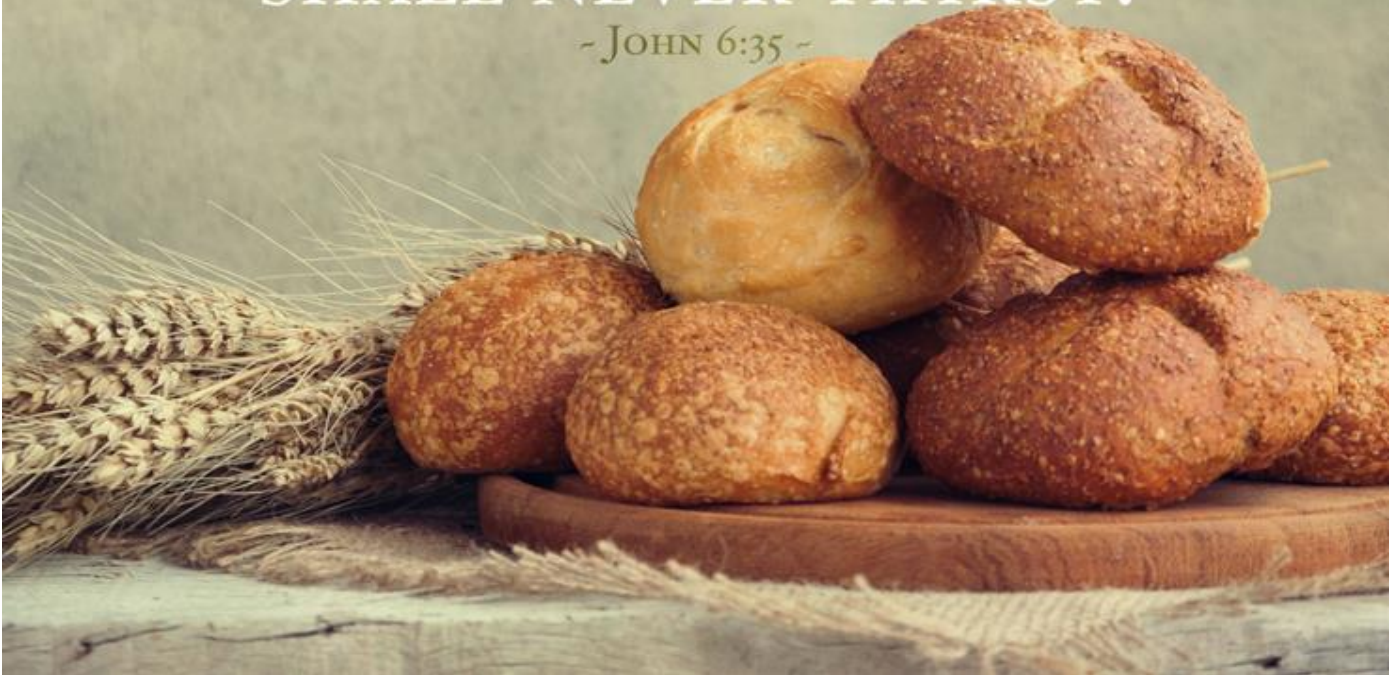


I AM THE BREAD OF
LIFE. HE WHO COMES TO
ME SHALL NEVER HUNGER,
AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN ME
SHALL NEVER THIRST.

- JOHN 6:35 -



12th Sunday after Pentecost

August 11, 2024

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Jesus says that the bread he gives for the life of the world is his flesh, and whoever eats this bread has eternal life now and will be raised on the last day. In Ephesians Paul tells us what this life Jesus gives us looks like, this life we live as those marked with the seal of the Holy Spirit in baptism. We live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. The whole purpose of life is giving yourself for the other.

