

## PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF LINCOLN

Worship Plan for Sunday, January 28, 2024

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

### BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,

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

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

**GATHERING HYMN: LBW #86 “The Only Son from Heaven”**

## The Only Son from Heaven

1 The on - ly Son from heav - en, fore - told by an - cient seers,  
2 Oh, time of God ap - point - ed, oh, bright and ho - ly morn!  
3 A - wak - en, Lord, our spir - it to know and love you more,  
4 O Fa - ther, here be - fore you with God the Ho - ly Ghost,

by God the Fa - ther giv - en, in hu - man form ap - pears.  
He comes, the king a - noint - ed, the Christ, the vir - gin - born,  
in faith to stand un - shak - en, in spir - it to a - dore,  
and Je - sus, we a - dore you, O pride of an - gel - host:

No sphere his light con - fin - ing, no star so bright - ly  
grim death to van - quish for us, to o - pen heav'n be -  
that we, through this world mov - ing, each glimpse of heav - en  
be - fore you mor - tals low - ly cry, "Ho - ly, ho - ly,

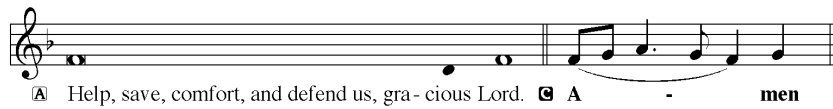
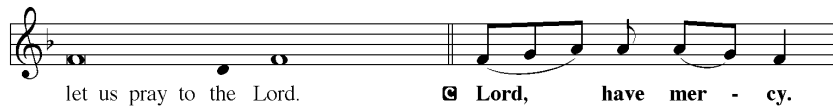
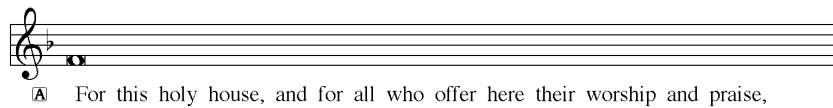
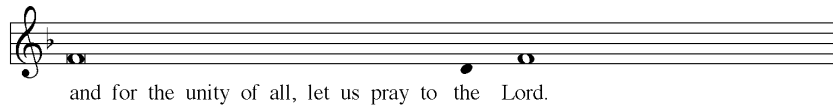
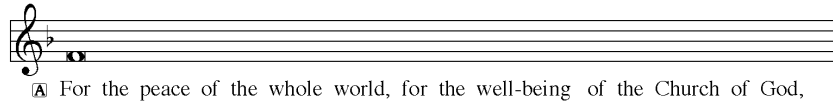
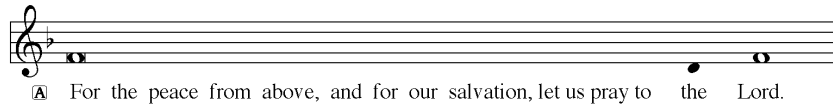
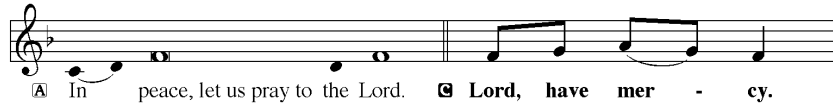
shin - ing as he, our Morn - ing Star.  
fore us and bring us life a - gain.  
prov - ing, may reap its full - ness there.  
ho - ly, O bless - ed Trin - i - ty!"

### GREETING

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



## SING HYMN OF PRAISE


 ☩ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,


 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☩ Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was


 slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.


 ☩ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,


 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☩ Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and


 strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.


 ☩ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,


 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☩ Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and


 join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and


 might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.


 ☩ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,

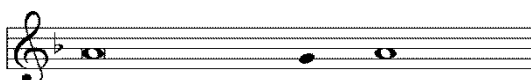

 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☩ For the Lamb who was



 slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.


 ☩ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.


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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY


 ☩ The Lord be with you.


 ☩ And al-so with you.

Let us pray. . . .

***O God, you know that we cannot withstand the dangers which surround us. Strengthen us in body and spirit so that, with your help, we may be able to overcome the weakness that our sin has brought upon us; through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen***

## **FIRST LESSON: Deuteronomy 18:15-20**

*Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.*

[Moses said:] <sup>15</sup>The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. <sup>16</sup>This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." <sup>17</sup>Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. <sup>19</sup>Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. <sup>20</sup>But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

Here ends the reading.

## **PSALM for the day is from Psalm 111**

***TODAY's THEME:*** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,  
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

<sup>2</sup>**Great are the deeds of the LORD!**

**They are studied by all who delight in them.**

<sup>3</sup>His work is full of majesty and splendor,  
and his righteousness endures forever.

