

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

With remarks of
CELEBRATION AND GODSPEED

For the
**Reverend Doctor Timothy Marcus Smith,
Bishop of the North Carolina Synod,
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

**March 29, 2025
2:00 p.m.**

Worship Leaders

Preaching: Deacon Tammy Jones West

Presiding: Pastor Matthew Smith

*Assisting: Bishop Timothy Smith, Deacon Wendy Roberts,
Pastor Daniel Joyner Miller, Vice President Diana Haywood, Catherine Fink*

Organist: Dr. Timothy Olsen

Cantor: Deacon Laura Buff Alexander

Worship Note

*For restrooms or nursery care,
please ask an usher for directions.*

*A reception will follow worship in Ritchie Hall.
further directions will be provided.*

Musical Note

*Today's choir is comprised of members of St. John's
along with singers from churches around the synod.*

Word of Thanks

*The NC Synod is deeply grateful to the congregation and staff of St. John's
for providing today's beautiful worship space and for their generosity
in lending many hands and countless hours.*

Land Acknowledgment

*The North Carolina Synod Office and St. John's Lutheran Church
are located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Catawba and Keyauwee people,
and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial.
We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings
who have and continue to call this land their home.*

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PRELUDE

Prelude in D Major, BWV 532
J. S. Bach

Bourée from Partita No. 3 in E Major, BWV 1006.1
J. S. Bach | Performed by Zach Olsen, violin

Andante Religioso
Alec Rowley

WELCOME

We rise and face the cross.

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us
and all of creation. **Amen.**

We confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for self-examination.

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**
**We have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.**
**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**
**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.**
**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of ☩ Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins. The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

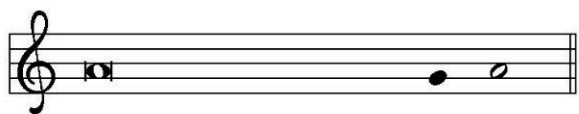
1 O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to-day
 2 The flow'r of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly die,
 3 Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we bring,
 and sing the love a-maz-ing that songs can-not re-pay;
 its frag-ile bloom sur-ren-der to you, the Lord most high;
 that we who know your fa-vor may serve you as our King;
 for we can on-ly won-der at ev-'ry gift you send,
 but hid-den from all na-ture the e-ter-nal seed is sown-
 and wheth-er our to-mor-rows be filled with good or ill,
 at bless-ings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with-out end:
 though small in mor-tal stat-ure, to heav-en's gar-den grown:
 we'll tri-umph through our sor-rows and rise to bless you still:
 we lift our hearts be-fore you and wait up-on your word,
 for Christ, your gift from heav-en, from death has set us free,
 to mar-vel at your beau-ty and glo-ry in your ways,
 we hon-or and a-dore you, our great and might-y Lord.
 and we through him are giv-en the fi-nal vic-to-ry.
 and make a joy-ful du-ty our sac-ri-fice of praise.

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.

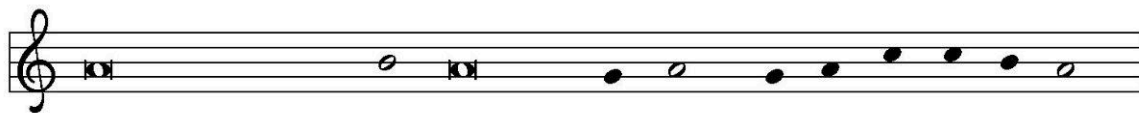
LORD, HAVE MERCY



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



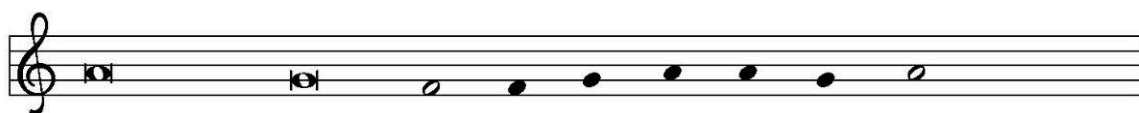
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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

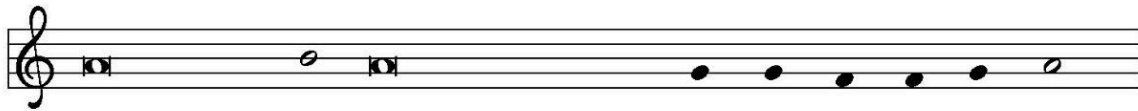


and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

...continue...



