



May they be one, as we are one

JOHN 17:11

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2026 - 9:30 a.m.



Grace Lutheran Church

313 S. Prospect Avenue, Champaign, IL 61820

(217) 356-6232 • office@glccu.org

www.glccu.org • Pastor: Chris Repp

Welcome to Grace!

At Grace Lutheran Church, we strive to be a community of acceptance, reconciliation and hope. Following in the way of Jesus, we welcome all people regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity, or age. God's acceptance of all compels us to stand against racism, sexism and all forms of hate and prejudice. We welcome your questions, your gifts, and your being.

Connecting People to God, One Another, and the World

We believe that God is at work in this worship service, through Word and Sacrament, to create and sustain faith in God's promises of love, forgiveness, and reconciliation in Jesus Christ, and to bless us to be blessings. We use a rich, traditional pattern of worship that dates to the early days of Christianity. We recognize that it comes with a learning curve, but we're convinced that it's worth the effort. Don't feel like you have to get everything the first time. This way of worshipping may also include postures like standing and kneeling that may not be possible or comfortable for everyone. Please know that you are welcome to do what works for you.

KEY TO THE ORDER OF SERVICE:

Regular type: spoken by a leader

Bold type: spoken by the people

Regular Italics: sung/chanted by a leader

Bold Italics: sung/chanted by the people

Small Italics: liturgical directions and information

✝ the sign of the cross may be made

ELW: Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Red Hymnal)

ACS: All Creation Sings (Purple Hymnal)

♪ Favorite Hymn request

HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR VISITORS:

- Restrooms are down the hall to the left of the entrance, opposite the elevator.
- Hand sanitizer is available on the sanctuary windowsills.
- Large print bulletins are available
- Please sign our guest book at the entrance.

As We Gather:

In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples were told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

Gathering

Prelude

Prelude & Fugue in G major, BWV 541

J.S. Bach

Welcome

The assembly stands.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the pastor begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.

Amen.

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.

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.



Gathering Hymn

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

ELW 393



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through-out the world shall
2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the Mount of Ol - ives
3 To whom the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and gaze up - on the
4 "You see him now, as - cend - ing high up to the por - tals of the
5 O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed Lord, all praise to you let earth ac -



ring: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -
stand, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! and with his faith - ful fol - l'wers
sky?" Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! "This is the Sav - ior!" thus they
sky." Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall
cord: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! You are, while end - less ag - es



trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God.
see their Lord as - cend in maj - es - ty.
say, "this is his glo - rious tri - umph day!" Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
see re - turn - ing in great maj - es - ty."
run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one.



lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

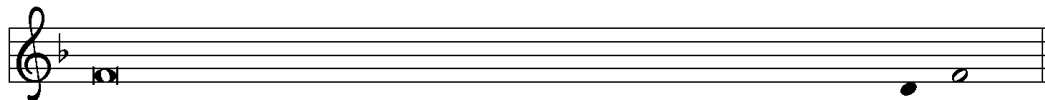
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Kyrie



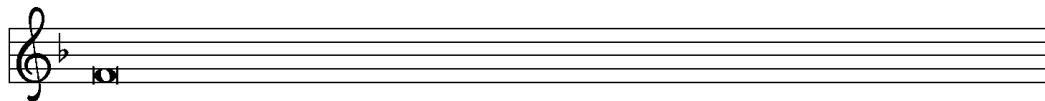
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



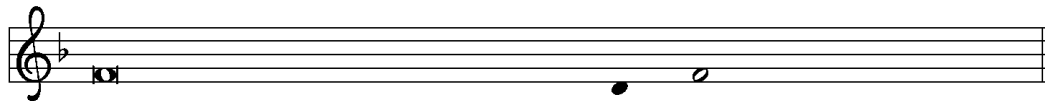
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



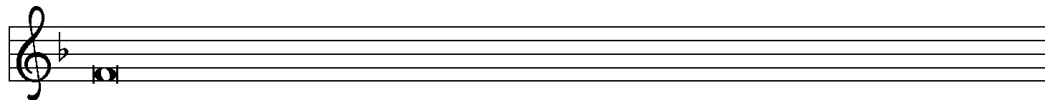
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



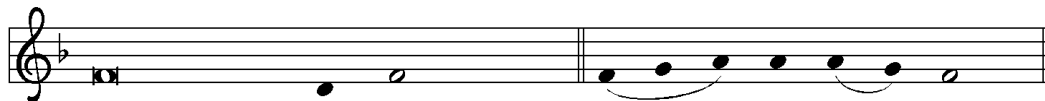
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



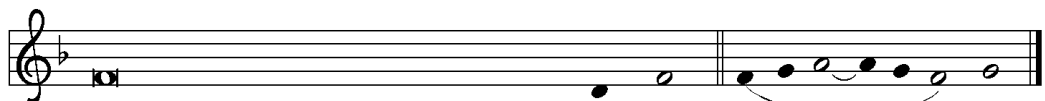
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

