



“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.”

~Isaiah 58:11

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
11th Sunday after Pentecost – August 24, 2025**

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Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister

Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning!
Know that you are welcome here just as you are.*

If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time worshiping at St. John, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.

*Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an * and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**. All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.*

*During the time of **Peace**, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.*

*At the time of **Offering**, you are invited to share a gift. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Online gifts may be made using the QR code below:*



*You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. **Visitor information cards** and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.*

*As Lutherans, we believe Christ is truly present in the elements of the Lord's Supper. At the time of **Holy Communion**, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then pre-filled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

*If you need a **restroom**, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.*

*A **playroom** is available downstairs for children who need a break from the worship service.*

This room is by the elevator on the lower level. An adult must remain with the child.

Children are also welcome to utilize the books and puzzles available in the Greeting Area on the top level by the elevator.

You are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms located in each pew as desired. The cards will be collected during our hymn of the day, and prayers will be offered during the prayers of intercession.

PRELUDE and ANNOUNCEMENTS

As we prepare our hearts and minds for worship, you are invited to offer a prayer for God to lead, guide, nourish, and use you in worship this morning. You can use these or other words:

“Lord, I come to honor you in worship today. I ask that all the things of this week that can crowd you out of my heart be set aside by the power of your Holy Spirit. Open my heart and mind to meet you and receive you today. Amen.”

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

***GATHERING HYMN *O Day of Rest and Gladness* (ELW 521)**



1 O day of rest and glad - ness, O day of joy and light,
2 On you, at earth's cre - a - tion, the light first had its birth;
3 To - day on wea - ry na - tions the heav'n-ly man-na falls;
4 New grac-es ev - er gain - ing from this our day of rest,



O balm for care and sad - ness, most beau - ti - ful, most bright:
on you, for our sal - va - tion, Christ rose from depths of earth;
to ho - ly con - vo - ca - tions the sil - ver trum-pet calls,
we reach the rest re - main - ing to spir - its of the blest.



on you the high and low - ly, through a - ges joined in tune,
on you, our Lord vic - to - rious the Spir - it sent from heav'n;
where gos-pel light is glow - ing with pure and ra - diant beams
We sing to you our prais - es, O Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son;



sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," to the great God tri - une.
and thus on you, most glo - rious, a three-fold light was giv'n.
and liv - ing wa - ter flow - ing with soul - re - fresh-ing streams.
the church its voice up - rais - es to you, blest Three in One.

***GREETING**

Our faith is rich in mystery. Mystery that invites us to wonder with awe, and mystery that challenges us and fills our hearts with questions. We ponder what we do not know, opening ourselves to uncertainty, holding space for discernment. We struggle with spaces where faith is hard, where faith feels insufficient. Our questions can feel destabilizing, challenging, and uncomfortable. Yet we are emboldened by God's invitation to enter into conversation, to bring our questions, our struggles, and our uncertainties to God's abundant grace and mercy. So before we enter this searching time, let me tell you something that is unquestionably true:

God loves you. God embraces you.

And God uses everything – even the uncertain – to create love and connection.

May 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.**

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Please join me as we confess our sins together.

But first, consider: Where have you gone wrong this week?

How have you harmed your relationship with God, with your neighbor, and with yourself?

(a brief silence for reflection)

Let us pray: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Merciful God,

you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.

You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,

but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.

You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity,

but we grow weary in doing what is right.

**In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life. Amen.**

Know this: You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's child through faith.

In the cross of ✠ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, our sins are forgiven.

You can doubt this love. But you can never change the truth of it.

God knows all and forgives all.

The only question that remains is whether we can accept love so freely given.

We accept God's forgiveness, and we take our place in God's purpose. Amen!

CANTICLE OF PRAISE *Glory to God



¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!
Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!



¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!
Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!



Y en la tie - rra paz pa-ra_a-que-llos que_a-ma_el Se - ñor.
And on earth . . . peace to God's peo-ple. Glo - ry to God.



