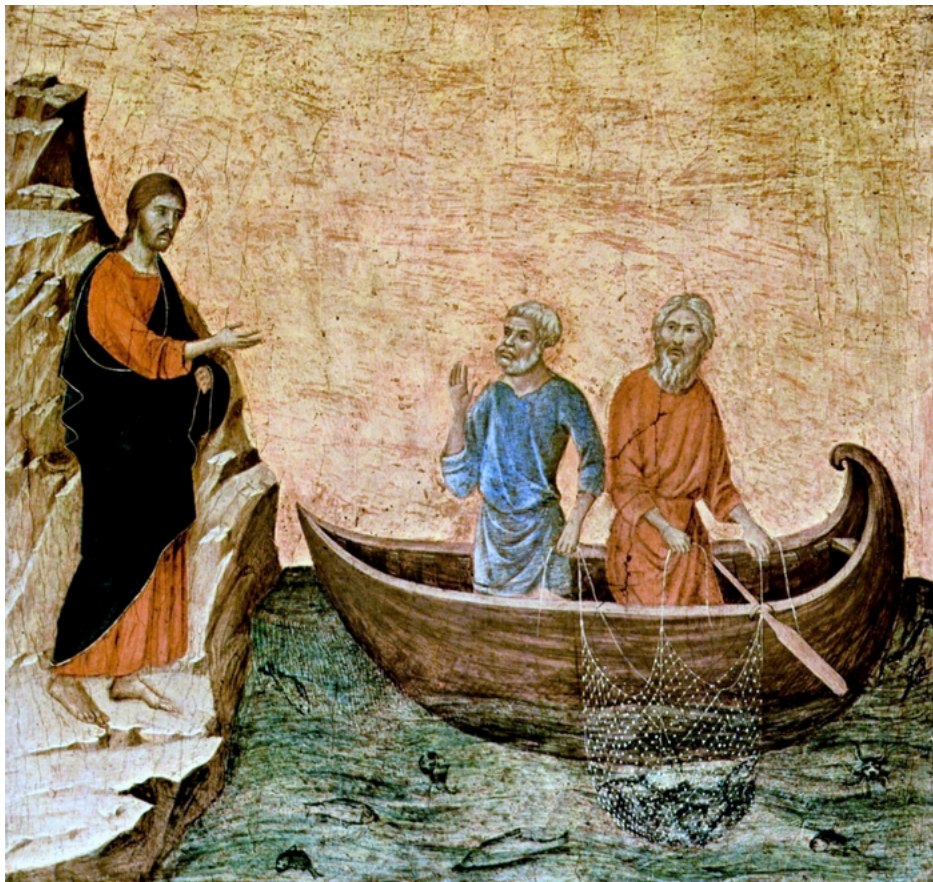




Third Sunday after Epiphany January 21, 2024



900 Washington Crossing Road
Newtown PA 18940
215-497-0447
ascensionlutheranchurch.org

WELCOME TO ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

You are welcome here.

If you have a prayer request, please fill out the yellow prayer sheet found in your bulletin. Prayer sheets will be collected by the usher during the hymn of the day. Prayer requests will be collected from Zoom worshipers via the Zoom meeting's chat function. Prayer requests will be voiced by the pastor during the prayers of the people and added to the weekly prayer list circulated by email. All worshipers are welcome to receive Holy Communion, the body and blood of Jesus, given and shed for us.

Introduction to the Day

As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show us the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

Cover Image

Duccio, di Buoninsegna, -1319?. Christ Calling the Apostles Peter and Andrew, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=49261> [retrieved January 16, 2024]. Original source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Duccio_di_Buoninsegna_036.jpg.

Presiding Minister (P), Assisting Minister (AM), Congregation (C)

*The flowers above the altar are given by Sheryl and Jim White
in honor of Judy McCall's 87th birthday*

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
creator of darkness and light,
word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God, our rock and refuge,

**C we pour out our hearts before you.
We have known you but have not always loved you.
We have wounded one another
and sinned against you.
We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit
dwelling in each of us.
Remember your covenant.
Renew your creation.
Restore us,
that we might proclaim your good news to all.
Amen.**

P The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.
God has spoken:
The time of grace is now.
In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.
By the authority of † Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
You are God's beloved.
Amen.

