemakers. Make us instruments of healing and peace.

Silence

We bless you, O Lord;

Your praise is ever in our mouths.

God of creation, you love us and call us your children: you have given this earth to the meek. May our steps be gentle and leave a small footprint on our earth. As it has been handed on to us, may we carefully preserve this creation for future generations.

Silence

We bless you, O Lord;

Your praise is ever in our mouths.

God of the city, you love us and call us your children: bless the poor with good things. Visit our impoverished neighborhoods with hope, mercy, and relief. Give us hearts for the poor in our region.

Silence

We bless you, O Lord;

Your praise is ever in our mouths.

God of the mournful and suffering, you love us and call us your children: comfort and heal those in need. Hear them in their affliction and save them from their troubles.

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

We bless you, O Lord;

Your praise is ever in our mouths.

God of the Church at rest, you love us and call us your children: we praise you for the faith and witness of all the saints. May their prayers and presence continue to strengthen us. It is with their triumphant voices that we join our own prayers and praises. Alleluia!

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

We bless you, O Lord;

Your praise is ever in our mouths.

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
"Taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are they who trust in him." (Psalm 34)

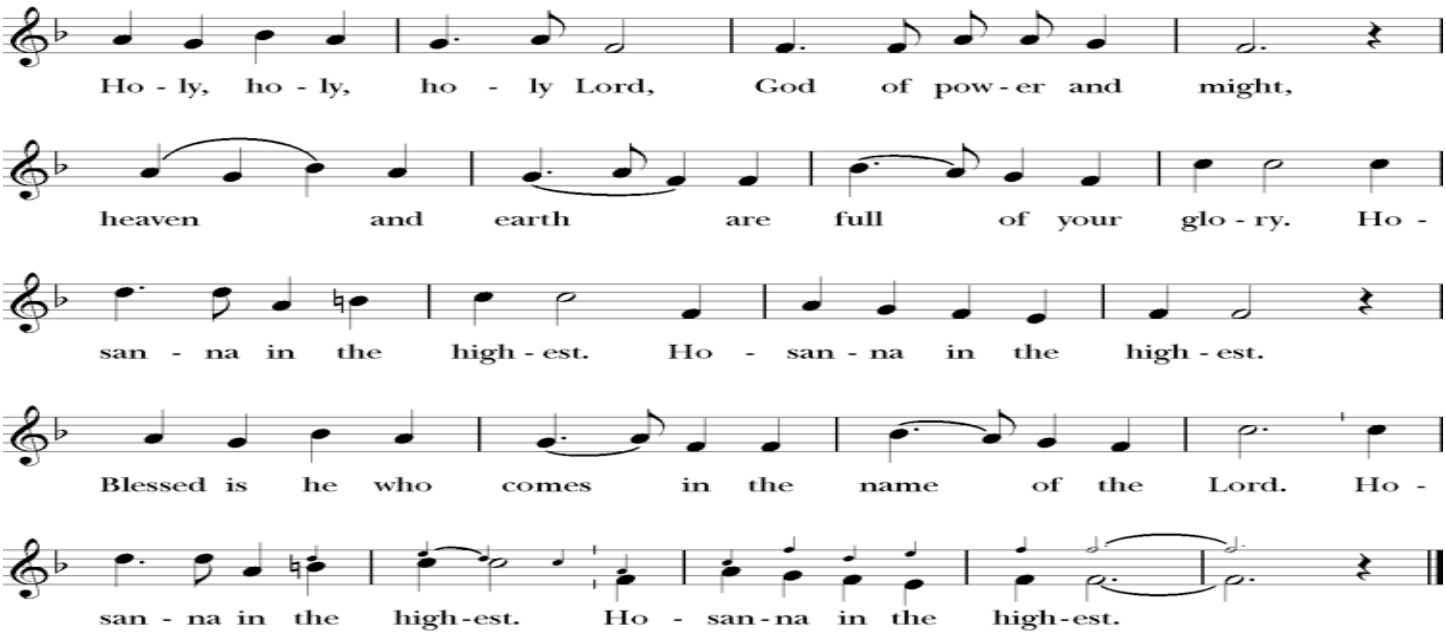
Offertory Hymn 454 ***The Hymnal 1982***



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. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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 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.

