

**Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**February 12, 2023**  
**Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**



**ALL ARE WELCOME HERE!**

**Gospel in Action: Caring for all God's children, we shall serve  
God through worship, learning, and sharing.**

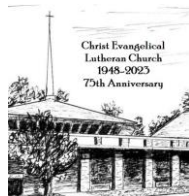
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church  
32747 Lake Road  
Avon Lake, Ohio 44012  
440-933-6263

celc.mainoffice@gmail.com      www.christlutheranavonlake.org

Interim Pastor: Rev. Laura Kuntz

Office Administrator: Heather Nordman

Organist: Randi Smarsh      Custodians: Bill Higgins and Beth Lecorchick



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*The congregation is invited to stand.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Holy One, source of our renewal,

**C: We confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: Thus says our God: "The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare." God's mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of † Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

### GATHERING HYMN

#### Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



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 heav'n re - flect thy rays,  
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs 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 gloom of doubt a - way.  
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, 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 oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

## GREETING

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** And also with you.

## KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



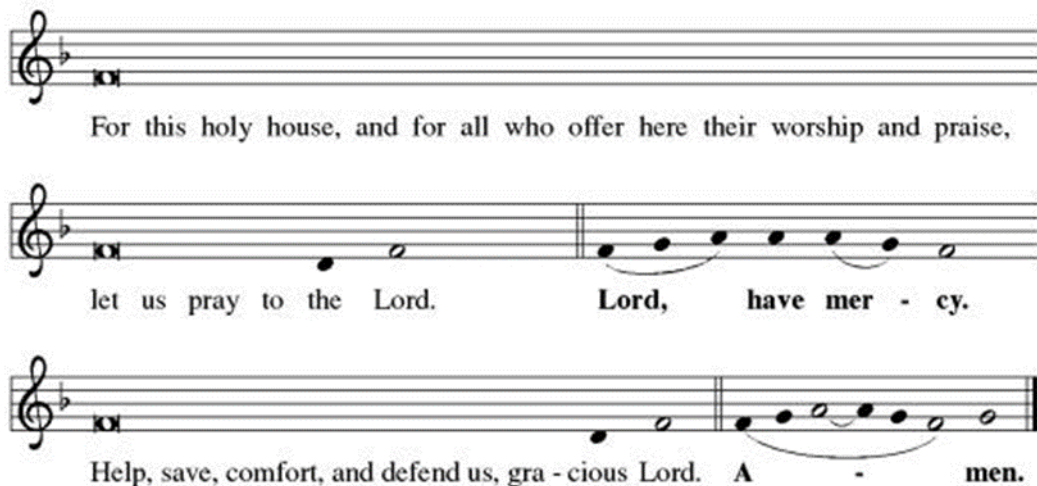
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



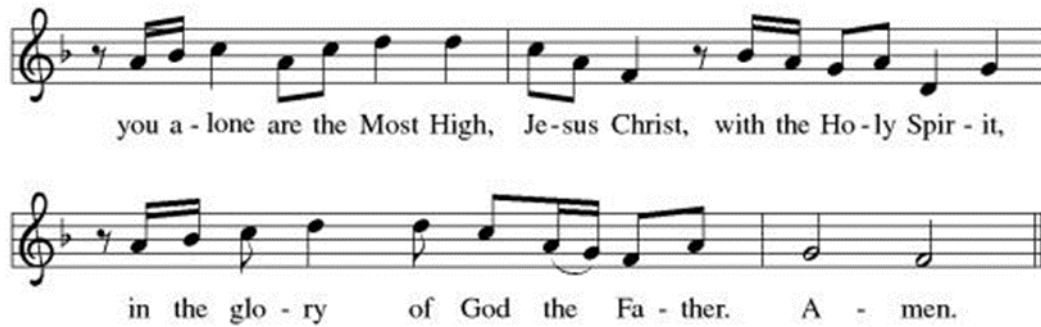
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
 let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.  
 Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Assisting minister  
 Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All  
 Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,  
 we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.  
 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
 you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;  
 you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.  
 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

**C: O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*The congregation is invited to sit.*

## FIRST LESSON                      Deuteronomy 30:15-20

L: The first lesson is from Deuteronomy, the 30<sup>th</sup> chapter.

[Moses said to the people:] <sup>15</sup>See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, <sup>20</sup>loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

L: The word of the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## PSALM 119:1-8

### TONE



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.  
May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

### REFRAIN



Hap - py are they who fol - low the teach - ing of the LORD.

