



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
January 29, 2023 | 10:30 AM



Everyone is welcome. As people of God, St. John's welcomes all regardless of age, economic status, ethnic background, gender, physical or mental ability, race or sexual orientation. We affirm that in Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female." (Galatians 3:28) This is Christ's church, and Christ has bid you come.

Guests are welcome. We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. So that we may be in contact with you, we invite you to sign the guest book in the narthex. Our programs are open to all and you are invited to participate. We hope you will worship with us again soon.

Children are welcome. We encourage them to attend worship with their parents—even their noise and restlessness are surely a delight to God. Children's bulletins are available from the ushers.

To assist you during worship: Large print worship bulletins are available from the ushers. If you are unable to come forward for communion, please inform an usher and the pastors will be happy to commune you at your pew.

Offerings: St. John's is a tithing church. We dedicate a percentage of our offerings to the mission of the wider church through the NJ Synod of the ELCA and to many other mission partners. We are able to support these ministries because of your offerings and tithes.

Assisted Listening: To access assisted listening, Connect to the StJohnsALS WiFi network. Download the free WaveCast app to your phone. Tap ST_JOHNS_ALS to connect. Please use your own headphones to listen. Individual wired devices coming soon!



Ministers: The People of Saint John's

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor

Vicar Naem Harry, Intern

Christopher Harlow-Jennings, Director of Music

Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator

Jama Bowman, Communications Coordinator

Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation

Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

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We're delighted you're worshiping with us. As part of our ongoing outreach, your voice and your image may be videographed and photographed and used by St. John's for ministry purposes. For any questions or concerns, contact the church office.

Prayer Before Worship

Redeeming God, you come to us in Christ to rescue us from slavery and lead us out of captivity. Guide us by the wisdom of the cross, and show us how to live a life of justice, love, and blessedness. Amen

From Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year A, Vol. 1

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

ELW *Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Red Book*

ACS *All Creation Sings: Purple Book*

PRELUDE Concerto in B-flat, op. 4, no. 2

G.F. Handel

WELCOME

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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

Silence for reflection.

Holy One, source of our renewal, 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.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW 637 Holy God, Holy and Glorious



1 Ho - ly God, ho - ly and glo - ri - ous,
2 Ho - ly God, ho - ly and pow - er - ful,
3 Ho - ly God, ho - ly and beau - ti - ful,
4 Ho - ly God, ho - ly and on - ly wise,
5 Ho - ly God, ho - ly and liv - ing one,



glo - ry most sub - lime, you come as one a - mong us
pow - er with - out peer, you bend to us in weak - ness;
beau - ty un - sur - passed, you are de - spised, re - ject - ed;
wis - dom of great price, you choose the way of fol - ly:
life that nev - er ends, you show your love by dy - ing,



in - to hu - man time, and we be - hold your glo - ry.
emp - tied, you draw near, and we be - hold your pow - er.
scorned, you hold us fast, and we be - hold your beau - ty.
God the cru - ci - fied, and we be - hold your wis - dom.
dy - ing for your friends, and we be - hold you liv - ing.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952

Music: NELSON, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950

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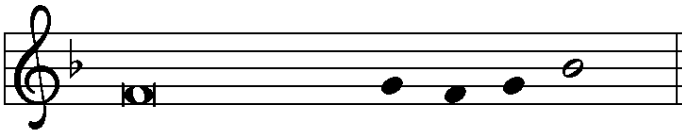
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Music © 2001 Robert Buckley Farlee, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

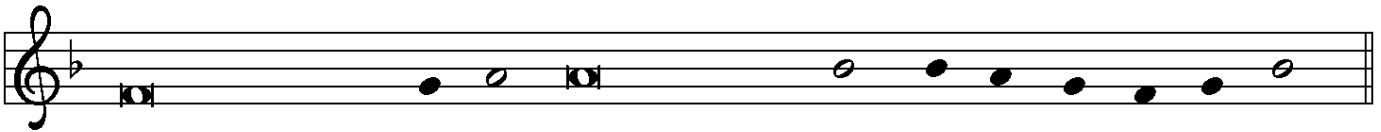
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



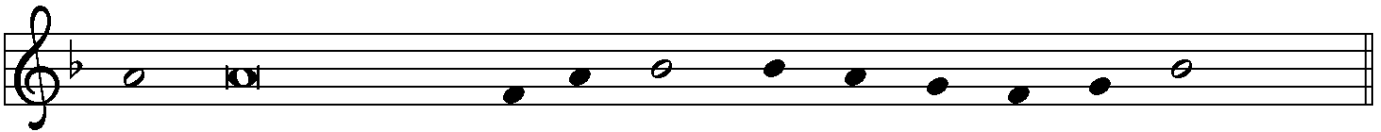
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



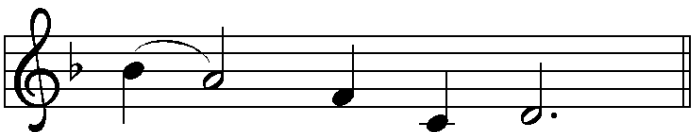
Lord, have mer - cy.



