



GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

Allabreve in D major BWV 859

J.S. Bach

"a generic term for a style of old polyphonic music; i.e., notated in large note values" – Hermann Keller

*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.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who looks upon us in compassion,
forgives our sin,
and heals our lives.

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.

Have mercy, O God,
**against you, you alone,
we have sinned.**
**In your compassion,
cleanse us from our sin
and take away our guilt.**
**Create in us a new heart
and give us a steadfast spirit.**
**Do not cast us away,
but fill us with your Holy Spirit
and restore your joy within us.**
Amen.

The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.

**As tender as parent to child,
so deep is God's compassion for you.**
**As high as heaven is above earth,
so vast is God's love for you.**
**As far as east is from west,
so far God removes your sin from you,
renewing your life through Jesus Christ.**
**Blessed be God who crowns us
with mercy and love.**
Blessed be God forever.

The assembly stands. The service continues with the gathering song.

***GATHERING SONG**

ELW #519

Open Your Ears, O Faithful People



- 1 O - pen your ears, O faith-ful peo - ple, o - pen your ears and hear God's word.
2 They who have ears to hear the mes - sage, they who have ears, now let them hear;



O - pen your hearts, O roy - al priest-hood, God has come to you.
they who would learn the way of wis - dom, let them hear God's word.

Refrain



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: Hasidic traditional; Willard F. Jabusch, b. 1930, English version

Music: YISRAEL V'ORAITA, Hasidic tune

Text © 1966, 1982 Willard F. Jabusch, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

***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**

Let us pray.

Hold a brief silence.

Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Genesis 18:1-10a

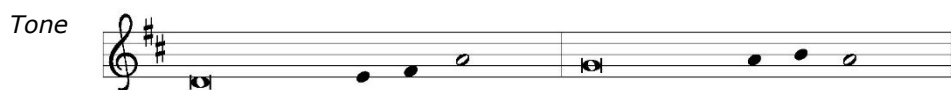
A Reading from Genesis:

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. Abraham looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son."

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

Psalm 15

The assembly sings the psalm in unison.



- ¹ **LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?
Who may abide upon your | holy hill?**
- ² **Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,
who speak the truth | from their heart;**
- ³ **they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.**
- ⁴ **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who | fear the LORD.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their word.**
- ⁵ **They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- | gainst
the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown.**

SECOND READING

Colossians 1:15-28

A Reading from Colossians:

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in Christ all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers— all things have been created through him and for him. Christ himself is before all things, and in Christ all things hold together. Christ is the head of the body, the church; Christ is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Christ God was pleased to reconcile to God's own self all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, Christ has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before God, provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a minister of this gospel. I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its minister according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to the saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is Christ whom we

proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *All sing the alleluias.*



***GOSPEL**

Luke 10:38-42

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

Now as Jesus and his disciples went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus' feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

After the reading:

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

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me
O Christ, Surround Me



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
2 Bind to my-self the name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light - ning,
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur - round me; O Christ, sur - round me.

Text: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, b. 1967
Music: GREEN TYLER, Richard Bruxvoort Colligan
Text and music © 2004 This Here Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress

APOSTLES CREED

**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.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to
the voice of the whole church and pray for the
needs of the world.**

A brief silence.

**Inspire your church, like Sarah and Mary, to listen
with eager longing for your words of life. Equip
biblical interpreters and teachers with faithful
discernment, that your word may be more fully
known.**

Merciful God,
hear our prayer.

**Every creature under heaven has been promised
the hope of the gospel. From that promise,
generate in humankind an eagerness to protect and
care for creation. Bring healing to the earth with
your words of life.**

Merciful God,
hear our prayer.

**Peel away the distractions, worries, and fears of all
who govern the nations of the world. May your
word of love and life dispel all other voices. Provide**

gracious hospitality in places where hostile forces hold sway.

Merciful God,
hear our prayer.

Speak your word of comfort to any who suffer pain, illness, grief, depression, or despair (*especially*).

Bring honor to any who experience slander and evil intent or are discredited by others.

