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**St. Luke's Episcopal Church**  
Chester, Vermont  
The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 6, 2026



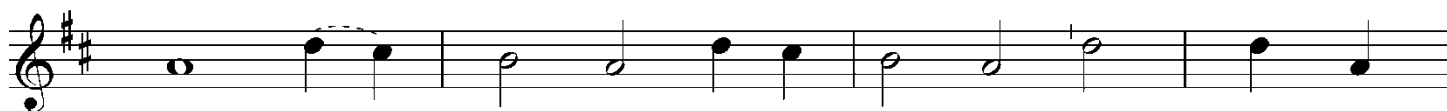
Prelude     Selected and played by Karlaine Livingston

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

Entrance Hymn 400 *The Hymnal 1982*



- 1 All crea - tures of our God and King, lift up your voic - es, let us  
\*2 Great rush - ing winds and breez - es soft, you clouds that ride the heavens a -  
\*3 Swift flow - ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to  
4 Dear mo - ther earth, you day by day un - fold your bless - ings on our  
5 All you with mer - cy in your heart, for - giv - ing o - thers, take your  
\*6 And ev - en you, most gen - tle death, wait - ing to hush our fi - nal  
7 Let all things their cre - a - tor bless, and wor - ship him in hum - ble -



- 1 sing: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Bright burn - ing  
2 loft, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Fair ris - ing  
3 hear, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Fire, so in -  
4 way, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! All flowers and  
5 part, O — sing now: Al - le - lu - ia! All you that  
6 breath, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! You lead back  
7 ness, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God the



- 1 sun with gold - en beams, pale sil - ver moon that gen - tly gleams,  
2 morn, with praise re - joice, stars night - ly shin - ing, find a voice,  
3 tense and fierce - ly bright, you give to us both warmth and light,  
4 fruits that in you grow, let them his glo - ry al - so show:  
5 pain and sor - row bear, praise God, and cast on him your care:  
6 home the child of God, for Christ our Lord that way has trod:  
7 Fa - ther, praise the Son, and praise the Spi - rit, Three in One:

*Refrain*



O praise him, O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*The refrain may be sung antiphonally, by phrase; all join in the final Alleluia.*

*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



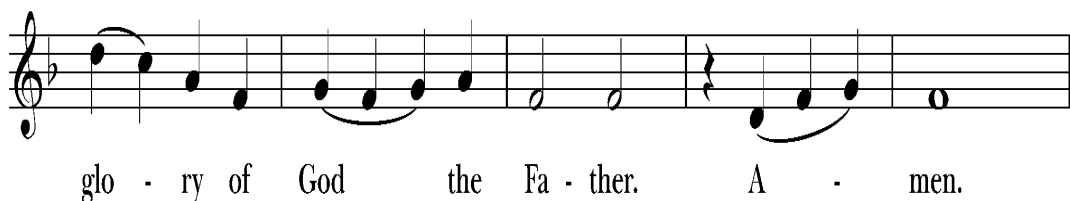
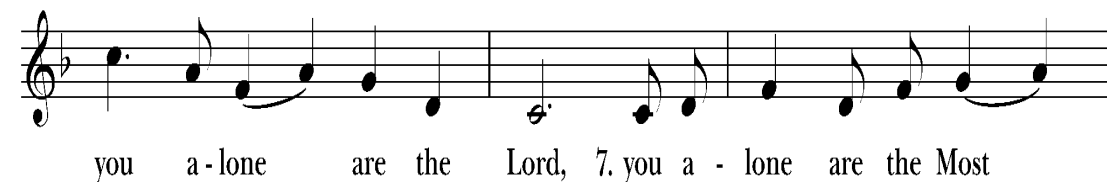
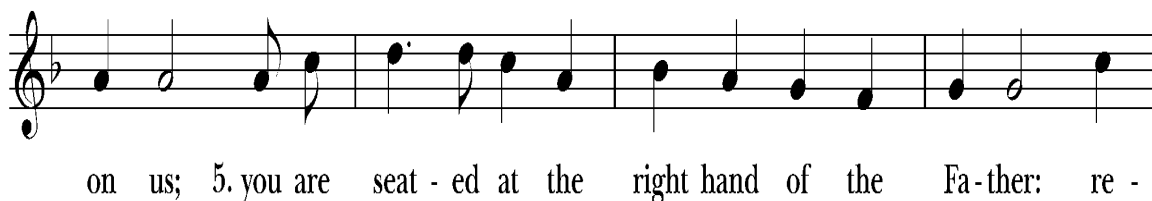
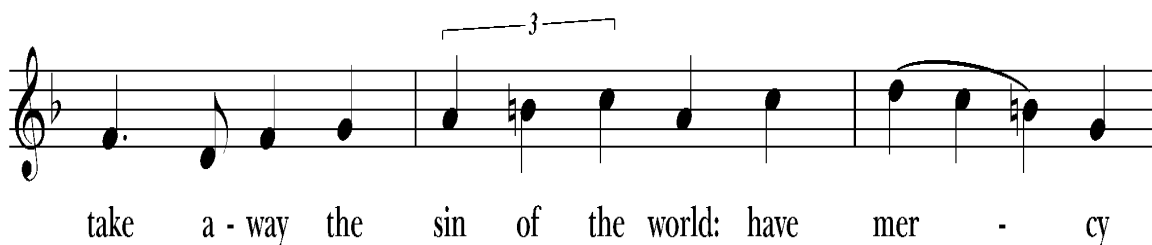
King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we