Psalm 119:1

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress  
May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

- <sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose way is blameless,  
who follow the teaching of the LORD!
- <sup>2</sup>**Happy are they who observe your decrees  
and seek you with all their hearts,**
- <sup>3</sup>who never do any wrong,  
but always walk in your ways.
- <sup>4</sup>**You laid down your commandments,  
that we should fully keep them. R**
- <sup>5</sup>Oh, that my ways were made so direct  
that I might keep your statutes!
- <sup>6</sup>**Then I should not be put to shame,  
when I regard all your commandments.**
- <sup>7</sup>I will thank you with a true heart,  
when I have learned your righteous judgments.
- <sup>8</sup>**I will keep your statutes;  
do not utterly forsake me. R**

## SECOND LESSON      1 Corinthians 3:1-9

L: The second lesson is from 1 Corinthians, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

<sup>1</sup>Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup>I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, <sup>3</sup>for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? <sup>4</sup>For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human? <sup>5</sup>What then is

Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. <sup>6</sup>I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. <sup>7</sup>So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. <sup>8</sup>The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. <sup>9</sup>For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

L: The word of the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **BIBLE PRESENTATION**

**Mrs. Pressnell:** The following students have completed their Bible class and will be receiving Bibles today. Would the students and their parents please come forward as I read their names? (*Give the Bibles to the parents as they arrive at the altar.*)

**Pastor:** At holy baptism, you parents promised to place in your child's hands the Holy Scriptures. At this time please carry out that promise by presenting your child with this Bible. (*Parents present Bibles to their children.*)

**Pastor:** One of the most important things that Martin Luther did was to translate the Bible into the language of the people. Today, our church has continued this tradition through giving you Bibles that you can understand. I encourage you to set aside a time each week to read this Bible in your home. Parents and students choose a time to read from the Bible and pray together. God is pleased when you do. Will you make a commitment to read the Bible?

**Students:** Yes, by the help of God.

**Pastor:** Will you parents encourage your child to read the Bible and will you regularly pray with your child?

**Parents:** Yes, by the help of God.

**Pastor:** Let us pray:

**All:** **Lord God, you give to us all the treasures of the Holy Scriptures through which we learn of you and of Jesus Christ. By your Holy Spirit, help each of us to read the Bible regularly so that we will be guided by your word. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

*Those receiving Bibles kneel. Parents and pastor lay their hands on their heads as pastor prays:*

"Father heaven, stir up in \_\_\_\_\_"

your Holy Spirit that he/she will read this Bible and grow in faith, love, and obedience to your word.”

*The congregation is invited to stand.*

## GOSPEL VERSE



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL Matthew 5:21-37

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord!**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>21</sup>“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ <sup>22</sup>But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. <sup>23</sup>So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, <sup>24</sup>leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. <sup>25</sup>Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. <sup>26</sup>Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. <sup>27</sup>“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ <sup>28</sup>But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup>If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup>And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell. <sup>31</sup>“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ <sup>32</sup>But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. <sup>33</sup>“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ <sup>34</sup>But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the



throne of God, <sup>35</sup>or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. <sup>36</sup>And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup>Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.”

P: The gospel of the Lord!

**C: Praise to you, O Christ!**

*The congregation is invited to sit.*

**SERMON**

**Rev. Laura Kuntz**

*The congregation is invited to stand.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

### Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!  
2 Or - der my foot-steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;  
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;  
4 Make me to walk in your com-mands, 'tis a de-light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!  
let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.  
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.  
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

A: Inspire your church that it may be a sign of life throughout the world. From the exploration of faith with children and new believers to missionaries and bishops, shape lives of faithfulness, so that all find abundant life in your ways. Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: Nourish your creation. Accompany all who plant and water. Bless the work of farmers; provide for subsistence farmers facing drought and climate change. Guide the work of agricultural scientists toward sustainable ways to feed the world. Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: Give growth where there seems to be no hope for life. In nations and regions where reconciliation seems impossible, empower peacemakers with your Spirit. Where death holds sway through violence, disease, and hunger, equip relief workers to bring hope. Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: Nurture all in need especially those we say aloud or silently in our hearts... Bring healing to all who experience trauma caused by systems of injustice and destructive relationships. Give courage to those struggling to repent and those seeking reconciliation. Sustain all who work for restoration. Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: Encourage this congregation. Call us to a common purpose and keep us from quarrelling. Turn our hearts toward you and guide our leaders, so that our choices may be lifegiving for all. Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: Thanks be to you for the lives of all who have died in Christ. Teach us to follow them in your ways and gather us with them into the promise of eternal life with you. Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

P: We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

**C: Amen.**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

*The congregation is invited to sit.*

**OFFERING**

**“All Things Bright and Beautiful”**

**Choir**

*The congregation is invited to stand.*

**OFFERING PRAYER**

P: Let us pray.

