



## GATHERING

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

### PRELUDE

SONATA IN C MINOR  
(ADAGIO MOLTO)

BEETHOVEN

### \*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*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,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.  
Amen.**

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

**Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.**

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

**We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.**

**Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into  
freedom.**

**At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the  
Holy Spirit.**

**By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.**

**We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.**

**To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
Amen.**

*The service continues with gathering song. As a reminder of the gift of baptism, the assembly may be sprinkled with water during the singing. The assembly stands.*

**\*GATHERING SONG**

ELW #632

## O God, Our Help in Ages Past



- 1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
- 2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
- 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
- 4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.  
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
bears all our years away;  
they fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
still be our guard while troubles last  
and our eternal home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.  
Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1678–1727

**\*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.**

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



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



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



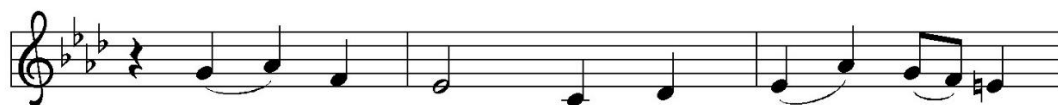
blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and  
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Let us pray.**

*Hold a brief silence.*

**O God, the protector of all, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**WORD**

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

**FIRST READING**

**Isaiah 65:17-25**

A Reading from Isaiah:

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating, for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it or the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days or an old person who does not live out a lifetime, for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat, for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD—and their descendants as well. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

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

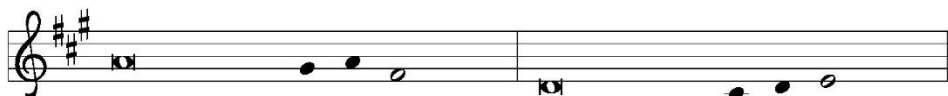
## Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6

*The choir will sing the refrain, then all repeat the refrain.  
The choir sings the verses of the psalm. All sing the refrain as indicated.*

Refrain



Tone



<sup>2</sup> Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,  
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my  
salvation.

<sup>3</sup> **With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation. R**

<sup>4</sup> And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's  
name;  
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that  
this name is exalted.

<sup>5</sup> **Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;  
let this be known in all the earth.**

<sup>6</sup> Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **R**

## SECOND READING

## 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

A Reading from Thessalonians:

Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every member of the community living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Dear family, do not be weary in doing what is right.

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

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *The alleluias are introduced by the choir, and then repeated by ALL. The choir sings the proper verse, and then ALL sing alleluias again.*



*Proper Verse:*

"Stand up and I raise your heads,\* because your redemption is I drawing near."

**\*GOSPEL**

**Luke 21:5-19**

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

**When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down." They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" And Jesus said, "Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, 'I am the one!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them. "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." Then Jesus said to them, "Nation will rise against nation and country against country; there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be**

**dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.  
“But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before rulers and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.”**

After the reading:

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

**SERMON**

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

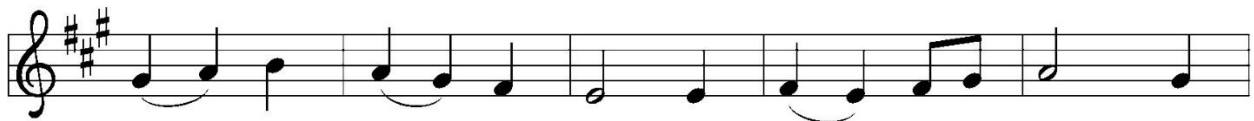
**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

ELW #729

**The Church of Christ, in Every Age**



1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by  
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims  
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing  
4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the  
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its  
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for  
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's  
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to  
be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.  
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.  
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.  
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.  
out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: WAREHAM, William Knapp, 1698–1768

Text © 1971 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

**\*NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,**



**true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\***

**who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

#### **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for  
the church, the world, and all who are in need.**

*A brief silence.*

**God of roots and branches, defend the church as  
we proclaim the gospel using discernment, wisdom,  
and brave testimony. Keep all the baptized on  
righteous paths in response to Christ's call.**

**Hear us, O God.**

**Your mercy is great.**

**God of roaring seas, in a world of earthquake, famine, and plague, by your mighty power, use us in your nurturing the land and all that lives upon it. Restore peoples and places experiencing natural disasters (*especially*).**

**Strengthen organizations who provide aid to any in crisis.**

**Hear us, O God.**

Your mercy is great.

**God of victory, among quests for power, guide those in government, courts, law enforcement agencies, and the military. Turn them from war and violence to actions of care that build up the common good.**

**Hear us, O God.**

Your mercy is great.

