

ST. JOHN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

7:45AM &
10:45AM

SEPT. 12,
2021



Making the
Love of
Christ
Known

Jeffery Gramza
Senior Pastor

Doug Meyer
Pastor Emeritus

Andrea
McDonough
Vicar

Welcome /Announcements

Prelude

Gathering Hymn

ELW 660

Lift High the Cross



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,

3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,

4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.

as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.

praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

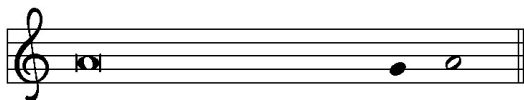
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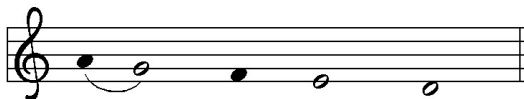
Kyrie

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

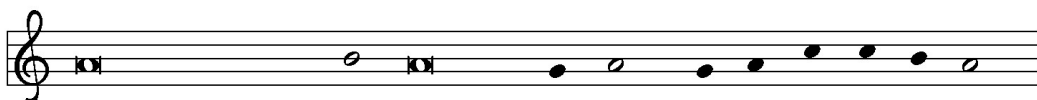
And also with you.



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



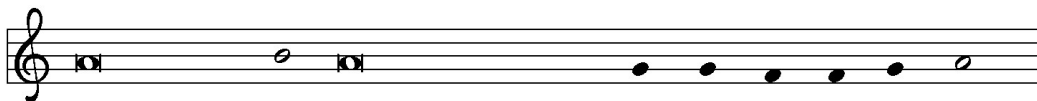
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



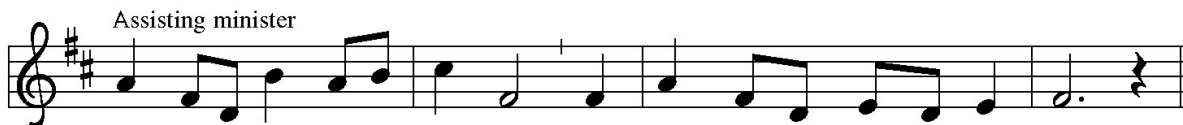
let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.



Hymn of Praise



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



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



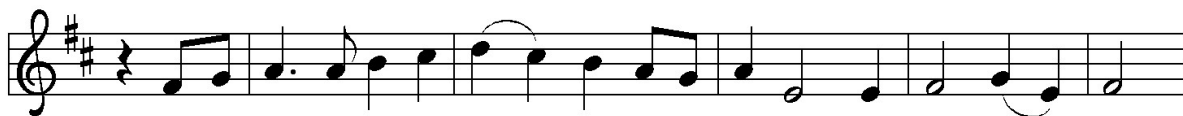
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



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.



Prayer of the Day

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

Children's Sermon

Kids' Praise

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?



The reading is concluded:
Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 116:1-9

¹I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,
²for the LORD has given ear to me
whenever I called.

³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave
came upon me; I came to grief and sorrow.

⁴Then I called upon the name of the LORD:
“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”

⁵Gracious is the LORD and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.

⁶The LORD watches over the innocent;
I was brought low, and God saved me.

⁷Turn again to your rest, O my soul.
for the LORD has dealt well with you.

⁸For you have rescued my life from death,
my eyes from tears, and my ^l feet from stumbling;

⁹I will walk in the presence of the LORD
in the land of the living.



Second Reading: James 3:1-12

This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water?

¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

The reading is concluded:
Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 8th Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 8:27-38

This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."





³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?

³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

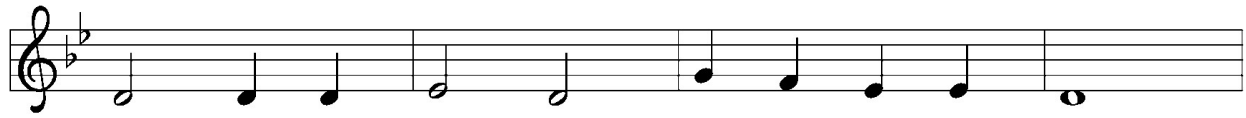
The gospel is concluded:
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

ELW 800

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart



1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;

3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;

4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,



wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;

all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?

one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:



stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,

I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.

the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,



and make me love you as I ought to love.

Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!

my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

Text: George Croly, 1780-1860

Music: MORECAMBE, Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841-189



Confession and Forgiveness

The Lord listens to the cries of the people
who turn with full hearts to the One who has mercy.
Let our tongues now make confession in the presence of God
and of this body.

Holy God, in the face of sin, our gravest enemy,
we call to you for help.

We have not loved you and our neighbors as we ought.

We have denied our dependence on you.

Save us so that we may fulfill our vows to you
and attend to the needs of your people. Amen.

God, who is gracious and merciful, knows the human desire
to save our lives by avoiding Jesus' call to carry the cross.

