



“As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean.”

~Luke 17:12~14

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
18th Sunday after Pentecost – October 12, 2025**

420 Beaver St., PO Box 411

Mars, PA 16046-0411

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Phone: 724-625-1830

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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

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.

***GREETING**

Followers of Christ, believe this – God loved the world, God loves the world, God loves you!

May the truth of this great love story shine through our worship today,
and renew our sense of calling.

So come, with your tiredness, your frustrations and your discouragements;
come with your doubts, your fears, and your longings;
come, to discover yet again how Jesus reveals God’s love and mercy for us.

Come, in love for God, for each other, and for the world,
to listen for God’s Word to us, to offer our prayers, and to renew our calling.

Followers of Christ

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.

Let us worship!

***GATHERING HYMN *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven* (ELW 865)**



1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; to his feet your trib - ute bring.
2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to our fore-bears in dis - tress.
3 Tend - er - ly he shields and spares us; well our fee - ble frame he knows.
4 An - gels help us to a - dore him, who be - hold him face to face.



Ran-somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more his prais-es sing.
Praise him, still the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless.
In his hands he gent - ly bears us, res-cues us from all our foes.
Sun and moon bow down be - fore him; all who dwell in time and space.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly as his mer - cy flows.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

But first, let us consider: Where have we gone wrong this week? How have we harmed our relationship with God, with our neighbor, or with ourselves? (*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 and loving God,

we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy.

We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor.

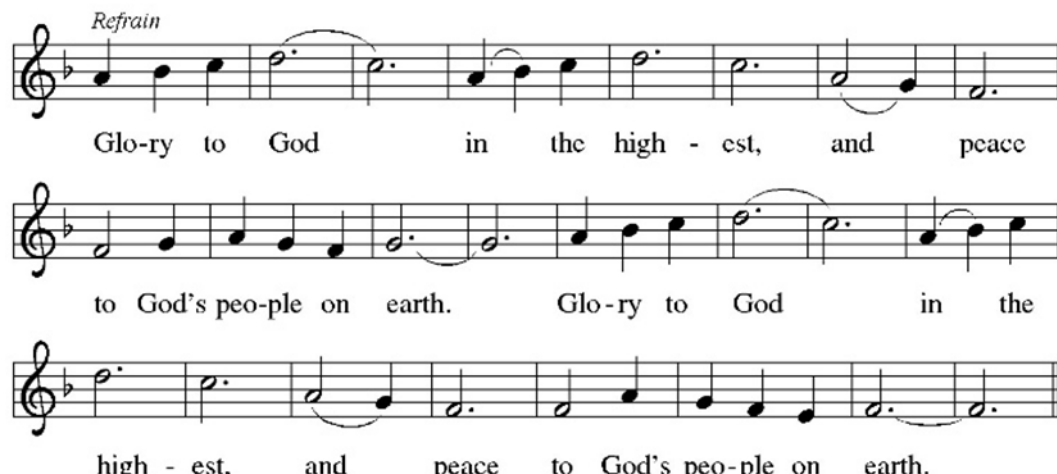
Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.

Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ✠ Jesus, your sins are forgiven! **Amen.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE *Glory to God