**C: Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior, Amen.**

**DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

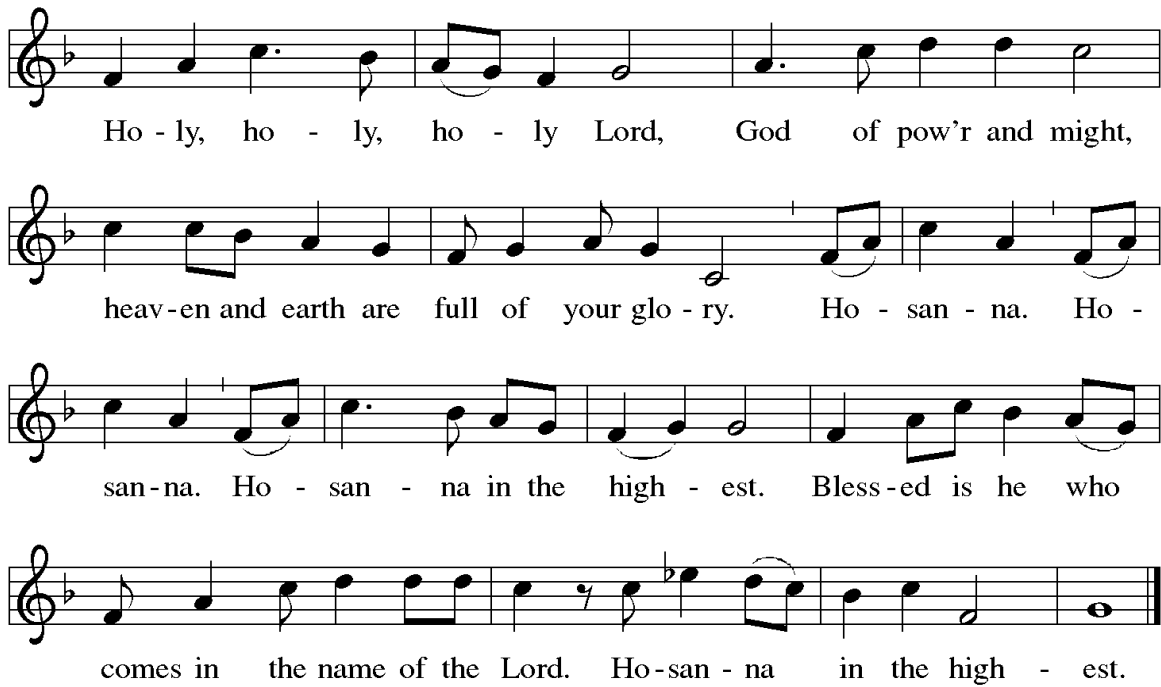
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff is for the Priest: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.' The second staff is for the Choir: 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff is for the Priest: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth staff is for the Choir: 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

**PREFACE**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

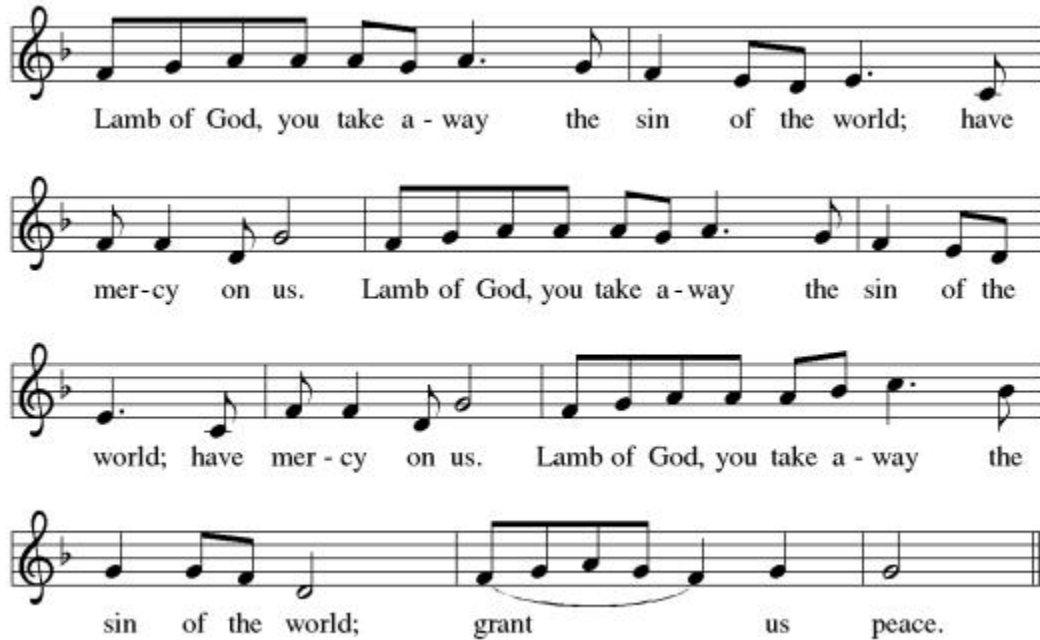
P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C: 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, forever and ever. Amen.**

## LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

*The congregation is invited to sit.*

## COMMUNION

### O God of Mercy, God of Light



1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and  
2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost  
3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for  
4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus  
mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er  
world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we  
those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and  
Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and



in your sight, to live our lives in you.  
 stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.  
 word and thought may work a work for you.  
 grace provide, to love them all in you.

5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,  
 may we each other's burdens share;  
 may we, where help is needed, there  
 give help as though to you.

6 And may your Holy Spirit move  
 all those who live to live in love,  
 till you receive in heav'n above  
 all those who live in you.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt.  
 Music: JUST AS I AM, Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling



1 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er dwell-ing in the ho-liest realms of light;  
 2 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er liv-ing as the church's ver-y life;  
 3 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er work-ing through the church's min-is-try;



Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er brood-ing o'er a world of gloom and night;  
 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er striv-ing through us in a cease-less strife;  
 quick-'ning, strength-'ning, and ab-solv-ing, set-ting cap-tive sin-ners free;



Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er rais-ing those of earth to thrones on high;  
 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er form-ing in the church the mind of Christ;  
 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er bind-ing age to age and soul to soul



liv-ing, life-im-part-ing Spir-it, you we praise and mag-ni-fy.  
 you we praise with end-less wor-ship for your gifts and fruits un-priced.  
 in com-mu-nion nev-er end-ing, you we wor-ship and ex-tol.

Text: Timothy Rees, 1874–1939, alt.  
 Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenliedjes en Contradansen*, 1710

*The congregation is invited to stand.*

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray,

C: Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. Amen.

## BLESSING

P: The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod † bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

C: Amen.

## SENDING HYMN

### Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing



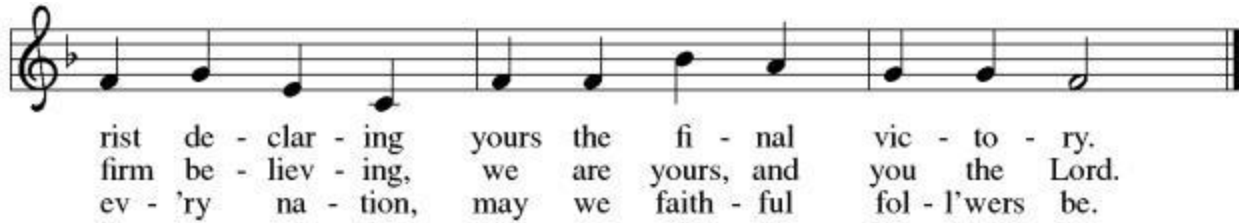
1 Praise the Lord, rise up re - joic - ing, wor - ship, thanks, de -  
2 Scat - tered flock, one shep - herd shar - ing, lost and lone - ly,  
3 Sins for - giv - en, wrongs for - giv - ing, we go forth a -



vo - tion voic - ing: glo - ry be to God on high!  
one voice hear - ing, ears at - ten - tive to your word;  
lert and liv - ing in your Spir - it, strong and free.



Christ, your cross and pas - sion shar - ing, by this eu - cha -  
by your blood new life re - ceiv - ing, in your bod - y,  
Part - ners in your new cre - a - tion, seek - ing peace in



rist de - clar - ing yours the fi - nal vic - to - ry.  
 firm be - liev - ing, we are yours, and you the Lord.  
 ev - 'ry na - tion, may we faith - ful fol - l'wers be.

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902–1983, alt.  
 Music: ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN, Johann Löhner, 1645–1705, adapt.  
 Text © Oxford University Press.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## DISMISSAL

**P:** Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

Liturgical texts, music and Psalm from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright ©2023 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted under License #SAS103657.

Bible readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 8022, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Reprinted by permission.

Now the Feast and Celebration liturgical music reprinted under ONELICENSE.NET, License #A-718405.

Hymns and song texts are reprinted under ONELICENSE.NET, License #A-718405, and/or CCLI, License #2032159.

All items not covered above are ©2022, Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, All rights reserved.