

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany
February 23, 2025
10:30 AM

“But I say to you that listen,

Love

your enemies,

do good

to those who hate you,

bless

those who curse you,

pray

for those who abuse you.”

Luke 6:27-28, NRSV



“Christ- Students- Community Coming Together”

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The promise and its fulfillment may not look at all alike, even though they are intimately connected. Paul speaks about seeds and plants as he tries to picture resurrection life. Joseph's brothers never thought they would see him alive again, so how shocking he must have appeared to them as an Egyptian leader! Jesus invites us to sow seeds of new life by loving enemies.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Stand

WORDS OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Let us confess our sin to God who is faithful and just and who has promised to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/ Remain Standing

P Most merciful God, **C** **Have mercy on us.**

C **We confess to you that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not trusted you with our whole heart; we have not loved one another in deed and in truth. In your compassion forgive our sin and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our light and our truth. Amen.**

P With joy, I proclaim to you that Almighty God, rich in mercy, abundant in love, forgives you all your sin and grants you newness of life in Jesus Christ.

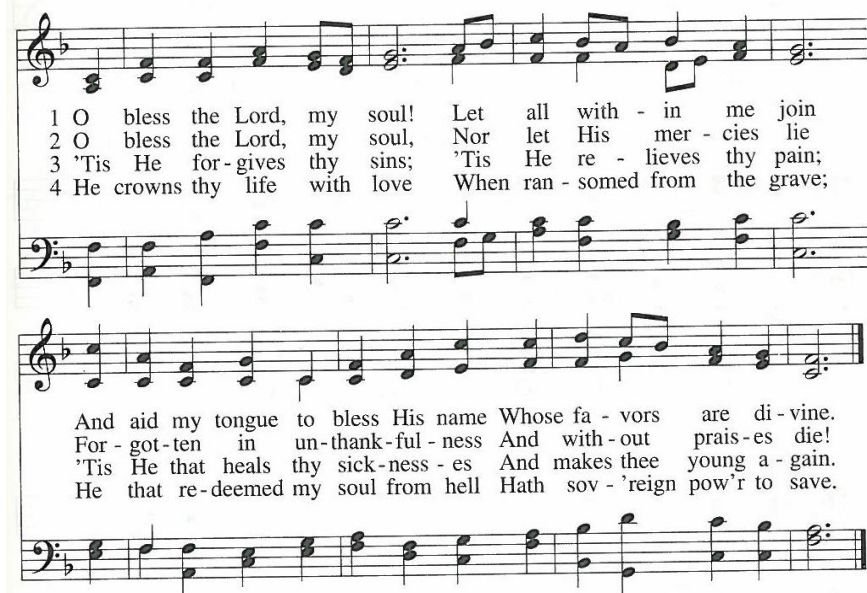
C **Thanks be to God!**

Stand

SHARING OF THE PEACE *Share a greeting of peace with those around you.*

SERVICE OF THE WORD

HYMN "O Bless The Lord, My Soul"



1 O bless the Lord, my soul! Let all with - in me join
 2 O bless the Lord, my soul, Nor let His mer - cies lie
 3 'Tis He for - gives thy sins; 'Tis He re - lieves thy pain;
 4 He crowns thy life with love When ran - somed from the grave;

And aid my tongue to bless His name Whose fa - vors are di - vine.
 For - got - ten in un - thank - ful - ness And with - out prais - es die!
 'Tis He that heals thy sick - ness - es And makes thee young a - gain.
 He that re - deemed my soul from hell Hath sov - 'reign pow'r to save.

5 He fills the poor with good;
 He gives the suff'ers rest.
 The Lord hath judgments for the proud
 And justice for th'oppressed.

6 His wondrous works and ways
 He made by Moses known,
 But sent the world His truth and grace
 By His beloved Son.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
 Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–76; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941

ST. THOMAS
 SM

Text and music: Public domain

Psalms 103: John 1:1–4, 14

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

KYRIE Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - le - i - son, Chri - ste e -
 le - i - son, Ky-ri - e e - le - i - son.

KYRIE Verses (soloist or choir or pastor):

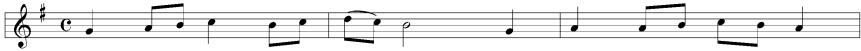
1. Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's Kingdom.