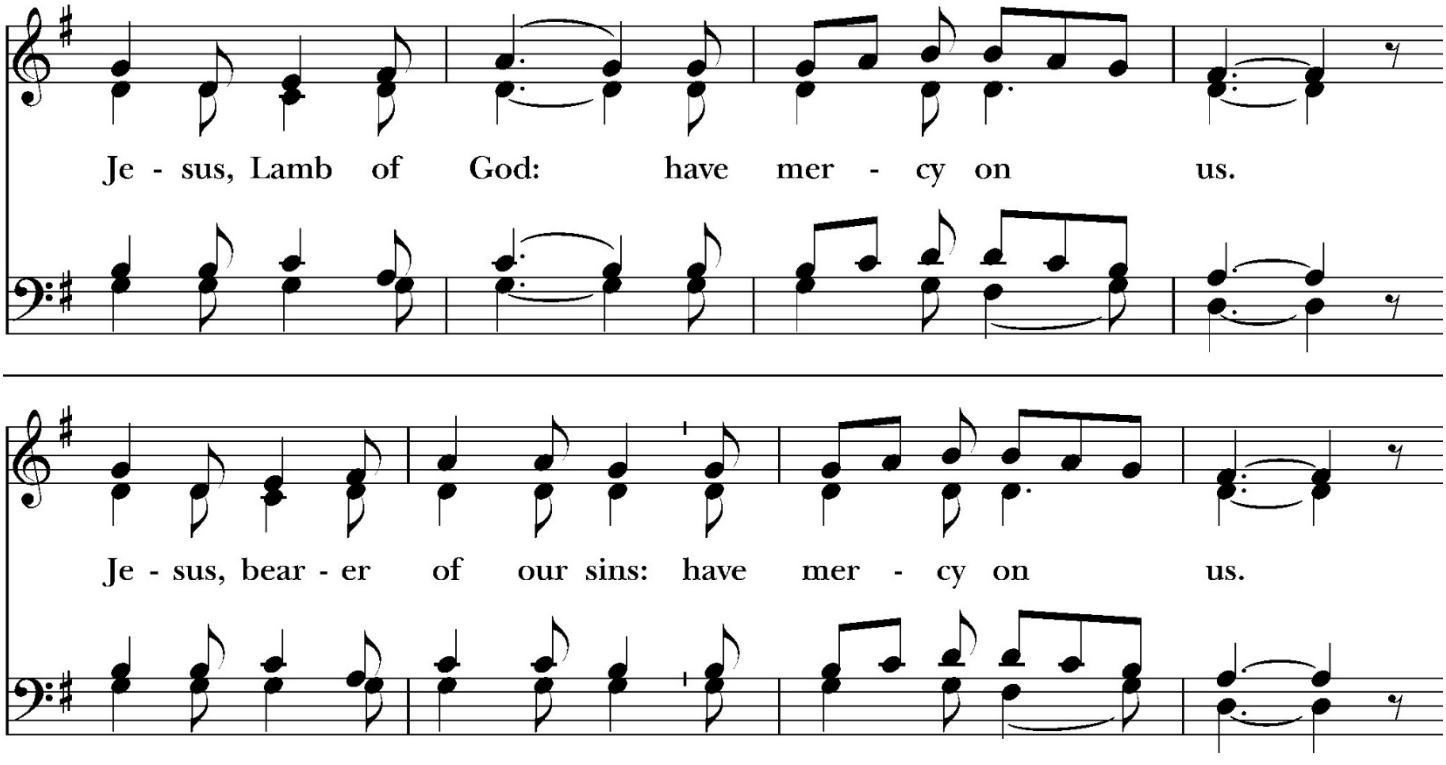
Blessed are you now and for ever. *AMEN*.