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



*Presider* God be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Presider* Let us pray.

Collect for the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

### *Presider and people*

Holy God, you call us to righteousness and light. Teach us the undivided law of love, that we may love your children even as you do, love you with all our will and strength, and find our freedom in this blessed service, taught to us in word and deed by Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Revised Common Lectionary Prayers)

### **The First Reading – Exodus 12:1-14**

*Reader* A reading from Exodus.

1 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: 2 This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. 3 Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. 4 If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. 5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. 6 You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. 7 They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. 8 They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. 9 Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. 10 You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. 11 This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. 12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. 13 The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

14 This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

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

*People* Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 149

1. Alleluia! Sing to God a new song; \* sing praise in the congregation of the faithful.
2. Let the people of Israel rejoice in their Maker; \* let the children of Zion be joyful in their Monarch.
3. Let them praise God's Name in the dance; \* let them sing praise with timbrel and harp.
4. God takes pleasure in the people \* and adorns the poor with victory.
5. Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; \* let them be joyful on their beds.
6. Let the praises of God be in their throat \* and a two-edged sword in their hand,
7. To wreak vengeance on the nations \* and punishment on the peoples;
8. To bind their rulers in chains \* and their nobles with links of iron;
9. To inflict on them the judgment decreed; \* this is glory for all God's faithful people. Alleluia!

## Second Reading – Romans 13:8-14

*Reader* A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead,

put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

*People* Thanks be to God.

### Sequence Hymn 546 *The Hymnal 1982*



1 A - wake, my soul, stretch ev - ery nerve, and press with vi - gor  
2 A cloud of wit - ness - es a - round hold thee in full sur -  
3 'Tis God's all - an - i - mat-ing voice that calls thee from on  
4 Then wake, my soul, stretch ev - ery nerve, and press with vi - gor



on; a heaven - ly race de - mands thy zeal, and  
vey; for - get the steps al - read - y trod and  
high; 'tis his own hand pre - sents the prize to  
on; a heaven - ly race de - mands thy zeal, and



an im - mor - tal crown, and an im - mor - tal crown.  
on - ward urge thy way, and on - ward urge thy way.  
thine as - pir - ing eye, to thine as - pir - ing eye.  
an im - mor - tal crown, and an im - mor - tal crown.

### The Holy Gospel – Matthew 18:15-20

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

*People* Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax

collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

*Reader*    The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*    Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon    Jim Martin (who expressed attraction to these readings)

**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

Let us pray for the Church and the world, saying "Hear our prayer."

Intercessor

At this time of changing seasons, we thank you, O Lord, for the beauty of our earth.

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the Church in all times and places. Strengthen our faith as we seek to do your will and become more and more your people.