Merciful God,
hear our prayer.

Enliven and uphold all siblings in Christ who strive to provide hospitality and safe spaces where everyone, without exception, can receive and be transformed by your word of life.

Merciful God,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

For Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Mary, Martha, and all the saints who attended to your word, we give thanks. Open our ears to your voice until that day when we realize the promise of the gospel with all creation.

Merciful God,
hear our prayer.

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

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

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 as well as those of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod and 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**

ELW #692

We Are an Offering

692

The musical score is written on six staves of music. The lyrics are: We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

Text: Dwight Liles, b. 1957
Music: Dwight Liles
Text and music © 1984 Word Music, LLC

OFFERING
PM

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray.

A brief silence is held.

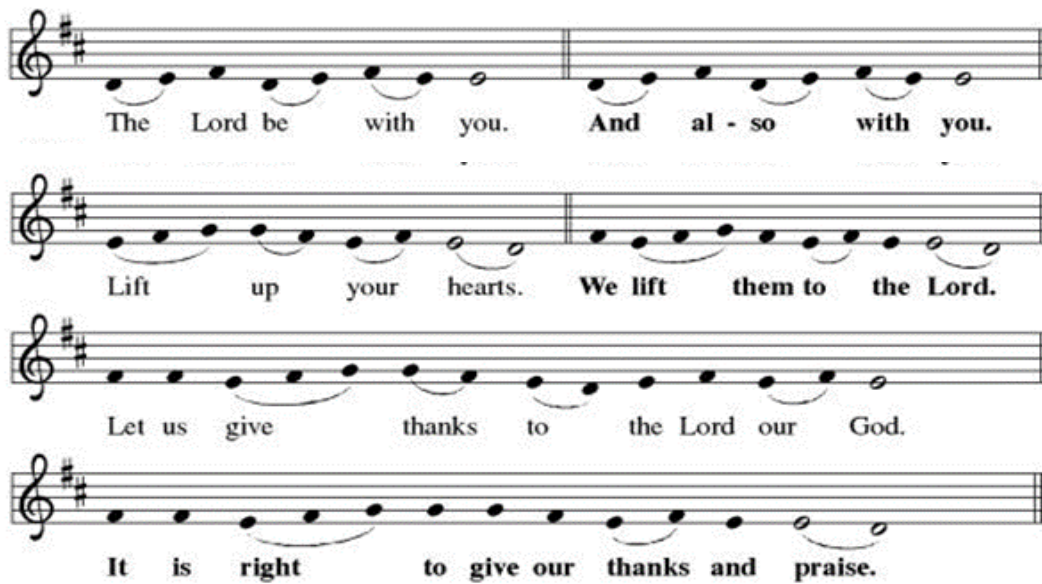
**Creator God,
in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good
and the harvest is plentiful.**

**Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor,
that we may work for the good of all;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

***DIALOGUE**



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

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The presiding minister continues, using one of the following or another appropriate form.

O God triune, how majestic
is your name in all the earth.
Over the eons your merciful might
evolved our home, a fragile tree of life.
Here by your wisdom
are both life and death,
growth and decay,
the nest and the hunt,
sunshine and storm,
darkness and light.
Sustained by these wonders,
we creatures of dust join in the ancient song:

The earth is full of your glory.
The earth is full of your glory.

O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer.
In Christ you bring life from death;
we remember his cross,
we laud his resurrection.
Broken like bread, he enlivens our body.
Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness.
Receiving this mystery,
we mortals sing our song:
The earth is full of your glory.
The earth is full of your glory.

We praise you for the heart of Jesus,
so filled with your love for this earth.
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.

Gathered around this table,
we your children unite in this song:
The earth is full of your glory.
The earth is full of your glory.

O God triune, you create the worlds,
you uphold the living,
you embrace the dead.
Send forth your Spirit
and renew the face of the earth.

Strengthen us for our journey with this meal,
the body and blood of Christ.

Give us a future that trusts in you
and cares for your earth.