<sup>4</sup>**He makes his marvelous works to be remembered;  
the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.**

<sup>5</sup>He gives food to those who fear him;  
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

<sup>6</sup>**He has shown his people the power of his works  
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

<sup>7</sup>The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice;  
all his commandments are sure.

<sup>8</sup>**They stand fast forever and ever,  
because they are done in truth and equity.**

<sup>9</sup>He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant forever;  
holy and awesome is his name.

<sup>10</sup>**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
those who act accordingly have a good understanding.  
His praise endures forever.**

## SECOND LESSON 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

*Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.*

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; <sup>3</sup>but anyone who loves God is known by him.

<sup>4</sup>Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” <sup>5</sup>Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—<sup>6</sup>yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

<sup>7</sup>It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup>“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols?

<sup>11</sup>So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. <sup>12</sup>But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Here ends the reading.

## VERSE



## GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28

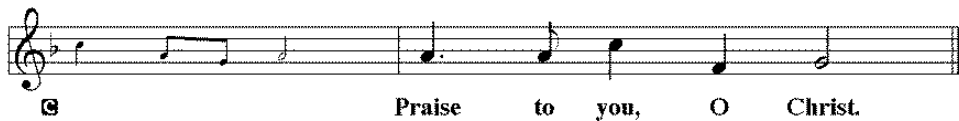
The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter.



*Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.*

<sup>21</sup>[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup>They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup>and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” <sup>25</sup>But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” <sup>26</sup>And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup>They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” <sup>28</sup>At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The Gospel of the Lord.



## **PROCLAMATION OF THE DAY**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: LBW #90 “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”**

## Songs of Thankfulness and Praise



1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;  
2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, Proph-et, Priest, and King su - preme;  
3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole, pal - sied limbs and faint-ing soul;  
4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;



man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,  
and at Ca - na wed-ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;  
man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;  
grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;



branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:  
man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;  
man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill:  
that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,



an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,  
an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,  
an - thems be to thee ad-dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.  
and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

## APOSTLES' CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.\***

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**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**

## **THE PRAYERS**

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Loving God, we pray that your example of teaching with confidence and authority builds up your church in love. May all church leaders and teachers honor your instruction and model your inclusive ways. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, we pray for all of creation, that waterways flow clean and clear, natural spaces are protected, and our planet is healed. Let us commit to thoughtful care of the earth. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Justice-seeking God, we pray for those in government and community leadership, that they lead with honor and mindfulness. May they remember their covenants and be upright in their ways. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, we pray for all in need, especially those who have known rejection, any who struggle with long-term illness or chronic pain, those without access to safe housing or health care, and any who suffer (*especially*). God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Still-speaking God, we pray for our congregation, for its artists and musicians, for its educators and caregivers, that all gifts are used to care for those in need and to live out your example of accompaniment, gospel witness, and love. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Abba Father, in our busy lives we don't take the time away from the distractions of this world to speak with you as we should, hear now the prayers that we offer in the silence of our hearts. *A brief silence.* God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Eternal God, we remember all who have been teachers, mentors, and companions in the church and in our lives (*especially Thomas Aquinas whom we commemorate today*). We trust that all who have died rest in your loving care. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

*C: And also with you.*

## OFFERING



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our  
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the  
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the  
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

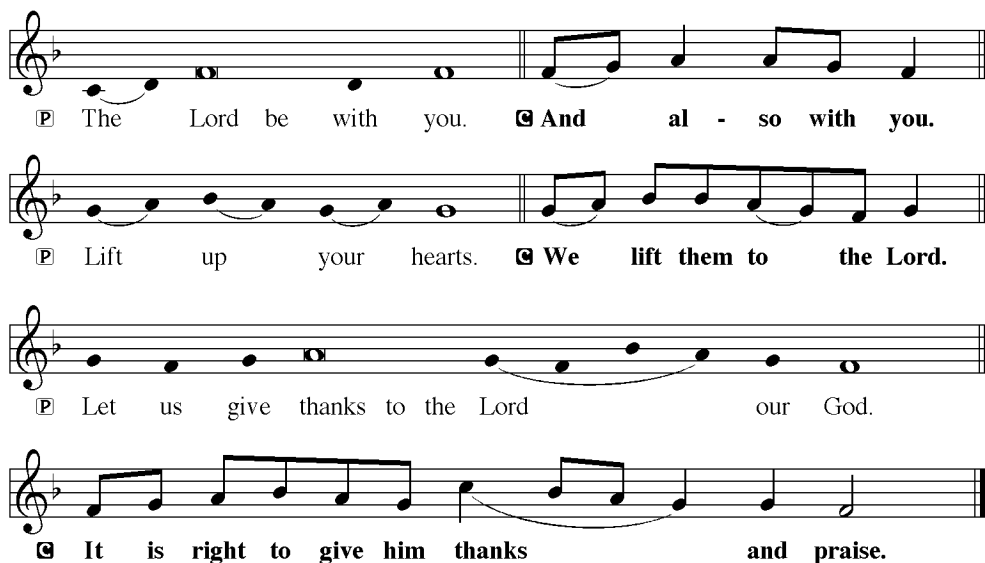
## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray...