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.

A - men.

PRAYER of the DAY

Let us pray: God of compassion, your Son came among us not to be served but to serve. We give you thanks for those whom you have called into ministry, and especially Bishop Tim. Give them faith to serve you with gladness; sustain them with a living hope, especially in times of despair; and kindle in them your love, so that they see in every neighbor the face of Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Be seated.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:9-11

A reading from Isaiah, the 40th chapter.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom and gently lead the mother sheep.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Refrain: All. Verses: Cantor.

Refrain
All

Shep-herd me, O God, be-yond my wants, be-yond my fears, from

to stanzas 1, 2, 3, 5 *to stanza 4*

death in - to life. life.

Leader or All

1 God is my shep-herd, so noth-ing shall I want, I
2 Gent - ly you raise me and heal my wea - ry soul, you
3 Though I should wan - der the val - ley of death, I

rest in the mead-ows of faith - ful - ness and love, I
lead me by path-ways of righ - teous-ness and truth, my
fear no e - vil, for you are at my side, your

Refrain

walk by the qui - et wa - ters of peace.
spir - it shall sing the mu - sic of your name.
rod and your staff, my com - fort and my hope.

Leader or All

4 You have set me a ban-quet of love in the face of

Refrain

ha-tred, crown-ing me with love be-yond my pow'r to hold.

...continue...

Leader or All



5 Sure-ly your kind-ness and mer-cy fol-low me all the days of my life;



I will dwell in the house of my God for-ev - er - more.

Final refrain
All



Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -



yond my fears, from death in - to life.

SECOND READING

2nd Timothy 1:6-11

A reading from 2nd Timothy, the 1st chapter.

For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands, for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, in the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace, and this grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

We rise.

