

## GATHERING

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

### PRELUDE

#### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation,  
come to the help of your people,  
turning us from our sin to live for you alone.  
Give us the power of your Holy Spirit  
that we may confess our sin,  
receive your forgiveness,  
and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we have turned from you  
and given ourselves into the power of sin.**

**We are truly sorry and humbly repent.**

**In your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown,**

**things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again  
to you, and uphold us by your Spirit,  
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**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 SONG

GRACIOUS SPIRIT, HEED OUR PLEADING

ELW 401



*Njo - o kwe - tu, Ro - ho mwe - ma, M - fa - ri - ji we - tu.*

- 1 Gra - cious Spir - it, heed our plead - ing, fash - ion us all a - new.
- 2 Come to teach us, come to nour - ish those who be - lieve in Christ.
- 3 Guide our think - ing and our speak - ing done in your ho - ly name.



*Tu - fu - ndi - she ya mbi - ngu - ni, tu - we wa - tu wa - pya.*

It's your lead - ing that we're need - ing, help us to fol - low you.  
Bless the faith - ful, may they flour - ish, strength - ened by grace un - priced.  
Mo - ti - vate all in their seek - ing, free - ing from guilt and shame.

*Refrain*



*Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.*  
Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.



*Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.*  
Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

- 4 Not mere knowledge, but discernment,  
nor rootless liberty;  
turn disquiet to contentment,  
doubt into certainty. *Refrain*
- 5 Keep us fervent in our witness,  
unswayed by earth's allure.  
Ever grant us zealous fitness,  
which you alone assure. *Refrain*

Text: Wilson Niwagila; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922

Music: NJOOKWETU, ROHO MWEMA, Wilson Niwagila

English and Swahili text and music © Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## \*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.**

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture readings, preaching, and song.*

### FIRST READING

**Jonah 3:10-4:11**

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God had second thoughts about the calamity that God said would be done to them, and God did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?"

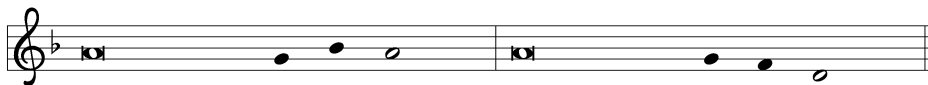
Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 145:1-8

*Refrain*



*Tone*



<sup>1</sup>I will exalt you, my <sup>1</sup> God and king,  
and bless your name forev- <sup>1</sup> er and ever.

<sup>2</sup>**Every day <sup>1</sup> will I bless you  
and praise your name forev- <sup>1</sup> er and ever.**

<sup>3</sup>Great is the LORD and greatly <sup>1</sup> to be praised!  
There is no end <sup>1</sup> to your greatness.

<sup>4</sup>**One generation shall praise your works <sup>1</sup> to another  
and shall de- <sup>1</sup> clare your power. R**

<sup>5</sup>I will speak of the glorious splendor <sup>1</sup> of your majesty  
and all your <sup>1</sup> marvelous works.

**<sup>6</sup>They shall tell of the might of your | wondrous acts,  
and I will re- | count your greatness.**

<sup>7</sup>They shall publish the remembrance of | your great goodness;  
they shall sing joyfully | of your righteousness.

**<sup>8</sup>The LORD is gracious and full | of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love. R**

## SECOND READING

## Philippians 1:21-30

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For God has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for Christ as well, since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*All sing the alleluias. Choir sings the proper verse.*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Proper Verse:*

*Alleluia.* Open our | hearts, O Lord,  
to give heed to what is said | by your Son. *Alleluia.*

## \*GOSPEL

## Matthew 20:1-16

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Jesus said to the disciples: "The dominion of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers**

**for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. "When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' "When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But the landowner replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."**

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

**Sermon**

**Pr. Bruce Davidson**

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness of the sea;  
2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;  
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;  
4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.  
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.  
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.  
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.  
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;  
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;  
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.  
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.  
and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.  
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.  
Music: LORD, REVIVE US, North American, 19th cent.

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

**Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.**

*A brief silence.*

**God who is gracious and merciful, teach your church to invite and welcome all. Lead us to be grateful for the blessing of community. Challenge your church to choose equity and compassion over judgment.**

**God, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.**

**God who sends the wind and the sun, you know every worm and bush by name. Help us remember that even the humblest parts of creation are precious to you. Show us how best to care for the earth and its creatures.**

**God, in your mercy,**

Hear our prayer.

