



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 that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

**In the name of the Father,
and of the ✙ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.**

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.

The assembly stands. The service continues with gathering song.

Hail to the Lord's Anointed



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
 2 You come with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,
 3 You shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;
 4 Kings shall fall down be - fore you, and gold and in - cense bring;



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun!
 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;
 love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in your path to birth.
 all na - tions shall a - dore you, your praise all peo - ple sing.



You come to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive
 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to
 Be - fore you on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald,
 To you shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as -



free, to take a - way trans - gres - sion and
 light, whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are
 go; and righ - teous - ness in foun - tains from
 cend; your king - dom still in - creas - ing, a



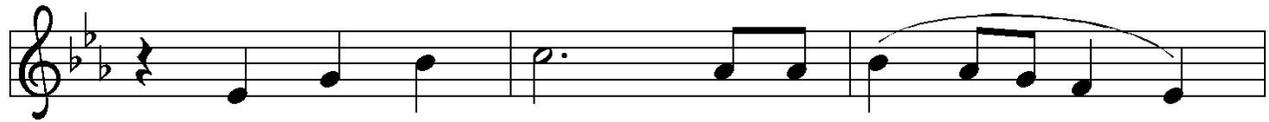
rule in eq - ui - ty.
 pre - cious in your sight.
 hill to val - ley flow.
 king - dom with out end.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.
 Music: FREUT EUCH, IHR LIEBEN, Leonhart Schröter, 1540–1602

***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.**

***GLORIA**



Glo - ry to God in the high -



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



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



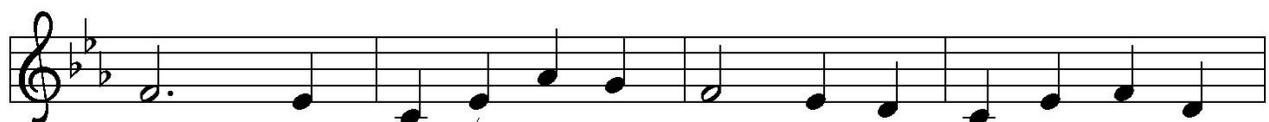
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus



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, 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. A - - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high -

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

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Isaiah 42:1-9

A reading from Isaiah:

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; upon whom I have put my spirit, to bring forth justice to the nations. Not crying out, not lifting up his voice, not making it heard in the street; a bruised reed my servant will not break, nor quench a dimly burning wick, but will faithfully bring forth justice. My chosen one will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 29

The choir introduces the refrain; ALL sing the refrain; the choir sings the verses.

Refrain



Tone



- ¹ Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- ² **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**
- ³ The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- ⁴ **The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor. Refrain**
- ⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- ⁶ **the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**
- ⁷ The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.
- ⁸ **The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. Refrain**
- ⁹ The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests
bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"
- ¹⁰ **The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**
- ¹¹ O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace. **Refrain**

SECOND READING

Acts 10:34-43

A reading from Acts:

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and his household: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every people anyone who is God-fearing and practices righteousness is acceptable to God. "You know the message

God sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how Jesus went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that Jesus did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised Jesus on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. Jesus commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about Jesus that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *All sing the alleluias. Proper verse sung by the choir.*



"A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, | the Beloved,* with whom I | am well pleased."

***GOSPEL**

Matthew 3:13-17

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

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do

you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to Jesus, and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

The gospel concludes:

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

SERMON

The assembly is seated.

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Down Galilee's Slow Roadways



1 Down Gal - i - lee's slow road - ways a strang - er trav - eled on
2 A - ris - ing from the riv - er he saw the heav - ens torn;
3 We too have found a road - way; it led us to this place.



from Naz - a - reth to Jor - dan to be bap - tized by John.
it seemed the sky so o - pen re - vealed the Spir - it's form.
We all have had to trav - el in search of hope and grace.



He went down to the wa - ters like sol - dier, scribe, and slave,
The ho - ly dove de - scend - ed a - mid a glo - rious voice:
But now be - side this wa - ter a - gain a voice is heard.



but there with - in the riv - er the sign was birth and grave.
"You are my own be - lov - ed, my child, my heart, my choice."
"You are my own, my cho - sen, be - lov - ed of your Lord."

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993
Music: MERLE'S TUNE, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933
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Music © 1983 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

***PROFESSION OF FAITH**

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism. The assembly may stand and join in the responses.

**I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin,
and confess the faith of the church.**

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response:

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response:

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response:

I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

**to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through
word and deed,**

**to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?**

The assembly makes affirmation:

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

**People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one
another in your life in Christ?**

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

The presiding minister prays for God's blessing.