Blessed are you,

*O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

## DIALOGUE



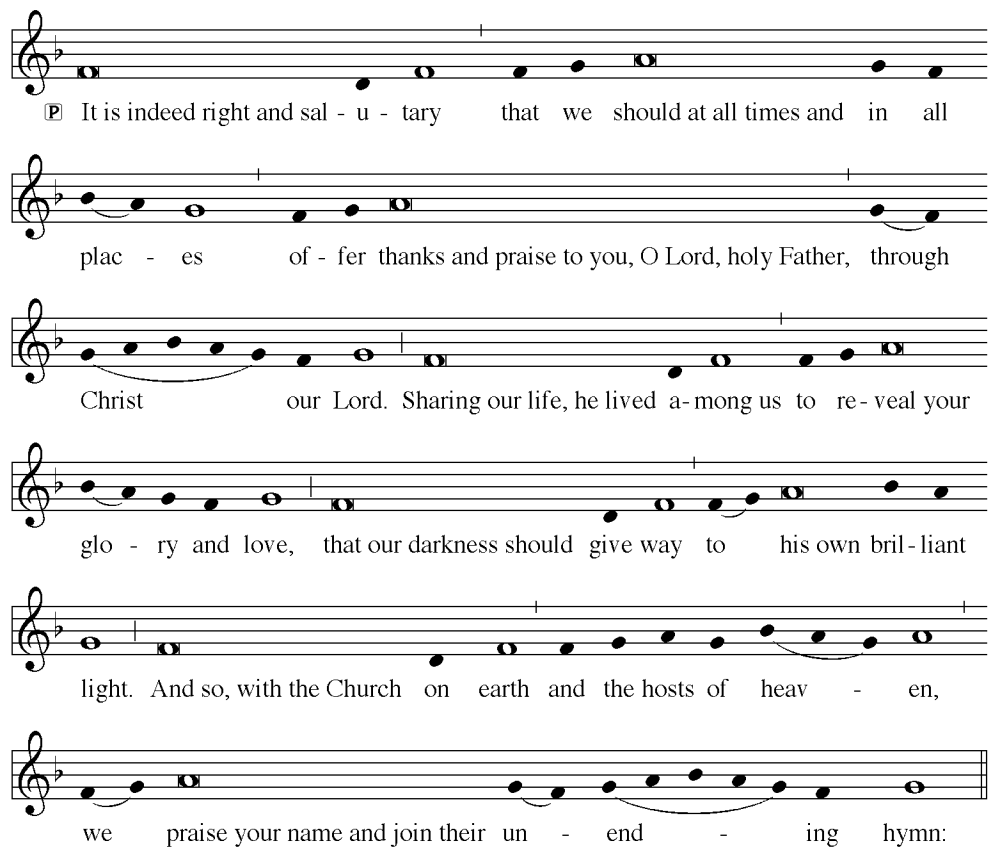
**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

**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 him thanks and praise.

## PREFACE



**P** It is indeed right and sal - u - tary that we should at all times and in all

plac - es of - fer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through

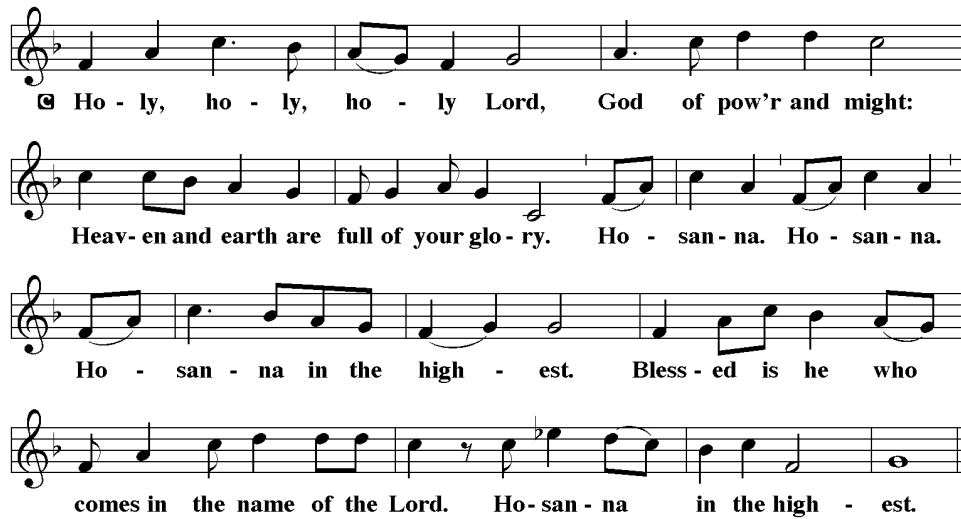
Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived a-mong us to re-veal your

glo - ry and love, that our darkness should give way to his own bril-liant

light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,

we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

## SANCTUS



## THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.  
In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,  
that all those who believe in him should not perish,  
but have eternal life.  
We give thanks to you  
for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.  
Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,  
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith  
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

*C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

On the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, blessed it;  
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:  
Take and drink; this cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink of this cup,  
We proclaim our Lord's death until he comes again.

