

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH



SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 5, 2026

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

Weekly Update

1090 Sterling Road, Herndon, VA 20170
www.HolyCrossHerndon.org



HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Sunday, July 5, 2026

VISITORS: It is a joy to have you with us this morning. If you are looking for a church family, we hope you will consider Holy Cross. For more information, you can fill out a visitor form in the narthex, speak to an usher, or scan the QR code to the right.



FAMILIES: Children are always welcome at our worship services! There's also a small play area in the Narthex where you can hear the broadcasted service.

FLOWERS: Today's flowers are given in celebration of Pastor Eric's first Sunday at Holy Cross!

WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

For additions or updates, email Admin@HolyCrossHerndon.org
Names are removed after one month unless advised otherwise.

OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

Juliana Roe Beck | Bonnie Burton | Terry & Linda Butler | Joy Caveney
Joel Flegel | Roy Geiger | Otto Jacobson | Reed Morgan
Mike Muller | Craig Reichow | Tuula Toney | Cherie Weatherhead

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Riley Morgan | Thomas Newcomb | Collin Reichow
Friends of Thomas Newcomb currently serving in Iran

RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF THE CONGREGATION

Erin Barden (sister of Andrew Barden)
Von Bergstrom (cousin of Jill Reichow)
Jane Campbell (friend of Cheryl Smith)
Karen Davidson (grandmother-in-law of Jared Lem)
Don and Liz Gober (friends of Craig Reichow)
Madilyn Gross (cousin of Desirae Peral)
Uwe Gutschmidt (nephew of Ellen Atwell)
Jeff Harwood (friend of Craig Reichow)
Matt Kim (friend of John & Tammy Breene)
Michael Levrini (friend of Jared Lem)
Georgia Kirby and Cain Mason (friends of Cherie Weatherhead)
Phyllis Krapf (wife of Dick Krapf)
Don Kress (friend of Helen and Gary Wolfe)
Dale, John, and Jeff MacPherson (friends of Jared Lem)
Sue Mason (sister of Pam Darby)
Sharon Massen & Dorie Miller (friends of Craig Reichow)
Brian McCagh (cousin of Helen Wolfe)
Lisa Nolf (friend of Jared Lem)
Jim Pollock (godfather of Andrew Barden)
Anne Marie Berardi Rabinowitz (friend of Tonya Elliott)
Tracy Radican (daughter of former HCLC pastor, Pastor Harper)
Dylan Roe (nephew of Mark & Jo Roe)
John Smith (brother-in-law of Cheryl Smith)
Joseph Strada (father of daughter-in-law of Sam & Sharon Carter)
Nancy and Steven Swancutt (sister and brother of Lynn Russo)
Bernadette Stevenson Williams (friend of the Roe family)

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Pastor:	Rev. Eric Randolph
Director of Music and Liturgy:	Jeremy Shoop
Sound Technician:	Bob Thompson
Video Technician:	Sylvia Moran

Serving July 5th: Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Assisting Minister:	Rob Coffman
Reader:	Kristin Andersen
Acolyte:	Diana Virgo
Greeter:	TBD

Serving July 12th: Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Assisting Minister:	TBD
Reader:	Catherine Taylor
Acolyte:	TBD
Greeter:	TBD

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE: JULY 5 – JULY 12

SU 5	10:00 am	Worship – 6 th Sunday after Pentecost
	11:00 am	Fellowship & Coffee ~ FH
	1:00 pm	Bldg. Use: Christian Missionary ~ FH
M 6	9:00 am	Bldg. Use: Lopez Studios, 9 am-5 pm ~ FH
TU 7	9:00 am	Bldg. Use: Lopez Studios, 9 am-5 pm ~ FH
W 8	9:00 am	Bldg. Use: Lopez Studios, 9 am-5 pm ~ FH
	11:30 am	Lunch for the Soul ~ Education Wing
	7:00 pm	ELL Summer Classes ~ Education Wing
TH 9	9:00 am	Bldg. Use: Lopez Studios, 9 am-5 pm ~ FH
F 10	9:00 am	Bldg. Use: Lopez Studios, 9 am-5 pm ~ FH
SA 11	8:00 am	Bldg. Use: Herndon's Women AA ~ Rm 204
SU 12	10:00 am	Worship – 7 th Sunday after Pentecost
	11:00 am	Fellowship & Coffee ~ FH
	11:30 am	H.U.G.S. Group ~ Conference Rm
	1:00 pm	Bldg. Use: Christian Missionary ~ FH

MEET WITH PASTOR ERIC

As part of his 90-day plan, Pastor Eric is setting aside time during his first weeks to hold listening sessions and meet with members of the congregation.

These listening sessions are an opportunity for Pastor Eric to get to know people at HCLC, hear joys and concerns, and begin building relationships as we work together to shape our mission and ministry moving forward.

A sign-up sheet is available online for both one-on-one meetings and group sessions. Evening group sessions will be held on Zoom. Links will be sent to those who sign up. Locations for one-on-one meetings will be arranged individually and may take place at the church office or a local coffee shop.

If none of the listed times work for you, please reach out to Pastor Eric directly to arrange another time.