OPENING HYMN | I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834–1911

Music: HANKEY, William E. Fischer, 1849–1936

GREETING

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.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE | JOYFUL, JOYFUL WE ADORE THEE



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING | JONAH 3:1-5, 10

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, “Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

- R** The Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM | PSALM 62:5-12 *prayed responsively*

For God alone I wait in silence;
truly, my hope is in God.

**God alone is my rock and my salvation,
my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.**

In God is my deliverance and my honor;
God is my strong rock and my refuge.

**Put your trust in God always, O people,
pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.**

Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate
cannot be trusted.

Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a
breath.

**Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride;
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.**

God has spoken once, twice have I heard it,
that power belongs to God.

**Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord,
for you repay all according to their deeds.**

SECOND READING | 1 CORINTHIANS 7:29-31

Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

R The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | ALLELUIA

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 | MARK 1:14-20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

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

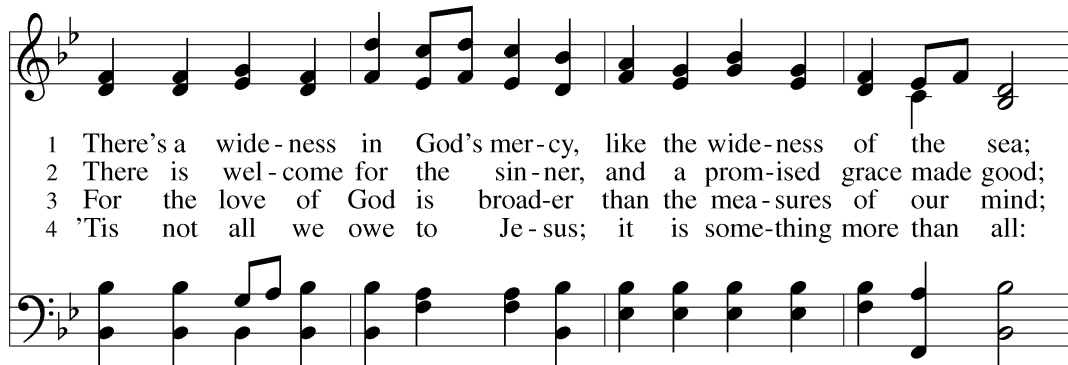
TIME WITH CHILDREN

SERMON

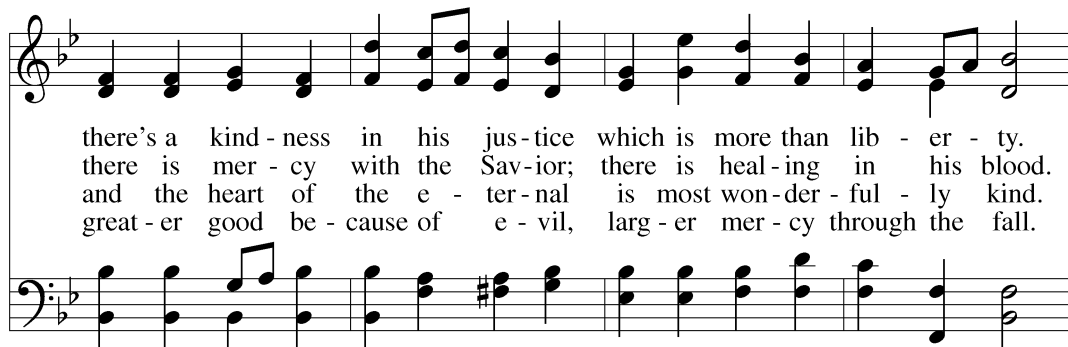
Pastor Kayla Hopgood

HYMN OF THE DAY | THERE'S A WIDENESS IN GOD'S MERCY

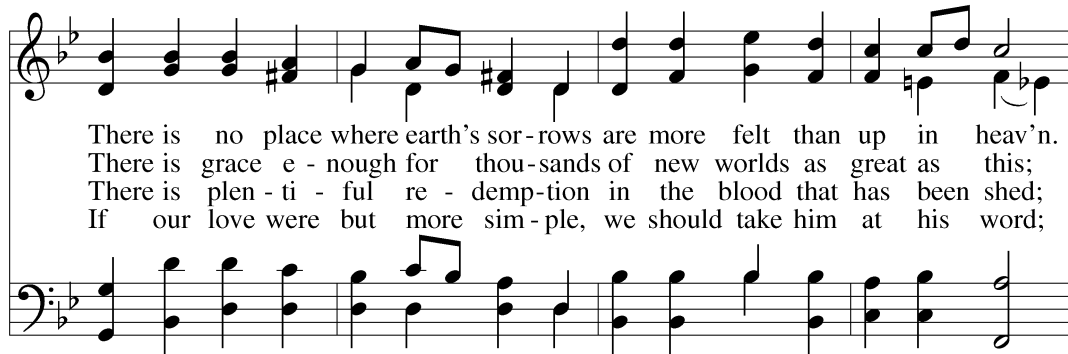
An usher will collect prayer requests during the hymn of the day