(Congregation repeats each Refrain)

2. You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness.

3. You will come in glory with salvation for your people.


GLORIA Refrain *(at beginning pastor sings the first half of Refrain)*
(after each verse, congregation sings Refrain as shown)

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

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

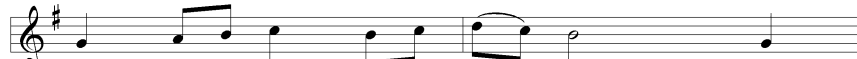
Verses *(sung by soloist or choir or pastor)*

1. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

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


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

2. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

C 
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and



3. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

[P] The Lord be with you.

[C] And also with you.

[P] God of compassion, keep before us the love you have revealed in your Son, who prayed even for his enemies; in our words and deeds help us to be like him through whom we pray, Jesus Christ our Lord. **[C]** Amen.

Sit

Children are invited to the Fireside Lounge for the Children's Lesson.

FIRST LESSON Genesis 45:3-11, 15

A central theme in the Joseph story emphasizes the hidden nature of many of God's activities in human history. Joseph recognized the brothers who sold him into slavery. He repeatedly

tested them to see if they had changed. Now Joseph must decide how he will treat them: with vengeance or with the love God has shown him.

R Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there--since there are five more years of famine to come--so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' "

And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND LESSON 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

In this chapter on the resurrection of the dead, Paul responds to the objection that bodies may decay before they are raised. Jesus' resurrection, says Paul, sets the pattern for ours. As the living plant is wondrously transformed from the seed that was sown, so will those who are raised to life receive new bodies more glorious than flesh and blood.

R But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of

heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA *(Stand and sing twice; leader may also ask it to be sung in canon)*

C

1. Al - le - lu - ia, 2. Al - le - lu - ia, 3. Al - le - lu -
ia!

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, Chapter 6, beginning at verse 27.

C **Glory be to You, O Lord.**

Jesus teaches his disciples how to live in accord with his proclamation of the kingdom of God. They should treat others—even their enemies—as they themselves wish to be treated, that is, with the same kindness and mercy that God graciously shows to all.

P Jesus said: "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into
heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From
thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the
communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the
body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sit
MESSAGE

Stand
HYMN "Where Charity and Love Prevail"

1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail There
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear His
3 For - give we now each oth - er's faults As
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; Let

God is ev - er found; Brought here to - geth - er
char - i - ty we learn; Let us with heart and
we our faults con - fess; And let us love each
all con - ten - tion cease; Be God's the glo - ry

by Christ's love By love are we thus bound.
mind and soul Now love Him in re - turn.
oth - er well In Chris - tian ho - li - ness.
that we seek; Be ours His ho - ly peace.

5 Let us recall that in our midst
Dwells Christ, His only Son;
As members of His body joined
We are in Him made one.

6 For love excludes no race or clan
That names the Savior's name;
His family embraces all
Whose Father is the same.

Text: Latin, c. 9th cent.; tr. Omer E. Westendorf, 1916–97, alt.
Music: Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

TWENTY-FOURTH
C M

Text: © 1960 World Library Publications
Music: Public domain

John 13:1–17; 1 John 4:7–21; Eph. 4:29–32

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Other prayers are inserted here. Each petition ends with “Lord, in your mercy,” to which the congregation responds, “hear our prayer.” The prayers conclude:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVICE OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

OFFERING

You may contribute online using the QR code or place a gift in the offering plate at the door along with the interest sheet.



OFFERTORY MUSIC

Stand

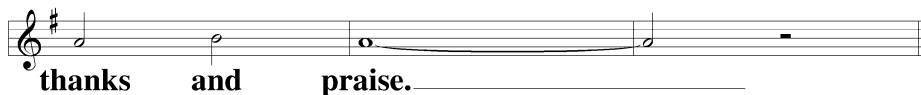
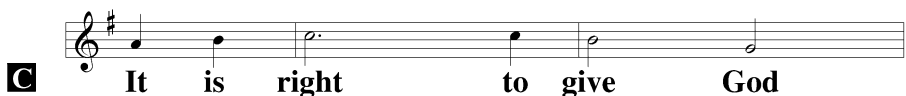
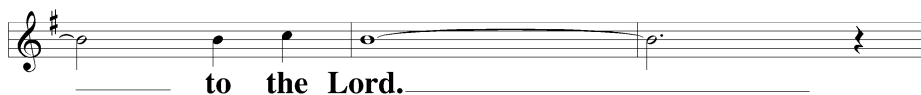
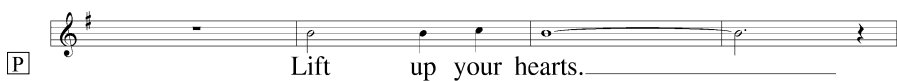
P Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

