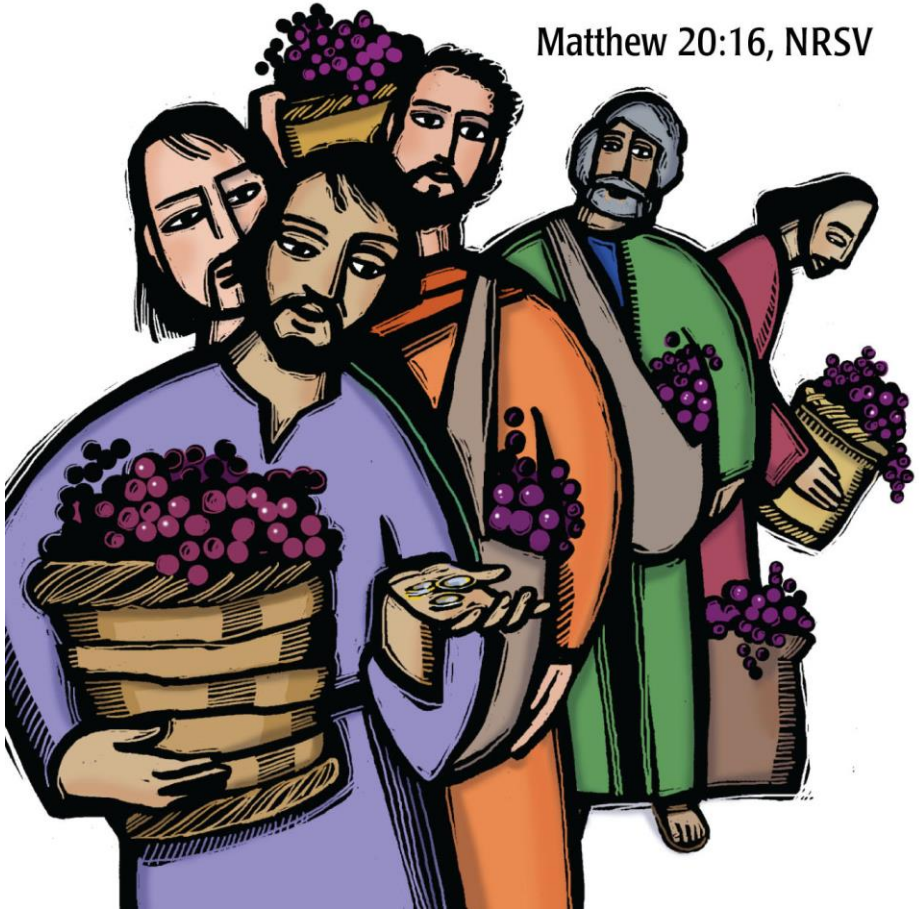


So the **last**  
will be **FIRST**,  
and the  
**first**  
will be **LAST**.

Matthew 20:16, NRSV



September 24, 2023



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
38801 Blacow Road  
Fremont, CA 94536  
Church: (510) 793-6285

September 24, 2023  
10 AM, 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity  
Web Site: [holytrinityfremont.org](http://holytrinityfremont.org)

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Welcome! Enter with Prayer, Worship in Awe, Leave to Serve.

Our worship services are livestreamed on our YouTube channel and our website. If you do not wish to be filmed, please do not sit in the first four pews or the last pew. Children's Time and communion distribution are not filmed.

All invitations to stand or kneel are for those who are able.

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*Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. Faced with hunger in the wilderness, the Israelites long for life back in Egypt and wish they had never left. Then God miraculously and graciously gives them quails and manna to eat. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.*

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## **WE GATHER TO WORSHIP**

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### **SINGING BOWL**

During the ringing of the bowl, you are encouraged to center your thoughts on God the Creator, Christ the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Comforter.

### **PRELUDE**

# WELCOME

Please Stand

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

*P: As we exchange signs of peace and love with one another, let us first look for the stranger who might one day be our friend.*

**All: Let us offer signs of peace and love beyond the familiar friends we so often greet.**

*P: The peace of Christ is with you.*

**All: And also with you.**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We are an open and affirming church. Together, let us worship God, rejoicing in the good news which we celebrate this day!