Let us pray.

**We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the
Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and
raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of
your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and
the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both
now and forever.**

Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us
pray for the church, the whole human community,
and the well-being of the earth, our home.**

A brief silence.

**Steadfast God, give courage to your servant
church. Heal our divisions and unite us in mission.
Uphold our lay leaders, missionaries, pastors, and
bishops, and all who proclaim hope in a broken
world.**

Hear us O God.

Your mercy is great.

Restoring God, cleanse the life-giving waters of rivers, seas, and springs (*local water sources may be named*).

Create in us an urgent desire to preserve the beauty and bounty of your good creation.

Hear us O God.

Your mercy is great.

Righteous God, you guide the nations. Reconcile warring enemies and end cycles of violent retribution. Defend the rights of prisoners, detainees, and all who flee from persecution. Sustain international aid workers and peacemakers.

Hear us O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate God, you care for all in distress. Provide safety and support for those seeking asylum or in need of shelter. Be near to the dying, and comfort all who are grieving or ill (*especially*).

Hear us O God.

Your mercy is great.

Loving God, awaken the gifts of the Spirit in this congregation, that we may serve Christ by loving one another, our neighbors, and our enemies. We pray for travelers and those who are homebound.

Hear us O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered. For What Else Shall We Pray?

Promising God, in baptism we die and rise with Christ. We give thanks for those who have gone before us, and we trust that we will join them in your everlasting peace.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen.

***PEACE**

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church. Our offering at Christ Ascension goes to support our ministries in this congregation, in the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod and in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. If you want to give electronically, you may do so using the DONATE tab on our website: christascension.org, or by scanning the QR Code. For those physically present in worship, an offering plate is near the entrance on the information table.

***OFFERTORY**

verses 4 & 5

ELW #303

Brightest and Best of the Stars



1 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
 2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;
 3 What shall we give him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion?
 4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,
 5 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.
 low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
 Shall we bring in - cense and of - f'rings di - vine,
 vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;
 dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.



Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
 an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
 gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
 rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,
 Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,



guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.
 mak - er and mon - arch and sav - ior of all.
 myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?
 dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
 guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.

Music: MORNING STAR, James P. Harding, 1850–1911, adapt.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

A brief silence is held.

**God of majesty,
no eye has seen, no ear has heard
what you have prepared for those who love you,
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.
Use what we have gathered
to feed us with the reign of God come near,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

***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.

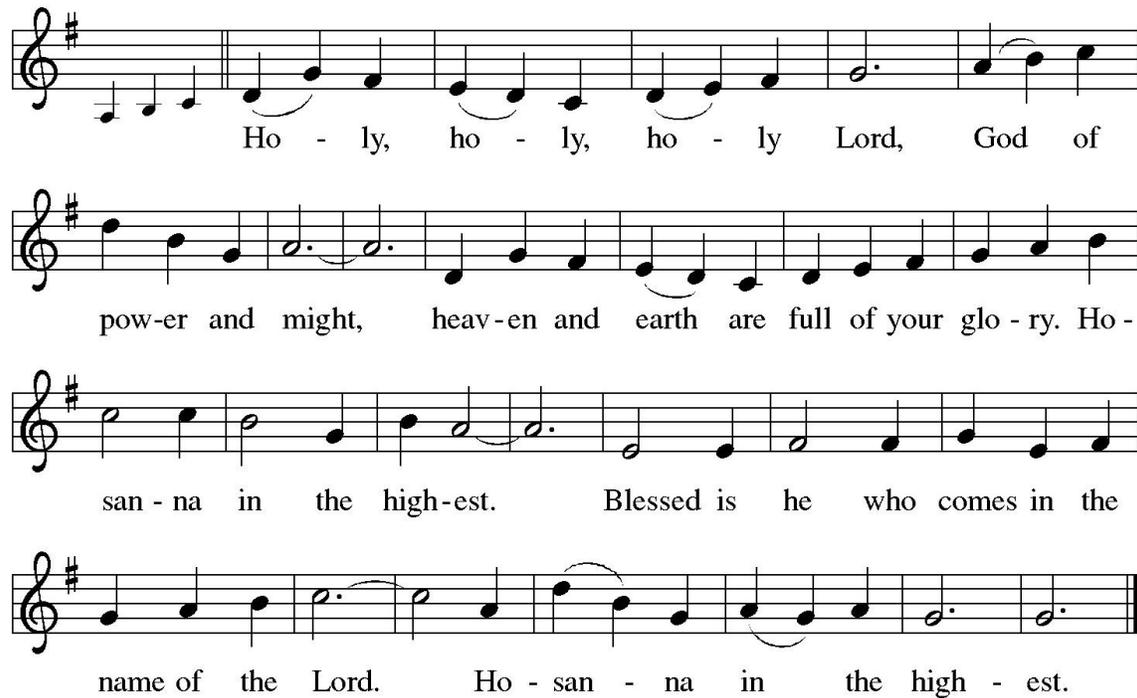
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***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.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new

in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
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**