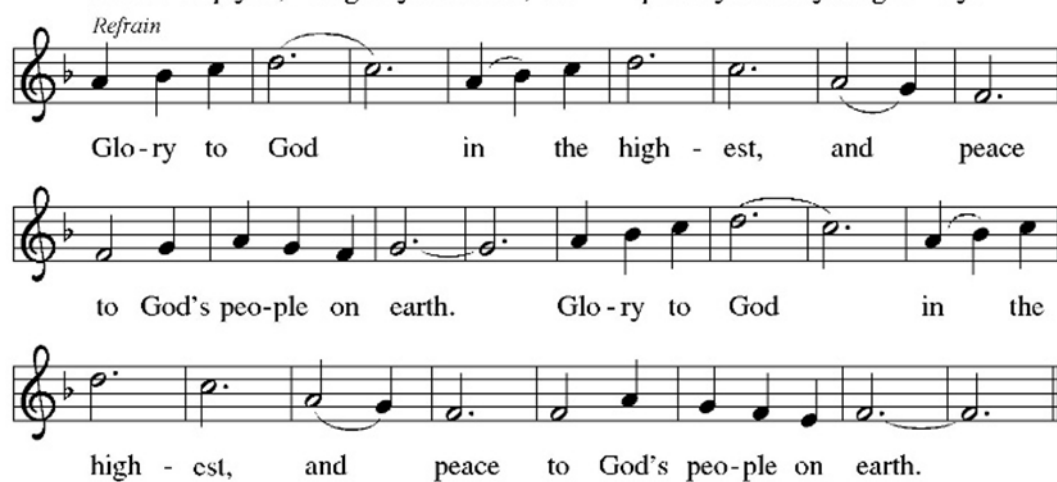
Refrain



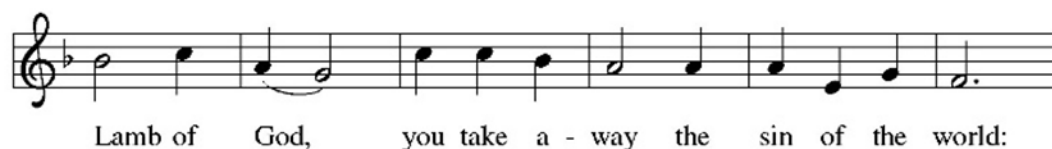
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace
to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa-ther,
we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace
to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **Almighty and most merciful God, your bountiful goodness fills all creation. Keep us safe from all that may hurt us, that, whole and well in body and spirit, we may with grateful hearts accomplish all that you would have us do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c

A reading from 2 Kings.

¹ Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from a skin disease. ² Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³ She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his skin disease."

⁷ When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his skin disease? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."

⁸ But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." ⁹ So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. ¹⁰ Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean." ¹¹ But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God and would wave his hand over the spot and cure the skin disease! ¹² Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. ¹³ But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" ¹⁴ So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

^{15a, b, c} Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 111

*The psalm is read responsively. The leader will read the light printed verses.
The congregation will read the bolded verses.*

- ¹ Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.
- ² **Great are your works, O LORD, pondered by all who delight in them.**
- ³ Majesty and splendor mark your deeds, and your righteousness endures forever.
- ⁴ **You cause your wonders to be remembered;
you are gracious and full of compassion.**
- ⁵ You give food to those who fear you,
remembering forever your covenant.
- ⁶ **You have shown your people the power of your works
in giving them the lands of the nations.**
- ⁷ The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;
all of your precepts are sure.
- ⁸ **They stand fast forever and ever,
because they are done in truth and equity.**
- ⁹ You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever;
holy and awesome is your name.
- ¹⁰ **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise endures forever.**

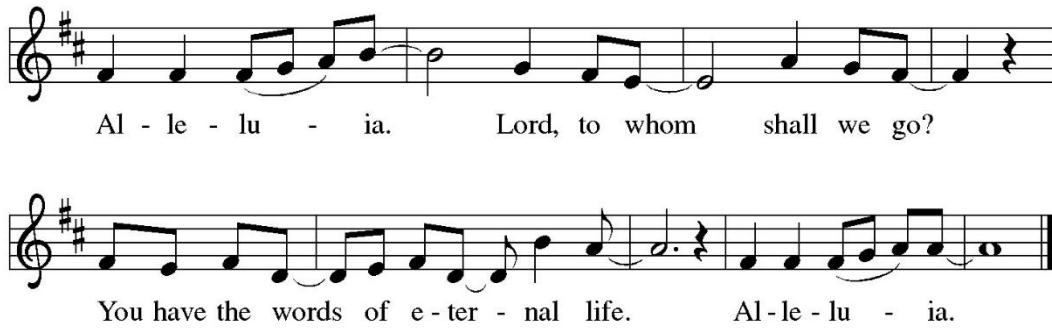
SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 2:8-15

A reading from 2 Timothy.

- ⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, ⁹ for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. ¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. ¹¹ The saying is sure:
If we have died with him, we will also live with him;
¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him;
if we deny him, he will also deny us;
¹³ if we are faithless, he remains faithful—he cannot deny himself.
- ¹⁴ Remind them of this, and warn them before the Lord that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL READING LUKE 17:11-19

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹¹ On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he entered a village, ten men with a skin disease approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³ they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” ¹⁴ When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶ He prostrated himself at Jesus’s feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? So where are the other nine?” ¹⁸ Did none of them return to give glory to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹ Then he said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY *Baptized and Set Free* (ELW 453)**

(Blue prayer cards are collected)



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.
2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.
3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,
4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.
Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.
and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.
All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door
For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:
As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:
Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.
end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.
pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.
one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

***APOSTLES' CREED**

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

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

Gracious God, you lead your people to faith. Remind the church that your word flows into the world. By your Spirit, teach the church to share the word of God for the sake of the world. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Creating God, you provided cleansing and healing waters for Naaman. Water the earth's lands in parched places. Restore clean water to all communities, and guide the work of all who advocate for safe and abundant water supplies. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Righteous One, you bring justice and wholeness throughout the world, and your righteousness endures forever. By your spirit, guide leaders of all nations and lands to right relationship with you and with one another. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, you know the needs of your people. Show mercy to those suffering in the world. Comfort those in need of your healing especially Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Sally, Katie, Debi, Anne, Karen, Nan, Beverly, Mike, those on our prayer list, all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts and all who suffer in any way. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Life-giving God, you free us by your word. Help us, by your Spirit, to be transformed to live your word of freedom honestly and uprightly in our teaching, preaching, and serving. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, thank you for the witness of those who have died in faith. Guide us to trust in the baptismal promise of resurrection in Christ. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

