

WORSHIP: LIVING AS SALT & LIGHT

Sunday, January 29, 2023

9:30 am

PRELUDE

"Introduction and Mvt. 1" from *Vesper Voluntaries*

Edward Elgar

RINGING OF THE BELL

+ **Gathering** +

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
 Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen
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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 together.

**Loving God, your child Jesus taught many things that help people know how deeply you love humanity. Help us to live in your love, so that we might be beacons of light for others. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

+ **Word** +

READING

Psalm 1:1-3

A reading from the Psalms.

- ¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
²Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.
³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season,
with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-20

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

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on the mountainside, and after he sat down and the disciples had gathered around, ² Jesus began to teach them:

- ³ "Blessed are those who are poor in spirit: the kingdom of heaven is theirs.
⁴ Blessed are those who are mourning: they will be consoled.
⁵ Blessed are those who are gentle: they will inherit the land.
⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice:

they will have their fill.

⁷ Blessed are those who show mercy to others: they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are those whose hearts are clean: they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are those who work for peace: they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of their struggle for justice:
the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

¹¹ “You are fortunate when others insult you and persecute you, and utter every kind of slander against you because of me. ¹² Be glad and rejoice, for your reward in heaven is great; they persecuted the prophets before you in the very same way.

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth. But what if salt were to lose its flavor? How could you restore it? It would be fit for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. You don’t build a city on a hill, then try to hide it, do you? ¹⁵ You don’t light a lamp, then put it under a bushel basket, do you? No, you set it on a stand where it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, your light must shine before others so that they may see your good acts and give praise to your Abba God in heaven.

¹⁷ “Don’t think I’ve come to abolish the Law and the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them, but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ The truth is, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter of the Law, not even the smallest part of a letter, will be done away with until it is all fulfilled. ¹⁹ That’s why whoever breaks the least significant of these commands and teaches others to do the same will be called the least in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever fulfills and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ “I tell you, unless your sense of justice surpasses that of the religious scholars and the Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

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

SERMON

Pastor Allison Bengfort



1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
 2 The church from you, dear Mas - ter, re - ceived the gift di - vine;
 3 Oh, make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of bur - nished gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:
 and still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to shine.
 to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;



we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,
 It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,
 oh, teach your wand - 'ring pil - grims by this their path to trace,



a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
 mid mists and rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.
 till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see you face to face.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.
 Music: MUNICH, *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

I invite you to assume a posture of prayer. You may sit, stand, or kneel; fold your hands or turn your hands toward the sky; close your eyes or lift your eyes to the altar.

Lord, we long for a world that knows peace. For too long we have fought against each other, threatened each other with our powerful armies, conspired to grab more land, more wealth, and lived with the wrong belief that our different nationalities and religious associations mean that we cannot live together in a spirit of acceptance and trust.

Lord we long for a world that knows justice. For too long we have tolerated the fact that some have more food than others, some live in societies where children have all they need, while in some other places children are made to work in order that their families can eat. For too long we have tolerated the fact that some have easy access to medicine while others are denied it.

Lord we long for a world of tolerance. For too long we have been slow to accept that the differences between us are not reasons to be wary and fearful, but instead should lead us to be

ready to marvel at the way creation allows each one of us to be unique, and that your personal relationship with each of us encourages us to be ourselves.

God, we thank you for providing us with the best teacher possible. His words and the lessons he has given us stand the test of time and apply now as much as they did in the past. Help us continue to hear these teachings as they were meant to be heard. Help us understand what we can do to make sure that more and more people are able to describe their life as blessed. Help us towards a position where we cherish the blessings we already have, rather than craving the ones we do not yet possess.

Pause for silent prayers.

We pray for your guidance, O Lord, and we give thanks for your unshakeable love.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

You are invited to share a sign of peace with those around you, honoring the personal boundaries of all.

+ Congregation Meeting +

The service is paused while the January 2023 Congregation Meeting is conducted.

+ Meal +

OFFERTORY PRAYER

O God, we give you thanks for the ministry of this church. We know that this ministry serves as salt and light in our lives and in our community. In gratitude, we offer our gifts to support Christ's mission of love and grace in this world.

OFFERTORY

We give thanks for your ongoing support of the ministry of St. John's! Gifts may be placed in the offering plate, made in the Vanco Mobile app, or given online by scanning the QR code. Thank you for your generosity!