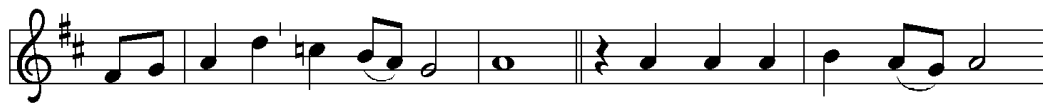


Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

Canticle of Praise



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



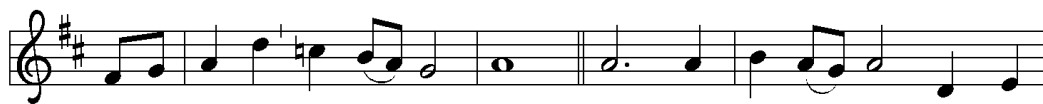
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,

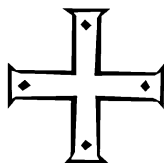
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

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

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



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

Word

Children's Sermon

Pastor Chris Repp

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.

[Luke writes:] ¹ In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Psalm 47

Refrain (R): 
Sing to God, who rides up - on the clouds.

Tone: 

- ¹ *Clap your hands, | all you peoples;
shout to God with a | joyful sound.*
- ² ***For the LORD Most High is | to be feared:
a great king over | all the earth,***
- ³ *who subdues the | peoples under us,
and the nations un- | der our feet;*
- ⁴ ***who chooses our inheri- | tance for us,
the pride of Jacob, | whom God loves. R***
- ⁵ *God has gone up | with a shout,
the LORD with the sound | of the ram's horn.*
- ⁶ ***Sing praises to | God, sing praises;
sing praises to our | king, sing praises. R***
- ⁷ *For God is king of | all the earth;
sing praises | with a song.*
- ⁸ ***God reigns o- | ver the nations;
God is en- | throned on high.***
- ⁹ *The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the | God of Abraham.
The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is high- | ly exalted. R*



Second Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23

The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe. The author of Ephesians prays that we are given the wisdom to know the power of the risen Christ and the empowering hope that the knowledge of this inheritance provides.

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

Gospel Acclimation



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



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

Gospel

Luke 24:44-53

On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Gospel, according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴⁴ [Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

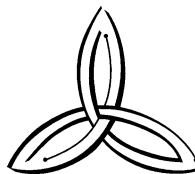
Praise to you, O Christ.

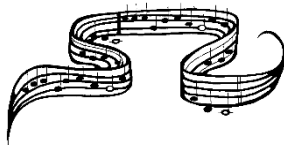
The assembly is seated.

Sermon

Pastor Chris Repp

The assembly stands.





Hymn of the Day

Lord, Who the Night You Were Betrayed

ELW 463

1 Lord, who the night you were be - trayed did pray that all your
2 For all your church on earth, we in - ter - cede; Lord, make our
3 And hear our prayer for wan-d'ers from your fold; re - store them,
4 So, Lord, at length when sac - ra - ments shall cease, may we be

church might be for - ev - er one: help us at
sad di - vi - sions soon to cease; draw us all
too, Good Shep - herd of the sheep, back to the
one with all your church a - bove— one with your

ev - 'ry eu - cha - rist to say with will - ing heart and
clos - er, each to each, we plead, by draw - ing all to
faith your saints con - fessed of old, and to the church still
saints in one un - bro - ken peace, one with your saints in

soul, "Your will be done." Oh, may we all one bread, one
 you, O Prince of peace; thus may we all one bread, one
 pledged that faith to keep. Soon may we all one bread, one
 one un - bound - ed love; more bless - ed still, in peace and

bod - y be, through this blest sac - ra - ment of u - ni - ty.
 bod - y be, through this blest sac - ra - ment of u - ni - ty.
 bod - y be, through this blest sac - ra - ment of u - ni - ty.
 love to be one with the Trin - i - ty in u - ni - ty.



Nicene Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

The assembly kneels or is seated. Each petition concludes:

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

Amen.

The assembly stands.

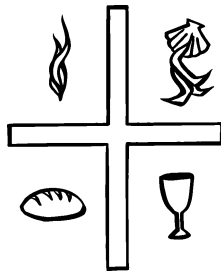
Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

After the Peace, the assembly is seated.



Meal

Offering

*Please place your offering in the plate on the table in the aisle as you leave.
You may also give online at <http://glccu.org/donate> or scan the QR code with your photos app to connect to the donation page on the GLC website.*



Offertory

How Firm a Foundation

Played by Eileen Herrstrom, Bells & Janet Lepp, Piano
arr. by Jason Krug

The assembly stands.

