

# Welcome to Worship!

## Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church



### **14th Sunday after Pentecost The Liturgy of Holy Communion August 25, 2024 10:00 am**

Ministers, The People of God  
Reverend Jean Dougherty  
Director of Music, Nicholas Suminski  
Cantor, Cynthia Davis  
Bell Choir Director, Laura Gustavsen  
Assisting Minister, Tom Pernice  
Readers: Jill Spage, John Sanzone  
Ushers: Donna & Frank Meystrik, Grete Kraus  
Jane Samuelson, Steve O'Hagan  
Priscilla Guild: Pat Pernice



# Welcome to St. Andrew's

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## **This is Christ's Church:**

There is a place for you here. We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person—questions, complexities, and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world. **Those with us for the first time** are kindly asked to introduce themselves to the pastor and greeters and are welcome to sign our guest book in the narthex. **Need prayer?** Kindly leave a message at the office, and we will contact you.

## **Our Mission:**

Because God shows His Love through Jesus Christ, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, a community of faith, gathered around Word and Sacrament, lives to WORSHIP, WITNESS, LEARN, and SERVE, and welcomes all people to share God's love and to be workers together in this mission of the Church.

## **Communion:**

St. Andrew's practices eucharistic hospitality. All are welcome at God's table. In response to Jesus's command, we celebrate with a worship meal of bread (or gluten-free by request) and red wine or white grape juice (in the center of the communion tray.) It is the Lutheran tradition to commune using both elements. However, we believe Christ is fully present when receiving one kind (bread or wine/grape juice). Those not communing and children are invited forward to receive a blessing and may cross their arms to indicate their intentions.

## **What is Reconciling in Christ?**

This means we joyfully welcome all of God's people to worship with us regardless of age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, ability, or socio-economic circumstances.



## GATHERING

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

### WELCOME

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Children of God: welcome!

**Welcome to this place of love and grace,**

Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.

**God invites all of us to be a part of the beloved community,**

God invites all of us to share in the good news:

**We are welcome, just as we are. We are loved, just as we are.**

In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God.

**Oh, come let us worship!**

**Oh, come let us worship!**

**Oh, come let us worship!**

### PRELUDE

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*(The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins).*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**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.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*(The assembly kneels as they are able. Silence is kept for reflection.)*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

*(The assembly stands as they are able.)*

## GATHERING SONG #456 Baptized in Water



1 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the  
2 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the  
3 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the



blood of Christ our king: heirs of sal - va - tion, trust-ing his  
tomb with Christ our king: one with his ris - ing, freed and for -  
sign of Christ our king: born of the Spir - it, we are God's



prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.  
giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.  
chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

(please be seated)

### **HOLY BAPTISM OF Natalie Tyler Michalski**

**PRESENTATION** Candidates for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather with the ministers at the font.

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word, God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

**Sponsors present the candidate:**

I present Natalie Tyler Michalski for baptism.

**The minister addresses parents:**

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ?

Response: I do.

As you bring your children to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with them among God's faithful people, bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer,

so that your children may learn to trust God,  
proclaim Christ through word and deed,  
care for others and the world God made,  
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help your children grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: I do.

**The minister addresses sponsors:**

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture these persons in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: I do.

**(please stand as you are able):**

People of God, do you promise to support Natalie Tyler Michalski and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

**We do.**

## **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

**The minister addresses candidates for baptism as well as the parents and sponsors of young children. The assembly may join in the responses.**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response:

**I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\***

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT**

Water may be poured into the font before or during the thanksgiving. At the font, the minister begins the thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

The assembly may be seated.

## **BAPTISM**

The minister baptizes each candidate. Water is poured on the candidate's head, as the presiding minister says:

Natalie Tyler Michalski, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **CHRISTENING**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Laying both hands on the head of each of the newly baptized, the minister prays

Sustain Natalie Tyler Michalski with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of each of the baptized. Oil prepared for this purpose may be used. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:

Natalie Tyler Michalski, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**Amen.**

## **WELCOME**

A lighted candle may be given to each of the newly baptized (to a sponsor of a young child) as a representative of the congregation says:

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me

will have the light of life.

Let your light so shine before others  
that they may see your good works  
and glorify your Father in heaven.

The ministers and the baptismal group face the assembly. The representative of the congregation leads the assembly in the welcome.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Natalie Tyler Michalski, we welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

Those who have gathered at the font may return to their places.  
(please stand as you are able)

### **HYMN #456 Baptized in Water Vs 3**

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
marked with the sign of Christ our king:  
born of the Spirit, we are God's children;  
joyfully now God's praise we sing.