Scan QR Code
to sign up:



VBS—SAVE THE DATE



VBS
SAVE THE DATE:
AUGUST 9-13
6:00 - 8:00 PM

THANK YOU!

Thank you Tonya Elliot and Suzanne Baggett for coordinating and reaching out to everyone involved to help collect school supplies during VBS the week of August 9-13 for the Herndon Middle School Supply Drive! We truly appreciate your time, dedication, and efforts in making this outreach possible. Your support helps make a meaningful difference in our community. Be on the look out how you can get involved.

HOME COMMUNION

If you or a loved one is unable to attend worship due to illness, age, or mobility issues, and would like to receive Communion, you can schedule a visit by contacting the office at Admin@HolyCrossHerndon.org or 703-437-1883.

WELCOME PASTOR ERIC!

We are delighted to welcome Pastor Eric to the Holy Cross family. We give thanks to God for leading him to our congregation and for the gifts, wisdom, and leadership he brings to this new chapter in our church's life.

As Pastor Eric begins his ministry with us, we invite you to join us in offering a warm Holy Cross welcome. Please keep him in your prayers as he settles into this new role and gets to know our community. We look forward to growing in faith together, sharing in ministry, and seeing how God will work through Pastor Eric among us. There will be fresh baked goods and drinks in the Fellowship Hall following the service with opportunities to get to know him.

Welcome to Holy Cross, Pastor Eric—we are so glad you are here!

STEPHEN MINISTRY INSTALLATION SUNDAY, JULY 12TH

Join us on Sunday, July 12, as Pastor Eric installs three new Stephen Ministers. After completing 50 hours of training this year, Jo Roe, Beverly Siecker, and Diana Virgo will be commissioned for their ministry of Christian care and support. Please take a moment to congratulate and welcome them as they begin serving in this important role.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

In this season after Pentecost, as we grow in faith and discipleship, flowers in the sanctuary remind us of God's ongoing grace and abundant blessings.

There are slots available to dedicate flowers in the coming weeks. Up to two vases can be dedicated each Sunday. Scan the QR code and sign up to celebrate a life event or remember a loved one.



TREASURERS REPORT – MAY 2026

May 2026	Year to Date – 2026
Operating Fund	Operating Fund
Income: \$ 29,706.05	Income: \$ 171,571.87
Expenses: \$ 30,592.57	Expenses: \$ 145,368.82
Net Balance: - \$ 886.52	Net Balance: + \$ 26,203.05
<i>[Income reflects only those deposits actually made in May]</i>	

Holy Cross Lutheran Church Welcomes ALL!

Holy Cross Lutheran Church joyfully affirms and celebrates that every person is a beloved child of God. We welcome all who are seeking God's boundless love and sustaining grace into full community with us at Holy Cross. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves to breaking down barriers and systems that divide God's children working to be a space committed to racial equality for God's people and to building a community where all are recognized as part of Christ's new creation.



We welcome you, and you are safe with us...
 Whatever your race, ethnicity, or heritage;
 Whatever your relationship status;
 We welcome you, and you are safe with us...

Whatever your sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or gender expression;
 Whatever your socio-economic status;
 We welcome you, and you are safe with us...

Whatever your age and life circumstance;
 Whatever your physical and mental ability.
 You are a beloved child of God, you are valued, and you are welcome here.

What to Expect in Worship

Worship services can be intimidating for newcomers. While we try to make worship as accessible as possible for everyone, we know that some aspects can be confusing. Feel free to ask an usher or someone near you for help if you have any questions today. We are happy to help and want all voices to be included in praise to God.

Our worship style is traditional at Holy Cross. A full liturgy is used to focus our praise and prayers to God. Notes are included in the side gutter of the bulletin to explain why we use the various liturgical elements. Communion is celebrated every Sunday at Holy Cross. The table (altar) is not our table, but Christ's table. Just as Christ welcomes all, all are welcome to receive communion at Holy Cross. Pastor will give instructions on how we celebrate communion at that part of the service. Written instructions are also included at that point in the bulletin.

Throughout the year we emphasize each liturgical season differently to mark the passage of time. Liturgical texts change to reflect aspects of that season, some elements are removed or added to reflect the mood of that season, and colors used to decorate the chancel are changed to provide visual reminders of the current season.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Transforming the world & ourselves, together in community, fellowship, and faith.

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 2026 | 10:00 AM

Our Sundays of assembly around the table continue to hear honest words from Matthew and Reformation theology from Paul. For citizens of the United States, this week includes Independence Day, which celebrates a worldview quite different from that presented in the readings.



WE GATHER



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

For Spacious Skies

arr. Rob Roy Peery

Marcia Kratzke, piano; Jeremy Shoop, organ

Please stand as you are able.

INVOCATION

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, source of hope in every nation, rest of the weary, glory and peace to the ends of the earth.

Assembly: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Pastor: Let us bring every burden to God.