Y en la tie - rra paz pa-ra_a-que-llos que_a-ma_el Se - ñor.
And on earth . . . peace to God's peo-ple. Glo - ry to God.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:9b-14

A reading from Isaiah.

- ^{9b} If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
¹⁰ 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.
¹¹ 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.
¹² 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.

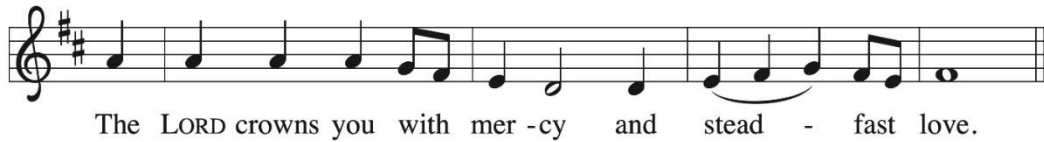
¹³ If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath,
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;
if you call the Sabbath a delight
and the holy day of the LORD honorable;
if you honor it, not going your own ways,
serving your own interests or pursuing your own affairs;
¹⁴ then you shall take delight in the LORD,
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;
I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 103:1-8

*The psalm is chanted. The refrain is sung once through by all who wish. Then the tone by which the verses are chanted is first played by the music director, who will sing the lightly printed verses. The congregation will chant the verses printed in bold following the same chanted tone as the music director. The vertical line indicates the change in tone. The refrain is sung again by all as indicated with “**R**”.*



- ¹ Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.
- ² **Bless the LORD, | O my soul,**
and forget not | all God's benefits—
- ³ who forgives | all your sins
and heals all | your diseases;
- ⁴ **who redeems your life | from the grave**
and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy; R
- ⁵ who satisfies your desires | with good things
so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.
- ⁶ **O LORD, you provide | vindication**
and justice for all who | are oppressed.
- ⁷ You made known your | ways to Moses
and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.
- ⁸ **LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,**
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love. R

SECOND READING: Hebrews 12:18-29

A reading from Hebrews.

¹⁸ You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. ²⁰ (For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.” ²¹ Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.”) ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

²⁵ See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! ²⁶ At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.” ²⁷ This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

¡A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

¡A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

¡A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya,
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

a - le - lu - ya! ¡A - le - lu - ya!
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*GOSPEL READING: Luke 13:10-17

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

¹⁰ Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. ¹¹ And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” ¹³ When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. ¹⁴ But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day.” ¹⁵ But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? ¹⁶ And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?” ¹⁷ When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

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

CHILDREN’S SERMON and SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY *We Come to You for Healing, Lord* (ELW 617)

(Blue prayer cards are collected)

1 We come to you for heal - ing, Lord, of
2 As once you walked through an - cient streets and
3 You touch us through phy - si - cians' skills, through
4 When nights are long with wake - ful - ness, through
5 We come to you, O lov - ing Lord, in

bod - y, mind, and soul, and pray that by your
reached toward those in pain, come, ris - en Christ, a -
nurs - es' gifts of care, and through the love of
days when strength runs low, grant us your gift of
our dis - tress and pain, in trust that through our

Spir - it's touch we may a - gain be whole.
mong us still with pow'r to heal a - gain.
faith - ful friends who lift our lives in prayer.
pa - tience, Lord, your calm - ing peace to know.
nights and days your grace will heal, sus - tain.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

For some, the Apostles' Creed is like liturgical muscle memory: You can say it without thinking about it. Today we ask you to affirm your faith by answering questions so you might truly consider what you believe. If you feel unable to affirm your faith today, listen to those around you. Borrow some faith from them as we share these ancient words.

Do you believe there is a God who made us?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe this God sent a person named Jesus to save this world?

**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.**

Do you believe the Holy Spirit calls, gathers, and enlightens us, making us holy, animating our faith and empowering the church?