God, who is full of compassion, also knows that those who repent
have set their minds and hearts on what endures for all time.

Your sin is forgiven you.

The Lord God is a very present help. Go with God in joy as you
take up your cross, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the
church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Each portion of the prayers concludes with these words:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only
to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



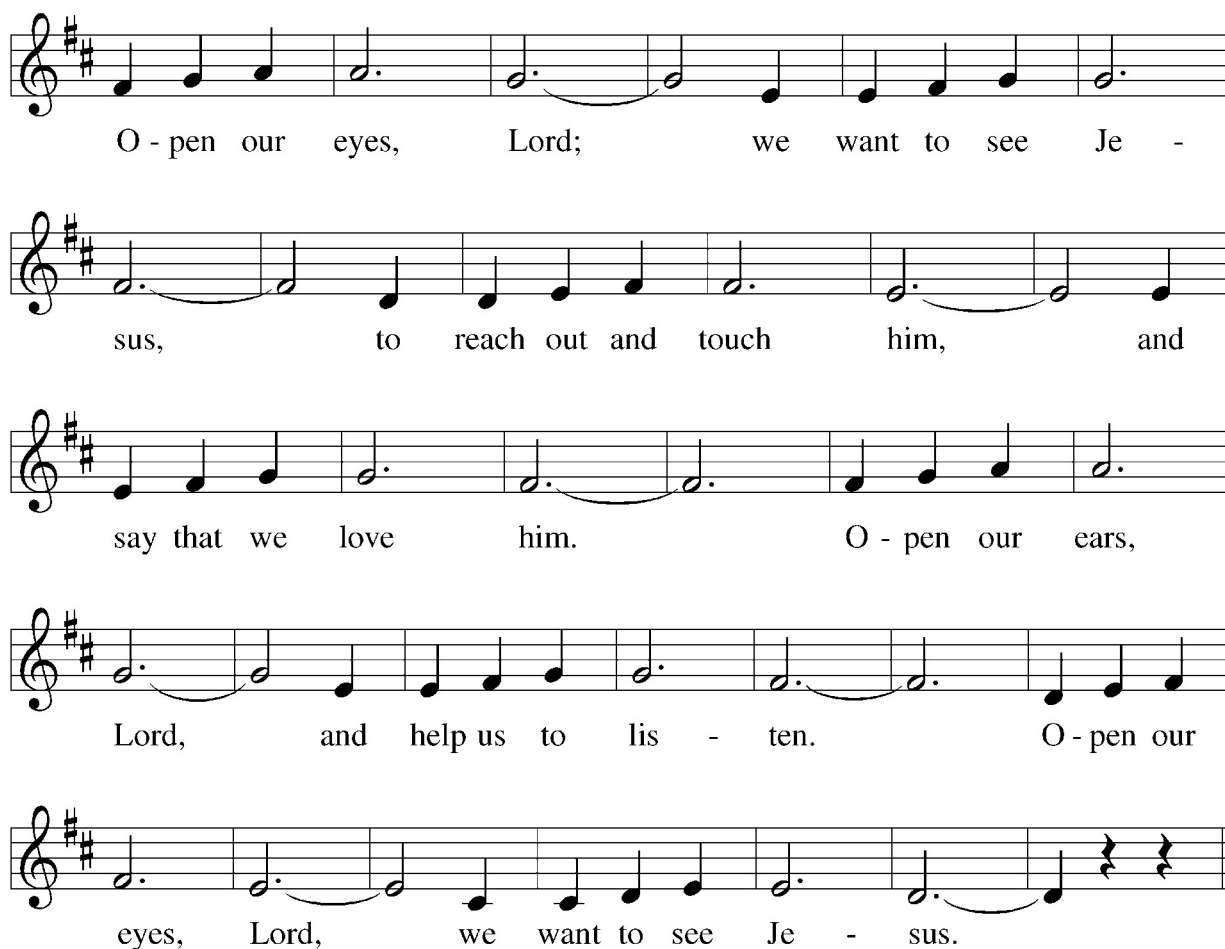
Offering

Kids' Praise- *Children return to families during the offering.*

Offertory:

Please stand and sing as the offering is brought forward:

Open Our Eyes, Lord



O - pen our eyes, Lord; we want to see Je -
sus, to reach out and touch him, and
say that we love him. O - pen our ears,
Lord, and help us to lis - ten. O - pen our
eyes, Lord, we want to see Je - sus.

Text: Bob Cull, b. 1949

Music: OPEN OUR EYES, Bob Cull, b. 1949

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Offering Prayer

Lord, who gives us everything we have, we return with joy a portion of our bounty, giving to the work of your church and your world what is already yours: ourselves, our lives, and our means. Make good come from these gifts. Teach us to use what we have with wisdom and compassion. In the name of Jesus we pray.