**Hear our prayer.**

Guide the leaders of our land: *Donald*, our President, *Scott*, our Governor, *and all other elected or appointed officials*, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth.

**Hear our prayer.**

Grant that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that we may live in justice and peace.

**Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land so to use our public and private wealth that all may find suitable and fulfilling employment, and receive just payment for their labor.

**Hear our prayer.**

O God, the strength of those who labor, grant that we may never forget that our common life depends upon each other's toil.

**Hear our prayer.**

Remember, O Lord, in mercy all those who suffer or are in any trouble, knowing that you do not willingly afflict or grieve us.

**Hear our prayer.**

Grant your blessing to all who have died in the hope of resurrection; grant them rest from their labors.

**Hear our prayer.**

I invite any other prayers of intercession or thanksgiving, silently or aloud.

Silence

Presider

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Silence

The Deacon or Priest adds a concluding collect.

### A collect for Labor Day

Almighty God, you have so linked our lives one with another that all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives: So guide us in the work we do, that we may do it not for self alone, but for the common good; and, as we seek a proper return for our own labor, make us mindful of the rightful

*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 love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; 10 love one another with mutual affection"(Romans)

### **Offertory Hymn 376    *The Hymnal 1982***

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;  
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,  
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;  
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, bloom - ing mea - dow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;

giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.  
teach — us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di - vine.

### **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 a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. The lyrics are printed below the notes, aligned with the syllables. The score concludes 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, 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.

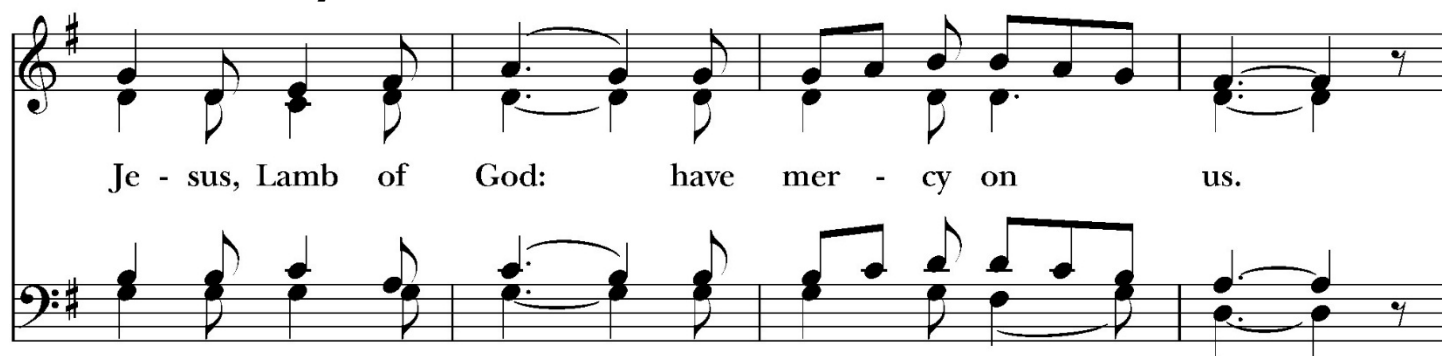
**Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*Presider* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

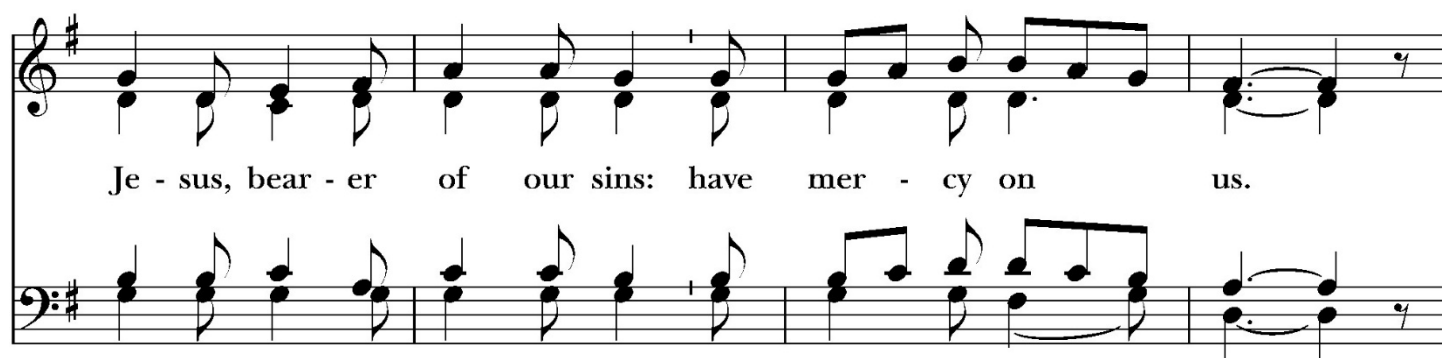
*People* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