Empowered by your promises,
we rise from our deaths
to praise you again:

The earth is full of your glory.

The earth is full of your glory.

Amen, and amen.

Amen, and 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 Christians 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 in your seat, let the usher know.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.



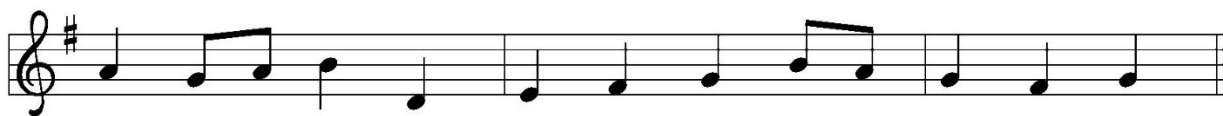
Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak



1 Lord, speak to us, that we may speak in
 2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead the
 3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach the
 4 Oh, fill us with your full - ness, Lord, un -



liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
 wan-d'ring and the wa - v'ring feet; oh, feed us, Lord, that
 pre - cious truths which you im - part; and wing our words, that
 til our ver - y hearts o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and



let us seek your stray - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.
 we may feed your hun - g'ring ones with man - na sweet.
 they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y•a heart.
 glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.

Music: CANONBURY, Robert Schumann, 1810–1856

Grant Peace, We Pray, in Mercy, Lord

Grant peace, we pray, in mer - cy, Lord; peace in our time, oh, send us!

For there is none on earth but you, none oth - er to de - fend us.

You on - ly, Lord, can fight for us. A - men.

Text: Medieval antiphon, adapt. Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Laudamus*, 1952
 Music: VERLEIH UNS FRIEDEN, plainsong mode I; *Gesangbuch*, Nürnberg, 1676
 Text © Lutheran World Federation.

TABLE BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Hold a brief silence.

**Mothering God,
 you gathered us to your table
 and we drank deeply of your grace.
 Send us out by your Spirit
 to love our neighbors as ourselves
 and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit

✠ bless you and give you peace.

Amen.

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• **Pastor Janet Peterman** is back at work on a limited schedule. While she cannot drive, she is often available for text or conversation. Leave a message about when you are available.

LEADING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

PREACHING & PRESIDING	PASTOR JANET PETERMAN
ASSISTING MINISTER	TOM BECK
MUSICIAN	LARRY SMITH
LECTOR	SARA CALDERÓN
USHER	GORDON GERHART
ALTAR GUILD	BERYL EVANS
HOSPITALITY	PENNY JONES & REBECCA REUMANN MOORE

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 12* ©2020: Anne Krentz Organ, b. 1960, Kyrie, "My soul proclaims your greatness," Gospel Acclamation, Lenten Acclamation, "Holy, holy, holy," "Lamb of God," "Be known to us, Lord Jesus"; Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953, J. Bert Carlson, 1937-2017, "Glory to you, God." All service music settings © pr administered by Augsburg Fortress.

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

- ELW #519** *Open Your Ears, O Faithful People*
Text: Hasidic traditional; Willard F. Jabusch, b. 1930, English version
Music: Hasidic tune
Text © 1966, 1982 Willard F. Jabusch, admin. OCP Publications
- ACS #1084** *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me*
Text: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, b. 1967
Music: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan
Text and music © 2004 This Here Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress
- ELW #692** *We Are an Offering*
Text: Dwight Liles, b. 1957
Music: Dwight Liles
Text and music © 1984 Word Music, LLC
- ELW #676** *Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak*
Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt.
Music: Robert Schumann, 1810-1856
- ELW #784** *Grant Peace, We Pray, in Mercy, Lord*
Text: Medieval antiphon, adapt. Martin Luther, 1483-1546;
tr. *Laudamus*, 1952
Music: Plainsong mode I; *Gesangbuch*, Nürnberg, 1676
Text © Lutheran World Federation
- ELW #637** *Holy God, Holy and Glorious*
Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952
Music: Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950
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Music © 2001 Robert Buckley Farlee, admin. Augsburg Fortress