**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

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

You call your church to proclaim liberation and freedom to all. Give wisdom to bishops, synod councils and staff, and congregation leaders as they pursue a more just and equitable church and society. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You inspire all creation to sing and bless your holy name. Send healing rains to parched places and relief to flooded lands. Lead us to enact policies to rebuild ruined ecosystems and habitats. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You work vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. Strengthen the resolve of world leaders and local officials in the way of love and mercy, so that all persons may experience abundant life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You satisfy your people with good things. In your steadfast love, receive the cries of all who are bent over under the weight of addiction, isolation, and mental or physical illness especially Bob, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Sally, Katie, Debi, Anne, Karen, Nan, Beverly, those on our prayer list and all who suffer in any way. Manifest your healing presence in their midst. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You call us to delight in the sabbath. Invigorate worship planners and leaders with creativity to aid this assembly in fresh and faithful prayer and praise. Enable all who gather here to be nourished and renewed. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With all your apostles, prophets, and saints, we give thanks and bless your holy name. As they now rest from their labors, guide us by the witness of their lives to pursue your reign, which can never be shaken. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy three, holy one, you hear our prayers, spoken and unspoken. We do not come to honor you alone. Thank you for those with whom we worship today – both here and in eternity. We especially remember before you now those whose joys and concerns we carry with us in our worship (*blue prayer cards are read*). Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

You are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace as we prepare to receive God's grace in communion. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcome to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.).

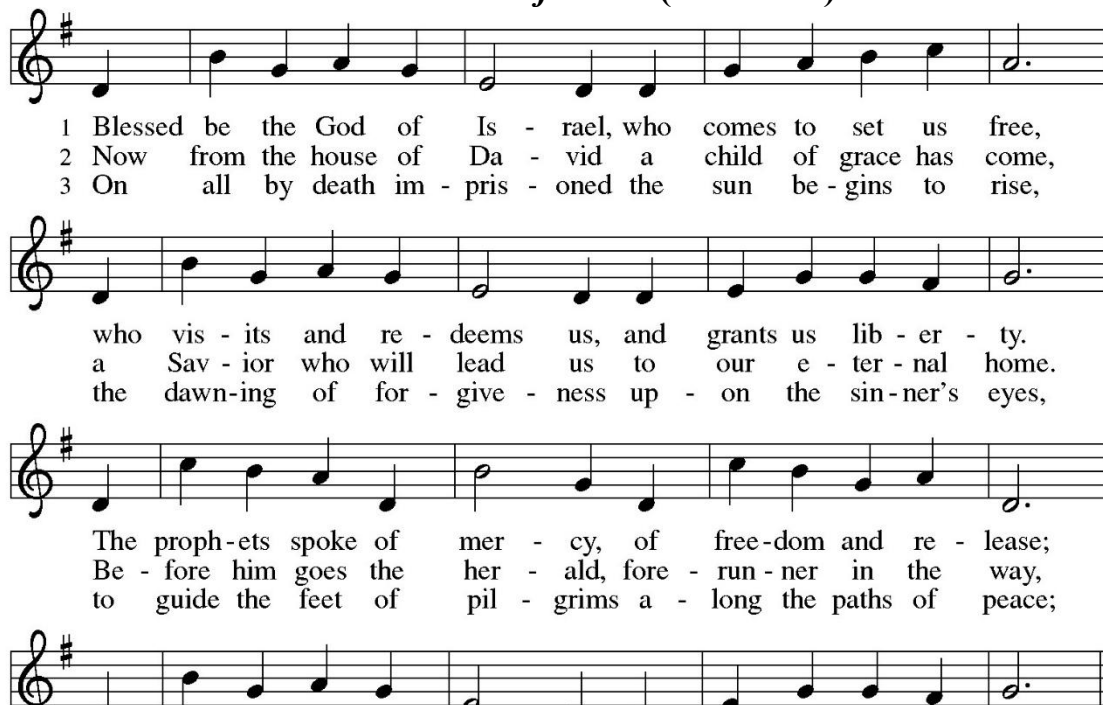
MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

COLLECTION OF THE OFFERING

You are invited to support the ministries of this congregation through gifts and prayers at this time. Ongoing prayer requests, connection cards, communion records, and financial gifts are collected in the plates as we remember that we offer all of ourselves to God.