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 There is wel-come for the sin-ner, and a prom-ised grace made good;
3 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our mind;
4 'Tis not all we owe to Je-sus; it is some-thing more than all:



there's a kind-ness in his jus-tice which is more than lib - er - ty.
there is mer - cy with the Sav-ior; there is heal-ing in his blood.
and the heart of the e - ter-nal is most won-der - ful - ly kind.
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor-rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is grace e - nough for thou-sands of new worlds as great as this;
There is plen - ti - ful re - demp-tion in the blood that has been shed;
If our love were but more sim-ple, we should take him at his word;



There is no place where earth's fail-ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
there is joy for all the mem-bers in the sor - rows of the head.
and our lives would be all sun - shine in the sweet-ness of our Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863

Music: BEECHER, John Zundel, 1815–1882

NICENE CREED

P Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed:

**C We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the
world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

AM God of grace,

C Receive our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

ANTHEM | DONA NOBIS PACEM

by Mary Lynn Lightfoot

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

A brass plate will be passed during the offertory for your tithes and offerings. You may also give online by visiting ascensionlutheranchurch.org/give. Thank you for your gifts.

OFFERING HYMN | AS THE GRAINS OF WHEAT

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat - tered on the hill were
gath - ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo - ple from
all the ends of earth be gath - ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

Refrain
may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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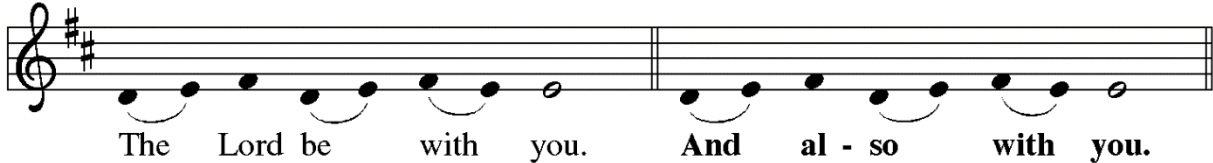
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OFFERING PRAYER

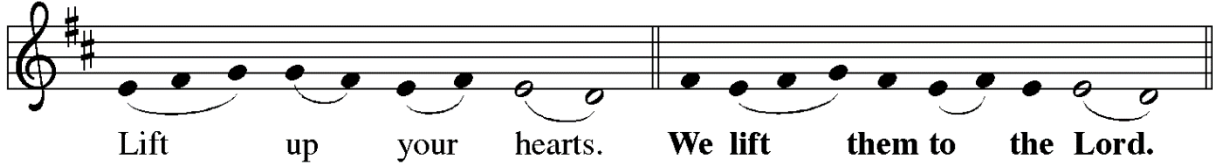
AM Blessed are you, Holy One,
for all good things come from you.
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.
Meet us at this table,
that we receive what we seek
and follow your Son, Jesus,
in whose name we pray.

C **Amen.**

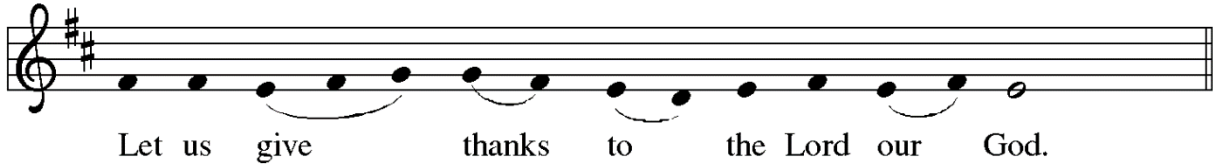
DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,

al-mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ;

who on this day overcame death and the grave,

and by his glorious resur - rec - tion

opened to us the way of ev - er - last - ing life.

