

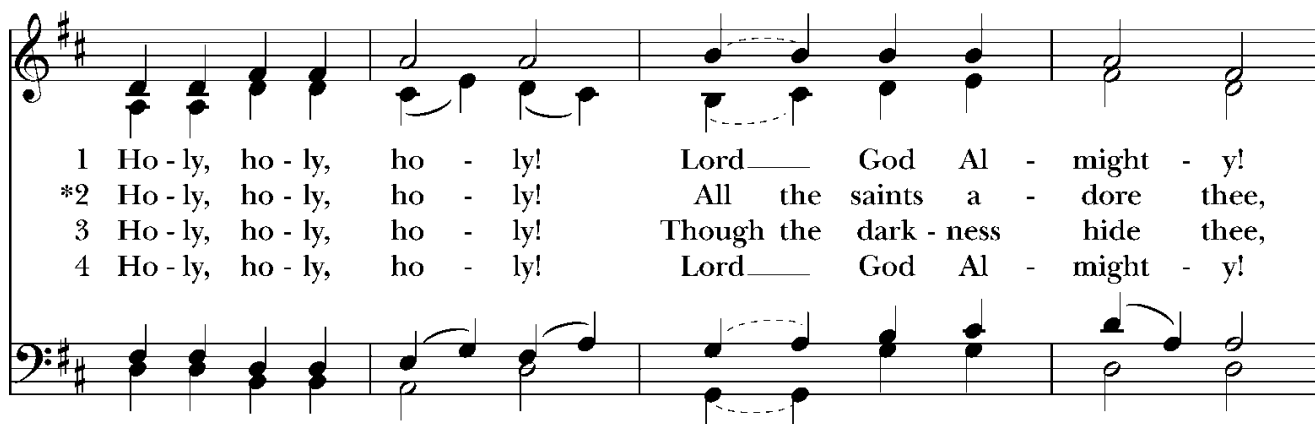
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Chester, Vermont
The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 2026



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 362



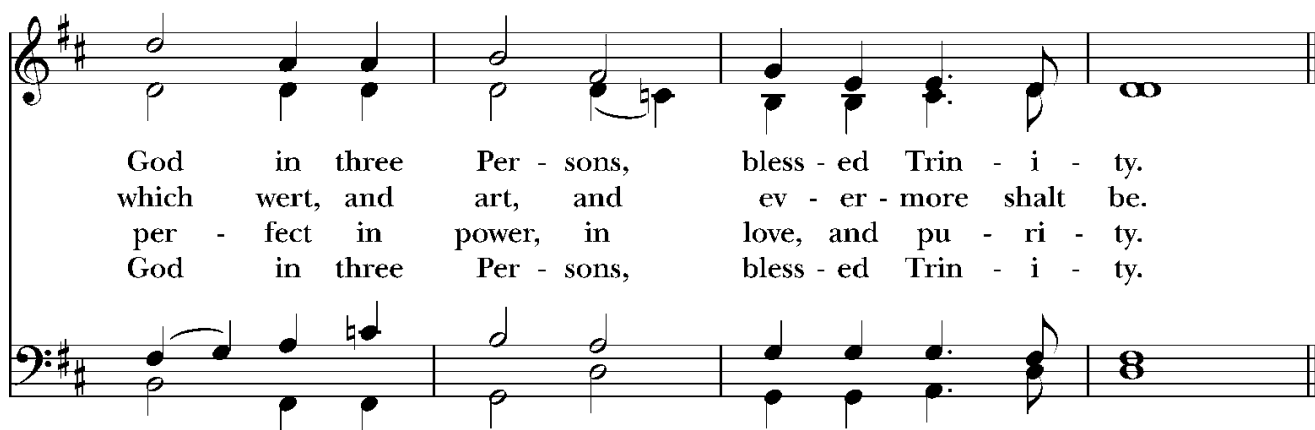
1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord — God Al - might - y!
 *2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord — God Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee:
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 though the sin - ful hu - man eye thy glo - ry may not see,
 All thy works shall praise thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea;