Pastor: Compassionate God,
 Assembly: **God of all mercy, we have sinned against you, our neighbors, and your good creation. Within ourselves and our communities, our desire to do what is good is at war with the evil that dwells in us. We lament the evil that holds us captive. We repent of the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Rescue us, forgive us, and**

In recognition of America's 250th anniversary, today's hymns draw from the rich tradition of hymn singing in America. "Blessed Assurance" is one of the best-loved hymn texts by Fanny J. Crosby, one of America's most prolific hymn writers. Crosby, who was blind from infancy, wrote thousands of hymns during her lifetime. The story goes that her friend Phoebe Knapp played a new melody for her and asked, "What does this tune say?" Crosby answered almost immediately: "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!" That first line became the doorway into a hymn of confidence, joy, and testimony. The text and

restore us for lives of compassion and courage through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Pastor:

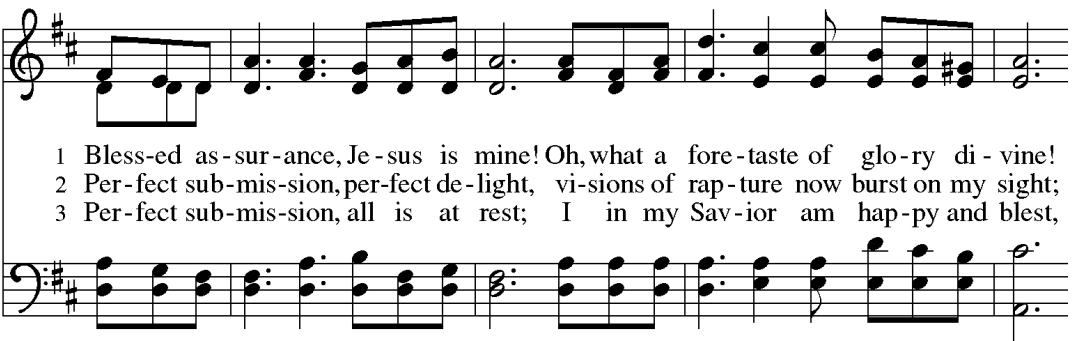
In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Assembly:

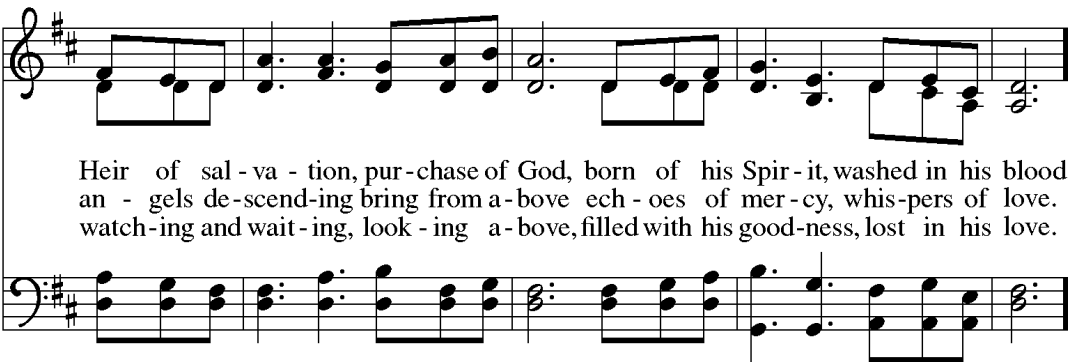
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Blessed Assurance

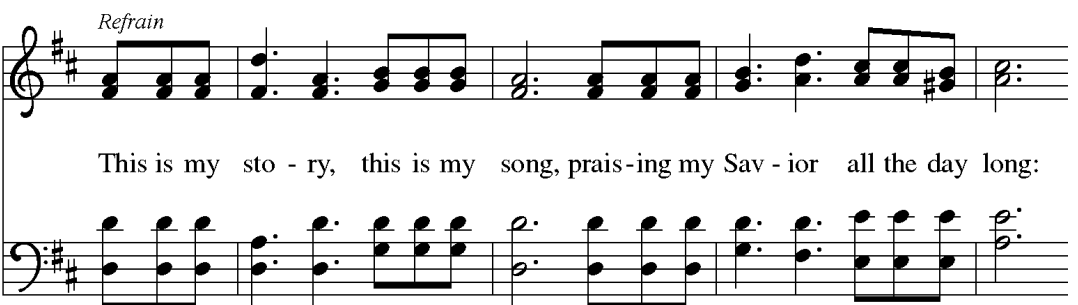


1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood
 an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
 watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:

tune were quickly written and composed by Crosby and Knapp. Its refrain, "This is my story, this is my song," reminds us that faith is not only something we believe privately, but something we sing together as a community.