### **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.**

### **CANTICLE OF PRAISE #835 All Creatures, Worship God Most High! Vs 1 & 6**

1 All creatures, worship God most high!  
Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;  
sing, sister moon and stars of night:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,  
and worship God with humble heart: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,  
and Holy Spirit, Three in One:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together,  
*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Holy God,  
**your word feeds your people with life that is eternal.**  
**Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth,**  
**that, renouncing what is false and evil,**  
**we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**  
**Amen.**

*(The assembly may be seated.)*

### **WORD**

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

**FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18** (assisting minister)

*In the Near East, covenant means “agreement” or “alliance.” It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.*

A reading from Joshua

<sup>1</sup>Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. <sup>2a</sup>And Joshua said to all the people, <sup>14</sup>“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup>Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

<sup>16</sup>Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; <sup>17</sup>for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; <sup>18</sup>and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

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

**PSALM 34:15-22** (Cantor introduces the refrain, assembly repeats. Psalm is chanted responsively)

*Refrain*

Re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, give thanks and sing!

<sup>15</sup>The eyes of the LORD are up- | on the righteous,  
and God's ears are open | to their cry.

<sup>16</sup>**The face of the LORD is against those | who do evil,  
to erase the remembrance of them | from the earth.**

<sup>17</sup>The righteous cry, and | the LORD hears them  
and delivers them from | all their troubles.

<sup>18</sup>**The LORD is near to the | brokenhearted  
and saves those whose spir- | its are crushed. Refrain**

<sup>19</sup>Many are the troubles | of the righteous,  
but the LORD delivers them from | every one.

<sup>20</sup>**God will keep safe | all their bones;  
not one of them | shall be broken.**

<sup>21</sup>Evil will bring death | to the wicked  
and those who hate the righteous | will be punished.

<sup>22</sup>**O LORD, you redeem the life | of your servants,  
and those who put their trust in you will | not be punished. Refrain**

**SECOND READING: Ephesians 6:10-20** (reader)

*Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit.*

A reading from Ephesians.

<sup>10</sup>Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup>Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup>As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup>Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. <sup>19</sup>Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

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

"Cantor introduces the refrain, assembly repeats"

*(The assembly stands as they are able.)*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW# 801 Change My Heart, O God**

Refrain

Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.

End

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.

Refrain

Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

**GOSPEL: John 6:56-69**

*The "hard saying" that offends Jesus' disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: "To whom shall we go?"*

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

[Jesus said,] <sup>56</sup>“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” <sup>59</sup>He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup>When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” <sup>61</sup>But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup>Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup>It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup>But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. <sup>65</sup>And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

<sup>66</sup>Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup>We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”  
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(The assembly may be seated.)*

## SERMON

*(The assembly stands as they are able.)*

## HYMN OF THE DAY #638 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:



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

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** *(reader)*

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, you have the words of eternal life. Lead the church to put its trust in Jesus, the living Word. Using the witness of community after our flooded spaces help us in faithful speech and bold witness. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Creator God, we and all creation are sustained by your Word. We pray for all who remind us of our interconnectedness with all living things. Prosper the ministry of the churches in our synod and St. Thomas of Canterbury. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of wisdom, as our nation navigates another election cycle, guide our leaders to act justly for the sake of the world. Bring about fruitful conversation among your people and bring about change where you see fit. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of restoration, bring healing and wholeness to all who cry to you. Where pain is sharp, bring a sense of comfort and relief. Where grief runs deep, bring your tender mercy. Care for those on our hearts especially Judy, Lauren, Grace, Linda, the family and friends of Jack Souza, all on our prayer list and those we now name silently or aloud.....(*pause for silent prayer*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of Spirit and truth we ask your blessings on the newly baptized especially Natalie Tyler Michalski. Bless her, raise her in your Spirit, form her by your hand, bring her to the water of life and the bread and cup of blessing that with all your people she may praise you forever. Bless parents, especially Jessica & William Michalski, and fill all homes with respect, joy, laughter and prayer. Strengthen us in our baptismal callings to serve you faithfully until our journey's end. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of every generation, we remember with thanksgiving all who have completed their baptismal journeys, especially Jack Souza. Strengthen us in our baptismal callings to serve you faithfully until our journey's end. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.  
**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

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

*(The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.)*

## **MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*(The assembly may be seated.)*

## OFFERING



*(When Jesus fed the 5000 with only five loaves of bread and two fish, he was showing us how God's love can multiply the effects of our generosity [see Mt. 14:13-21]. Thank you for sharing from the abundance you have received. Offerings may also be given online at the church website.)*

## OFFERING HYMN #679 For the Fruit of All Creation



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.  
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

*(The assembly stands as they are able.)*

## OFFERING PRAYER *(assisting minister)*

Let us pray.