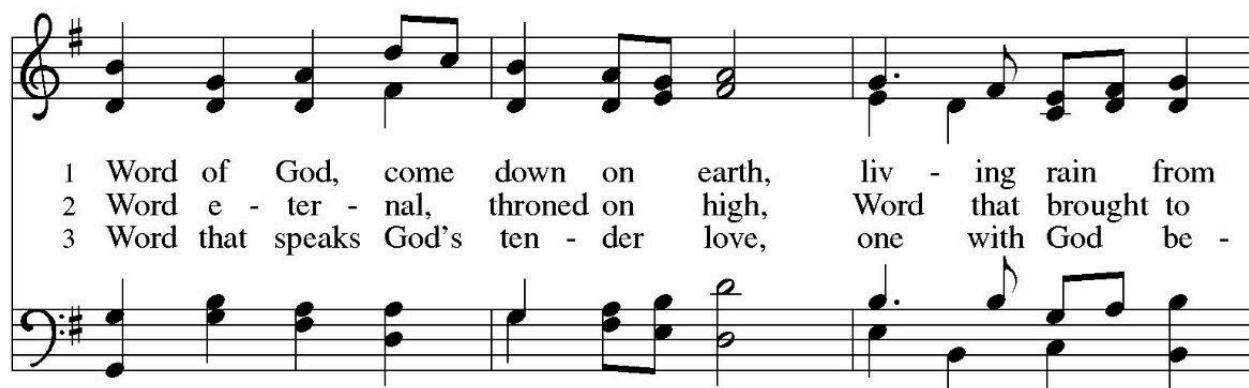
GOSPEL SONG

Word of God, Come Down to Earth

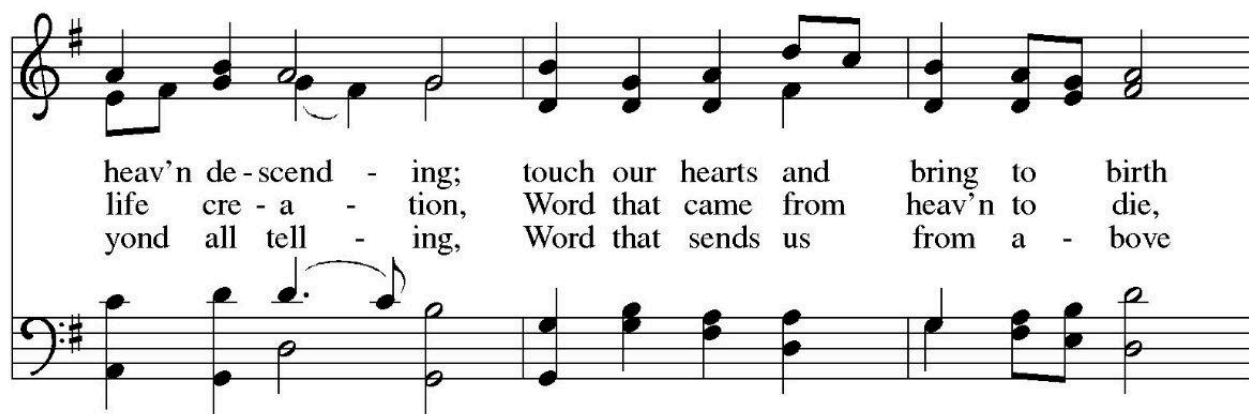
ELW 510

Stanza 1: Sing before the Gospel.

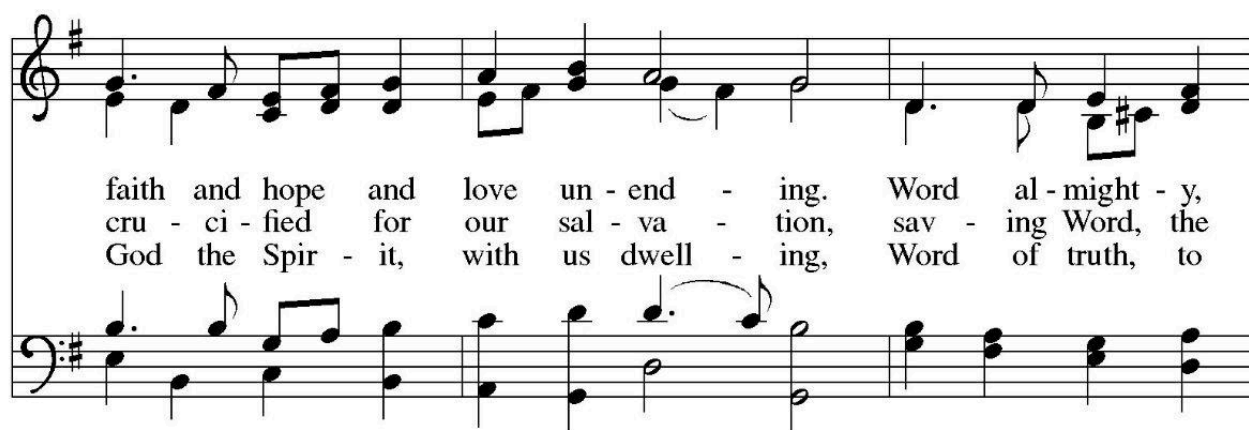
Stanza 2-3: Sing after the Gospel.



1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from
2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to
3 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, one with God be -