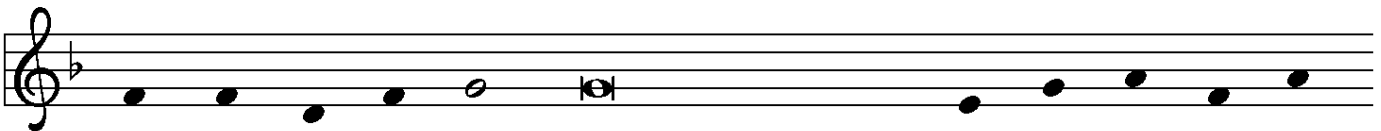
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of



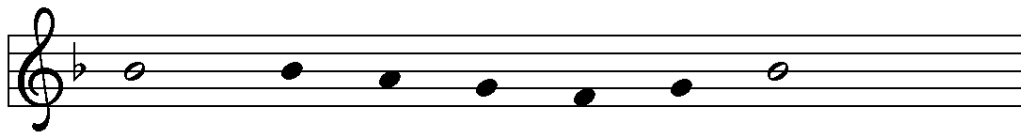
God, and for the uni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



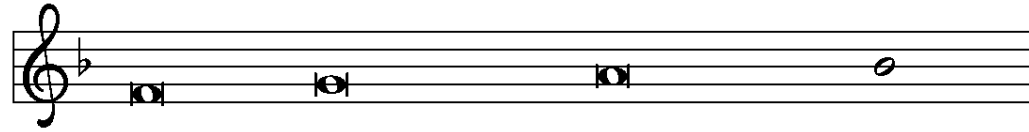
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



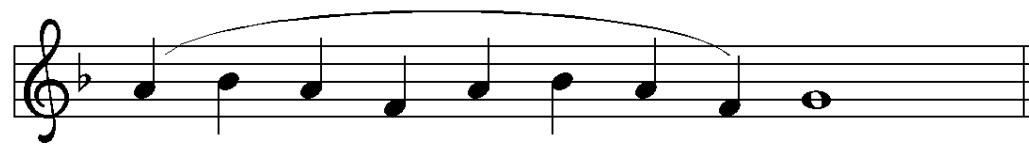
praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

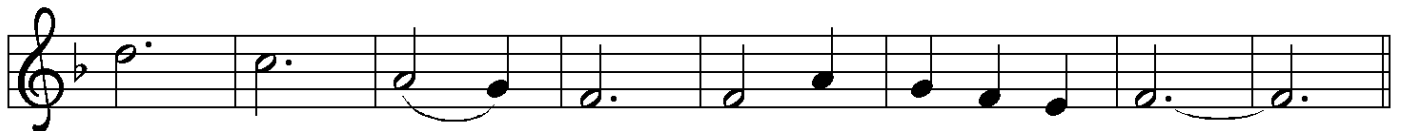
Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - mighty God and Fa-ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a -



lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

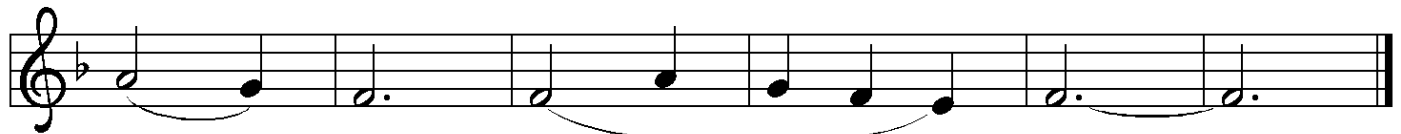


Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

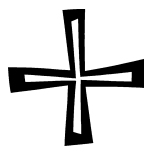
Final refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est.