Offering Verse



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. 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

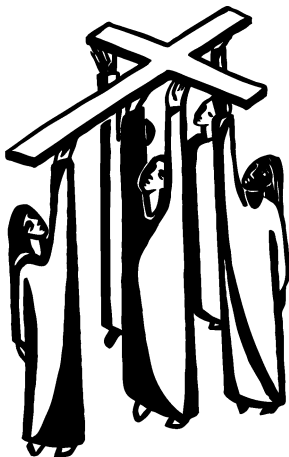


pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

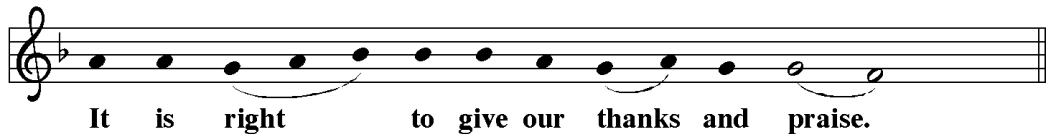
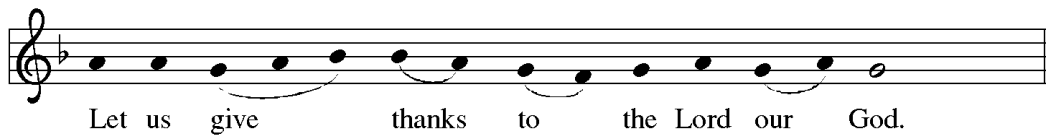
Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.



Great Thanksgiving



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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

The 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.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly is seated.

Communion

We believe that Christ is truly present for us in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, forming us into his body for the sake of the world. We welcome to the Lord's table all baptized Christians. Those who are not baptized we invite to explore with us the Christian faith and consider baptism. Those who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please hold this bulletin in your hands as a sign that you would like a blessing.

To receive communion, please join the line in the center aisle and proceed to the pastor. (Note: gluten-free wafers are available. Just ask the pastor.) After receiving the bread, proceed to your left or right to receive the wine, taking a pre-filled glass from the tray. (Grape juice is also available.) Place your used glass in the basket provided near the stairs on the side you leave.

Be Known to Us

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

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

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

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

Communion Hymns

We Place Upon Your Table, Lord

ELW 467

1 We place up - on your ta - ble, Lord, where you by
2 With - in these sim - ple things there lie the height and
3 Ac - cept them, Lord; they come from you; we take them

grace have bid us dine, these to - kens of our dai - ly
depth of hu - man life: our pain and tears, our thoughts and
hum - bly from your hand; put these your gifts to high - er

work, the food of life, the bread and wine.
toils, our hopes and fears, our joy and strife.
use: the ho - ly meal that you com - mand.

The assembly stands.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray. Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,
Amen.



Sending

(Sending Of Communion)

A prayer may be said for the sending of communion to those who are absent.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

Lord Enthroned In Heavenly Splendor

ELW 475

1 Lord, en - throned in heav'n - ly splen - dor, first - be -
2 Though the low - liest form now veil you as of
3 Pas - chal Lamb, your of - f'ring, fin - ished once for
4 Life - im - part - ing heav'n - ly man - na, strick - en

got - ten from the dead, you a - lone, our strong de -
 old in Beth - le - hem, here as there your an - gels
 all when you were slain, in its full - ness un - di -
 rock with stream - ing side, heav'n and earth with loud ho -

lend - er, lift - ing up your peo - ple's head. Al - le -
 hail you, branch and flow'r of Jes - se's stem. Al - le -
 min - ished shall for - ev - er - more re - main, Al - le -
 san - na wor - ship you, the Lamb who died, Al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus, true and
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! We in wor - ship
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! cleans - ing souls from
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! ris'n, as - cend - ed,

liv - ing bread! Je - sus, true and liv - ing bread!
 join with them; we in wor - ship join with them.
 ev - 'ry stain; cleans - ing souls from ev - 'ry stain.
 glo - ri - fied; ris'n, as - cend - ed, glo - ri - fied!

Announcements

Dismissal

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Bryn Calfaría

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Worship Support

The ministry of the church is carried out by all of its people, and Christian worship is a communal activity of the whole assembly. We give thanks to the following for their worship leadership and support today.

Presiding Minister:	Pastor Chris Repp	Ushers:	Brian & Amy Nicely
Assisting Minister:	Dennis Archer	Livestream:	Michael Miller
Reader:	Russ Dankert	Sound Technician:	Kevin Vail
Deacon:	Kathy Bowersox	Music Director:	Nicholas Pierle
Greeters:	Bev Kieffer and Jim Fleming	Organist:	Mike Keeley
		Office Assistant:	Karen Maher
		Coffee Hour:	Kathy & Van Bowersox

☞ Chancel flowers are given by **Juanita & Ken Loschen** ☞
In celebration of our wedding anniversary

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