And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,

we praise your name and join their un - end - ing 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. Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:
 you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.

You formed the earth from chaos;
 you encircled the globe with air;
 you created fire for warmth and light;
 you nourish the lands with water.
 You molded us in your image,
 and with mercy higher than the mountains,
 with grace deeper than the seas,
 you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.

That also we, estranged and dying,
 might be adopted to live in your Spirit,
 you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

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.

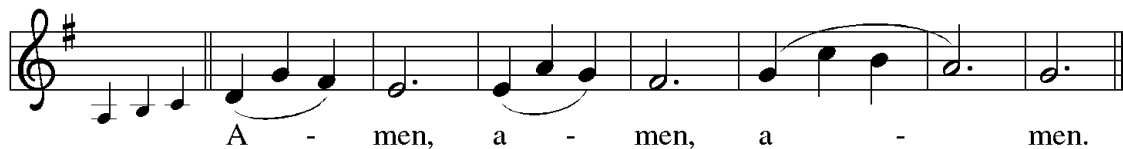
Together as the body of Christ,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:



Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate,
send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit,
whose breath revives us for life,
whose fire rouses us to love.
Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food.
Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit,
that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the
world.

Holy and benevolent God,
receive our praise and petitions,
as Jesus received the cry of the needy,
and fill us with your blessing,

until, needy no longer and bound to you in love,
we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb:
through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever:



LORD'S PRAYER

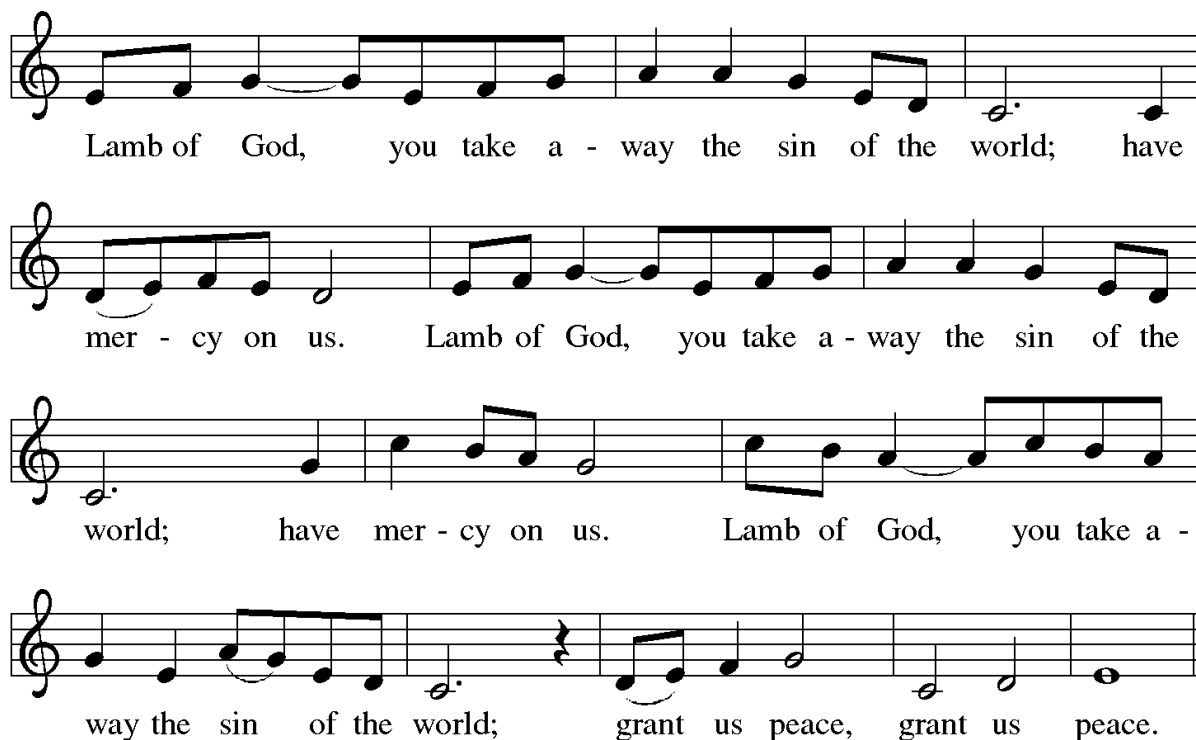
P Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.
Come and see.