## LORD'S PRAYER

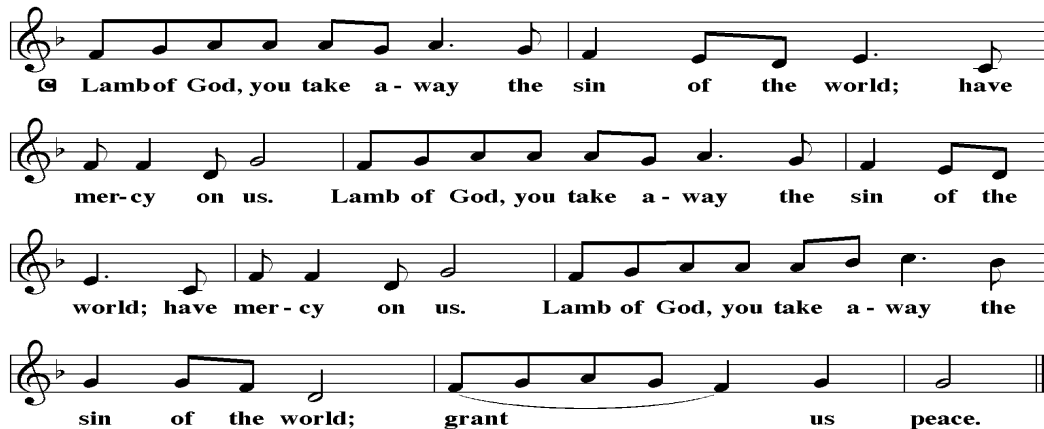
*Our Father, who art in heaven,*

*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.*

## COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
*After each, the communicant responds:*  
**C: Amen.**

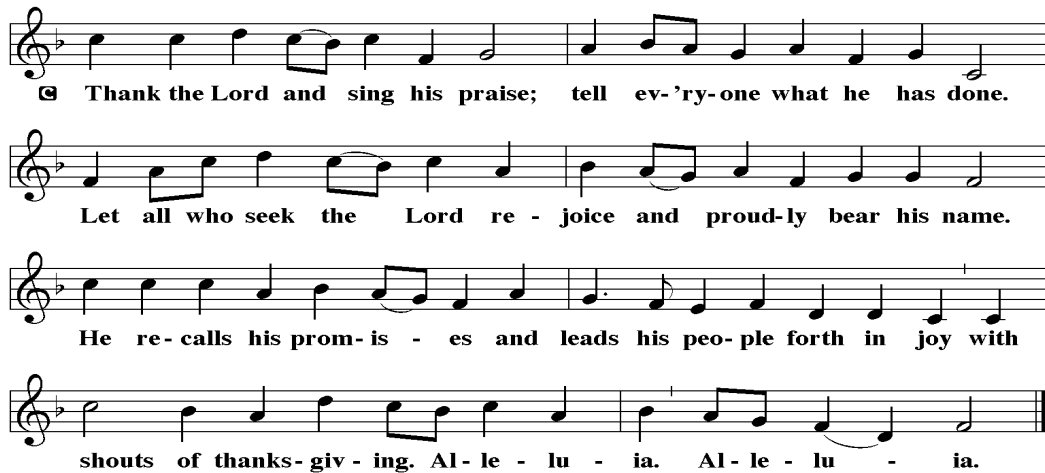
## COMMUNION HYMN



**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.**

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**C: 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; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

*C: Amen*

## BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen**

**SENDING HYMN: LBW #242 “Let the Whole Creation Cry”**

## Let the Whole Creation Cry



- 1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high!"
- 2 War - riors fight - ing for the Lord, -- proph - ets burn - ing - with his word,
- 3 Men and wom - en, young and old, raise the an - them loud and bold,



Heav'n and earth, a - wake and sing, "Praise him, our al - might - y king!"  
those to whom the arts be - long add their voic - es to the song.  
and let chil - dren's hap - py hearts in this wor - ship take their parts;



Praise him, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;  
Kings of knowl - edge and of law, to the glo - rious cir - cle draw;  
from the north to south - ern pole let the might - y cho - rus roll:



sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God re - joice.  
all who work and all who wait, sing, "The Lord is good and great!"  
"Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One; glo - ry be to God a - lone!"

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**