O God of life, 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 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 this prayer to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. **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 *The Numberless Gifts of God's Mercies* (ELW 683)



1 The num - ber-less gifts of God's mer - cies my tongue can - not
2 Like all of the stars in the heav - ens, God's mer - cies can
3 I'll nev - er count all of God's mer - cies, but oh, I can



fath - om or tell. Like dew that ap-pears in the morn - ing,
nev - er be told. They shine through the dark - ness of mid - night;
give God my praise for all of that love, my thanks-giv - ing



they come to us shin - ing and full. The num - ber-less
their beau - ties can nev - er grow old. Like all of the
and love to the end of my days. I'll nev - er count



gifts of God's mer - cies my tongue can-not fath - om or tell.
stars in the heav - ens, God's mer - cies can nev - er be told.
all of God's mer - cies, but oh, I can give God my praise!

*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. **Amen.**

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

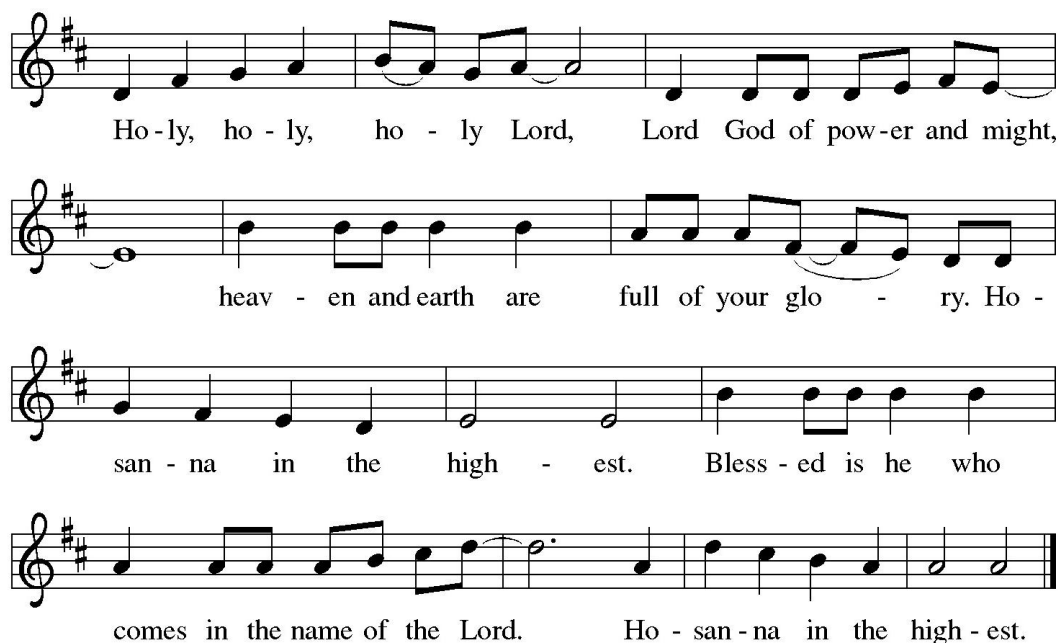
We lift them to the Lord.

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.
That's my gospel!

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:



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,
heav-en 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.

O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation,
hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty.
When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child;
When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom.
Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath, and the psalmists cried out for healing,
and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother.
He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city.
With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

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.

Remembering his death and resurrection, we proclaim

That's my gospel!

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we shout Amen. **Amen.**

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.
O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.
O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.
O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly, O God our strength and our song,
you show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations.
Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son, the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior,
life in you, now 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

You are invited to come to the table of grace; receive the gift of new life.

We come to this table not because we must but because we may,
not because we are strong, but because we are weak.

We come, not because any goodness of our own gives us a right to come,
but because we need mercy and help.

We come, because we love the Lord and would like to love him more.

We come, because he loved us and gave himself for us.

We come and meet the risen Christ together.