Welcome

Pastor Wolfgang Herz-Lane

Confession and Forgiveness

P. In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

P. Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P. God, our provider,

C. help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

P. Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✝ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

C. Amen.

Peace

The Peace

P. May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

C. And also with you.

Gathering Hymn

Gather Us In

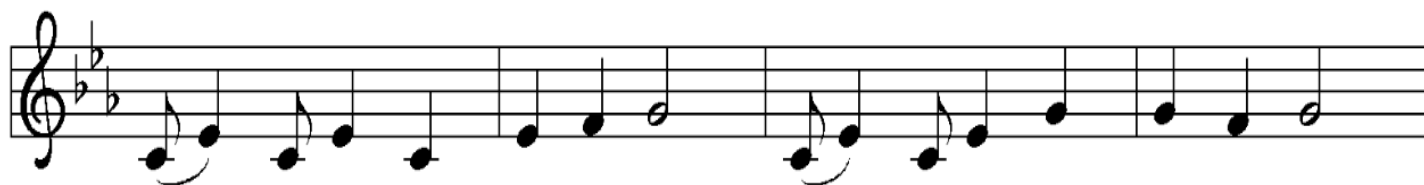
ELW 532

Greeting

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

C. And also with you.

Kyrie



1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
2 Chris - te e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Chris - te e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.

Now the Feast and Celebration

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



Refrain



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



Refrain



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



Refrain



God; to make all things new.

Prayer of the Day

A. Let us pray . . . Gracious God, your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Give us this bread always, that he may live in us and we in him, and that, strengthened by this food, we may live as his body in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. Amen.

First Reading

1 Kings 19:4-8

First Kings chapter 18 describes the contest between Elijah and the prophets of Baal. The contest proves that the Lord is God, and afterward Elijah orders the killing of the Baal prophets. Angered by the deaths of her prophets, Queen Jezebel threatens to kill Elijah. This reading finds Elijah fleeing, fatigued, and in utter despair.

⁴[Elijah] went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." ⁵Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." ⁶He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. ⁷The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you." ⁸He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

L. Word of God. Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 34:1-8

Spoken Responsively

¹I will bless the Lord at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.

**²I will glory in the Lord;
let the lowly hear and rejoice.**

³Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord;
let us exalt God's name together.

**⁴I sought the Lord, who answered me
and delivered me from all my terrors.**

⁵Look upon the Lord and be radiant,
and let not your faces be ashamed.

**⁶I called in my affliction, and the Lord heard me
and saved me from all my troubles.**

⁷The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear the Lord
and delivers them.

**⁸Taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are they who take refuge in God!**

Second Reading

Ephesians 4:25—5:2

Christians are called to be imitators of God. This does not mean Christians are perfect. Rather, the Spirit is at work in our lives so that our actions and attitudes genuinely reflect the love and forgiveness we have received through Christ and his death.

²⁵So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. ²⁶Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and do not make room for the devil. ²⁸Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. ²⁹Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³²and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. ^{5:1}Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ²and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

L. Word of God. Word of life.

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

P. The holy gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.

C. Glory to you, O God.

John 6:35, 41-51

After feeding more than five thousand people in the wilderness, Jesus teaches them regarding the true significance of this remarkable sign.

³⁵Jesus said to [the crowd,] “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

⁴¹Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” ⁴²They were saying, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?” ⁴³Jesus answered them, “Do not complain among yourselves. ⁴⁴No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. ⁴⁵It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. ⁴⁶Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

P. The gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ.



Sermon

"Six Degrees of Separation"

Pastor Wolfgang

Hymn of the Day

I Am the Bread of Life

ELW 485

The Apostles' Creed

L. With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**C. 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 again 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**

Please be seated

Installation of Mutual Ministry Committee

P. The following people have been appointed to positions of leadership to serve on the Mutual Ministry Committee. A Mutual Ministry Committee provides a link between pastor, staff, and congregation; a mechanism for helpful feedback and constructive criticism; and a way to address potential conflict. We give thanks for their willingness to serve.