**God who is ready to relent from punishing, impart your compassionate wisdom to legislators, judges, members of the military, and law enforcement. Give them courage to serve their communities in times of uncertainty, stress, or exhaustion.**

**God, in your mercy,**

Hear our prayer.

**God who saves, direct your people who are tempted by evil ways. Protect your children from calamity and disaster. Strengthen all who are incarcerated. Encourage all who are in despair or pain of any kind (*especially*).**

**God, in your mercy,**

Hear our prayer.

**God who is slow to anger, may we boast about the goodness of Jesus with the confidence of Paul in prison. Inspire us to find abundance in whatever vocation we are called to in the world and in service to our congregation.**

**God, in your mercy,**

Hear our prayer.

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**God who abounds in steadfast love, we give thanks for the saints called to the kingdom of heaven (*especially*).**

**United with them in spirit, hold us firm as we labor in this life and look to the life to come.**

**God, in your mercy,**

Hear our prayer.

**Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

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

*We greet one another with a sign of peace.  
 Please be mindful of touch.*

**OFFERING**

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church. Our offering at Christ Ascension goes to support our ministries as well as those of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. If you would like to give electronically, you may do so using the DONATE tab on our website: christascension.org, via VANCO Mobile Faith Engagement App, or by scanning the QR Code. For those physically present in worship, an offering plate is near where refreshments are served after worship.*



**\*OFFERTORY**

*One Bread, One Body*

#496

*Refrain*

One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of

bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y

through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.

1	Gen - tile	or Jew,	ser - vant	or free,
2	Man - y	the gifts,	man - y	the works,
3	Grain for	the fields,	scat - tered	and grown,

*Refrain*

wom - an	or man,	no	more.
one in	the Lord	of	all.
gath - ered	to one	for	all.

Text: John Foley, sj, b. 1939  
 Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, sj  
 Text and music © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ and OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



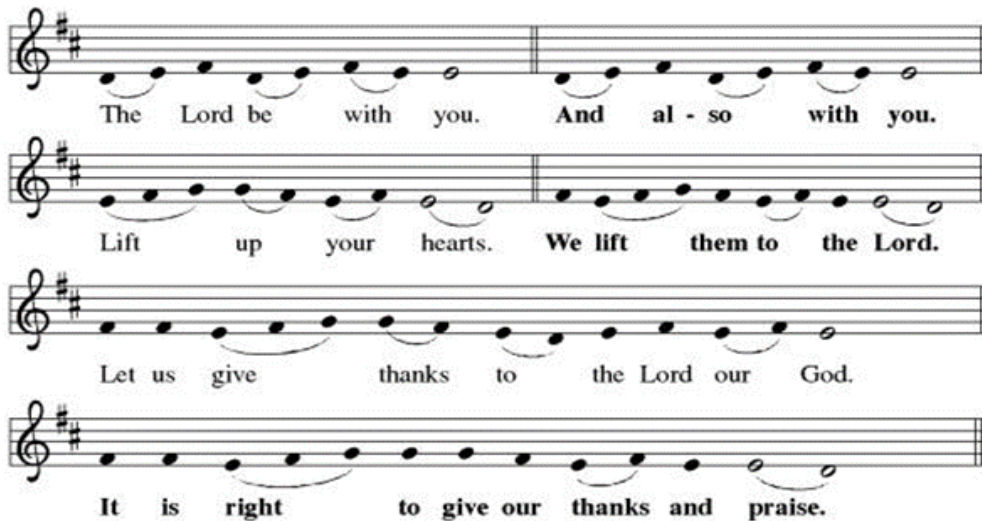
## MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

**God of power, God of plenty,  
all things belong to you.  
We bring your gifts to the table,  
that all might be fed.  
Form us into the body of your Beloved,  
Jesus Christ, 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.

### \*PREFACE

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:

## \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which Jesus 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

Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

### **COMMUNION**

This is Christ's Table and Christ himself is present when we share this Meal. All Christians are welcomed to receive the bread and wine, Christ's body and blood, given and shed for the sake of the world. Wine, with a grape juice alternative, is offered by pouring chalice. Take a small cup from the tray. Receive the bread in your open palm. Hold your cup steadily for the assisting minister to pour into. You may stand there to drink. When you return to your seat, please dispose of the cup in the provided bowl. For those who desire it, gluten-free bread is available; indicate your desire to the presiding minister. For those who would like to participate, but not to receive bread or wine, please come forward for a blessing. Indicate this desire by crossing your arms in front of you. If you are unable to come forward and would like Communion brought to you in your seat, let the usher know.

