

Cover Art: In honor of the And God Says It Is Good project this year our Synod Gathering committee invited children from around our Synod to submit art for this event. Our featured artists this year are: Caroline Ballantine, 9, Good Shepherd, Raleigh; Drew Ballantine, 11, Good Shepherd, Raleigh; Clara Haithcox 11, St. John's, Taylorsville; Isabela Haithcox 12, St. John's, Taylorsville; Mikka Yoos, 7, St. Mark's Asheville; Desmond Yoos, 5, St. Mark's Asheville; Ada Canniff-Kesecker, 8, Prince of Peace, Greensboro; Nora Canniff-Kesecker, 11, Prince of Peace, Greensboro; Vincenzo La Fata, 10, Morning Star Matthews.

PRELUDE

'Sing Out, Earth and Skies'

Marty Haugen

Leader



1 Come, O God of all the earth: come to us, O
2 Come, O God of wind and flame: fill the earth with
3 Come, O God of flash - ing light: twin - kling star and
4 Come, O God of snow and rain: show - er down up -
5 Come, O Jus - tice, come, O Peace: come and shape our



Righ - teous One; come, and bring our love to birth:
righ - teous - ness; teach us all to sing your name:
burn - ing sun; God of day and God of night:
on the earth; come, O God of joy and pain:
hearts a - new; come and make op - pres - sion cease:

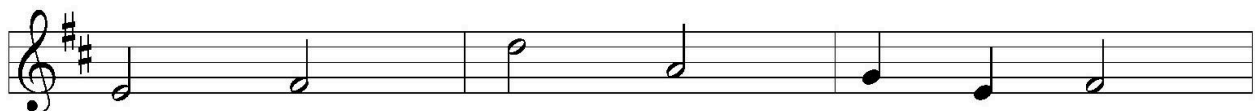


in the glo - ry of your Son.
may our lives your love con - fess.
in your light we all are one.
God of sor - row, God of mirth.
bring us all to life in you.

Assembly



Sing out, earth and skies! Sing of the God who



loves you! Raise your joy - ful cries!



Dance to the life a - round you!

We rise.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

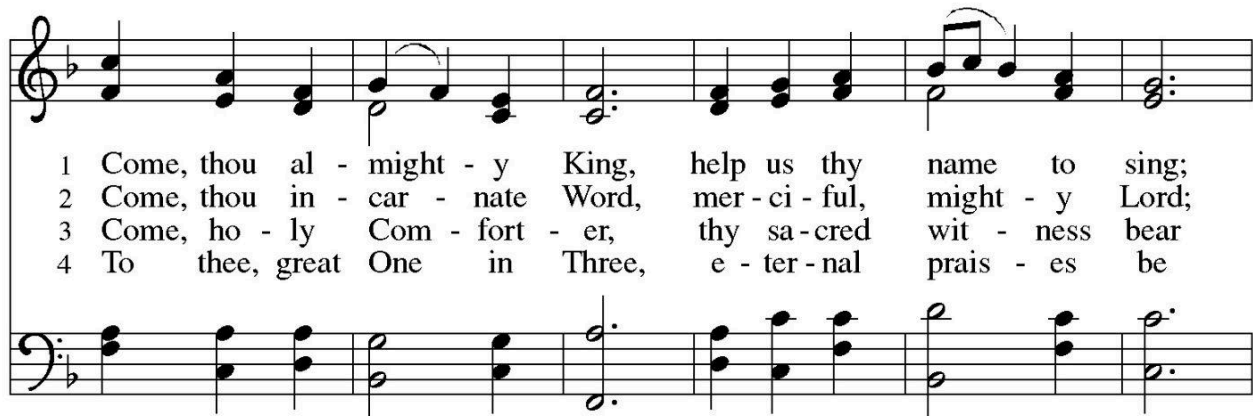
We bless you, almighty God, for the gift of water—
with the oceans that surround the earth,
for the rivers that nurture the land,
for the bodies of water that you provide for our community—
We bless you, O God, for the waters of the earth.