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y,
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y,



God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.
 which wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 per - fect in power, in love, and pu - ri - ty.
 God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

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



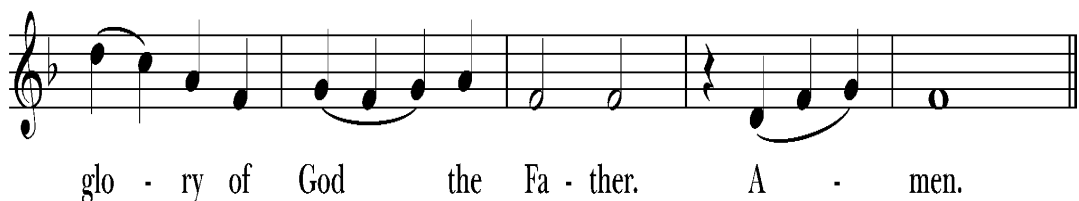
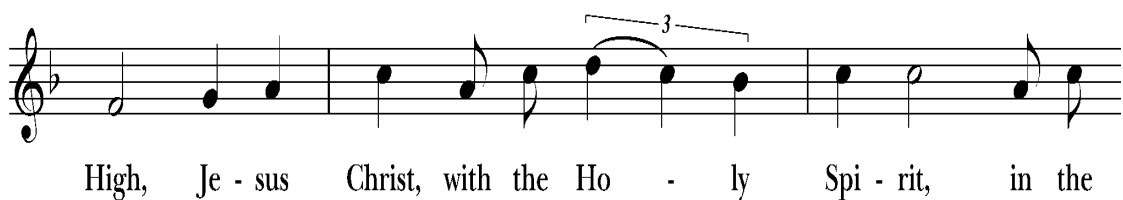
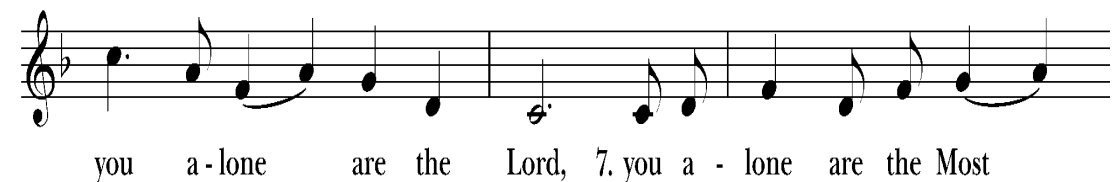
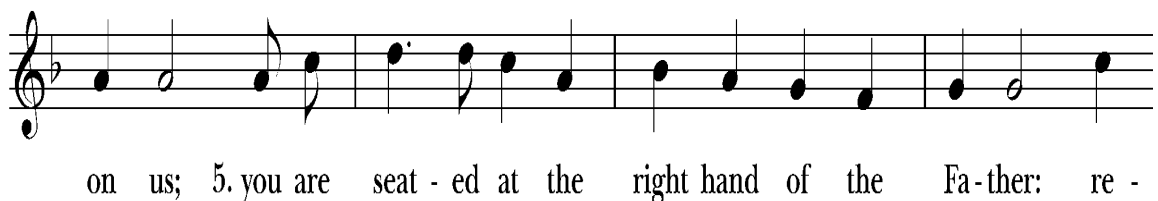
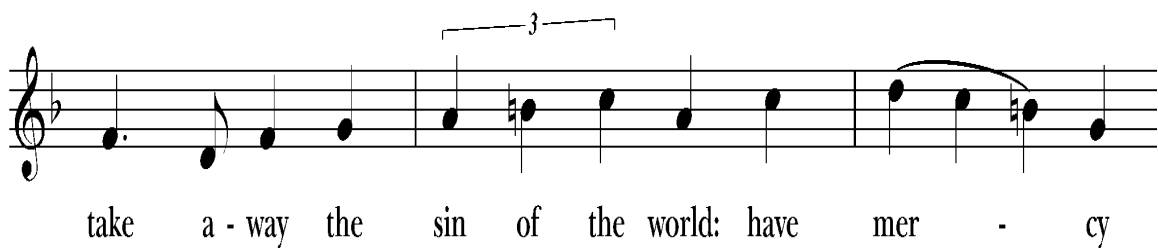
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we