Come and taste the truth of God's love, for 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*

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 HYMN *Here I Would Feast* (ACS 964)



1 A - quí del pan par - ti - do to - ma - ré,
 2 La cul - pa del pe - ca - do mi - a fue;
 1 Here would I feast up - on the bread of God,
 2 Mine is the sin, but thine the righ - teous - ness;



y de la co - pa de tu co - mu - nión;
 mas tu - ya fue la san - gre de tu cruz.
 here drink with thee the roy - al wine of heav'n;
 mine is the guilt, but thine the cleans - ing blood;



tu nom - bre, mi buen Dios, in vo - ca - ré
 Por e - lla_y tu jus - ti - cia ten - go, sé,
 here would I lay a - side each earth - ly load,
 here is my robe, my ref - uge, and my peace:



y go - za - ré la paz de sal - va - ción.
 per - dón, con - sue - lo_y paz, Se - ñor Je - sús.
 here taste a - fresh the calm of sin for - giv'n.
 thy blood, thy righ - teous - ness, O Lord my God.



3 Nos le - van - ta - mos de la ce - na_a - quí;
 3 Too soon we rise, the ves - sels dis - ap - pear;



la fies - ta pa - sa, mas no_a - sí_el a - mor.
 the feast, though not the love, is past and gone.



To - do se va, mas tú te que - das, sí,
 The bread and wine re - move, but thou art here,



cer - ca, muy cer - ca_a - ma - do Sal - va - dor.
 near - er than ev - er, still my shield and sun.

COMMUNION HYMN *This Is Christ's Body* (ACS 967)



***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 God of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free, ✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

***SENDING SONG *Have You Thanked the Lord?* (ELW 829)**

Refrain



Have you thanked the Lord? Have you praised God's name?



Don't you know that no to - mor - row is quite the same?



Have you thanked the Lord? Have you knelt in prayer,



and re-joiced that, rain or sun-shine, our God is there?



1 Hal - le - lu - jah! Thank the Lord for sun, sand, and sea,
 2 Hal - le - lu - jah! Par - a - dise we taste where we are;
 3 Hal - le - lu - jah! Joy and peace the Sav - ior will bring.



ev - 'ry star at night that shines for you and me.
 sum-mer breez - es, win - ter warmth are nev - er far.
 Grace a - maz - ing! So we lift our voice and sing,



Bless - ings so man - y come our way:
 God's love is ev - er on dis - play:
 grate - ful when clouds are bright or gray:

Refrain



have you thanked the Lord to - day?
 have you thanked the Lord to - day?
 have you thanked the Lord to - day?

***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**

Remember Jesus Christ, who rose from the dead for you.

That's my gospel!

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord say, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’

And I said, ‘Here am I; send me!’”

Isaiah 6:8

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

Thanks be to God.

The flowers on the altar today were supplied by John Tully in honor of the US Navy's 250th birthday!

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister: Jonathan C

Acolyte: Abby C

Offering: Ava N and Ella N

Greeters:

Attendance from last week: 61 and 2 zoom

Notes for the day's texts:

Today is a day of unexpected blessings and miracles, signs of how God is active and alive and present in our world and in our lives when we are open and receptive to the possibilities. We hear, read about, and experience healing. Fragile relationships are restored. Hope is experienced in profound ways. Naaman, a commander and mighty warrior, suffers from leprosy, and even though he first denies the cure, Naaman accepts the advice of his servant, and by God's action his skin and its disease is washed clean. Also afflicted with leprosy, ten lepers implore God's mercy and are made clean. But the outsider—the foreigner—is the only one who returns to give thanks. Today many of us encounter other hardships of all sorts, and our reading in 2 Timothy makes the stark point that we all suffer. But our God joins us in our sufferings and in our hardships, making us whole through our spiritual cleansing of baptism and filled with God's Spirit.

Today's Music

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven. Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847, Music: John Goss, 1800-1880. Public Domain.

Baptized and Set Free. Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956, Music: Cathy Skogen-Soldner. Augsburg Fortress.

The Numberless Gifts of God's Mercies. Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, Music: Albert Lindström, 1853-1935. Selah Publishing Co., Inc. / Public Domain.

Here I Would Feast. Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889; tr. T. W. Speaks, Music: José Ruiz, b. 1956. Augsburg Fortress.

This Is Christ's Body. Text: Anne Krentz Organ, b. 1960, Music: Anne Krentz Organ. Augsburg Fortress.

Have You Thanked the Lord? Text: Bill LaMotta, 1919-1980, Music: Bill LaMotta. Joyce A. Lamotta / Augsburg Fortress.

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Greeting, adapted from "Call to Worship" by Ann Siddall, and posted on the Stillpoint Spirituality Centre website. <https://stillpointsa.org.au/>

Invitation to the Table, adapted from "Invitations to the Table" by Phil Whittall, © 2025 The Simple Pastor

Next Week's Readings

Genesis 32:22-31 *Jacob's struggle with the angel: I'll not let go until you bless me*

Psalms 121 *My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth*

2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:5 *In the presence of Christ the judge, proclaim the message*

Luke 18:1-8 *The widow begs for justice; God grants justice to those who cry to him*