OFFERTORY VERSE

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (ELW 182)

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.

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

POST-OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

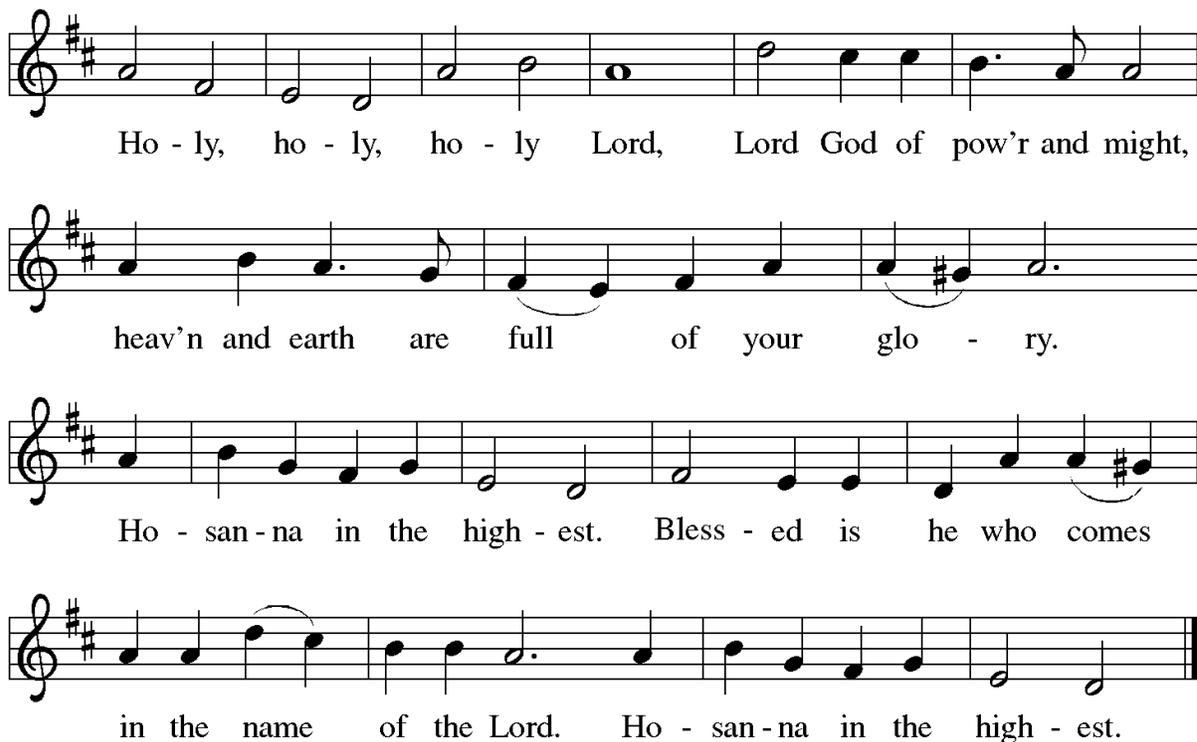
Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior. Amen.

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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