AGNUS DEI



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

All are invited forward to receive communion. Communion is celebrated by intinction. Worshipers may receive the blessed bread and dip it in the divided chalice containing red wine or white grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are also available; please let the Pastor know of your preference. Worshipers may also choose to partake using individually-packed elements; these contain a wafer and grape juice. Empty cups may be placed in the basket on your way out of the sanctuary. Those worshipping from home via Zoom are invited to join in communion by providing their own communion elements.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

AM Giver of every gift,
Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.
Raise us to life by your power
for the benefit of all and to your glory,
now and forever.

C **Amen.**

SENDING

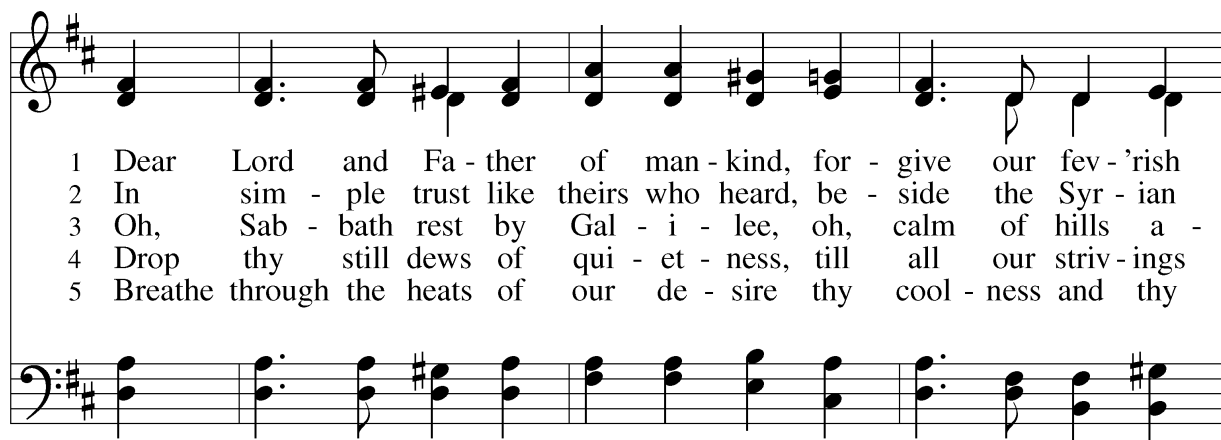
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF LIFE & MINISTRY AT ALC

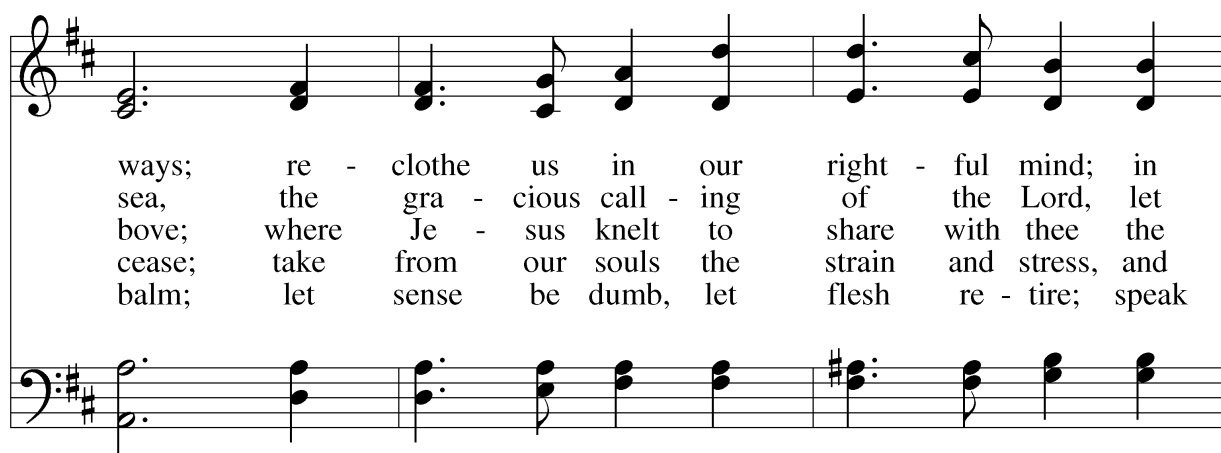
BLESSING

God who names you,
Christ who claims you,
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
✠ bless you and remain with you always.
Amen.