**Holy God,
you alone are holy,
you alone are God.**

**The universe declares your praise:
beyond the stars;
beneath the sea;
within each cell;
with every breath.
We praise you, O God.**

**Generations bless your faithfulness:
through the water;
by night and day;**

**across the wilderness;
out of exile;
into the future.**

We bless you, O God.

**We give you thanks for your dear Son:
at the heart of human life;
near to those who suffer;
beside the sinner;
among the poor;
with us now.**

We thank you, O God.

**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.**

**Remembering his love for us
on the way,
at the table,
and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:**

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

**We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in our gathering;
within this meal;
among your people;
throughout the world.**

**Blessing, praise, and thanks
to you, holy God,
through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit,
in your church,
without end.
Amen.**

***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.**

COMMUNION

This is Christ's Table and Christ himself is present when we share this Meal. All are welcome 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 bowl provided. 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 at your seat, let the usher know.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.

COMMUNION SONGS

ELW #423

Shall We Gather at the River



1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899
Music: HANSON PLACE, Robert Lowry

Wade in the Water

Refrain
All

Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren,
wade in the wa - ter, God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

Leader All

1 See that host all dressed in white,
2 See that band all dressed in red, God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the
3 Look o - ver yon - der, what do I see?
4 If you don't be - lieve I've been re - deemed,

Leader

wa - ter. the lead - er looks like the Is - rael - ite.
looks like the band that . . . Mo - ses led.
the Ho - ly Ghost a - com - ing on me.
just fol - low me down to . . . Jor - dan's stream.

All *Refrain*

God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: WADE IN THE WATER, African American spiritual

TABLE BLESSING

POST COMMUNION SONG

ELW #201

Now, Lord

Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace: your word has
been ful - filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion
which you have pre - pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple:
a light to re - veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son,
and to the Ho - ly Spir - it, as it was in the be - gin - ning,
is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

Music: Plainsong, adapt. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Radiant God,
we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In the sacrament of his body and blood
you have drawn us to your heart.
Send us from this table with delight,
that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,
and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

SENDING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BLESSING**

**May the triune God,
who has put a new song in your mouth
and tuned your heart for praise
✝ bless you now and forever.
Amen.**

***SENDING SONG**

ELW #551

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in
 2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the
 3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter
 4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings
 bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to
 joy like seed and, all our days, to
 to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.
 share a dream and help the blind to see.
 cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.
 pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939
 Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820
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*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Annual Congregation Meeting is Sunday, January 25** immediately following worship.
- **Pastor Corpus' office hours** are by appointment only: Tues/Thurs/Sat 9-11am; Tuesday evening 6:30-8:30pm. Email: jmcorpus@verizon.net

LEADING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

PREACHING & PRESIDING	THE REV. BRUCE DAVIDSON
ASSISTING MINISTER	MERRI BROWN
MUSICIAN	KATHERINE REIER
LECTOR	BERYL EVANS
USHER	MIKE GALGANSKI
ALTAR GUILD	GORDON GERHART
HOSPITALITY	

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: Liturgical Setting: *Holy Communion, Setting One* © 2026: Mark Mummert, b. 1965, Kyrie, "Glory to God," "This is the feast," Lenten Acclamation; Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962, Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia), "Holy, holy, holy"; Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950, "Lamb of God," "Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace." All service music settings © pr administered by Augsburg Fortress.

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- ELW #311** *Hail to the Lord's Anointed*
Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.
Music: Leonhart Schröter, 1540-1602
- ACS #916** *Down Galilee's Slow Roadways*
Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993
Music: Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933
Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.
Music © 1983 Hope Publishing Company
- ELW #303** *Brightest and Best of the Stars*
Text: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, alt.
Music: James P. Harding, 1850-1911, adapt.
- ELW #423** *Shall We Gather at the River*
Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899
Music: Robert Lowry

ELW #459

Wade in the Water

Text: African American spiritual

Music: African American spiritual

ELW #201

Now, Lord

Music: Plainsong, adapt. Lutheran Book of Worship

Music © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress

ELW #551

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

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