We honor you, merciful God, for showering us with water—
for the rain that nourishes the plants and trees,
for the floods that restore the fields,
for the dew that freshens dry places—
We honor you, O God, for the waters you send.

We glorify you, gracious God, for the waters of baptism—
for the water of the Jordan that washed our Lord Jesus,
for the water that baptized the believers on Pentecost,
for the water that illumines us with your word.
for the water that bathes your church,
We glorify you, O God, for the waters of baptism:

We worship you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
almighty, merciful, and gracious.
Well of forgiveness, you revive us,
cup of cold water, you refresh us,
full of rebirth, you renew us.

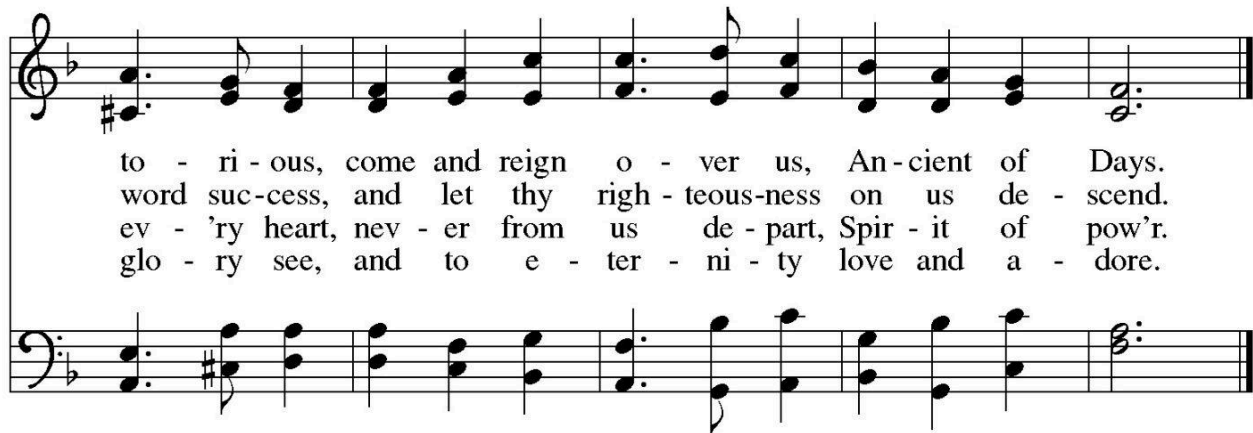
To you comes the worship of all your people, now and forever. Amen.



1 Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy name to sing;
 2 Come, thou in - car - nate Word, mer - ci - ful, might - y Lord;
 3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred wit - ness bear
 4 To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal prais - es be



help us to praise; Fa - ther all - glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic -
 our prayer at - tend. Come and thy peo - ple bless, and give thy
 in this glad hour! Thou who al - might - y art, rule now in
 hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - 'reign maj - es - ty may we in



to - ri - ous, come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
 word suc - cess, and let thy righ - teous - ness on us de - scend.
 ev - 'ry heart, nev - er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.
 glo - ry see, and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

APOSTOLIC 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.



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;



yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
 yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
 yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.



Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;



ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.



Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;



yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We pray: Gracious God, you invite us to come and see your presence among us. Open our hearts to your Word and our lives to your Spirit, that we may recognize Christ in one another and follow where you lead. Send us out renewed to share your love in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Be seated.

READING**Isaiah 58:1-12**

A reading from Isaiah, the 58th chapter.

Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day, they seek me
and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.

“Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
and oppress all your workers.

You fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you;
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

The Lord will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

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

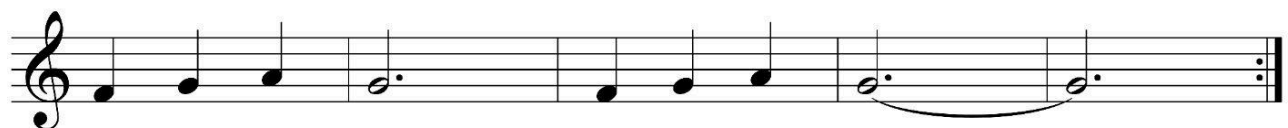
We rise.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Refrain: Cantor 1st, Assembly 2nd



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Cantor: Come, see the ways of God. Come, know the heart of God. (Refrain)
Cantor: Come, hear the Word of God. Come, hear the Word of Life. (Refrain)

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 1st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The next day, John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon, son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

The next day, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus, son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

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

Be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Christy Lohr Sapp

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.