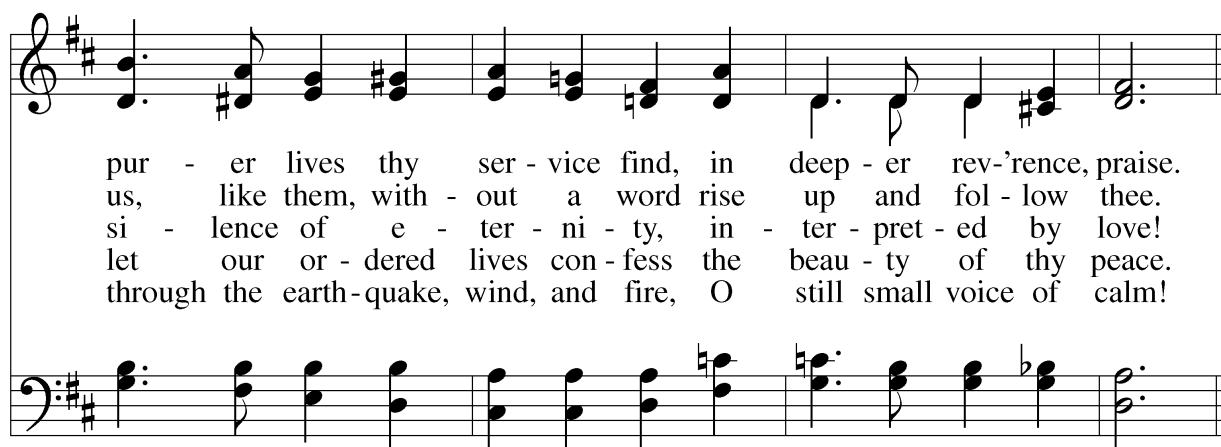
SENDING HYMN | DEAR LORD AND FATHER OF MANKIND



1 Dear Lord and Fa - ther of man - kind, for - give our fev - 'rish
 2 In sim - ple trust like theirs who heard, be - side the Syr - ian
 3 Oh, Sab - bath rest by Gal - i - lee, oh, calm of hills a -
 4 Drop thy still dews of qui - et - ness, till all our striv - ings
 5 Breathe through the heats of our de - sire thy cool - ness and thy



ways; re - clothe us in our right - ful mind; in
 sea, the gra - cious call - ing of the Lord, let
 bove; where Je - sus knelt to share with thee the
 cease; take from our souls the strain and stress, and
 balm; let sense be dumb, let flesh re - tire; speak



pur - er lives thy ser - vice find, in deep - er rev - 'rence, praise.
 us, like them, with - out a word rise up and fol - low thee.
 si - lence of e - ter - ni - ty, in - ter - pret - ed by love!
 let our or - dered lives con - fess the beau - ty of thy peace.
 through the earth - quake, wind, and fire, O still small voice of calm!

Text: John G. Whittier, 1807–1892

Music: REST, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

DISMISSAL

AM Go in peace. You are God’s beloved.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Thank you to our volunteers this week:

- Assisting Minister Doreen Bourbon
- ReaderAnne Chmielewski
- Altar Service.....Tony Eith
- UsherLeslie Gallant
- CountersLeslie Gallant
Sheryl White
- GreeterMonica Shuster-Orth
- FellowshipAmy Loux
- TechJohn Carducci
Tony Eith

Connect with US

The best way to stay informed of church activities is to subscribe to our Constant Contact email listserv. You will receive the weekly worship link, the bi-monthly newsletter, and occasional event reminders and updates. To sign up, visit ascensionlutheranchurch.org/contactus, or email the office at officealc900@gmail.com



Rev. Kayla J. Hopgood, *Pastor* | pastor.kayla.alc@gmail.com
Peter de Mets, *Director of Music* | pdm@peterdemetsmusic.com
Ginny Kraft, *Church Administrator* | officealc900@gmail.com
Beth Peroni, *Bookkeeper* | bookkeeperalc900@gmail.com

The Church Office is open Wednesdays from
9AM - 1PM and Thursdays from 12-4PM.

Learn more about our community at ascensionlutheranchurch.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/AscensionLutheranNewtown
Instagram: AscensionLutheranNewtown