**All: There is a place in God's heart, there is a place at Christ's table, there is a place here and in every welcoming church for all people.**

L: Christ who gathers us, bids us follow in the ways of love and justice.

**All: May our hearts be open to Christ's leading in our worship and our living, this day and always.**



## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross,  
the sign marked at baptism.

*P: Blessed be God, the one who forms us, Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.*

**All: Amen.**

*P: Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.*

Silence is kept for reflection.

*P: Steadfast and faithful God,*

**All: you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you.**

*P: We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering.*

**All: We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.**

*P: For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.*

**All: For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us.**

*P: For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us.*

**All: Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

*P: Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare.,*

**All: In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.**

*P: In Christ, you are already and always forgiven.*

**All: Amen.**

**FORGIVEN**

# OPENING HYMN: "Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading"

vs. 1,3



1 Gra - cious Spir - it, heed our plead - ing, fash - ion us all a - new.  
3 Guide our think - ing and our speak - ing done in your ho - ly name.



It's your lead - ing that we're need - ing, help us to fol - low you.  
Mo - ti - vate all in their seek - ing, free - ing from guilt and shame.



Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.



Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

## GREETING

*P:* God of hosts most gracious, God the Son who saves us,  
God the Spirit placed upon us, is with you all.

**All:** And also with you.

## KYRIE



L: In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.



All: Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have



L: For the reign of God, and for



mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. L: For your

All: Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have

L: Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.

mer - cy. All: A - men.

Mercy

# NOW THE FEAST AND CELEBRATION



All: Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;  
 praise and glo-ry for - ev - er - more!

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of  
 God; to make all things new. *Refrain*

*Refrain*  
 Now the feast and cel - e - bra-tion, all of cre - a - tion  
 sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;  
 praise and glo-ry for - ev - er - more!

## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

**L:** Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants.

**All:** **Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Be Seated

**CHOIR ANTHEM:** “Arise, My Soul, Arise”

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## WE LISTEN AND THINK

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### INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

R: Abiding Spirit, may our hearts be opened to the mystery of your words,

**All: that the Creator of life may be made known to all.**

R: A reading from Exodus, chapter sixteen, beginning with the second verse.

### READING: *Exodus 16:2-15*

They began to complain against Moses and Aaron there in the wilderness. The people of Israel said to them, “If only we had died by Yahweh’s hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat next to pots of meat and ate our bread till we were filled! But now you have brought the whole community out into this wilderness to die of hunger!”

Then Yahweh said to Moses, “Look, I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people will go out and gather a day’s portion every day, so that I can test them to see if they will follow my instructions. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they brought in, it will be twice as much as the daily gathering.”

So Moses and Aaron said to the Israelites, “In the evening you will know that it was Yahweh who brought you up out of Egypt, and in the morning you will witness the glory of God, the One to whom you directed your complaints—for who are we, that you should complain to us?”

Moses continued, “It is Yahweh who will give you meat in the evening for your meal, and all the bread you want in the morning, because Yahweh has heard your complaints. For it is not to us that you are complaining—who are we?—but to Yahweh.”

Then Moses said to Aaron, “Tell the whole Israelite community, ‘Present yourselves before Yahweh, who has heard your complaints.’”

As Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of Yahweh appearing in the form of a cloud. Then Yahweh spoke to Moses and said, “I have heard the complaining of the people of Israel. Say this to them: ‘In the evening you will eat meat, and in the morning you will have your fill of bread. Then you will know that I, Yahweh, am your God.’”

So it came about that in the evening quail flew in and all around the camp. And in the morning there was a layer of dew all around the camp; when the layer of dew evaporated, there on the surface of the desert were flakes of something: delicate, powdery, fine as frost.

When they saw this, the people of Israel said to each other, “What is it?”—not knowing what it was. But Moses told them, “This is the bread Yahweh has given you to eat.

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

R: Our God is the source of wisdom and understanding.