### **S 164 The Hymnal 1982**



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

The first system of musical notation is for the hymn 'S 164'. It consists of a treble and a bass staff, both in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics 'Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.' are written below the notes. The music is in a common time signature, and the piece ends with a final cadence.



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

The second system of musical notation continues the hymn. It also consists of a treble and a bass staff in D major. The melody continues from the first system, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics 'Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.' are written below the notes. The music is in a common time signature, and the piece ends with a final cadence.

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

give us your peace, give us your peace.

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*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 593 *The Hymnal 1982***

1 Lord, make us ser - vants of your peace: where there is  
 2 Where all is doubt, may we sow faith; where all is  
 3 Je - sus, our Lord, may we not seek to be con -  
 4 May we not look for love's re - turn, but seek to  
 5 Dy - ing, we live, and are re - born through death's dark

1 hate, may we sow love; where there is hurt, may we for -  
 2 gloom, may we sow hope; where all is night, may we sow  
 3 soled, but to con - sole, nor look to un - der - stand - ing  
 4 love un - self - ish - ly, for in our giv - ing we re -  
 5 night to end - less day: Lord, make us ser - vants of your

1 give; where there is strife, may we make one.  
 2 light; where all is tears, may we sow joy.  
 3 hearts, but look for hearts to un - der - stand.  
 4 ceive, and in for - giv - ing are for - given.  
 5 peace, to wake at last in hea - ven's light.

### **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 527    *The Hymnal 1982***



1 Sing - ing songs of ex - pec - ta - tion, on - ward  
2 One the light of God's own pres - ence, o'er his  
3 One the strain the lips of thou - sands lift as



goes the pil - grim band, through the night of  
ran - somed peo - ple shed, chas - ing far the  
from the heart of one; one the con - flict,



doubt and sor - row, march - ing to the prom - ised land.  
gloom and ter - ror, bright - ening all the path we tread:  
one the per - il, one the march in God be - gun:



Clear be - fore us through the dark - ness gleams and  
one the ob - ject of our jour - ney, one the  
one the glad - ness of re - joic - ing on the



burns the guid - ing light: trust - ing God we  
faith which nev - er tires, one the ear - nest  
far e - ter - nal shore, where the one al -



march to - geth - er step - ping fear - less through the night.  
look - ing for - ward, one the hope our God in - spires.  
might - y Fa - ther reigns in love for 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. 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 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, slowly read next Sunday's scriptures. Jot down questions and thoughts you may have. Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35.**

## **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**September 9   Wednesday midweek Eucharist   5:30-6:00 P.M.**

**Commemorating the Martyrs of Memphis**

**September 13   Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost   10-11:15 AM**

**Reading group after coffee**

**September 16   Wednesday Midweek Eucharist   5:30-6:00 P.M.**

**Commemorating Ninian   pizza after service**

**September 20   Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Holy Eucharist 10-11:15 AM.**

**September 23   Midweek Eucharist   5:30-6:00 P.M.**

**Commemorating Thecla of Iconium**

**September 27   Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost   Holy Eucharist**

**10-11:15 AM**

## **OTHER EVENTS**

**September 3   Memory Café   11AM-1PM**

**September 16   Vestry Meeting   6:30-8:00 P.M.   Pizza available between  
Eucharist and Vestry**

**September 26   Burial Eucharist and Celebration of Life for Eileen Widger**

**September 27   Reading Group after Coffee Hour**