OFFERTORY HYMN *Blessed Be the God of Israel (ELW 552) Rise on verse 3*



1 Blessed be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free,
2 Now from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has come,
3 On all by death im - pris - oned the sun be - gins to rise,

who vis - its and re - deems us, and grants us lib - er - ty.
a Sav - ior who will lead us to our e - ter - nal home.
the dawn-ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes,

The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;
Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,
to guide the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace;

God shall ful - fill the prom - ise to bring our peo - ple peace.
the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.
oh, bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of life, we may never know what you will do with these gifts. But we carry a faith passed to us through generations. We set the table with food and drink harvested by many hands. We break the bread of answered prayers. Use the gifts we give today to grow tomorrow's mercy. **Amen.**

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also 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.**

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:

San - to, san - to, san - to, es el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,

Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to, es el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.

San - to, san - to, san - to, san - to, es el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,

Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to, es el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.

Ho - san - na en el cie - lo, ho - san - na en la
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na here on

tie - rra. Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en el
earth. Blest is he who comes in the

nom - bre del Se - ñor. Ho - san - na en el
name . . . of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

cie - lo, ho - san - na en la tie - rra. Ben -
high - est, ho - san - na here on earth.

di - to el que vie - ne en el nom - bre del Se - ñor.
Blest is he who comes in the name . . . of the Lord.

Gracious God, out of your unflinching *yes* for our salvation, you sent to us Jesus.
People had their doubts, but Jesus' faith compelled them to ask,
"Is this really the one who will save us from our sins?"

Christ's abundant forgiveness to sinners, humiliating death at the hands of the state,
and glorious resurrection from the depths of the tomb
all told us and showed us the answer: yes! In Christ we can know forgiveness and salvation!

The night before Jesus died, the people who knew Jesus best were hungry for answers.
When Jesus gathered them for one last meal, uncertainty swirled in their hearts.

So to explain God's love, to show it and share it,
in the night in which our Lord Jesus was betrayed,
he 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.

When we eat this bread and drink this cup
we never have to question your love for us, Great God.

Now send the Spirit into this meal and into our hearts.
Blend this food and drink with holiness.

**Fuse our searching souls with your perfect love,
and we will become people who delight in what you have done
and joyfully wonder what you shall make of us today.**

To you, Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three be all praise today, tomorrow, and forever. **Amen!**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray:

**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

Come to the table of grace; receive the gift of new life. You are invited. Bring your unanswered questions with you, because the Spirit unquestionably beckons you to taste the truth of God's love. God's love is for you!

Thanks be to God!

Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God*

Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no-so-tros, have . . mer-cy up-on us, ten pie-dad de no-so-tros, have . . mer-cy up-on us.

Cor-de-ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no-so-tros, have . . mer-cy up-on us, ten pie-dad de no-so-tros, have . . mer-cy up-on us.

Cor-de-ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

da-nos tu paz, grant us your peace, da-nos tu paz. grant us your peace.

COMMUNION HYMN *Come to Me, O Weary Traveler* (ACS 1017)



1 "Come to me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler; come to
 2 "Do not fear, my yoke is eas - y; do not
 3 "Take my yoke and leave your trou - bles; take my
 4 "Rest in me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler; rest in



me with your dis - tress; come to me, you heav - y -
 fear, my bur - den's light; do not fear the path be -
 yoke and come with me. Take my yoke, I am be -
 me and do not fear. Rest in me, my heart is



bur - dened; come to me and find your rest."
 fore you; do not run from me in fright."
 side you; take and learn hu - mil - i - ty."
 gen - tle; rest and cast a - way your care."