**All: Bless us with your gifts, O God.**

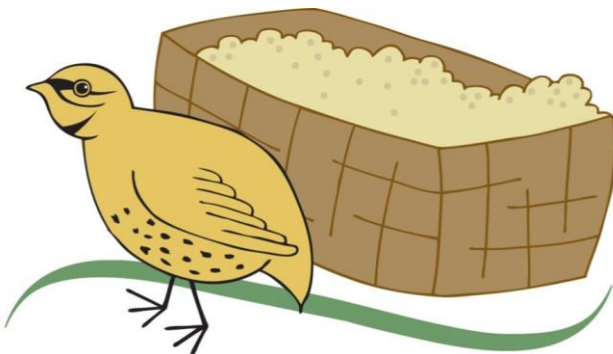
R: Our God feeds us with the bread of life and the wellspring of our salvation.

**All: Bless us with your grace, Christ Jesus.**

R: Our God is the foundation of mercy and compassion.

**All: Bless us with your gifts, Mighty Spirit.**

Please Stand



## ALLELUIA VERSE

All: Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we  
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal  
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

*P:* *The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twentieth chapter.*

**All: Glory to you, O Creator.**

**GOSPEL:** *Matthew 20:1-16*

“The kingdom of heaven is like the owner of an estate who went out at dawn to hire workers for the vineyard. After reaching an agreement with them for the usual daily wage, the owner sent them out to the vineyard.

“About mid-morning, the owner came out and saw others standing around the marketplace without work, and said to them, ‘You go along to my vineyard and I will pay you whatever is fair.’ At that they left.

“Around noon and again in the mid-afternoon, the owner came out and did the same. Finally, going out late in the afternoon, the owner found still others standing around and said to them, ‘Why have you been standing here idle all day?’

“‘No one has hired us,’ they replied.

“The owner said, ‘You go to my vineyard, too.’

“When evening came, the owner said to the overseer, ‘Call the workers and give them their pay, but begin with the last group and end with the first.’ When those hired late in the afternoon came up, they received a full day’s pay, and when the first group appeared they assumed they would get more.

Yet they all received the same daily wage.

“Thereupon they complained to the owner, ‘This last group did only an hour’s work, but you’ve put them on the same basis as those who worked a full day in the scorching heat.’”

“ ‘My friends,’ said the owner to those who voiced this complaint, ‘I do you no injustice. You agreed on the usual wage, didn’t you? Take your pay and go home. I intend to give this worker who was hired last the same pay as you. I’m free to do as I please with my money, aren’t I? Or are you envious because I am generous?’”

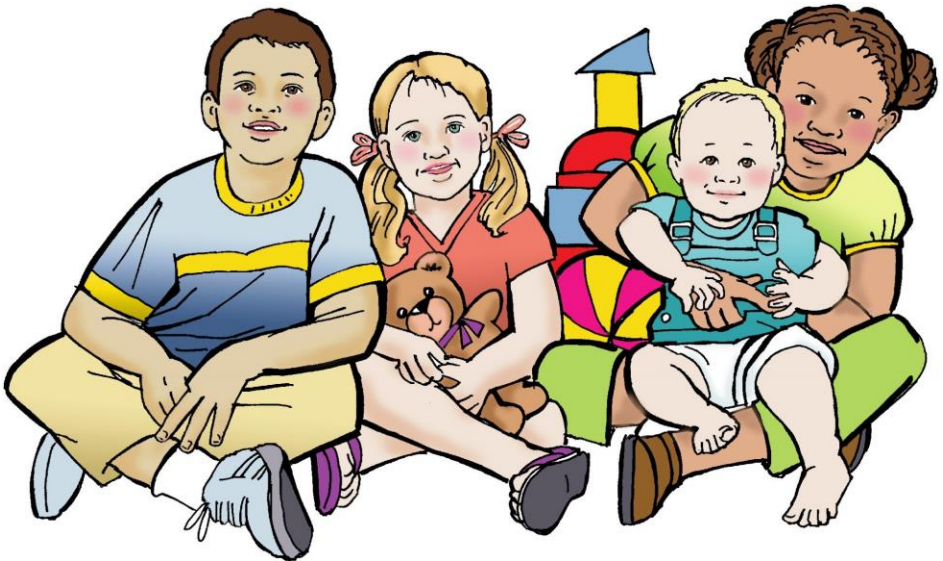
“Thus the last will be first and the first will be last.”