In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these sisters and brothers will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

*Harry Albert
Julie Bogle*

*Rita Clark
Sharyl Eggert*

Sarah Watkins

A reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

You have been appointed to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the office to which you have been appointed?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

The assembly stands. Those being installed face the assembly. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

P. People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your appointed leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

C. We will, and we ask God to help us.

Those being installed face the presiding minister, who addresses them.

P. I now declare you installed as members of the Mutual Ministry Committee. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

C. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

A. Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence

A. Reignite the prayer of the church. By your Spirit, root your church around the globe in prayer and spiritual practices. Merciful God,

C. receive our prayer.

A. We rely on the goodness of your creation in everything we do. We pray for trees that offer shade and for our fellow creatures that depend on the trees for shelter and food. Sustain the work of all who advocate for forests and wilderness areas. Merciful God,

C. receive our prayer.

A. Guide our leaders and nations with a spirit of justice and mercy. Let no evil come out of our mouths, but rather let us extend grace. We pray for our enemies. Merciful God,

C. receive our prayer.

A. Sustain feeding ministries and organizations such as ELCA World Hunger and our local food pantries. We work and pray for a day when hunger is no more. Merciful God,

C. receive our prayer.

A. We pray for this congregation and for all who are gathered. Be present among anyone who cannot be with us today. Be with all who are hurting, grieving, or ill. Merciful God,

C. receive our prayer.

Other Prayers

A. We remember the saints who have gone before us in faith. Trusting in the promise of the resurrection, we find hope in your communion of saints of all times and all places. Merciful God