**God of healing, where injustice and exploitation result in populations who are marginalized or underserved, accompany those abandoned by friends, hurt by family, and harmed by violence or oppression. Care for all who are ill, anxious, or in pain of any kind (*especially*).**

**Hear us, O God.**

Your mercy is great.

**God of new songs, in a congregation of faithful believers, energize us for compassionate service and delight us through worship and inspired prayer. Encourage your people in building equitable community where all are valued.**

**Hear us, O God.**

Your mercy is great.

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

**God of every generation, we remember the saints with steadfast love and faithfulness (*especially*).**

**Confident in Christ's victory over death, may we be inspired by the example of the faithful.**

**Hear us, O God.**

Your mercy is great.

**We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

The peace of the risen Christ be with you all.

**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](http://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 #182

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful  
*Offering Song*

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The final note of the piece is a whole note G on the fifth line of the staff.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Let us pray.**

*A brief silence is held.*

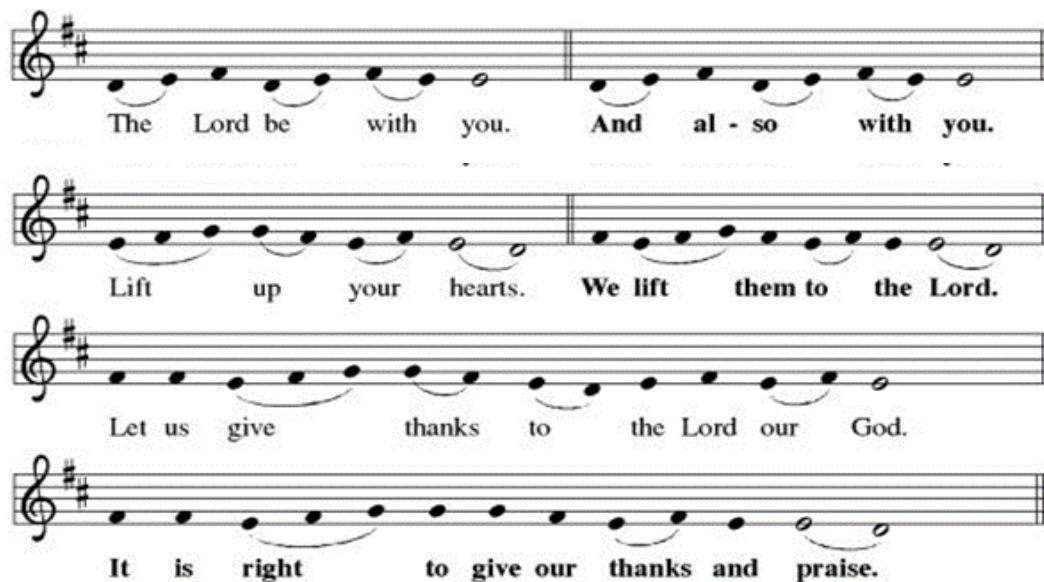
**Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.  
Through your goodness you have blessed us with  
these gifts: our selves, our time, and our**

**possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

**\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**\*DIALOGUE**

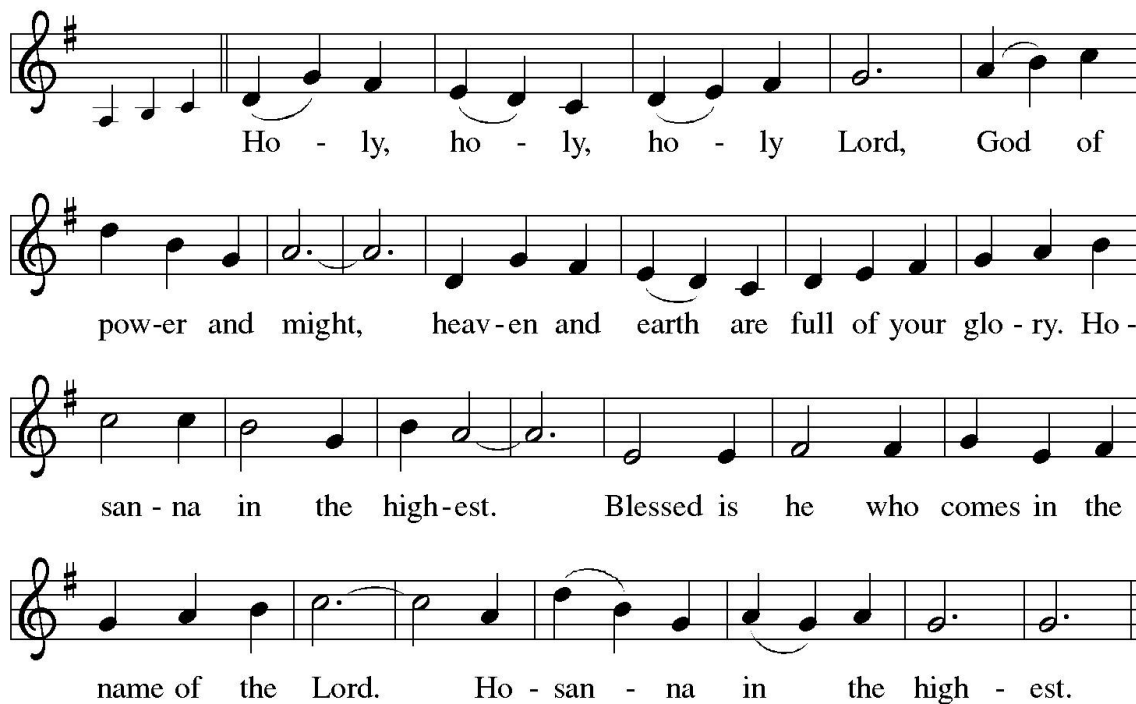


**\*PREFACE**

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-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 he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,  
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

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.**

439

## Soon and Very Soon

1 Soon and ver - y soon  
 2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
 3 No more dy - in' there,  
 4 Soon and ver - y soon

soon and ver - y soon  
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
 no more dy - in' there,  
 soon and ver - y soon

soon and ver - y soon  
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.  
 no more dy - in' there,  
 soon and ver - y soon

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945

Music: Andraé Crouch

Text and music © 1976 Real John Songs, Inc. / Crouch Music, admin. BMI Christian Music Publishing

VERY SOON  
12 12 12 and refrain

cont. on next page after verse 4



*Coda after stanza 4*

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

ELW #438

## My Lord, What a Morning

*Refrain*

My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn - ing; oh,

my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be - gin to fall.

- 1 You will hear the trum - pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin - ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,

*Refrain*

look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be - gin to fall.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

## **TABLE BLESSING**

### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**Let us pray.**

*Hold a brief silence.*

**God of field and flower, wheat and grape,  
you have nourished us with the bread of heaven  
which gives life to the world.  
Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son,  
send us out to gather your good gifts for all who  
hunger and thirst,  
and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's  
name. Amen.**

## **SENDING**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING**

**Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless  
you now and forever.  
Amen.**

## God Alone Be Praised



1 O - ceans rise, the coast-land trem-bles; moun-tains melt and dry earth  
2 Na - tions rage, the em - pire fal - ters; seek-ing ref - uge, ex - iles  
3 Come and see; God's mer - cy gath - ers all that sin and grief have



crum-bles. All the world with long - ing groans. Love a -  
wan - der. Walls and weap - ons rise from fear. Through this  
shat - tered. Life from fields of death is raised. Peace, be



bides, this gra - cious prom - ise is our help, our hope and  
wil - der - ness a riv - er flows to heal and bless us  
still; let pride - ful thun - der yield to songs of joy and



so - lace. God's strong word is sol - id ground.  
ev - er. God the cru - ci - fied dwells here.  
won - der. God and God a - lone be praised.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952, based on Psalm 46  
Music: AD LUCEM, Zebulon M. Highben, b. 1979  
Text © 2016 Susan R. Briehl, admin. Augsburg Fortress  
Music © 2016 Zebulon M. Highben, admin. Augsburg Fortress

### DISMISSAL

**Go in peace. Share the renewal of Christ!**

Thanks be to God.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Quilting Event**—today in the Reumann Library.
- **Community Use Piano Recital**—today, 1-4pm, in Kimes Hall.

## LEADING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

PREACHING & PRESIDING

REV. DR. JANET M. CORPUS

ASSISTING MINISTER

MERRI BROWN

MUSICIAN

KATHERINE REIER

GUEST MUSICIAN

DOROTHY STEVENS

LECTOR

LARRY SMITH

USHER

CAMERON BROWN

ALTAR GUILD

GORDON GERHART

HOSPITALITY

BERYL EVANS

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**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 #632**     *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*  
Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.  
Music: William Croft, 1678-1727

**ELW #729**     *The Church of Christ, in Every Age*  
Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000  
Music: William Knapp, 1698-1768  
Text © 1971 Hope Publishing Company

**ELW #182**     *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*  
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

- ELW #439**    *Soon and Very Soon*  
Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945  
Music: Andraé Crouch  
Text and music © 1979 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music,  
admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing
- ELW #438**    *My Lord, What a Morning*  
Text: African American spiritual  
Music: African American spiritual
- ACS #1023**    *God Alone Be Praised*  
Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952, based on Psalm 46  
Music: Zebulon M. Highben, b. 1979  
Text © 2016 Susan R. Briehl, admin. Augsburg Fortress  
Music © 2016 Zebulon M. Highben, admin. Augsburg Fortress