Amen

Eucharistic Prayer

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

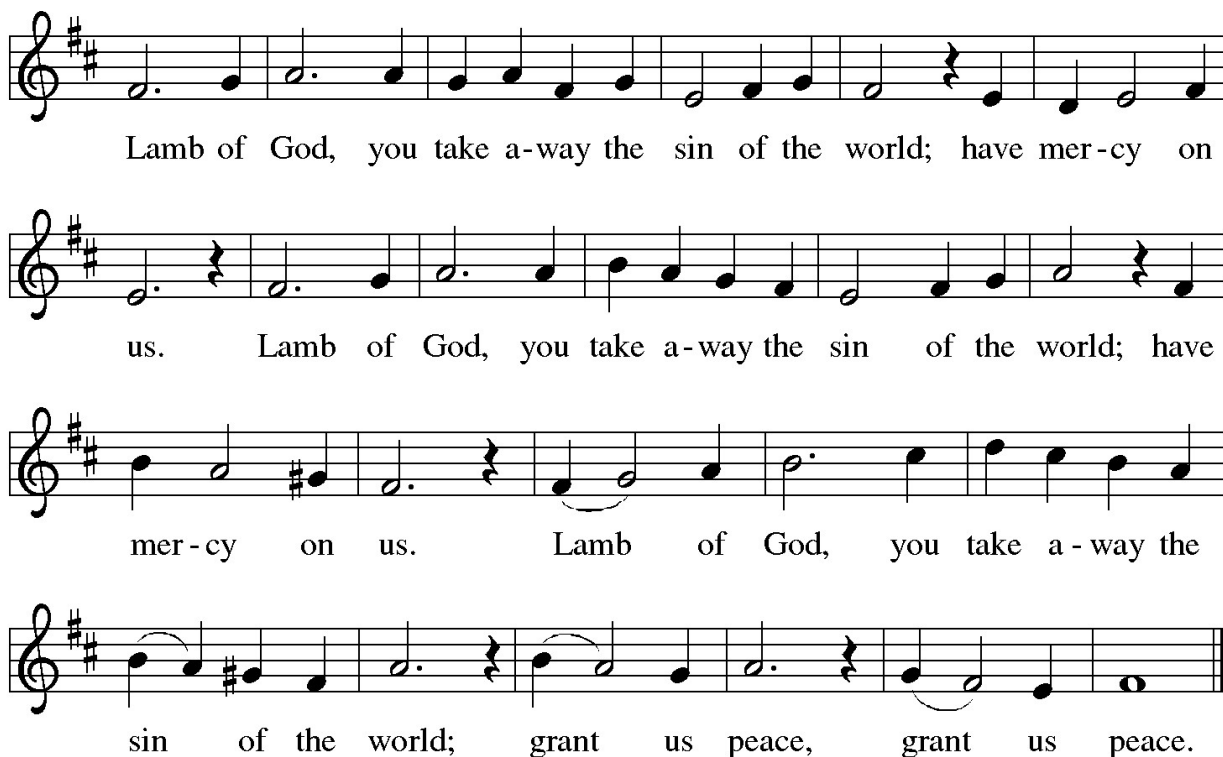
Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.



Distribution of Communion

Approach from the center aisle. Glasses with white grape juice are available for those who cannot receive wine. Deposit the glass in a basket and return by way of the side aisle.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn

ELW 810

O Jesus, I have Promised

Prayer after Communion

O God, we thank you for the living bread that rains down from heaven. From this feast of love may we carry your eternal life as daily food for the well-being of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.



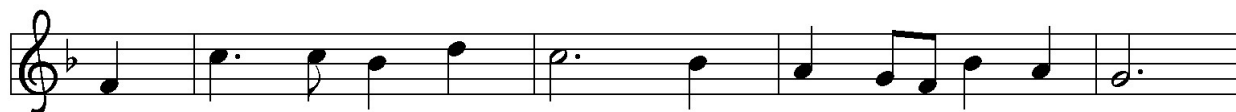
Blessing

May God, our Wisdom, pour out God's thoughts in you and make God's words known to you. May Jesus Christ, our Messiah, give you the strength to carry your cross and to follow him. And may the Holy Spirit, our Tongue of fire, guide our words and our actions, as we strive to bless the world with our witness. Amen.

Sending Hymn

ELW 651

Oh, Praise the Gracious Power



- 1 Oh, praise the gra - cious pow'r that tum - bles walls of fear
2 Oh, praise per - sis - tent truth that o - pens fist - ed minds
3 Oh, praise in - clu - sive love, en - cir - cling ev - 'ry race,
5 Oh, praise the tide of grace that laps at ev - 'ry shore



and gath - ers in one house of faith all strang - ers far and near:
and eas - es from their anx - ious clutch the prej - u - dice that blinds:
ob - liv - i - ous to gen - der, wealth, to so - cial rank or place:
with vi - sions of a world at peace, no lon - ger bled by war:

Refrain



We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!

Dismissal

Go in peace. Proclaim the good news.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude





Children
of the
living God.