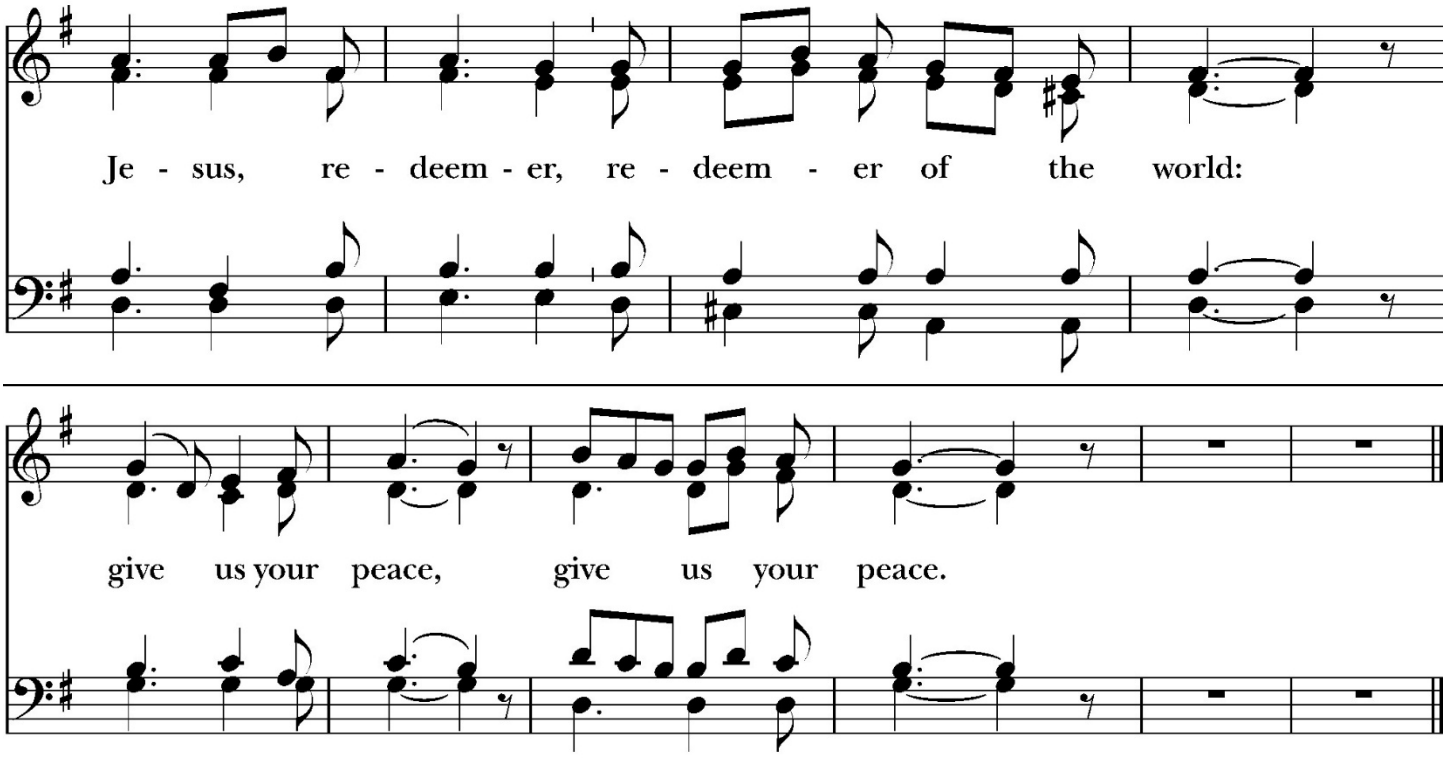
And now, As our Savior Christ Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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





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 324 *The Hymnal 1982*



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 68 *The Hymnal 1982*



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!! Preparing for Sunday. Next Sunday, November 8, the Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost. Readings: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13. 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 an email with which to discuss your revelations and questions. Perhaps invite readers to respond.

<u>WORSHIP SCHEDULE</u>

Wednesday October 28 Midweek Eucharist 5:30-6:00 PM
Commemorating St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles
Sunday, November 1 All Saints Day 10-11:15 Holy Eucharist and
Remembering all the Saints of St. Luke's and our congregation
Wednesday, November 4 Midweek Eucharist 5:30-6:00 P.M. Commemorating
Adeline Blanchard Taylor and her companions
Sunday, November 8 Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost Holy Eucharist
10-11:15AM
Wednesday, November 11 5:30-6:00 P.M. Midweek Eucharist
Commemorating Martin of Tours
Sunday, November 15 Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost 10-11:15
Wednesday, November 18 Midweek Eucharist 5:30-6:00 P.M.
Commemorating Hilda of Whitby

<u>OTHER EVENTS</u>
Sunday November 8, 3-5 PM, Willard Hall. Board Games - Try a variety
Wednesday, November 18 6:15-7:45 P.M. Vestry Meeting

Thursday November 19-Saturday November 21, Holiday Wreath Workshops, advance registration needed