*P: The Gospel of the Risen Savior.*

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Be Seated

**CHILDREN’S TIME** – Pastor Tim



Please Stand

# HYMN OF THE DAY: “Great God, Your Love Has Called Us” vs. 1,3



1 Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for  
3 Great God, in Christ you call our name and then re - ceive us



love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,  
as your own, not through some mer - it, right, or claim,



though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our  
but by your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse your



heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.  
mer - cy seat and find you kneel - ing at our feet.

Be Seated

MESSAGE – Pastor Tim

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## WE SHARE THE LORD’S SUPPER

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Please Stand

### APOSTLE’S CREED

L: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostle’s Creed:

**All: 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.

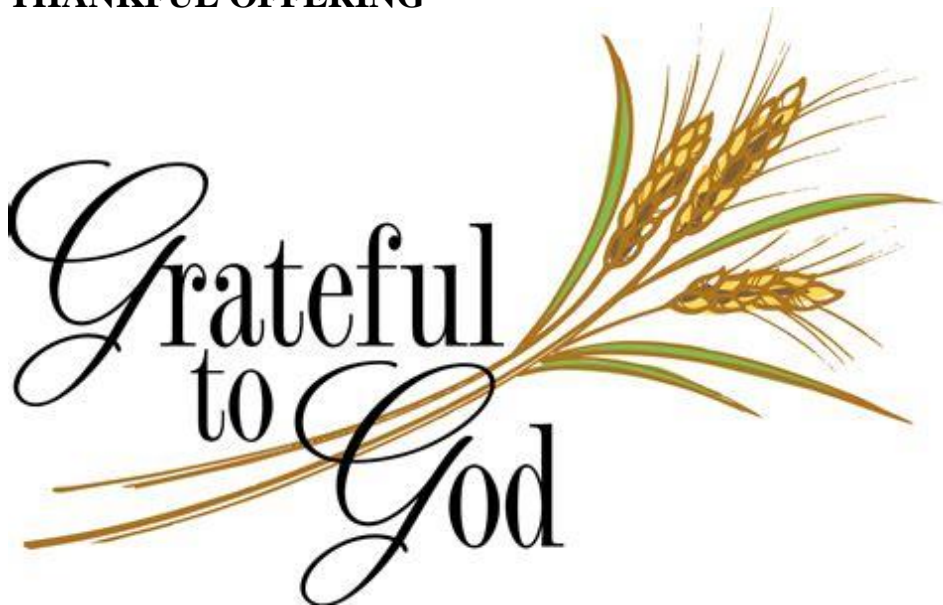
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

L: Children of God, we have received much from God—grace, mercy, abundance, the love of Christ, and the gift of life itself.

All: In our worship, we praise God and give God thanks for these gifts. Let us now offer what we can as a way of saying, “Thank you.” In gratitude for God’s generosity, let us share God’s abundance with one another.

## THANKFUL OFFERING



Please Stand

## OFFERTORY

*Refrain*

All: 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.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Gracious and loving God, we thank you for these gifts and ask that they be used to help the needy in our community and throughout the world.

**All: As we offer you these gifts, we offer ourselves as well, that together we might transform the world with your grace and love. Amen.**

## THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors. God who is gracious and merciful, teach your church to invite and welcome all. Lead us to be grateful for the blessing of community. Challenge your church to choose equity and compassion over judgment. Merciful God,

**All: receive our prayer.**



L: God who sends the wind and the sun, you know every worm and bush by name. Help us remember that even the humblest parts of creation are precious to you. Show us how best to care for the earth and its creatures.  
Merciful God,

**All: receive our prayer.**

L: God who is ready to relent from punishing, impart your compassionate wisdom to legislators, judges, members of the military, and law enforcement. Give them courage to serve their communities in times of uncertainty, stress, or exhaustion. Merciful God,

**All: receive our prayer.**

L: God who saves, direct your people who are tempted by evil ways. Protect your children from calamity and disaster. Strengthen all who are incarcerated. Encourage all who are in despair or pain of any kind. Merciful God,

**All: receive our prayer.**

L: God of all, hear now the prayers of our heart said silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Merciful God,

**All: receive our prayer.**

L: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

**All: Amen.**



# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you. All: And al - so with  
you. L: Lift up your hearts. All: We  
lift them to the Lord. L: Let us give  
thanks to the Lord our God. All: It is  
right to give God thanks and praise.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*P:* We give thanks and praise to you, God of love and grace!  
With gratitude, we recall how you formed us from the  
very earth, made covenant with us from the beginning of  
time, and call us again and again to be your people.