Jesus, Bread of life,  
you have set this table with your very self,  
and called us to the feast of plenty.

Gather what has been sown among us,  
and strengthen us in this meal.

Make us to be what we receive here,  
your body for the life of the world.

**Amen.**

**\*GREAT THANKSGIVING  
DIALOGUE AND PREFACE**

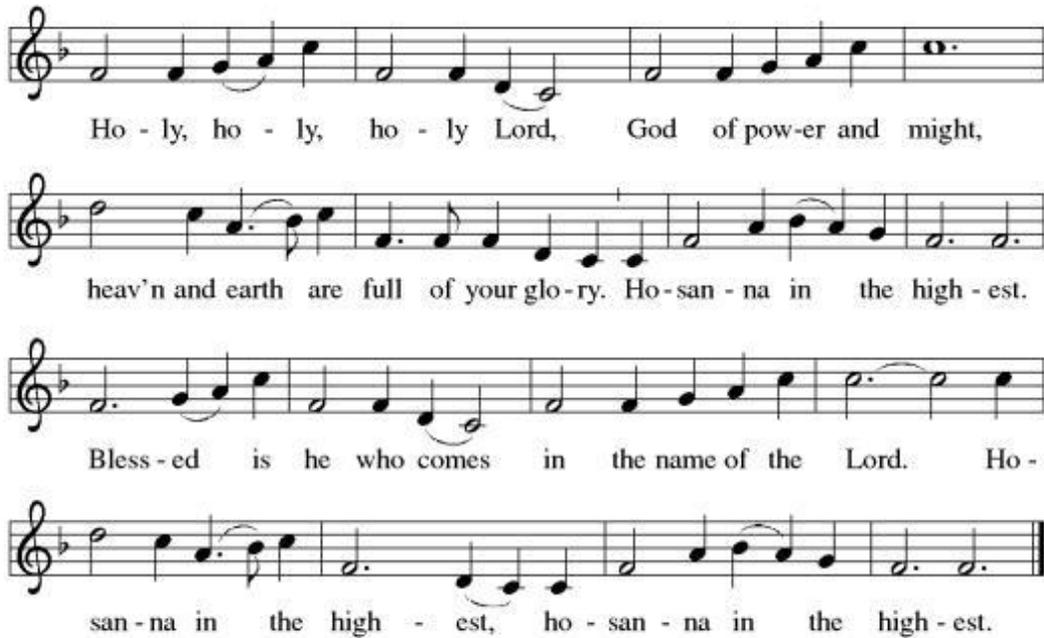
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**SANCTUS**



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

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Blessed are you, God of the universe.  
You made everything that is, and you sustain every living thing.  
You taught us to care for your earth.  
When we turned away from our task of sharing,  
You made for yourself a people, rescued them from slavery,  
Nourished them with manna in the wilderness,  
And taught them to rely daily on your mercy.

You entered human life in Jesus,  
Who ate with sinners,  
Who fed the thousands with a few loaves,  
And who called us back to the way of sharing our bread and your mercy.

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.

As we share this bread and cup, O God, fill us up.  
Pour your spirit on us so that we may be the body of Christ,  
Food for your hungry world and signs of your love.

With the earth and all its creatures,  
With all who have gone before us,  
We give you praise, feeding God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

#### **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.**

#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.  
Come!

*(The assembly may be seated.)*

## LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## COMMUNION

*(The assembly may be seated during distribution. Please follow the ushers' directions as you are invited forward to either kneel or stand at the rail.)*

## COMMUNION HYMN #810 Jesus I Have Promised



1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;  
2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.  
3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still  
4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.  
I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt-ing sounds I hear.  
a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.  
that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,  
My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;  
Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;  
And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.  
but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.  
now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard-ian of my soul.  
oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

*(After all have received, please stand as you are able.)*

### **EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace and peace.  
**Amen.**

### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER** *(assisting minister)*

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.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*(The assembly stands as they are able.)*

#### **BLESSING**

The God of steadfastness and encouragement  
grant you to live in harmony with one another,  
in accordance with Christ Jesus.

**Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The God of all grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN #504 A Mighty Fortress** (favorite of Rick Madarasz and Ron Hendrickson)



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -  
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;  
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

**DISMISSAL** (assisting minister)

Encounter all things with thankfulness.

**God goes with us. Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**