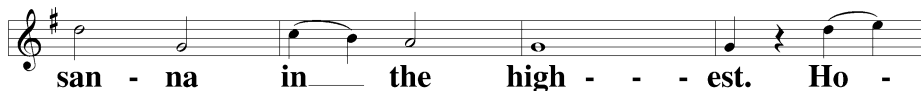
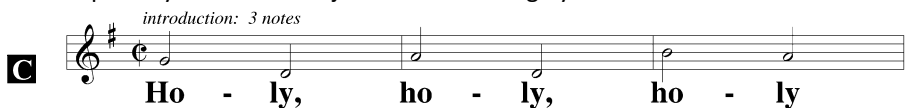
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.



P It is our duty and delight...
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

[P] Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

[P] In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this is My blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

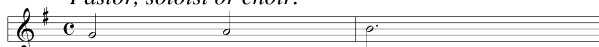
LORD'S PRAYER

Recognizing that the church, and this congregation, are comprised of people from many cultures, languages, and backgrounds, please speak this prayer in the language or version closest to your heart.

**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.**

LAMB OF GOD

Pastor, soloist or choir:



[P] 1) Lamb of God,
 2) Prince of Peace,

Congregation:



**you take a - way the sin of the
 you take a - way the sin of the**

world: have mer - cy on us.
 world: have mer - cy on us.

(interlude is played during these measures) (after 1st verse, go to beginning for 2nd verse)
 (after 2nd verse, the song continues below)

Pastor, soloist or choir:
 for 3rd verse only:

[P] 3) Lamb of God,

[C] Congregation:
 you take a - way the sin of the world:
 grant us peace, grant us peace.

Sit

THE DISTRIBUTION You are invited to approach the altar to receive communion elements along with an individual cup of wine or grape juice. Gluten-free available.

HYMN "Where True Charity and Love Abide"

F C Dm B^b D G C

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a love a - mor,
 Where true char - i - ty and love a - bide,

F C Dm Gm C³ F

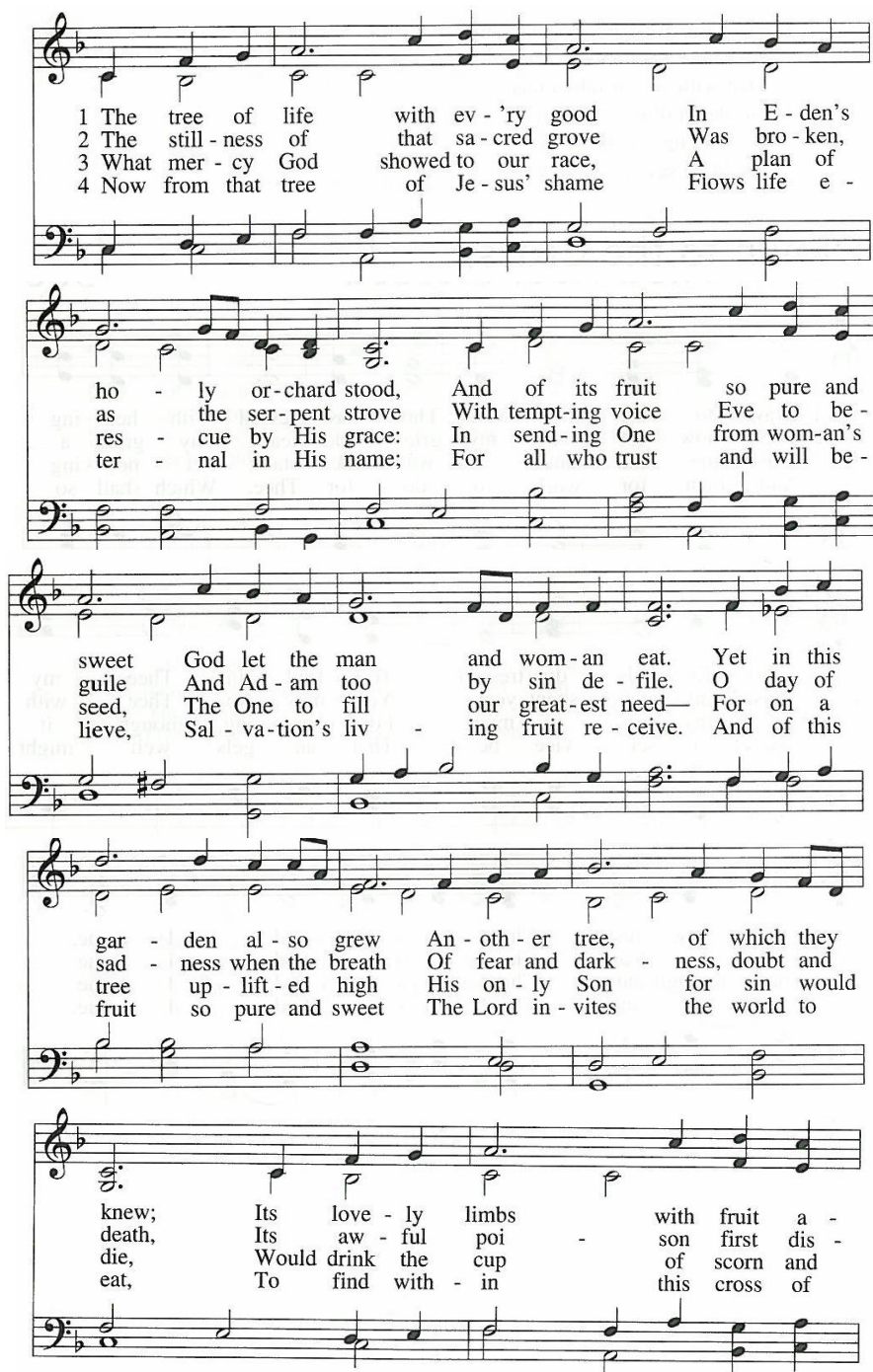
u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.
 God is dwell - ing there; God is dwell - ing there.