C. receive our prayer.

P. We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.

C. Amen.

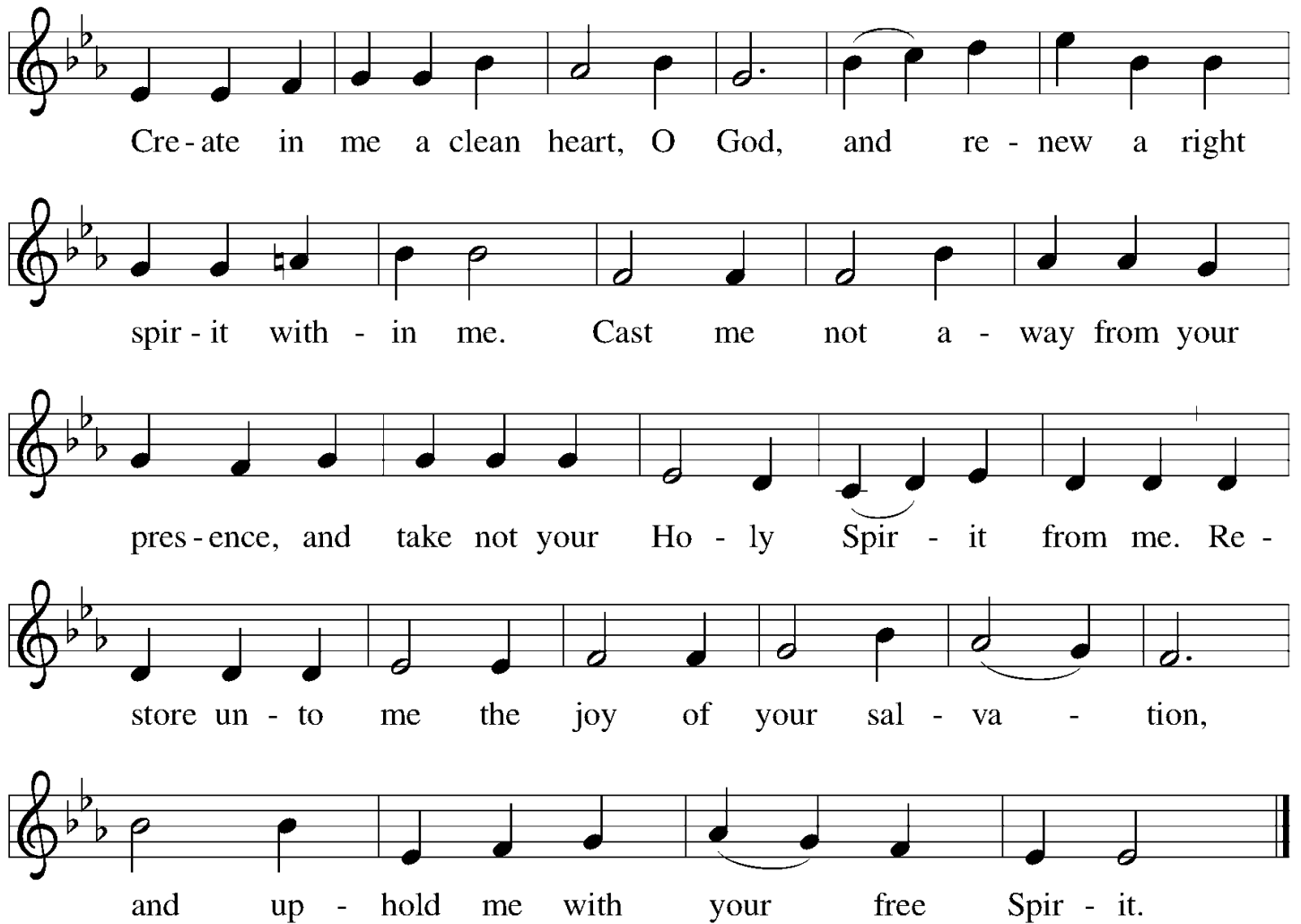
The Offering

Anthem

Halleluyah, We Sing Your Praises

Popup Choir

South African Traditional ~ Freedom is Coming



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offertory Prayer

A. Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

C. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. Lift up your hearts.

C. We lift them to the Lord.

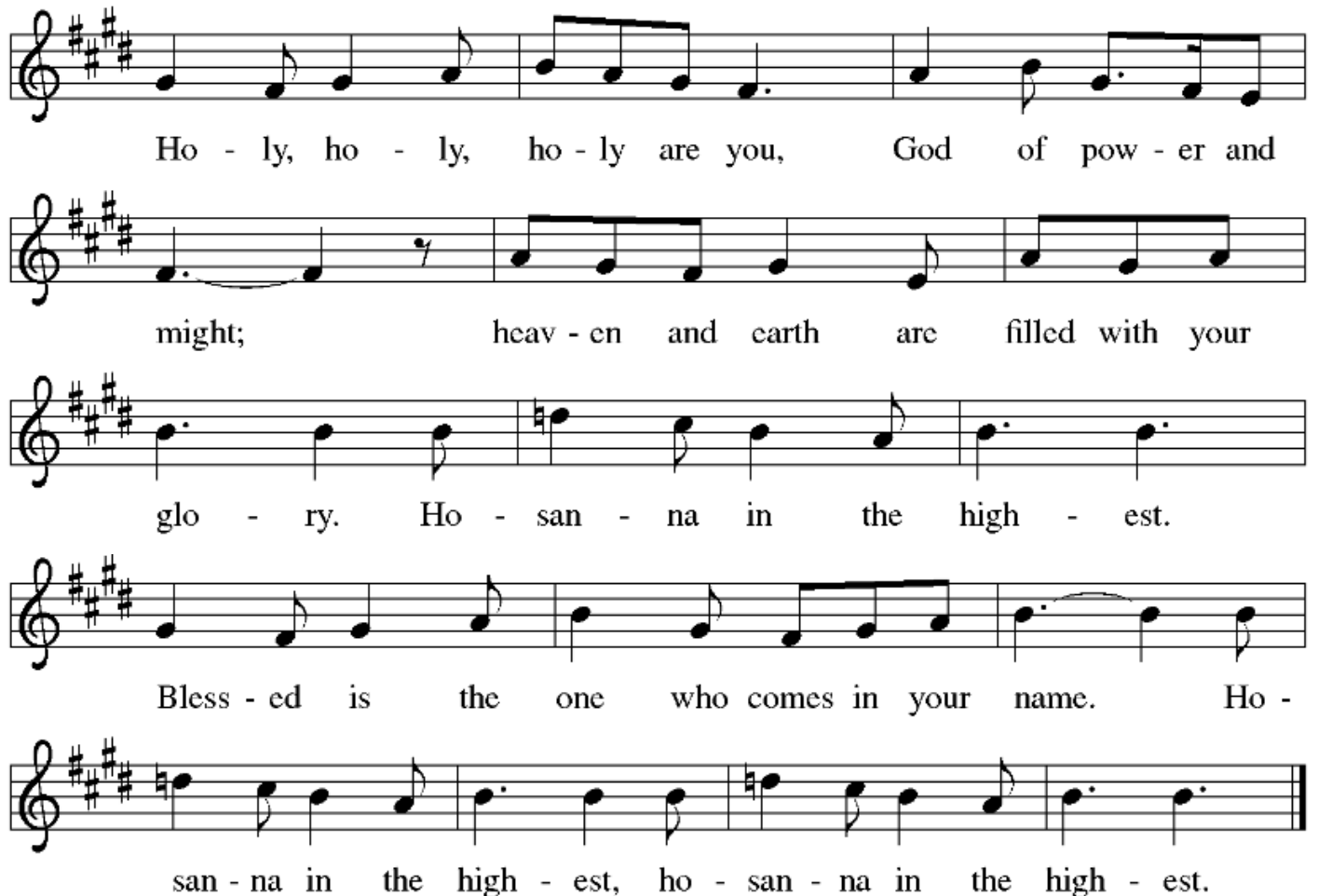
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.