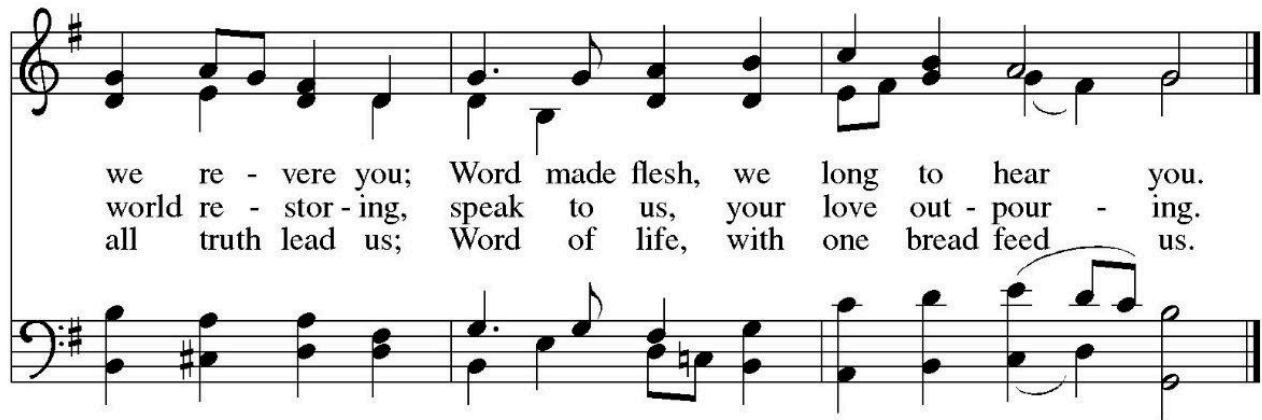


heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth
life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,
yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove



faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the
God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to

...continue...



GOSPEL READING

John 15:9-17

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to his disciples]: As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

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

Be seated.

SERMON

1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
 5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
 by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
 Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

We rise.

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, we confess our faith:

**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 \pm resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

Each petition concludes with the following:

*Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

SHARING the PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Share the peace of Christ with one another.

Be seated.

OFFERING

Today's offering, given to the glory of God, will be donated to the "Bishop's Discretionary Fund" for our next bishop to use to respond to emergencies (for checks made out to NC Synod, please indicate this on the memo line). To give online, scan the QR code provided.



 North Carolina Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

OFFERING ANTHEM**When I Survey the Wondrous Cross****Gilbert Martin**

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Forbid it Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God!
All vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all. Amen!

*We rise.***OFFERTORY****Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow****ELW 885**

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow;

Praise God, all crea - tures here be - low;

Praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host;

Praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray: 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.**



GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

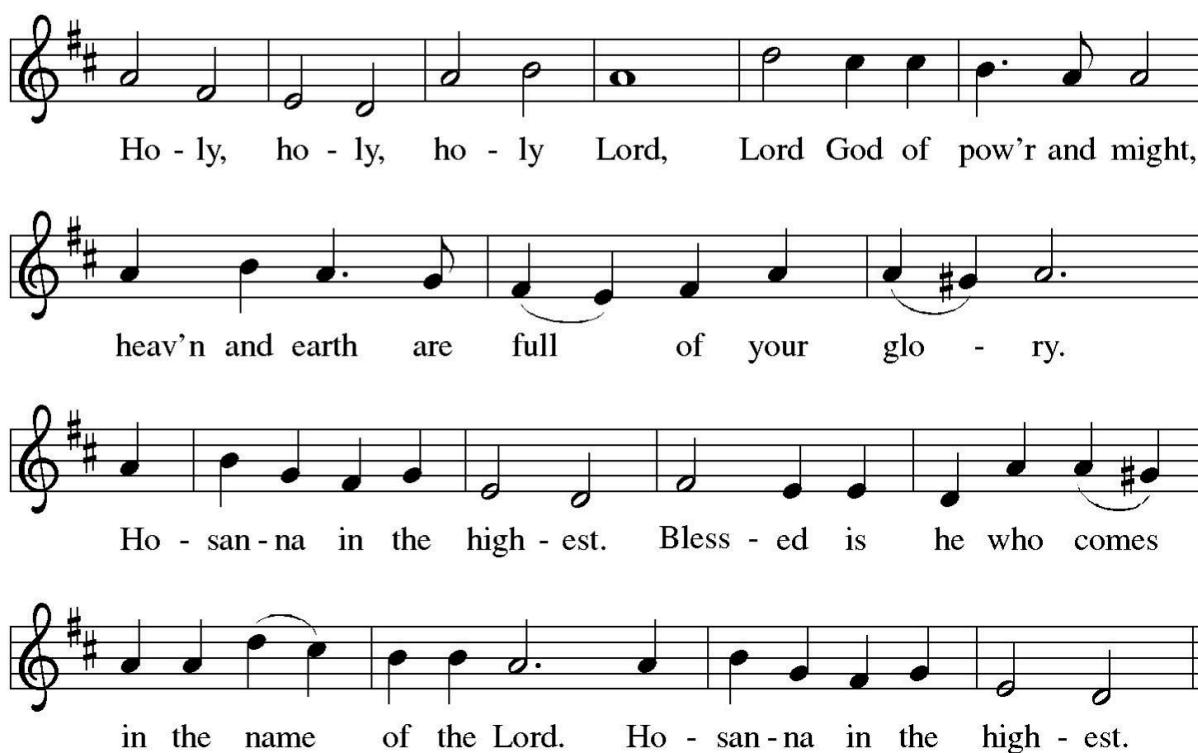
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name join their unending hymn:

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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy,
and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

*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.*

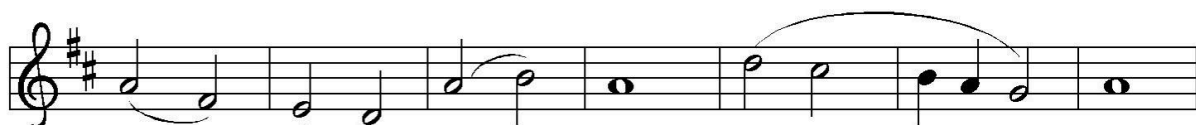
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us, saying: **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.**

INVITATION to COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready. **Thanks be to God.**

Be seated. All are welcome to receive Communion at Christ's table.

Today, we receive by intinction, dipping bread into wine. Grape juice and non-gluten wafers are available. Those with walking difficulties may receive the bread and wine by notifying an usher. A pastor will then bring you communion during distribution.

COMMUNION SONG

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 SONG

Sicilienne

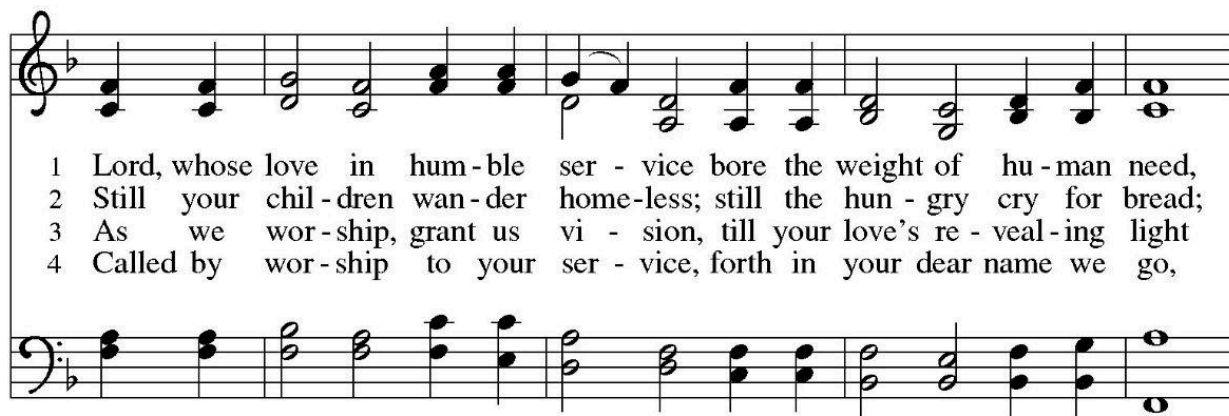
Maria Therese von Paradis

Täs - sä pöy - däs - sä, täs - sä
 1 In this feast of love, in this
 2 In this bread and wine, in in this
 3 Grant us peace, O Lord, grant us