Text: Latin, 8th cent.
 Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
 Music © 1979 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

TAIZÉ UBI CARITAS
 irregular

HYMN

"The Tree of Life"



1 The tree of life with ev-'ry good In E-den's
2 The still-ness of that sa-cred grove Was bro-ken,
3 What mer-cy God showed to our race, A plan of
4 Now from that tree of Je-sus' shame Flows life e -

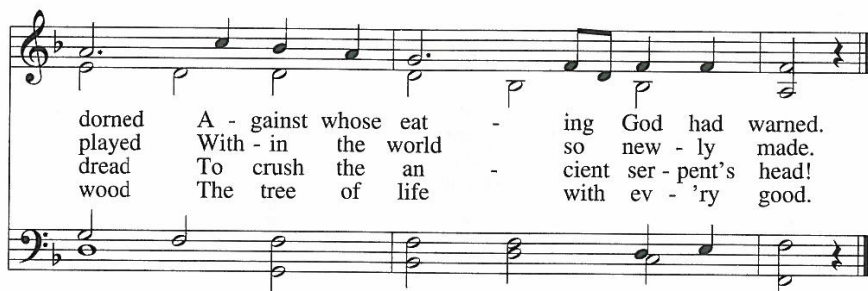
ho - ly or-chard stood, And of its fruit so pure and
as the ser-pent strove With tempt-ing voice Eve to be -
res - cue by His grace: In send-ing One from wom-an's
ter - nal in His name; For all who trust and will be -

sweet God let the man and wom-an eat. Yet in this
guile And Ad-am too by sin de - file. O day of
seed, The One to fill our great-est need— For on a
lieve, Sal - va-tion's liv - ing fruit re - ceive. And of this

gar - den al - so grew An - oth - er tree, of which they
sad - ness when the breath Of fear and dark - ness, doubt and
tree up - lift - ed high His on - ly Son for sin would
fruit so pure and sweet The Lord in - vites the world to

knew; Its love - ly limbs with fruit a -
death, Its aw - ful poi - son first dis -
die, Would drink the cup of scorn and
eat, To find with - in this cross of

continued on next page



dorned A - gainst whose eat - ing God had warned.
 played With - in the world - so new - ly made.
 dread To crush the an - cient ser - pent's head!
 wood The tree of life with ev - 'ry good.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, b. 1955