**All:** In your amazing love, you came as one of us in the  
form of Jesus the Christ, showing us the way of  
unconditional love and the path of self-giving service.

*P:* In the night in which he was betrayed 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." With  
thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup and  
proclaim the mystery of faith.

**All:** Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

*P: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us that this meal may be a communion in the body and blood of our Savior. Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast. Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, and inspire us to love, that we may serve as your faithful disciples until we feast at your table in glory.*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using the language or translation of our hearts.*

**All: 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.**

## **FRACTION RITE**

*P: Come to the table and taste God's mercy and grace. Come to the table and drink Christ's living water.*

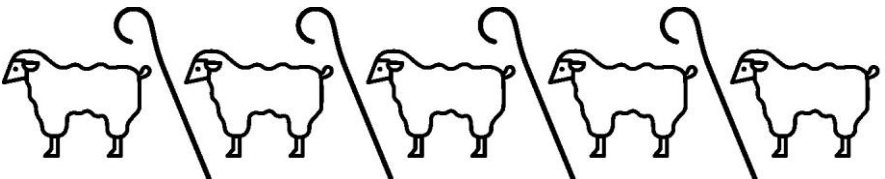
**All: We come to the table to share in a meal overflowing with God's love.**

*P: Come, children of God,*

**All: for all are welcome here!**

Be Seated

The ushers will invite you to God's Table  
after the Lamb of God is sung.



# LAMB OF GOD



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

Holy Communion is open to all.  
Grape juice is white, wine is red.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Let an usher know if you need communion brought to you.

## Communing TOGETHER



# COMMUNION HYMN: "Give Me Jesus"



1 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,  
2 Dark . . . mid-night was my cry, dark . . . mid-night was my cry,  
3 Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,  
4 Oh, . . . when I come to die, oh, . . . when I come to die,  
5 And . . . when I want to sing, and . . . when I want to sing,



in the morn - ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.  
dark . . . mid - night was my cry, give me Je - sus.  
just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus.  
oh, . . . when I come to die, give me Je - sus.  
and . . . when I want to sing, give me Je - sus.



*Refrain*  
Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.



You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.



# COMMUNION HYMN: "All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na is our bread.  
2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.  
3 All who hun-ger, sing to- geth- er, Je- sus Christ is liv- ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.  
Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.  
Come from lone-li-ness and long-ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.  
We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.  
Blest are those who from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.



Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.