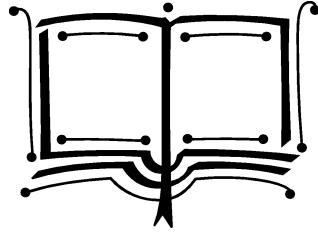


A - men, a - men.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING Micah 6:1–8

¹Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the Lord has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³“O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

⁶“With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* Thanks be to God.

PSALM 126

Refrain sung first by choir; all other times by all. Verses sung by the choir.

God's love, _____ God's love, _____ God's
love _____ is ev - er - last - ing.

Refrain: Leon C. Roberts (b. 1950), Copyright © 1987. Used by Permission.

Simplified Anglican Chant: Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *Mass for Grace*, Copyright © 1992. Used by Permission.

- 1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of | Zion, *
then were we like those who | dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with | laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of | joy. *R*
- 3 Then they said among the | nations, *
“The LORD has done great things for | them.”
- 4 The LORD has done great things for | us, *
and we are glad in | deed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O | LORD, *
like the watercourses of the | Negev. *R*
- 6 Those who sowed with | tears *
will reap with songs of | joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the | seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their | sheaves. *R*

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:18–31

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* Thanks be to God.



Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL Matthew 5:1–12

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

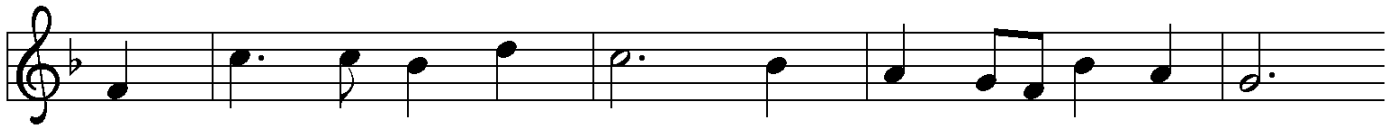
Please be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 651 Oh, Praise the Gracious Power



- 1 Oh, praise the gra - cious pow'r that tum - bles walls of fear
- 2 Oh, praise per - sis - tent truth that o - pens fist - ed minds
- 3 Oh, praise in - clu - sive love, en - cir - cling ev - 'ry race,
- 4 Oh, praise the word of faith that claims us as God's own,
- 5 Oh, praise the tide of grace that laps at ev - 'ry shore



and gath - ers in one house of faith all strang - ers far and near:
and eas - es from their anx - ious clutch the prej - u - dice that blinds:
ob - liv - i - ous to gen - der, wealth, to so - cial rank or place:
a liv - ing tem - ple built on Christ, our rock and cor - ner - stone:
with vi - sions of a world at peace, no lon - ger bled by war:

Refrain



We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!

- 6 Oh, praise the pow'r, the truth,
the love, the word, the tide.
Yet more than these, oh, praise their source,
praise Christ the crucified: *Refrain*
- 7 Oh, praise the living Christ
with faith's bright songful voice!
Announce the gospel to the world
and with these words rejoice: *Refrain*

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

Music: CHRISTPRAISE RAY, Carol Doran, b. 1936

Text and music from *New Hymns for the Lectionary*, © 1984 Oxford University Press, Inc.

APOSTLES CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

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

God of mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Response at the conclusion of the prayer: Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please be seated.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MISSION

GREETINGS FROM CROSS ROADS

Anthony Briggs, Executive Director

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We present offerings for God's mission through this congregation. Both visitors and members alike may use the pew envelope to make a contribution. If you would like to make a one-time or recurring electronic contribution, you may visit www.stjohnssummit.org or scan this code.



OFFERING MUSIC All My Spirit Longs to Savor

G.F. Handel

All my spirit long to savor, dearest friend, you grace and favor.
Oh, how deeply do I cherish this rich food; how well you nourish!
All my heart with hope is glowing for this cup of life o'er flowing.
All my flesh and blood, delighted, is by God united.

Jesus, source of lasting pleasure, truest friend, and dearest treasure,
peace beyond all understanding joy into all life expanding:
humbly now, I bow before you. Love incarnate, I adore you;
worthily let me receive you, and, so favored, never leave you.

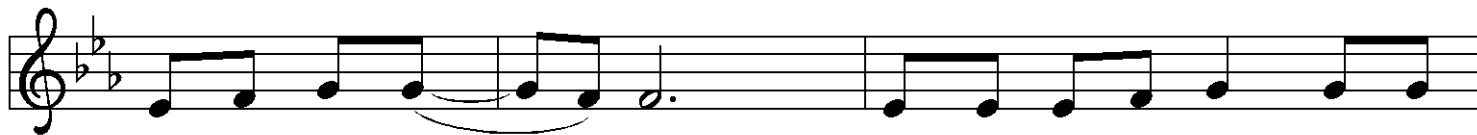
–Johann Franck

Please stand.