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



Presider God be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

Collect for the Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Presider and people

You know each of us by name, O God, and in your sight we have found favor, yet our minds cannot comprehend the vision of your glory or the vastness of your love. Grant that as we glimpse your greatness reflected in your many gifts we may always return to you the praise that is yours alone. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Revised Common Lectionary Prayers.)

The First Reading – Exodus 33:12-23

Reader A reading from Exodus.

12 Moses said to the Lord, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' 13 Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." 14 He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." 15 And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. 16 For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."

17 The Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." 18 Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." 19 And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The Lord'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. 20 But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." 21 And the Lord continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; 22 and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; 23 then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen."

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

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 99

1. God reigns; let the people tremble; * God is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.
2. God is great in Zion * and is high above all peoples.

3. Let them confess God's Name, which is great and awesome; *
God is the Holy One.
4. "O mighty Ruler, lover of justice, you have established equity; *
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."
5. We proclaim your greatness, O God, and fall down before your
footstool; * you are the Holy One.
6. Moses and Aaron among your priests, and Samuel among those
who call upon your Name, *
they called upon you, and you answered them.
7. You spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; * they kept your
testimonies and the decree that you gave them.
8. "O Holy God, you answered them indeed; * you were a God who
forgave them, yet punished them for their evil deeds."
9. Proclaim the greatness of our God, and worship on God's holy hill,
* for our God is the Holy One

Second Reading 1 Thesalonians 1:1-10

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

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

2 We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly 3 remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 4 For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. 6 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 8 For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place

your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. 9 For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

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

People Thanks be to God.

i.

Sequence Hymn 706 *The Hymnal 1982*

1 In your mer - cy, Lord, you called me, taught my
 2 Lord, I did not free - ly choose you till by
 3 Now my heart sets none a - bove you, for your

sin - filled heart and mind, else this world had
 grace you set me free; for my heart would
 grace a - lone I thirst, know - ing well, that

still en - thrall'd me, and to glo - ry kept me blind.
 still re - fuse you had your love not cho - sen me.
 if I love you, you, O Lord, have loved me first.

The Holy Gospel Matthew 22:15-22

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

15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. 16 So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. 17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" 18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you

putting me to the test, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. 20 Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" 21 They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." 22 When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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

Brothers and sisters, beloved by God: Grace to you and peace. Let us pray to the Holy One, saying, "Be gracious to us, O God; show us your mercy."

Intercessor

We always give thanks to you, O God, for the Church, constantly remembering before you its work of faith, labor of love, and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. Inspire us by the Holy Spirit.

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

Be gracious to us, O God;

Show us your mercy.

Almighty God, make us more like your Son, Jesus, who did not regard people with partiality. May we love justice. May we be gracious with all people.

Silence

Be gracious to us, O God;

Show us your mercy.

God our King, the earth shakes in your presence. All that is belongs not to us, but to you. May we be good stewards of all you have created.

Silence

Be gracious to us, O **God**;

Show us your mercy.

Holy One, you answer us. May our communities know and experience your presence.

Silence

Be gracious to us, O God;

Show us your mercy.

Great Lord, give your people rest. Cover the sick and sorrowful with your healing hand. May the lonely and forgotten find favor in your sight.

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

Be gracious to us, O God;

Show us your mercy.

Living God, you have rescued the dying and dead from the coming wrath through the death and resurrection of your Christ. May our voices blend with theirs as they proclaim your greatness and worship around your throne forever.

Silence

Be gracious to us, O God;

Show us your mercy.

Presider 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.