P. 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:

The Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

P. 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.

The Lord's Prayer

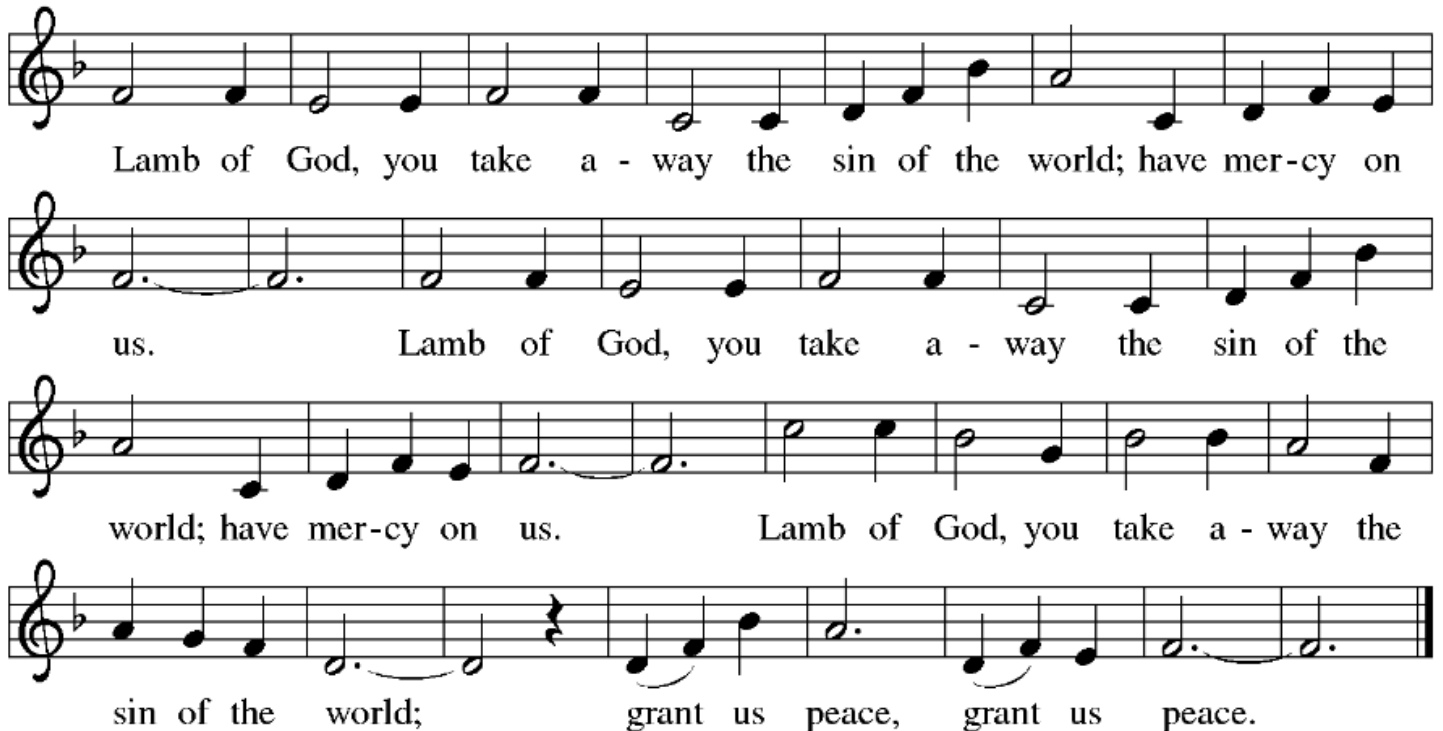
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen

Invitation to Communion

P. Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!
All are welcome, no exceptions.

C. Alleluia!

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 Hymns

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts
As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 658
ELW 465

Post Communion Blessing

P. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his peace.

C. Amen

Post Communion Prayer

A. Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

C. Amen



We ask for prayers for our Mutual Ministry Committee (MMC) which meets today after worship for the first time. The team will have orientation and training today with Roger Talbert from Christ the King in Cary who was the trainer for our call committee last year.

Please wear your name tags: Now that we have shiny new name tags, please make sure to wear them when you're at church. It's important for the sake of visitors and guests and sets a tone of welcome and hospitality! Name tags are kept on the magnetic board to the right of the sanctuary doors.

Update on Tech Upgrades: We have received another \$1,050 toward our \$12,000 goal for audio-visual upgrades in our sanctuary so the total to date now stands at \$7,850 (65% of goal). THANK YOU! There are informational fliers and donation/pledge forms at the Welcome Center in the lobby next to the "Gift Thermometer" that tracks our progress.

Social Concerns: We delivered 101.8 pounds of food to Garner Area Ministries in June. That was fantastic!! Let's see if we can match or surpass that during August.

LOOKING AHEAD: Pastor Wolfgang is on vacation August 17-26. During his absence, Pastor John Petry, who was our interim pastor last year, will provide pastoral care, as needed, and preach on August 18 and 25.

Benediction

P. The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
‡ be upon you now and forever.

C. Amen.

Sending Hymn

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

ELW 488

Dismissal

A. Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Halleluyah, We Sing Your Praises

Gail Hrobuchak

South African Traditional ~ Freedom is Coming

Servers for Sunday, August 11th

Assisting Minister/Reader Julie Bogle
Reader Shannon Thomsen
Altar Guild Helen Holderman
Greeters/Counters Shannon Thomsen/Enid Weatherwax
Acolyte Antonio Smith



Sign-up sheets for the various worship assistant slots are on the board in the hallway. Please consider spending time giving glory to God by filling one of these positions on a Sunday.

Flowers this week are provided by Carolyn Watkins in celebration of Sarah's Birthday!!



Candles this month are given by Ginny King in memory of Dennis and in honor of their 58th Wedding Anniversary.



Honor a loved one by making a donation for the candles in the sanctuary for the month or the flowers that beautify the church each Sunday. Sign-up sheets are on the board in the hallway.