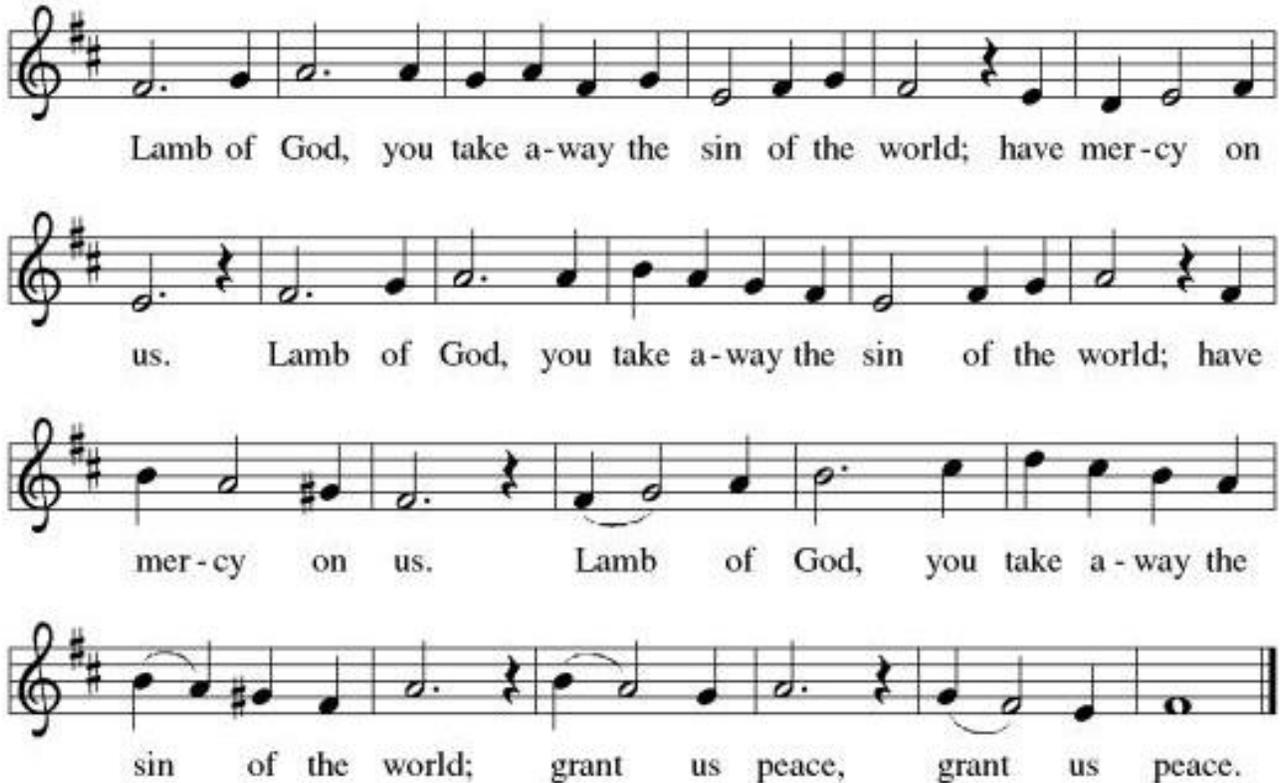
**God our Mother, God our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kin-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kin-dom, the power,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

INVITATION

COMMUNION

All are welcome to commune at Christ's table without exception! If you are online, serve yourself or those worshipping with you by saying, "The body of Christ, given for you," and, "The blood of Christ, shed for you." If you are communing in person, please proceed down the center aisle at the direction of an usher. You may receive bread or request a gluten-free wafer. A glass of wine (dark colored) will be placed on the table for you, or you may request grape juice (light colored). After drinking, please place your empty glass in the basket before returning to your seat via the side aisle. If you would prefer to receive only a blessing, you may cross your arms across your chest to indicate this preference. If you would like to receive communion in your seat, please inform an usher, and the sacrament will be brought to you.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION ANTHEM "The Beatitudes"

Albert Hay Malotte

COMMUNION SONG

What We Need Is Here

Join in the singing as soon as you catch the tune.

From "Wild Geese" by Wendell Barry:

Geese appear high over us,
pass, and the sky closes. Abandon,
as in love or sleep, holds
them to their way, clear,
in the ancient faith: what we need
is here. And we pray, not
for new earth or heaven, but to be
quiet in heart, and in eye
clear. What we need is here.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

Holy One,

**We thank you for the healing
that springs forth abundantly from this table.**

**Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness,
and journey humbly with you. Amen**

+ Sending +

BENEDICTION

Blessed be you in poverty of spirit.

Blessed be you in the sadness of mourning.

Blessed be you, the ones who are meek.

Blessed be you, the righteousness craver.

Blessed be you who is merciful to others.

Blessed be you who is pure in heart.

Blessed be you in peace making with others.

Blessed be you in persecution and insult.

Rejoice! Be glad!

Yours is the kin-dom of God!

In the name of the Creator, † the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate (ELW 722)



- 1 O Christ, your heart, com - pas - sion - ate, bore ev - 'ry hu - man pain.
- 2 As once you wel - comed those cast down and healed the sick, the blind,
- 3 O Christ, cre - ate new hearts in us that beat in time with yours,
- 4 O Love that made the dis - tant stars, yet marks the spar-row's fall,



Its beat - ing was the pulse of God; its breadth, God's vast do - main.
so may all bruised and bro - ken lives through us your help still find.
that, joined by faith with your great heart, be - come love's o - pen doors.
whose arms stretched wide up - on a cross em - brace and bear us all:



The heart of God, the heart of Christ com - bined in per - fect rhyme
Lord, join our hearts with those who weep that none may weep a - lone,
We are your bod - y, ris - en Christ; our hearts, our hands we yield
come, make your church a ser - vant church that walks your ser - vant ways,



to write God's love in hu - man deeds, e - ter - ni - ty in time.
and help us bear an - oth - er's pain as though it were our own.
that through our life and min - is - try your love may be re - vealed.
whose deeds of love rise up to you, a sac - ri - fice of praise!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the salt of the earth.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

“Voluntary VI”

G.F. Handel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregation Meeting

Our Congregational Meeting takes place this morning during the 9:30 am service. The congregation will vote on the 2023 budget, vote on the proposed Missional Identity statements, and elect representatives to the 2023 Metro Chicago Synod Assembly.

Children’s Church & Youth Choir

For all parents, Children’s Church continues during the service this morning. For further information, please contact the Youth Ministry Team (Luke & Erin Rasmussen and Jason Shutters). Rehearsals for the Youth Choir also continue today from 11-11:30 am in the sanctuary. All children are welcome to sing; participation in the Fall is not required. The youth choir will be providing special music at select services during the Winter and Spring. For more information, please email Luke Duroc-Danner (luke@stjohnswilmette.com).

Our RIC Journey Begins

This winter and spring, our congregation will be doing the internal reflection and learning necessary to become not just welcoming, but fully affirming of the LGBTQIA+ community. This is called the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) process, which our RIC Team (Chris Maglocchi, Chad Johnson, Molly Bolash, and Luke Rasmussen) hopes will culminate in an affirmative vote at our June congregational meeting to become an RIC church.

Confronting the Biblical “Clobber Passages”

This event, which will focus on passages in the Bible that are often misused to argue that homosexuality is a sin, has been rescheduled for Sunday, February 12, from 10:45-11:45 am. The Rev. Kaari Reiersen, Social Responsibility Associate for the ELCA, founder of the *Journal of Lutheran Ethics*, and contributor to the ELCA’s social statement on Human Sexuality, will be our presenter as we engage with these tricky passages. Please bring your questions and curiosities!

“Have A Heart” Valentine Benefit Luncheon for Holy Family

The Women of Trinity Lutheran Church cordially invite the Women of St. John's Lutheran Church to join them for a Holy Family Benefit Luncheon on Saturday, February 11 at 11:30 am at Trinity Lutheran Church, 3637 Golf Road, Evanston. Please make your reservation by Sunday, February 5, by signing up in the gathering area or contacting Cindi Rachowicz by phone at 224-307-3513 or email (att41623@sbcglobal.net). Let's show our support with a table for eight. All proceeds will fund the annual tuition for a child at Holy Family School. Also, on Feb. 11, Trinity will accept donations of gently used adult clothing for LUCILLE Resale to benefit Holy Family Ministries. To donate large items/furniture, email clear photos directly to donate@hfm.org. If you're unable to join us at the luncheon, donations to support the scholarship fund would be gratefully appreciated. Send checks to Holy Family Ministries (3225 Arnold Lane, Northbrook, IL 60062) or donate online at hfm.org/donate (indicate “Marlene Bakle” in the “how did you hear about us” field).

NOTES ON TODAY'S COMPOSERS

Edward Elgar (1857-1934) was an English composer most famous for his *Enigma Variations*, *Pomp and Circumstance* Marches, *The Dream of Gerontius*, and his cello and violin concertos. Eventually, he would be appointed Master of the King's Musick in 1924, but in his early career, Elgar had served as the assistant organist to his father at St. George's Church in Worcester from the age of 15. He succeeded his father in 1885 as the primary organist, and this set of Vesper Voluntaries was composed for his use at St. George's Church between 1885 and 1889.

Albert Hay Malotte (1895-1964) was an American pianist, organist, and composer who is best known for his setting of the Lord's Prayer. He began his organ career in Chicago where he played for silent movies, and later he moved to LA where he composed many film scores as well as music for animations at Disney.

Georg Friedrich Handel (1685-1759) is considered part of the Class of 1685 along with J.S. Bach and Domenico Scarlatti who were all born in the same year. Originally from Halle in Saxony, Handel studied as a young boy the organ under Friedrich Wilhelm Zachow, and he later learned the violin, harpsichord, and oboe. He would later study in Italy before settling in London to write Italian style opera and later oratorio - most famously including the Messiah in 1743.