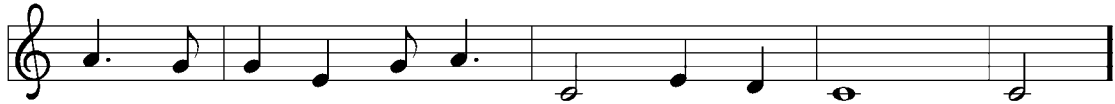
### **SUNG DURING DISTRIBUTION**

*Give Me Jesus*

#770



1 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,  
 2 Dark . . . mid-night was my cry, dark . . . mid-night was my cry,  
 3 Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,  
 4 Oh, . . . when I come to die, oh, . . . when I come to die,  
 5 And . . . when I want to sing, and . . . when I want to sing,



in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.  
 dark . . . mid-night was my cry, give me Je - sus.  
 just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus.  
 oh, . . . when I come to die, give me Je - sus.  
 and . . . when I want to sing, give me Je - sus.

*Refrain*



Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.



You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: GIVE ME JESUS, African American spiritual

## TABLE BLESSING

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

**Blessed be your name, O God,  
 for we have feasted on your Word,  
 Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.  
 Strengthened by this food,  
 send us to gather the world to your banquet,  
 where none are left out and all are satisfied.  
 In Jesus' name we pray.  
 Amen.**

## SENDING

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **BLESSING**

**The God of glory,  
✝ Jesus Christ, name above all names,  
and the Spirit who lives in you,  
bless you now and forever.  
Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN**

*The Lord Now Sends Us Forth*

**#538**

En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta, es - tá  
The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,  
pa - ra cons - truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.  
to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.  
Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar  
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain  
un mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor;  
to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;  
me ha to - ca - do, a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad.  
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.  
A - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.  
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

Text: Anonymous, Central America; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923  
Music: ENVIADO, anonymous, Central America  
English text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress.

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

## DISMISSAL

**Go in peace. Share the harvest.**

Thanks be to God.

## Copyright Information

**Liturgical Texts:** All liturgical texts used from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship and/ or All Creation Sings administered Augsburg Fortress and under Sundays and Seasons License #SAS000839.*

**Liturgical Setting:** *Holy Communion Setting One* ©2006: Mark Mummert, b. 1965, "This is the Feast,"; Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962, Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia), "Holy, Holy, holy"; Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950, "Lamb of God." All service music settings © pr administered by Augsburg Fortress.

**Biblical Texts:** Scripture quotations are from New Revised Standard Version Bible, © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

**Hymns:** Hymns used through One License #A-725060.

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress

- ELW 401** *Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading*  
Text: Wilson Niwagila; tr. Howard S. Olson b. 1922  
Music: Wilson Niwagila; arr. Egil Hovland, b. 1924  
English and Swahili text and tune © Lutheran Theological College,  
Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress Arr. © Egil Hovland
- ELW 588** *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*  
Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt.  
Music: North American, 19<sup>th</sup> cent.
- ELW 496** *One Bread, One Body*  
Text: John Foley, sj, b. 1939  
Music: John Foley, sj  
Text and music © 1978 John B. Foley, sj, and  
OCP Publications
- ELW 770** *Give Me Jesus*  
Text: African American spiritual  
Music: African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version  
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress
- ELW 538** *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth*  
Text: Anonymous, Central America;  
tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923  
Music: Anonymous, Central America  
English text © Augsburg Fortress

### LEADING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

PRESIDING MINISTER AND PREACHER	PASTOR BRUCE DAVIDSON
ASSISTING MINISTER	ELIZABETH BECK
MUSICIAN	RALPH WELLINGTON
LECTOR	MERRI BROWN
USHER	GORDON GERHART
ALTAR GUILD	GORDON GERHART
FELLOWSHIP HOSTS	

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Good News**—Charlotte is home and in need of food and transportation. Please see the E-News for the link to sign up to provide a meal.

**Garden News**—Baby lettuces, cherry tomatoes, edible flowers and eggplants are

ready to be harvested. Please help yourselves before the critters run off with them. Greenhouse, Serenity Garden coming soon. See E-News for more details!

**Coffee Hour Sign Up:** Council thought it best that the responsibilities of coffee hour be divided up so that no one person is responsible for food, set up and clean up. We created a sign up so that everyone can participate in this essential ministry. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054CADAC23A7FD0-coffee>