OFFERTORY ELW 185 Create in Me a Clean Heart



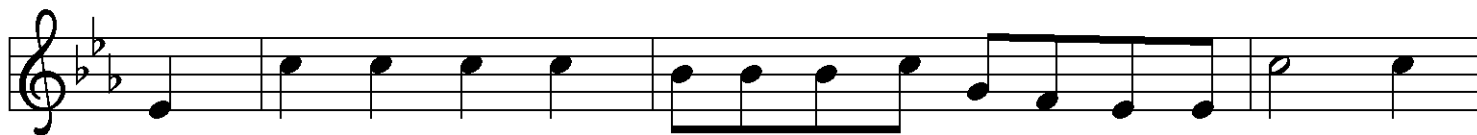
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your



pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.



Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me



with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,



and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

Music: *Liturgy of Joy*, James M. Capers, b. 1948
Music © 1993 Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. **God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.**

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also 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.**

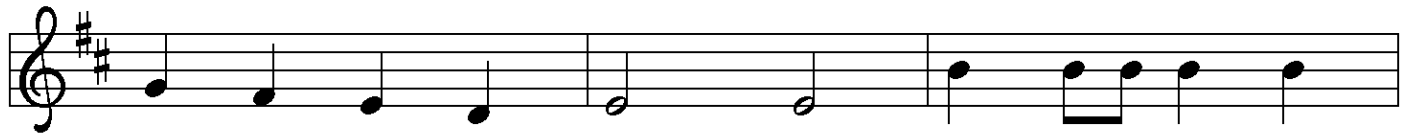
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,



heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



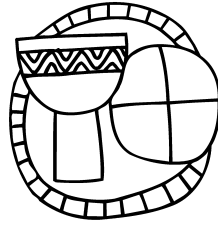
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

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

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.



Please be seated.

RECEPTION OF COMMUNION

If you wish to receive communion, please approach the pastor one at a time.

*The pastor will place a wafer in your open hands. Please indicate if you need a gluten free wafer.
The vicar serves the wine from the chalice—either by intinction or drinking from the common cup.*

The assisting minister serves the wine/grape juice in pre-filled individual cups.

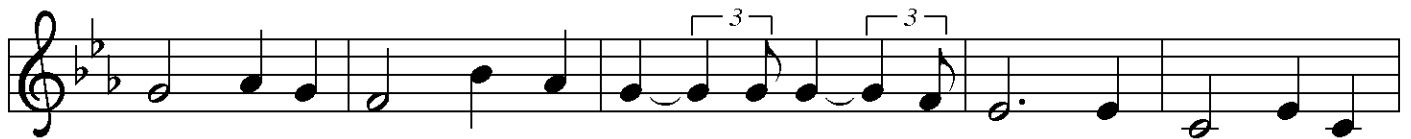
All baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's table.

If you do not wish to commune, you may come forward for a blessing.

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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN ELW 768 Lead Me, Guide Me

Refrain



Lead me, guide me, a-long the way, For if you



lead me, I can - not stray. Lord, let me walk each

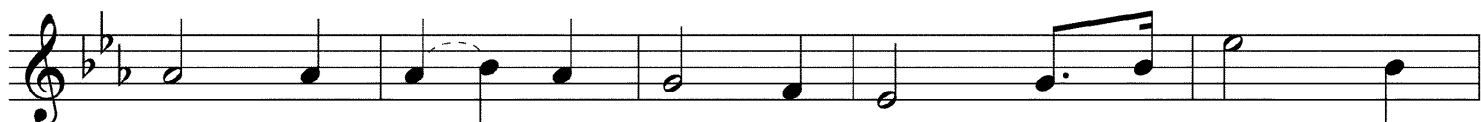


day with thee. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

Verses



1. I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r to
2. Help me tread in the paths of right - eous - ness, Be my
3. I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am



help me o - ver my weak - est hour. Help me through the
aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press. I am put - ting
blind with - out thy Light to see, Lord, just al - ways



dark-ness thy face to see, Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.
all my trust in thee. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.
let me thy ser - vant be. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

D.C.

COMMUNION HYMN ACS 1018 Deep Peace

Deep peace of the run - ning waves, deep peace of the
flow - ing air, deep peace of the shin - ing stars to
you, deep peace of the qui - et earth. earth.