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

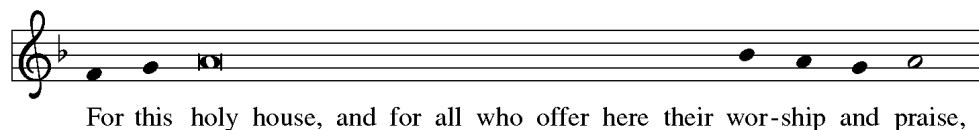
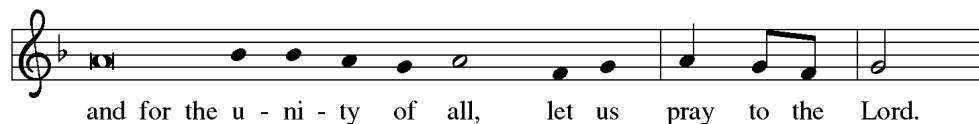
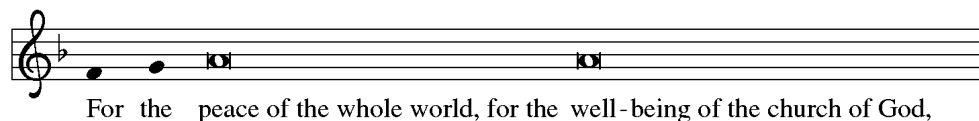
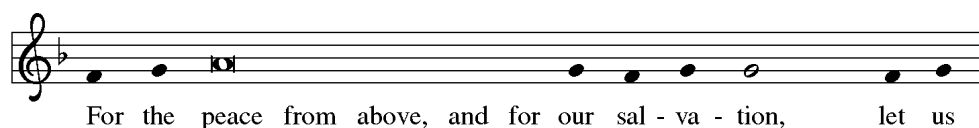
APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

Assembly: And also with you.

KYRIE

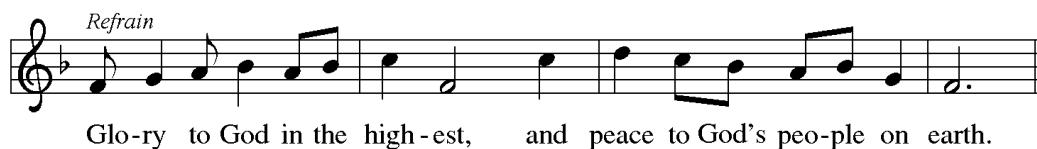
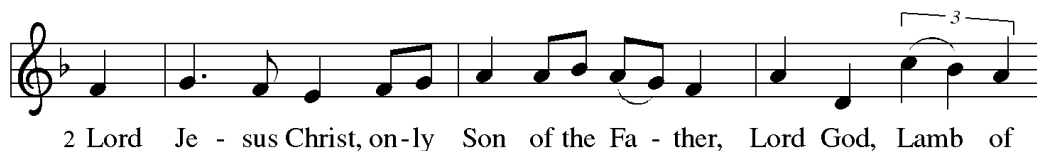
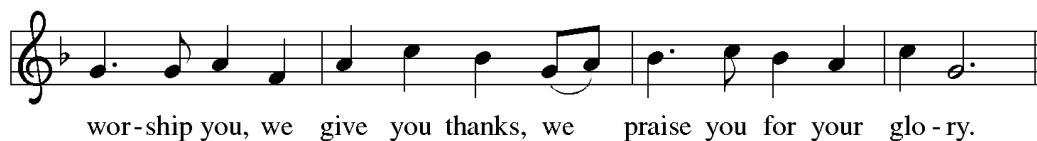
(ELW Setting 2)





HYMN OF PRAISE

(ELW Setting 2)



3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
 you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly
 Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

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

As we recognize the 250th anniversary of our country, this prayer helps us hold together gratitude, humility, and hope. We ask God not simply to bless our nation in general, but to guide us by the Spirit in the ways of peace, justice, freedom, well-being, and harmony.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor:

Let us pray. Lord of the universe, guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in peace, justice, and freedom. Give to all living in these lands the blessing of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring to glory to your name and blessing to all peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Assembly:

Amen.

Please sit.



**ANTHEM**

Celebrate with Gladness
Joyful Ringers

by Susan E. Geschke

SEEDS OF FAITH**FIRST READING**

Zechariah 9:9-12

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."

Reader: A reading from the prophet Zechariah:

- ⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Romans 7:15-25a

Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

Reader: A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans:

- ¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that the good does not dwell within me,

Year A has already heard from this passage in the processional gospel for Passion/Palm Sunday, since Matthew cites this prophecy of a king arriving in Jerusalem on a donkey as fulfilled in Jesus. On this Sunday, the passage says that only the true king will bring peace. Thus, the passage is linked with Jesus' promise of rest.

Usually in Paul the Greek word translated as "you" is plural, but in this section, Paul admits to the personal daily struggle of the baptized life. Aware of this "war" within our very selves, we gladly come to the gospel's word of rest in Christ.

that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a} Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(ELW Setting 2)

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

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

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

This beloved passage, “Come to me, and I will give you rest,” contrasts with the earlier sentence, that Christians are indeed wearing the yoke of Christ. Some Christians have found such biblical passages about the Father’s enigmatic will as fundamental to their faith.

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

Pastor: The Gospel according to Matthew the 11th chapter.

Assembly: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶ “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸ “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say,

‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁰ Then he began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done because they did not repent. ²¹ “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²² But I tell you, on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ²³ And you, Capernaum,

will you be exalted to heaven?

No, you will be brought down to Hades.

“For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. ²⁴ But I tell you that on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you.”

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Pastor:	The Gospel of the Lord.
Assembly:	Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit.

SERMON

Come. Rest. You are Home.

Please stand as you are able.