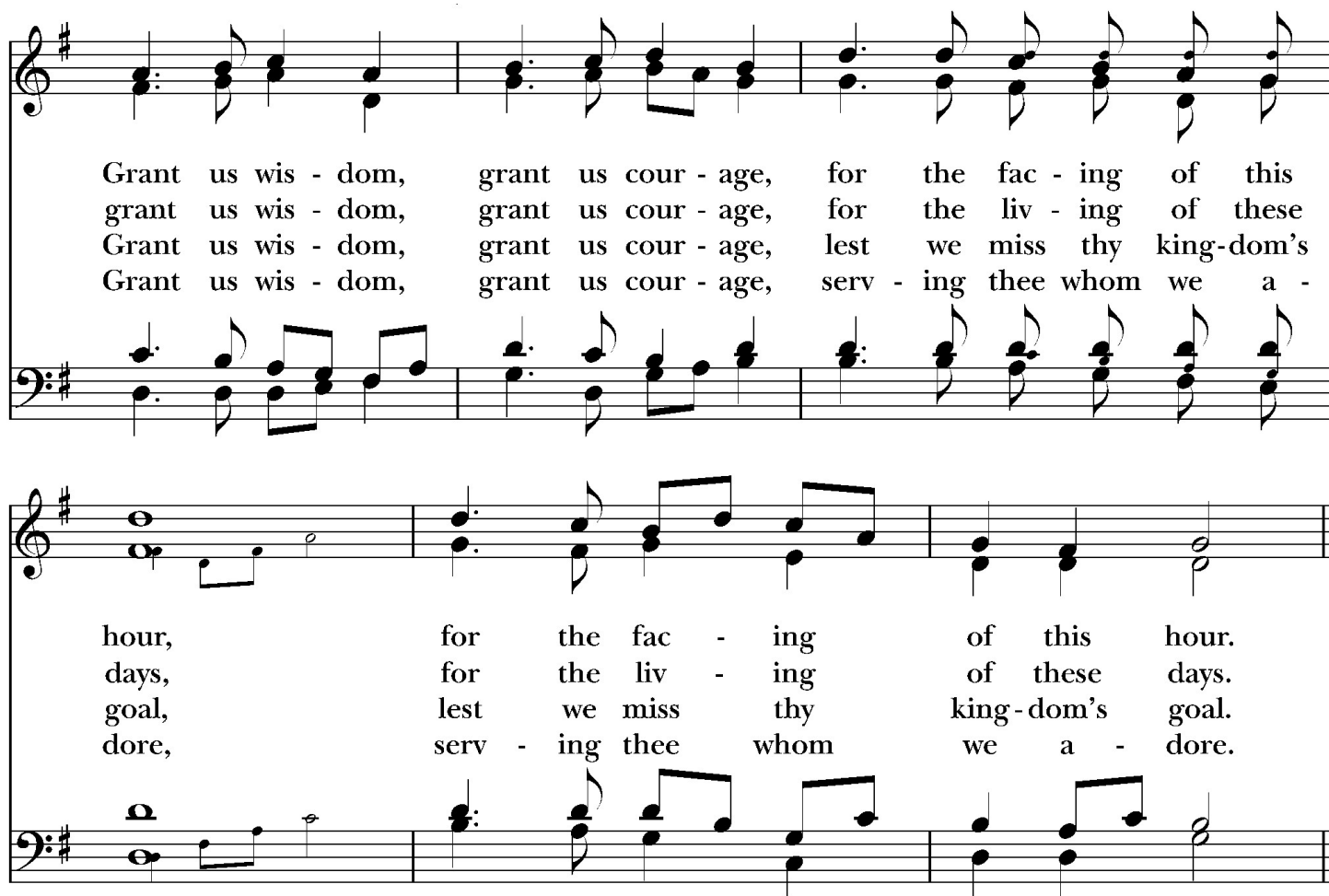
Offertory Sentence

"Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God and fall down before his holy foot stool. He is the holy one."(Psalm 99)

Offertory Hymn 594 *The Hymnal 1982*

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple pour thy power;
2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as - sail his ways!
3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to thy con - trol;
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils we de - plore;

crown thine an - cient Church's sto - ry; bring her bud to glo - rious flower.
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise:
shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in things and poor in soul.
let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our glo - ry ev - er - more.



Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the fac - ing of this
 grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the liv - ing of these
 Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, lest we miss thy king-dom's
 Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, serv - ing thee whom we a -

hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 goal, lest we miss thy king-dom's goal.
 dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

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 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

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major (one sharp). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

System 1:

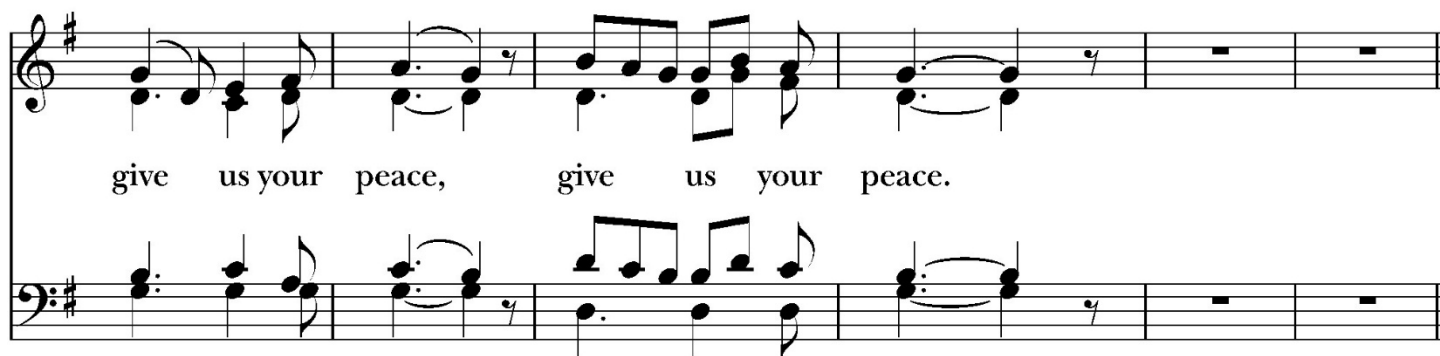
Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

System 2:

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

System 3:

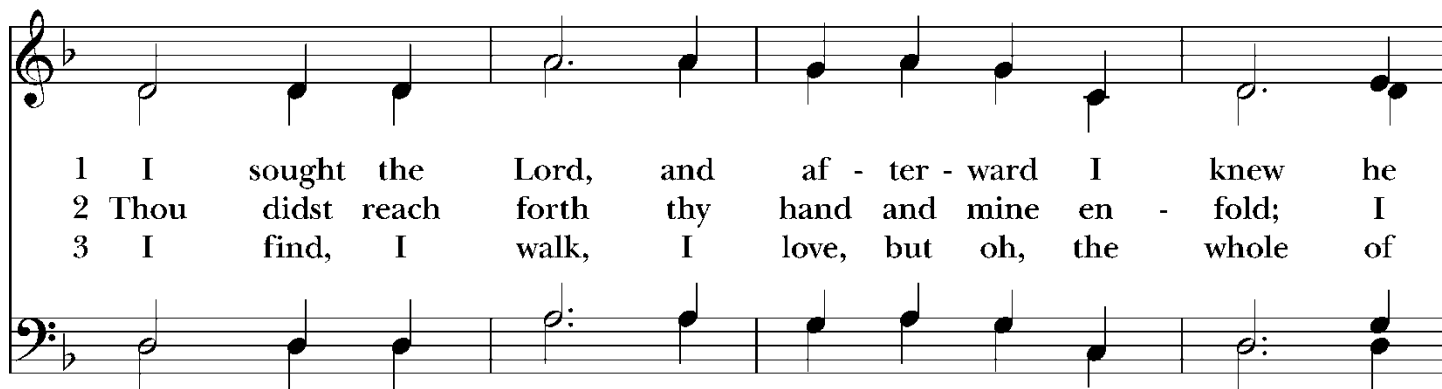
Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:



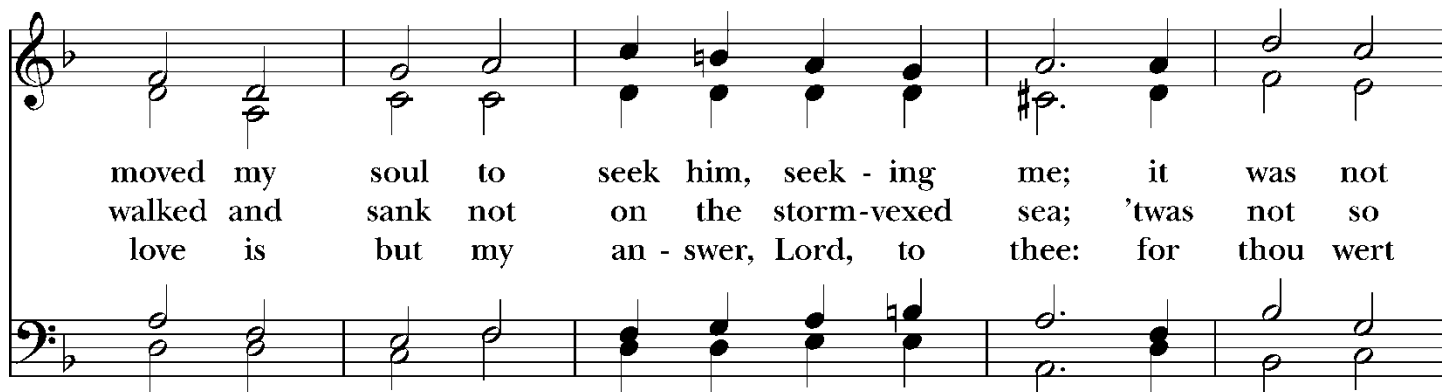
Presider The Holy Gifts of God for the Holy People of God.

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 689 *The Hymnal 1982*



1 I sought the Lord, and af - ter - ward I knew he
 2 Thou didst reach forth thy hand and mine en - fold; I
 3 I find, I walk, I love, but oh, the whole of



moved my soul to seek him, seek - ing me; it was not
 walked and sank not on the storm-vexed sea; 'twas not so
 love is but my an - swer, Lord, to thee: for thou wert



I that found, O Sa - vior true; no, I was found of thee.
 much that I on thee took hold, as thou, dear Lord, on me.
 long be - fore - hand with my soul, al - ways thou lov - edst me.

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 348 *The Hymnal 1982*



1 Lord, we have come at your own in - vi - ta - tion,
2 Here, at your ta - ble, con - firm our in - ten - tion
3 When, at your ta - ble, each time of re - turn - ing,
4 So, in the world where each du - ty as - signed us



cho - sen by you, to be coun - ted as friends:
ev - er to cher - ish the gifts you pro - vide;
vows are re - newed, and our cour - age re - stored:
gives us the chance to cre - ate or des - troy,



yours is the strength that sus - tains our vo - ca - tion,
teach us to serve with - out pride or pre - ten - sion,
may we in - creas - ing - ly glo - ry in learn - ing
help us to make those de - ci - sions that bind us,



ours a com - mit - ment we know nev - er ends.
led by your Spi - rit, de - fend - er and guide.
all that it means to ac - cept you as Lord.
Lord, to your - self, in o - be - dience and joy.

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-second Sunday after Pentecost, slowly read next Sunday's scriptures. Jot down questions and thoughts you may have. Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 80:1-6, 13-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Sunday, November 1 All Saints Day Holy Eucharist and

Remembering all the Saints of St. Luke's and our congregation

OTHER EVENTS

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