To repeat | *Last time*

Text: Celtic traditional; adapt. Ray Makeever, b. 1943
Music: DEEP PEACE, Ray Makeever
Text and music © 2009 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Please stand.

BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. **Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Amen.**

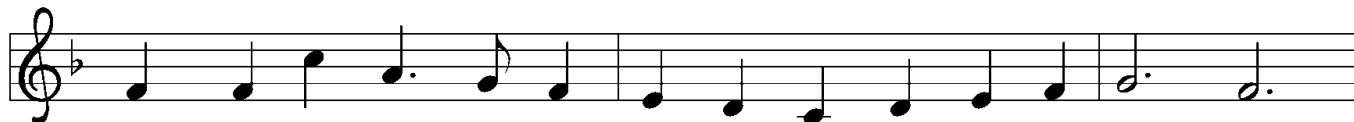
Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

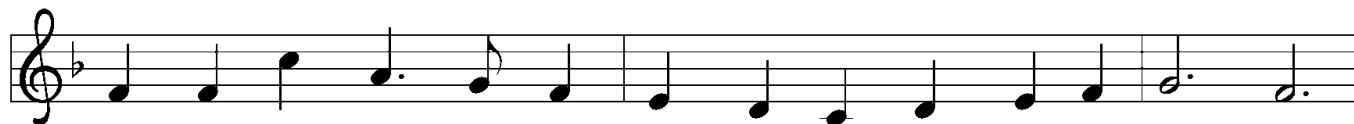
BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW 858 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



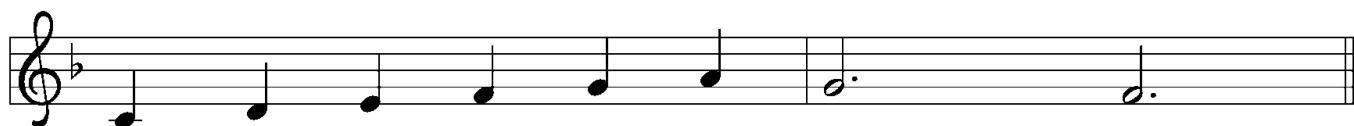
1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly reign - ing
3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
if with his love he be - friend you.
Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Pæan

Percy Whitlock

January 29, 2023

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Rodger Kopf's birthday by Lois Kopf.

2023 Offering Envelopes: If you use offering envelopes for your contributions, 2023 envelopes are available for pickup in the church office.

TODAY is Camp Sunday: Anthony Briggs, Executive Director of Cross Roads, our camp and retreat ministry will join us for worship today. Come and learn more about the wonderful gift of outdoor ministry for you and your family.

Social Justice Social Ministry will lead a forum **TODAY at 9:00 AM** to introduce the proposed Welcome Statement for adoption at the Annual Meeting as part of the Reconciling in Christ process. It is very important that you come to this presentation and offer any feedback so that we are prepared to adopt this statement on February 12.

Children's Choir & Children's Faith Formation TODAY. Choir is open to children ages 5 and up. Rehearsals begin at **9:30-10:00 AM** in the Choir Room on the lower level. For more information speak to Christopher Harlow-Jennings. Children's Faith Formation is in the Youth Lounge at **10:00 AM**. For more information you can speak with Deacon Linda Walker.

Nursery will be open during church services, but will be unattended until further notice.

New Members: Have you been worshipping at Saint John's for a while now? Do you consider Saint John's your spiritual home? Maybe it's time to become a member! Contact Pastor Blake to schedule a meeting and take that next step!

Our Neighbors' Faith: Exploring the Church Family Tree Classes are on **Tuesdays at 7:00 PM**. Join us in person or on Zoom.

Budget Forum, February 5 at 9:00 AM: Please join us to review the 2023 Proposed Ministry Spending Plan in preparation for the February 12 Annual Meeting.

Appalachia Service Project 2023: And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then, I said, "Here I am! Send me." (Isaiah 6: 8-9). St. John's will be sending at least one team to Central Appalachia this summer (July 8-15, 2023). Will your child (age 14 and over; 8th grade graduate) join us for an amazing week of service and fun? Your \$350 deposit is due by January 31. We plan to fund raise the rest. Please make checks payable to St. John's with ASP on the memo line, and submit to the church office, attention Laura Snyder. Questions? See or email Laura: njsnyders5@verizon.net.

Annual Congregation Meeting, Sunday, February 12, immediately following the 9:30 AM service. The meeting will be held in person. Please check your email for more information.