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling” comes from the American revival tradition of the late nineteenth century. Written by Will L. Thompson, it became one of the great invitation hymns of American Christianity. Thompson was both a composer and publisher, and when other publishers rejected some of his early songs, he started his own music company. The hymn’s gentle refrain, “Come home, come home,” has spoken to generations of people who needed to hear not a harsh command, but a tender call. On a weekend when our nation remembers its history, this hymn reminds us that God is always calling us home: home to mercy, home to compassion, home to the way of Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain
 watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? “Come home, come home!
 par - don for you and for me. Come home, come home!

You who are wea - ry, come home.” Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, “O sin - ner, come home!”

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847–1909
 Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

APOSTLE'S CREED

Pastor: With the church catholic, we are bold to confess our faith by the words of the Apostles' Creed.

Assembly: **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.**

INTERCESSION OF THE CHURCH

Assisting Minister: Trusting in God's steadfast love, let us pray for the church, the nations, and all of creation, responding: "God of grace, hear our prayer."

We pray for the greater church.

Gathering God, send your Spirit on the church you have called out from every nation. Knit us together into one body and heal divisions we have caused. Overcome our timidity to witness and act in the public square when your purpose is being thwarted. Bless our bishops Yehiel and Philip, deacons, pastors and lay leaders with clarity and courage as they center your people in the gospel. God of grace,

Assembly: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for creation.

Assisting Minister: All your works praise you, O God. From the Arctic to the Caribbean, from the Atlantic to the western islands, these lands and waters have sustained its people over many centuries. As we take our part in creation's praise, revive our wonder at what you have fashioned, and enliven our will to ensure its health for future generations. God of grace,
Assembly: hear our prayer.

We pray for justice.

Assisting Minister: Holy Trinity, you show us the splendor of diversity and the beauty of unity in your own divine life. We come from many nations with many languages; make us a united people that delights in our many different gifts. As the United States of America marks its declaration of independence, give those whom we have entrusted with authority the spirit of wisdom, and curb every abuse of trust, so that both here and abroad, justice, humility, and peace may flourish. God of grace,
Assembly: hear our prayer.

We pray for those in need.

Assisting Minister: You are the Mother of exiles, O God. Extend your arms to all who are tired, who live with poverty, the tempest-tossed, all who yearn to breathe free. Embrace people seeking refuge; those incarcerated, detained, or disappeared; and neighbors fearing those they once trusted. Give healing and hope to people in any oppression and need, especially these we name before you now (*the assembly offers names*). God of grace,
Assembly: hear our prayer.

We remember the saints.

Assisting Minister: We remember before you those who have died in every generation. Jan Hus, executed for protesting the ecclesial system; Benedict, teacher of a prayerful life; and those who have died ensuring the freedom of this country: people in the armed services, peace officers, advocates, and activists. Gather us, together with those who have gone before us, and with saints of every tribe and nation, into the holy city you have prepared. God of grace,
Assembly: hear our prayer.

The sharing of The Peace is an ancient ritual that puts us right with our neighbors before we offer our gifts to God.

Assisting Minister: Into your mercy, O God, we entrust our restless hearts and all our cares, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Assembly: **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.
Assembly: **And also with you.**

Please sit.

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Assisting Minister: We have been commanded to love our neighbor. we are called to love God with all that we are and all that we have. Through our love of God and neighbor we are rich in so many ways. We invite you to share your financial riches with this community and all those whose lives are touched through its ministries. Let us give generously.

OFFERING

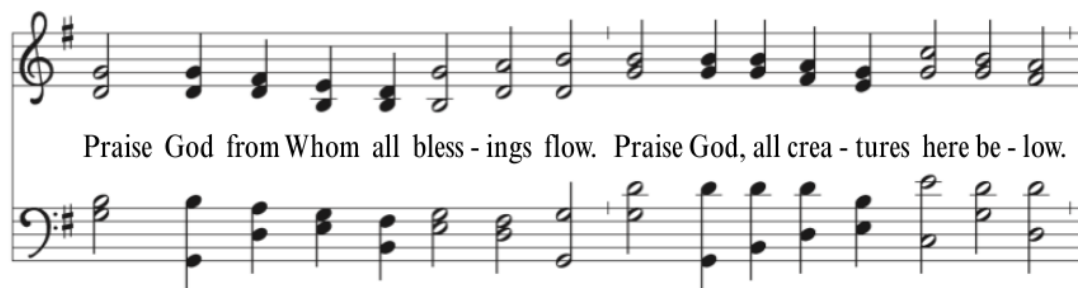
MUSICAL OFFERING

Gather by the River to Pray
 Sanctuary Choir

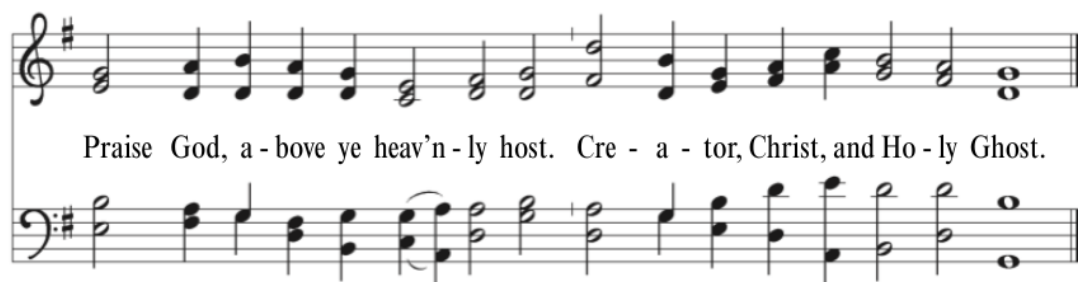
arr. Pepper Choplin

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY



Praise God from Whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures here be - low.



