

**Sunday, July 23, 2023 - The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

*Enter to worship. As the prelude begins, worshippers are encouraged to conclude conversation and quietly prepare to enter into the experience of worship.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers today are in honor of Virginia Henz birthday from her first choral group.

GATHERING HYMN

**HYMN 836 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee**

GREETING

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.**

# THIS IS THE FEAST

*Refrain*



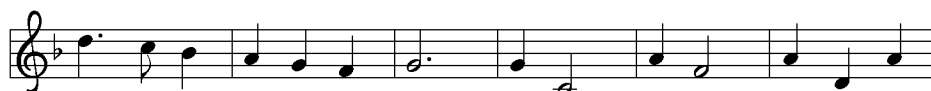
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



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



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



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

*Refrain*



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



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



2 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.

*Final refrain*



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



for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: Faithful God, most merciful judge,

**you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*The assembly is seated*

FIRST READING: Genesis 28:10-19a

...

P: The Word of the Lord      **C: Thanks be to God**

CHOIR      *Be Still, Jordan*      Jay Althouse      (1998 Alfred Publishing)  
Jim Nelson, solo

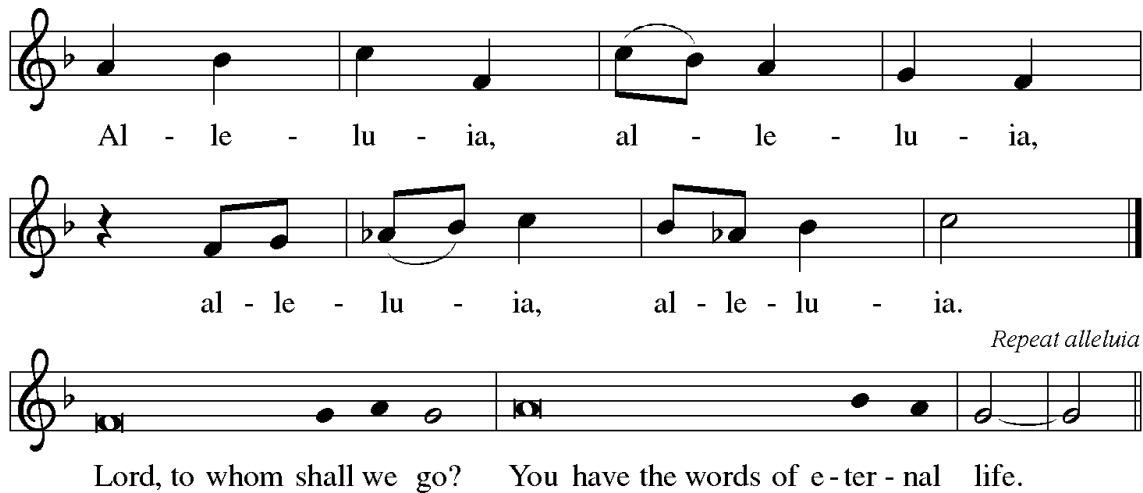
SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-25

...

P: The Word of the Lord      **C: Thanks be to God**

*The assembly stands.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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.

GOSPEL : Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

**C: Glory to you, O Lord**

...

P: The Gospel of the Lord      **C: Praise to you, O Christ**

*The assembly is seated.*

SERMON

*The assembly stands.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

**HYMN 504 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**

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

Congregational response to

P. Hear us, O God.

**C. Your mercy is great.**

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

*A brief silence*

O God, you call your church to announce the gospel of reconciliation and truth both near and far. Guide your church as it seeks your wisdom and shares it, trusting your Spirit bearing witness among us. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You brought forth all creation and called it good. Direct policymakers to protect lands and seas. Bring rain to sun-parched fields and protect areas impacted by natural disasters (especially). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You desire peace among nations and peoples. Guard our neighborhoods from hatred, watch over police officers and firefighters, and teach us to advocate for those who live in fear. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You are gracious and merciful, comforting those who suffer any affliction. We remember especially those whom we name aloud. **Carole Bergner, Christopher Bergner, Rita Brandt, Julie Carlson, Susan Fischer Raddatz, Mike Glowacki, Virginia Henz, Carl Jackson, Eloise Lindem, Connie Kretzmann, Lisa Munao, Carena Reisen, Katie St. Henry, John Zacek**, and all whom we remember in our hearts and lift before you ... (*silence for reflection*) ... Sustain your people living with HIV/ AIDS, provide shelter for all who are unhoused, and release any who are unjustly imprisoned. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You name each of us as your children. Guide our hospitality ministry to welcome all, our education ministry to equip us for faithful living, and our social ministry to enact the gospel in our community. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You send faithful people to proclaim freedom from bondage and to renew your church. Encourage us by the witness of the faithful departed (including Birgitta of Sweden, whom the church commemorates today), so that we live into that same hope. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

*The assembly stands.*

## COMMUNION DIALOG

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.**

## PROPER PREFACE

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:



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



high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

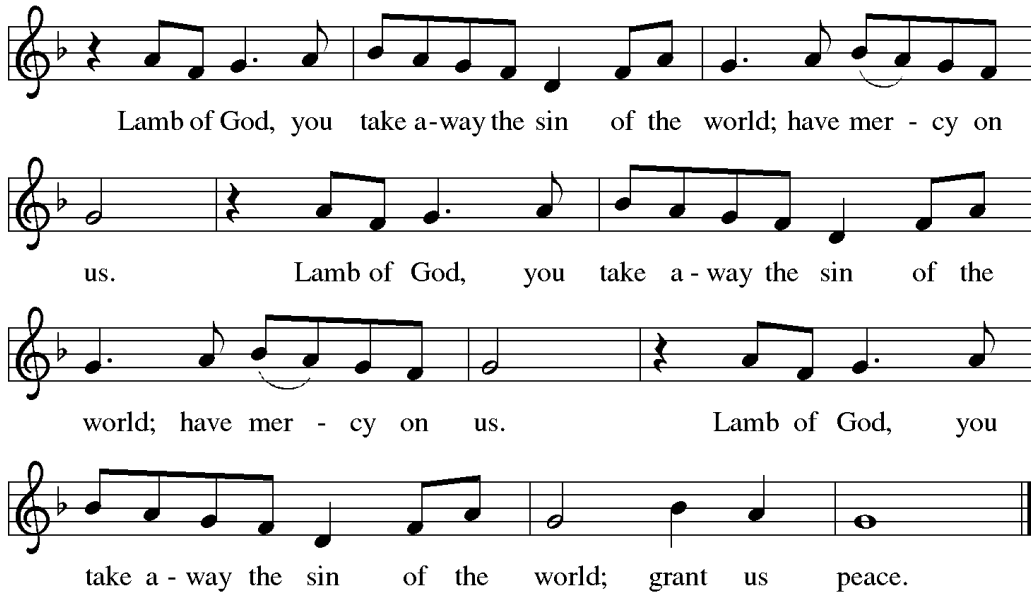
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*About Communion: This is Christ's table and meal of grace! All are welcome! Ushers will guide you forward. Receive the bread (gluten free available); wine or white grape juice is received from a cup from the gold tray. If you have difficulty coming forward for the distribution, please let one of the ushers know and they will ask the pastor to bring you communion in the pew. Children may come forward for a blessing.*

## 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.

*The assembly is seated.*

## COMMUNION HYMN

### HYMN 413 Holy, Holy, Holy

*The assembly stands.*

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

**Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, generous God,  
for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table.  
Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,  
through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## Thanksgiving at the Retirement of a Debt

*The assembly may be seated.*

*A representative of the congregation brings forward a copy of the completed debt agreement and addresses the assembly with these or similar words*

Sisters and brothers: With joy and thanksgiving I announce to you the retirement of this congregation's debt for name of the specific obligation completed.

*The copy of the completed debt agreement may be presented to the president of the congregation by the representative.*

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly with these or similar words.*

On this occasion we celebrate both the completion of a significant goal and the beginning of new ventures in faith. Let us give thanks for God's gifts and pray for God's continuing wisdom and guidance in the mission of Christ that we share.

*The assembly stands. The minister leads the assembly in prayer.*

Eternal God, you have brought us to a day of celebration  
in the life of this congregation.

You have accompanied us in times of excitement and discouragement;  
you have guided us in our visions and plans;

and you have given us the joy of working together for the sake of the gospel.

We rejoice in the completion of a task that was begun with trust in your promise,  
and we give thanks for all whose courage, energy, and resources  
have contributed to its fulfillment.

In the days ahead, use us and our gifts in new ways.

Send us forth renewed in the life of baptism,

so that we continue to live together as your faithful people,

carry out the ministry of word and sacrament,

proclaim Christ in word and deed,

serve all people in his name,

and strive for justice and peace in all the earth;

through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

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## BLESSING

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed

✚ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

**Amen.**



# This My Church Shall Be

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1. Lamp of wis — dom burn — ing, This My Church shall be;  
 2. Font of wa — ter flow — ing, This My Church shall be;  
 3. Hands to heal the cry — ing, This My Church shall be;  
 4. Saints un — num — bered sing — ing, This My Church shall be;

Pil — lar, bright, of learn — ing, This My Church shall be;  
 Fruit — ful vin — yard grow — ing, This My Church shall be;  
 Arms to hold the dy — ing, This My Church shall be;  
 Songs e — ter — nal bring — ing, This My Church shall be;

Flare of con — science guid — ing, Flame of faith re — sid — ing,  
 Field its har — vest bear — ing, Bread as bod — y shar — ing,  
 Eyes for jus — tice seek — ing, Mouth for jus — tice speak — ing,  
 Hosts of earth re — joic — ing, Hymns in hea — ven voic — ing,

Star of sa — ges, light of a — ges Lead — ing up to Me,  
 Liv — ing, dy — ing seed sup — ply — ing, From the Pas — chal Tree,  
 Voice for preach — ing, tongue for teach — ing Truth with cha — ri — ty,  
 Ran — somed prais — ing, car — ols rais — ing Round the crys — tal sea,

This My Church shall be.

This My Church shall be.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

**Thanks be to God.**

DEPART TO SERVE

POSTLUDE