COMMUNION HYMN *Taste and See* (ELW 493)

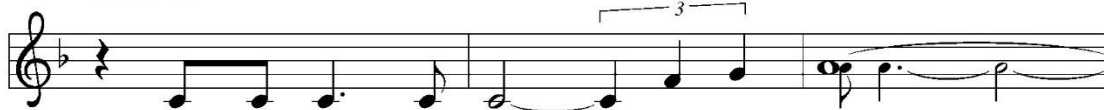
Refrain – All



Taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord. Oh,



taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord, of the Lord.



1 I will bless the Lord at all times.
2 Glo - ri - fy the Lord with . . me.
3 Wor-ship . . . the Lord, all you peo-ple.



Praise shall al - ways be on my lips;
To - geth - er let us all praise God's name.
You'll want for noth-ing . . . if you ask.



my soul shall glo - ry in the Lord;
I called the Lord, . . who an - swered me;
Taste and see . . . that the Lord is good;

Refrain



for God has been so good to me.
from all my trou - bles I was set free.
in God we need put all our trust.

*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you in grace. **Amen**

*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*BLESSING

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ✠ bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

*SENDING SONG *How Firm a Foundation* (ACS 796)



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand?"
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

***SENDING PRAYER**

Holy One, we thank you for all that you have given us. We thank you for the relationships with which you have blessed us, the guidance you have given us in your word, and the support, healing, and love you have fed us with at your table. Take away our sin and carry us into the week with the new beginning we have in your promised forgiveness. Lead us this week to be your hands, your feet, and your voice in the world. **Amen.**

***DISMISSAL**

[Jesus said,] “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.”

Mark 16:15

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister: David D

Acolyte: Anna K

Offering: Lydia M & Cate S

Greeters: Ruth Ann T

Attendance from last week: 59 +3 zoom

Notes for the day's texts:

Through the lens of the gospel, today's texts offer a clear identification of God's work. What is God doing? God is reaching out to the bound-up to proclaim release from captivity. God is lifting up the oppressed. God is satisfying the needs of the afflicted. God raises up foundations. God restores and rebuilds, reconciles and sets free. God, whose word can shake the very foundations of the earth, speaks a better word than we've ever heard, or that we could ever speak. Like yeast that's included in bread dough or the seed of a particularly stubborn weed sown in the garden (Luke 13:18-21), when God speaks, there's no going back. The bread will be leavened; the garden will have a mustard bush; and precious daughters and sons of Abraham will be set free. It is God's work and God's activity that Isaiah calls us to be about. Why is the prophet so confident that light will conquer darkness and needs will be satisfied? Because this is already God's work, or as the prophet says, because "the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

These texts focus us on the *verbs*, the actions, of God. When we're attuned to the verbs of God within passages like these, it might make it easier to see and give witness to God's work and the verbs around us right now.

Today's Music

O Day of Rest and Gladness. Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt., Music: German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833. Public Domain.

We Come to You for Healing, Lord. Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923, Music: Hugh Wilson, 1764–1824. GIA Publications, Inc./ Public Domain.

Blessed Be the God of Israel. Text: Michael Perry, 1942–1996, based on Luke 1:68-79, Music: Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933. Hope Publishing Company (ASCAP).

Come to Me, O Weary Traveler. Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993, Music: William P. Rowan, b. 1951. GIA Publications, Inc./ Selah Publishing Co., Inc.

Taste and See. Text: James E. Moore Jr., b. 1951, based on Ps. 34, Music: James E. Moore Jr. GIA Publications, Inc.

How Firm a Foundation. Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt., Music: Early American. Public Domain.

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Next Week's Readings

Proverbs 25:6-7a *Do not put yourself forward*

Psalms 112 *The righteous are merciful and full of compassion*

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 *God is with us: let acts of mutual love continue*

Luke 14:1, 7-14 *An image of God's reign, invite the poor, crippled to your banquet*