Praise God, a - bove ye heav'n - ly host. Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost.

OFFERING PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray together. Blessed are you, O God,
Assembly: **for waves of grain and harvesters, fruitful vines
 and winepresses, for our labor and our rest, for
 the gifts of your creation in this land.
 Transform us and what we offer into the
 banquet of your compassion, serving your love
 without limits through Jesus Christ, our
 Savior. Amen.**



WE COME TO GOD'S TABLE



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
Assembly: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.
Assembly: We lift them to the Lord.

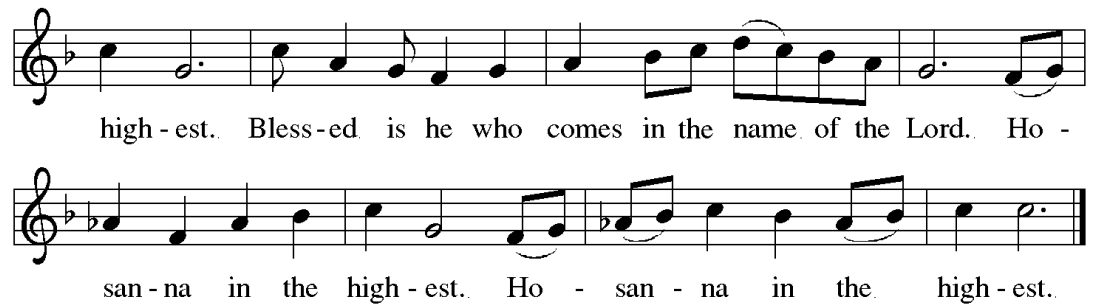
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
Assembly: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastor: 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:

SANCTUS

(Setting 2)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Pastor:

Holy God, you alone are Majesty, you alone are Excellency, you alone are Sovereign.

Within the vast reaches you spoke into being, you formed our star and this Earth: purple mountains, fruited plains, crystal waters, towering forests, gleaming mines. Hear your fashioned human beings in our infinite variety and hue, yet each one created equal, to care for one another and our earthly home.

In a time of peace enforced by the cruelty of empire, you sent to us, Jesus, your Son. Born under the rule of a merciless king, Jesus revealed the merciful realm of God. Moving across borders to people broken and oppressed, Jesus brought healing, restoration, and freedom.

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, therefore, Christ's execution at the hands of a ruthless regime, Christ's resurrection that buries death, Christ's ascension to rule with love forever, we declare the revolutionary mystery of faith:

Assembly:

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

Pastor: God, shed your grace on us. Shower your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine and on your people gathered this day. Ignite in us the flame of freedom— freedom from prejudice, from supremacy, from fear; freedom for acceptance, for welcome, for the *shalom* that you have first shown us.

Faithful God, loving God: Your majesty shines forth in weakness. Your Excellency is revealed to infants. Your Sovereignty reigns from a cross.

Through him, with him, in him, in unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever

Assembly: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as our Savior taught:

Assembly: 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.

THE FRACTURE (BREAKING OF THE BREAD)

Pastor: The Lamb of God is broken and distributed; broken but never divided; forever eaten, and yet never consumed, but sanctifying those who partake.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Pastor: This is the table, not of the church, but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love God and for those who want to love God more. So come, you who have much faith and you who have little; You who have been here often and you who have not been here long; You who have tried to follow

and you who have failed. Come, because it is the Lord who invites you. It is God's will that those who want God should meet here at Christ's table.

Citizens of the commonwealth of heaven: Taste and know that God is good to all.

Assembly:

Thanks be to God.

Please sit.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

*This is Christ's table of welcome. Jesus invites **all** who are hungry and thirsty for unconditional love and acceptance to come to God's banquet. The ushers will direct you forward at the appropriate time. Communion will be by station. The pastor will be in the center with the bread. All the bread we use here is gluten free and vegan. On either side will be someone with a tray of red wine and white grape juice. Empty cups can be placed in the basket on either side of the aisle. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of communion, cross your arms on your chest.*

AGNUS DEI

(ELW Setting 2)

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.