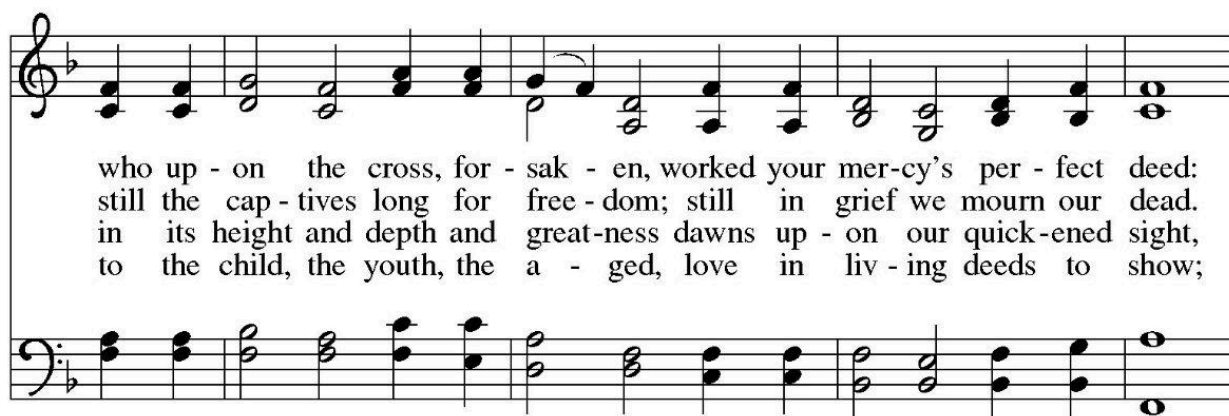
pöy - däs - sä syn - ti - sil - le
 feast of love, Lord, you share your
 bread and wine, you have prom - ised,
 peace, O Lord; fill us with the

it - se - si an - nat, Ju - ma - lan Ka - rit - sa!
 blood and your bod - y, Je - sus, Lamb of God.
 Lord, to be with us, Lamb . . of God div - ine.
 joy of your Spir - it, ev - er - liv - ing Word.

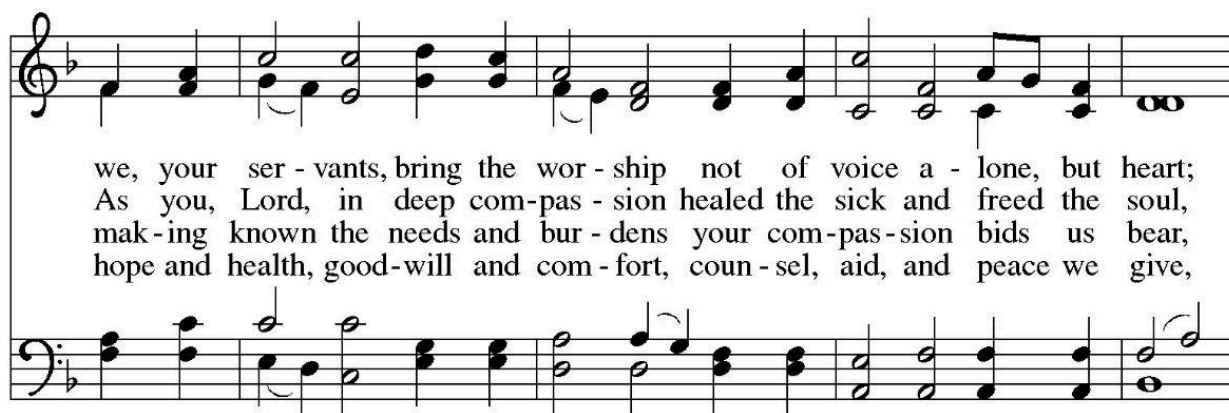
...congregational participation continues on the next page...



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu - man need,
2 Still your chil - dren wan - der home-less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;
3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal - ing light
4 Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer - cy's per - fect deed:
still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up - on our quick-ened sight,
to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;
As you, Lord, in deep com - pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com - pas - sion bids us bear,
hope and health, good-will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.
by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.
stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.
that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

We rise.

COMMUNION BLESSING and PRAYER

May the precious and true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Let us pray: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

LITURGY OF GODSPEED

(Diana) The Rev. Dr. Timothy Smith will retire July 31, 2025, after 10 years as bishop of the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Today we gather to mark the end of his ministry with us as bishop. This is a time for joy and thanksgiving as we remember the ministry shared, and a time for sadness as we recognize that relationships important to us are about to change. This is a time to offer thanks and praise to God for the privilege of serving God together.