SYNOD STAFF INSTALLATION

PRESENTATION

ADDRESS & QUESTION

The congregation will be invited to stand.

People of God, will you receive Brenda, Wendy, Phil, and Cassie as leaders in this synod, called to equip and accompany us in God's mission? Will you pray for them, support them in their work, and join them in the ministry of vitality, collaboration, justice, reconciliation, and evangelism? Will you strive together to embody Christ's love in this synod, in our communities, and in the world?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

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 resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

INSTALLATION & BLESSING

Brenda, Wendy, Phil, and Cassie, the office of Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop is now committed to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God of grace, you have called these servants to lead in your Church. Sustain them with your Holy Spirit, guide them in truth, and strengthen them for service. Make them a bearer of hope, a builder of community, and a faithful witness to your love in the world. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

PRAYERS & PEACE

Each petition concludes with:
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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

Be seated.

OFFERING

Our offering today is for the Bishop's Discretionary Fund of the NC Synod.



SONG

'Come, Join the Dance'

ELW 412



1 Come, join the dance of Trin - i - ty, be - fore all worlds be - gun—
 2 Come, see the face of Trin - i - ty, new - born in Beth - le - hem;
 3 Come, speak a - loud of Trin - i - ty, as wind and tongues of flame
 4 With - in the dance of Trin - i - ty, be - fore all worlds be - gun,



the in - ter-weav - ing of the Three, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son.
 then blood - ied by a crown of thorns out - side Je - ru - sa - lem.
 set peo - ple free at Pen - te - cost to tell the Sav - ior's name.
 we sing the prais - es of the Three, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son.



The u - ni - verse of space and time did not a - rise by chance,
 The dance of Trin - i - ty is meant for hu - man flesh and bone;
 We know the yoke of sin and death, our necks have worn it smooth;
 Let voic - es rise and in - ter-weave, by love and hope set free,



but as the Three, in love and hope, made room with - in their dance.
 when fear con - fines the dance in death, God rolls a - way the stone.
 go tell the world of weight and woe that we are free to move!
 to shape in song this joy, this life: the dance of Trin - i - ty.

We rise.

OFFERING PRAYER

We pray: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE & HOLY

ACS 12



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

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Remembering his life, death, and resurrection,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

COMMUNION INVITATION & INSTRUCTION

Heaven has come near.
Come, share in the feast!
Thanks be to God.

Be seated. Please follow the ushers' guidance. In the nave, communion is by intinction, dipping bread (all bread is gluten-free) into wine (or grape juice). Those not receiving Communion are invited forward to receive a blessing (crossing your arms across your chest as a sign to the pastor). If you need Communion brought to you, please signal a server.

LAMB OF GOD



Verse 1

Behold the Author of our salvation
Behold the wonder of grace so free
Behold the blessing of true forgiveness at Calvary

Verse 2

Behold the answer for all the broken
Behold the mercy that makes a way
Behold the promise of perfect healing at Calvary

Chorus

Come and see
Come and see what God has done
Come and see
Come and see what love has won
In this place hearts and lives waking up
To the light of the world
You're the light of the world

Verse 3

The cross is speaking Your words of freedom
No condemnation shall we now fear
Our shame is silenced
Your love has triumphed at Calvary

Bridge

God it's Your love here on display
We stand in awe it takes our breath away
God it's Your love here on display
We stand in awe it takes our breath away

Ending

In this place hearts and lives waking up
To the light of the world
You're the light of the world
In this place hearts and lives waking up
To the light of the world
You're the light of the world



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

We rise.

COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**

We pray: Loving God, through bread and wine, our hearts are filled with your love. Strengthen us through this meal to go and tell of your great love. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
 ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you
 today and always. **Amen.**

Heaven has come near.
 Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