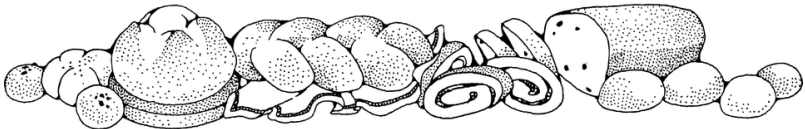
## SINGING BOWL

Please Stand

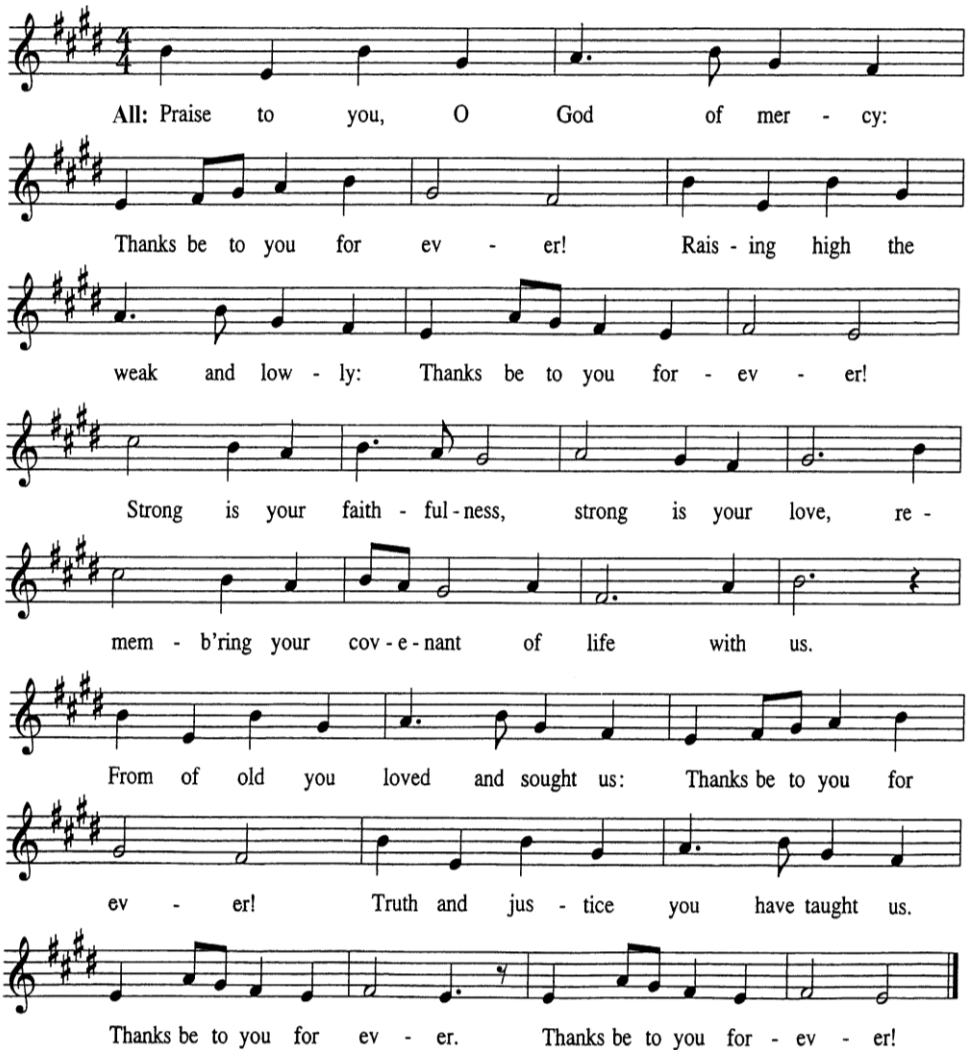
## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

*P:* O God, you are Hospitality. You are Welcome. You are the Invitation, the Table, the Feast. By your spirit may we learn to receive and offer grace, to share from the sustenance of our lives and not simply its crumbs.

**All:** Embolden us as we serve as the voice of those who continue to ask the church for justice and bread. In Christ we pray. Amen.



## POST COMMUNION THANKS



All: Praise to you, O God of mer - cy:  
Thanks be to you for ev - er! Rais - ing high the  
weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for - ev - er!  
Strong is your faith - ful - ness, strong is your love, re -  
mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.  
From of old you loved and sought us: Thanks be to you for  
ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us.  
Thanks be to you for ev - er. Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

Be Seated

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Stand

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**WE CARRY GOD'S CARING LOVE TO THE WORLD**

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## BENEDICTION

*P:* God meets us on our wilderness journeys,

**All:** that we may not journey alone.

*P:* Christ tends us on our wilderness journeys,

**All:** that we may receive our daily bread.

*P:* The Spirit sustains us on our wilderness journeys, that we may be strengthened for what lies ahead.

**All:** We go with God's blessings.

## SENDING HYMN: "Voices Raised to You" vs. 1,5



1 Voic - es raised to you we of - fer; tune them, God, for  
5 How can an - y praise we of - fer mea - sure all the



songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute  
thanks we owe? Take our hearts and hands and voic - es—



for your gifts through all our days. Al - le - lu - ia!  
gifts of love we can be - stow. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!

## DISMISSAL

**L:** Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

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"Now the Feast and Celebration" Musical setting by Marty Haugen  
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