Tune: Bruce W. Becker, b. 1952; setting: Henry V. Gerike, b. 1948

Text: © 1993 Stephen P. Starke; admin. Concordia Publishing House

Tune: © 1995 Bruce W. Becker; setting: © 2006 Concordia Publishing House

TREE OF LIFE
88 88 88 88

Gen. 3:1-15; 1 Peter 2:24; Rev. 22:1-3; 1 Cor. 15:21-22

BENEDICTION

- [P]** The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **[C] Amen.**

- [P]** Go in peace; serve the Lord. **[C] Thanks be to God.**

CLOSING HYMN "Sent Forth By God's Blessing"



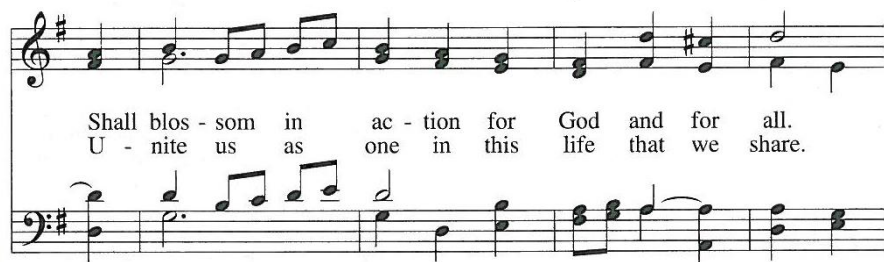
1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, Our true faith con - fess-ing,
 2 With praise and God's thanks - giv - ing To God ev - er - liv - ing,
 The peo - ple of God from His dwell - ing take leave.
 The tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face.
 The Sup - per is end - ed. O now be ex - tend - ed
 Our faith ev - er shar - ing, In love ev - er car - ing,



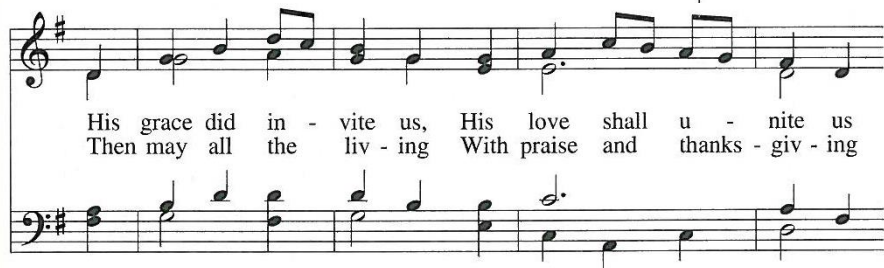
The fruits of this ser-vice in all who be-lieve.
Em-brac-ing His chil-dren of each tribe and race.



The seed of His teach-ing, Re-cep-tive souls reach-ing,
With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;



Shall blos-som in ac-tion for God and for all.
U-nite us as one in this life that we share.



His grace did in-vite us, His love shall u-nite us
Then may all the liv-ing With praise and thanks-giv-ing



To work for God's king-dom and an-swer His call.
Give hon-or to Christ and His name that we bear.

POSTLUDE

----- The liturgy is ended; let the service begin -----

Our Confession about Communion

1. Holy Communion is a divinely instituted act in which Jesus Christ gives His true (real) body and blood under the forms of bread and wine. We thus hold that the bread and wine are not mere symbols of Jesus' body and blood. When we receive the bread and wine, we receive in fact the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

2. We believe that Communion is a celebration of this forgiveness which comes to us through faith as we eat and drink. In communion we remember our Lord's passion and death, His resurrection and ascension, and the promise of His coming again. Communion is truly the Gospel made visible and is offered for those who "hunger and thirst after righteousness."

3. We believe that as we eat and drink this Supper we are strengthened in our faith in Jesus Christ and in our love for one another.

Therefore, we invite all to the Lord's Table who:

a. has been instructed in the meaning of Communion; have been baptized in the name of the Triune God; have received Jesus Christ as their own personal and living Savior and Lord, and concur in our confession;

b. is not living in open rebellion against the Word of God, and do not hold willful and persistent form of hatred, resentment or anger against any other person.

Those who have questions about communion are welcome to talk to one of the Pastors.

Music by Marty Haugen from *Ritual Song*, © GIA Publications, Inc. The propers of the service from "Words for Worship" (CD), © 2005 by Augsburg Fortress. CCLI #1534397; One License A-703166.