Pastor Tim, we called you to be our bishop and shepherd, to proclaim God's word and celebrate the sacraments, to ordain our pastors and deacons, to interpret the gospel and seek to maintain the unity of the church. You have provided leadership and guidance for us in the Spirit of Christ. You have challenged us to share the Good News. You have helped us to mark our direction and encouraged us on our way. You have shared in our joys and sorrows and walked with us through life's journey. As we bid you Godspeed, we offer you our utmost love and our thanks.

Please be seated.

(Bishop Smith) Siblings in Christ, ten years ago, you called me to serve this synod. I praise God for the time that we have shared together. You have ministered to me as I have ministered to you. You have been my teacher as I have been yours. Our lives have been united in the waters of baptism as we have walked together, sharing Christ. As I end my ministry as your bishop, I offer you my deep gratitude and love.

(Diana) As we say goodbye to Bishop Smith, we recognize that the three assistants to the bishop have co-terminus calls and therefore end their terms of ministry in the Office of Bishop. Pastor Cassie Macintosh Overcash, Pastor Phil Tonnesen, and Pastor Lucille CeCee Mills, we offer you our heartfelt thanks for the gifts you have shared as members of Bishop Tim's staff.

In thanksgiving, we pray for Bishop Smith, his staff, and for all our lives together in the ministry of the North Carolina Synod:

Gracious God, we thank you for the work and witness of your servants, Tim and Wendy. Bless and preserve them at this time of transition. Day by day, guide them and give them what is needed, friends to cheer their way, and a clear vision of that to which you are now calling them. May we find inspiration in their years of faithfulness and follow their example by serving you with steadfastness and singleness of heart. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be present, O Lord, with Cassie, Phil, and CeCee, that they may continue to travel with the One who is the way, the truth, and the life. For their guidance, encouragement, wisdom, and faithfulness, we give you thanks and pray for your continued blessing upon their ministry of Word and Sacrament. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide and strengthen the Synod Council, officers, and ongoing staff as they continue the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through the North Carolina Synod. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

And for those across the synod, bless and preserve us in this time of transition. Day by day, guide us and give us what is needed: a clear vision of that to which you are now calling us, so that the mind of Jesus Christ may be formed in us and all may know that we are his disciples, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

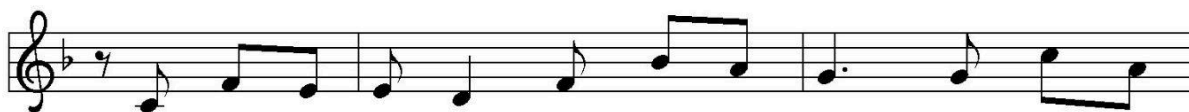
We rise.

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.**



1 O God of bless - ings, all praise to you! Your love sur -
 2 All praise for proph - ets, through grace in - spired to preach and
 3 All praise for mu - sic, deep gift pro - found, through hands and
 4 All praise for Je - sus, best gift di - vine through word and
 5 A bil - lion voic - es in one great song, now soft and



rounds us our whole life through. You are the
 wit - ness with hearts on fire. Your Spir - it
 voic - es in ho - ly sound; the psalms of
 wit - ness, in bread and wine; in - car - nate
 gen - tle, now deep and strong, in ev - 'ry



free - dom of those op - pressed; you are the com - fort of all dis -
 choos - es the weak and small to sing the new reign where might - y
 Da - vid, and Mar - y's praise, in word - less splen - dor and lyr - ic
 love song of bound - less grace, priest, teach - er, proph - et in time and
 cul - ture and style and key, from hill and val - ley, with sky and



tressed. Come now, O ho - ly and wel - come guest:
 fall; with them may we live your gos - pel call:
 phrase, with all cre - a - tion one song we raise:
 space, your stead - fast kind - ness with hu - man face:
 sea, with Christ we praise you e - ter - nal - ly:



So - li De - o glo - ri - a! So - li De - o glo - ri - a!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is with us.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Allegro assai vivace from Sonata I

Felix Mendelssohn