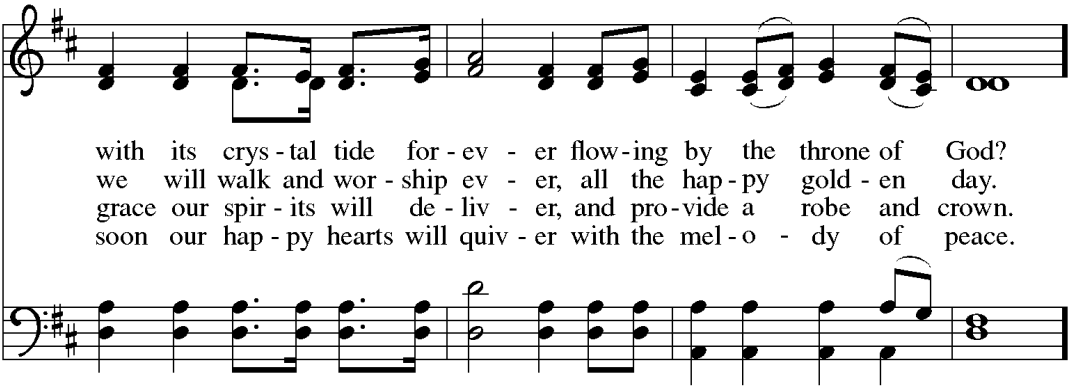
“Shall We Gather at the River” was written by American Baptist pastor and hymn writer Robert Lowry in 1864. Lowry was serving a congregation in Brooklyn during a miserably hot summer, physically exhausted and weighed down by the sorrows around him. As he rested, his imagination turned to the river of life described in Revelation, and he began to picture God’s people gathered on that beautiful, healing shore. Unlike hymns that imagine the river only as a boundary of death, this hymn looks toward the river of life, where God’s people are gathered in hope. It is a hymn of reunion, promise, and holy imagination.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Shall We Gather at the River

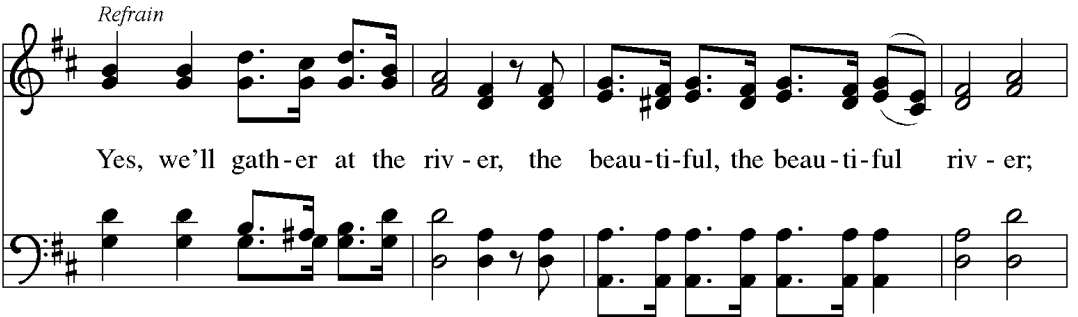


1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
 3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;

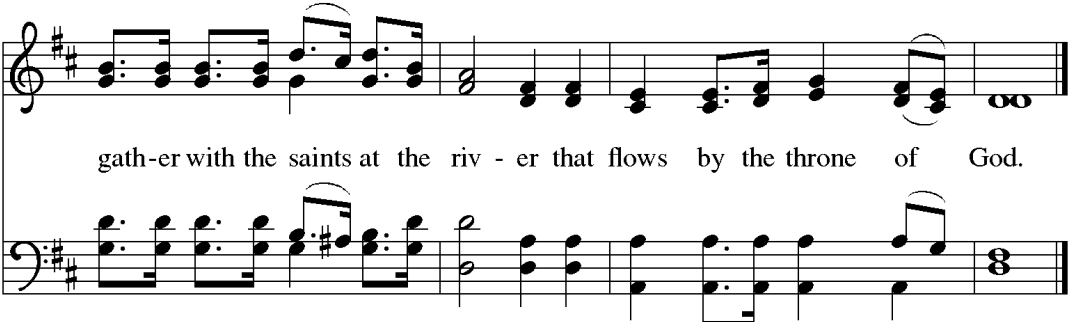


with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
 we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
 grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
 soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899
 Music: HANSON PLACE, Robert Lowry

“When Peace Like a River” carries one of the most powerful stories in hymnody. Horatio Spafford, a Chicago lawyer, suffered devastating losses. His family experienced financial ruin after the Great Chicago Fire, and not long after, his four daughters died when the ship carrying them across the Atlantic sank. As Spafford later traveled across the ocean near the place where his daughters had died, he wrote the words, “When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll...” This hymn does not pretend that faith makes grief disappear. Instead, it gives voice to a deeper peace that can hold us even when life is full of sorrow. It is a hymn for individuals, families, congregations, and nations that need courage to keep trusting God through pain.

When Peace, like a River It Is Well with My Soul

1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
 3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
 4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the

sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the

taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 It is well with my soul,

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888
 Music: VILLE DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876

Please stand as you are able.

EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Assembly: **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray together. We thank you, God of heaven and earth,

Assembly: **that you fill our deepest need with the very gift of Jesus Christ, broken and poured out for us. Pour us out into a broken world. Channel our common life toward the common good, following the way our Savior leads us now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Pastor: Gracious God, you took the form of a servant, offering yourself as food, comfort, and strength to a sick and hurting world. Anoint with a servant heart those who take your word and sacrament to our siblings in their homes and in hospitals. Grant grace, mercy, healing, and hope to those who feast on your body and blood and receive your words of new life. May we all recognize that we have a place and a home in the body of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Assembly: **Amen.**





WE ARE SENT FORTH TO SERVE



“The Battle Hymn of the Republic” is one of the most recognizable hymns in American history. Julia Ward Howe wrote the text during the Civil War after hearing Union soldiers singing “John Brown’s Body.” Her new words were published in 1862 and quickly became associated with the Union cause and the struggle against slavery. The hymn’s imagery is dramatic, even fierce, and needs to be sung thoughtfully. At its best, it calls us not to national pride for its own sake, but to moral accountability: the hope that truth, justice, and liberation will “go marching on.” As we mark 250 years as a country, this hymn reminds us that love of nation must never be separated from the pursuit of justice.

SENDING HYMN

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

1 Mine eyes have seen the glo - ry of the com - ing of the Lord;
 2 He has sound - ed forth the trum - pet that shall nev - er call re - treat;
 3 In the beau - ty of the lil - ies Christ was born a - cross the sea,

he is tram - pling out the vin - tage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
 he is sift - ing out the hearts of men be - fore his judg - ment seat.
 with a glo - ry in his bo - som that trans - fig - ures you and me.

he has loosed the fate - ful light - ning of his ter - ri - ble swift sword:
 Oh, be swift, my soul, to an - swer him; be ju - bi - lant, my feet!
 As he died to make men ho - ly, let us live to make men free,

his truth is march - ing on.
 Our God is march - ing on.
 while God is march - ing on.

Refrain

Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah!

Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! His truth is march - ing on.

Text: Julia Ward Howe, 1819-1910
 Music: BATTLE HYMN, American, 19th cent.

AFFIRMATION OF CHRISTIAN VOCATION IN CIVIC LIFE

Assisting Minister: People of God, you have been named and claimed as God’s beloved. You have received the gift of Christian vocation, a holy calling lived out in various dimensions of your life, your relationships and communities, your work and your rest. Daily

and richly we live in the promises of holy baptism, sustained by grace to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God created, and work for justice and peace.

I ask you, therefore: Will you endeavor to pattern your life on Jesus Christ, in gratitude to God and in service to others?

Assembly: **I will, and I ask God to help me.**

Assisting Minister: Will you strive to pursue the common good in public life, nurturing mutual care among neighbors near and far?

Assembly: **I will, and I ask God to help me.**

Assisting Minister: Will you pledge to bear witness in word and action, commending what is true and right, renouncing what is unjust and harmful, and working to mend what is flawed?

Assembly: **I will, and I ask God to help me.**

Assisting Minister: Sovereign God, you Son Jesus lived within the structures of society even as he spoke truth to those in power and challenged systems of oppression. Give to your servants courage, patience, and vision in their commitment to serve in Christ's name. Empower us all in our Christian vocation to be courageous disciples and responsible citizens. Grant that our life in the public realm be grounded in love for our neighbors, care for the most vulnerable, and respect for the common life we share, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Assembly: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Author of Life, the Word of salvation, the Breath of new birth, + one God, bless you and equip you for living and serving, today and every day.

Assembly: **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Assisting Minister: The mass is ended, now our service beings. Go in peace. Seek liberty and justice for all.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Improvisation on We Shall Overcome

arr. Carl Haywood

As part of our continuous efforts to make worship more inclusive and sensory friendly, we ask that you refrain from applauding during worship and after the postlude.

THIS WEEK'S COMMEMORATIONS

Jan Hus, martyr, died 1415

Monday, July 6, 2026

Hus was a Bohemian (present-day Czech Republic) priest who spoke against abuses in the church, and was seen by Martin Luther as his predecessor in the reforming movement. He was found guilty of heresy by a council of the church, and burned at the stake.

Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, died around 540

Saturday, July 11, 2026

Benedict is known as the father of the Western monastic movement. Educated in Rome, he went to live as a hermit, and eventually gathered a community of monks around him. He wrote a rule for living in monasteries that is used by Benedictines and adapted by others.

ATTRIBUTIONS:

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FROM THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

*[Ephraem, in The
Sunday Sermons of the
Great Fathers, III,
310-311.]*

Come to me, all you that labor and are burdened, and I will refresh you, where there is wondrous gifts, and joy without compare, rest unchanging, happiness without end, unceasing melody, perpetual glory, unwearied giving of thanks, loving absorption in divine things, infinite riches, a kingdom without end, through all ages and ages, deeps of compassion, an ocean of mercy and kindness—which the human tongue cannot describe but makes known only through figures. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, and you shall find rest for your souls, where the hidden treasures of wisdom and knowledge shall be revealed. Come to me, all you that hunger and thirst after justice, and I will fill you with all that you desire. Come to me, for whoever comes to me I shall not cast forth.

—*Ephraem*

*Here is a photo of two
oxen yoked together.*



There is a hearing-assistance system (induction loop) in the Sanctuary for those with hearing impairments. Please ask an usher for instructions.

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