

*... as for me and
my household,*
**we will serve
the LORD.**

Joshua 24:15, NRSV



August 25, 2024

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

August 25, 2024
10 AM – 14th Sunday after Pentecost
Ministers: The People of HTLC & HRLC
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

If you're looking for a community that seeks to follow God's vision, there is a place for you here. Trust that the mystery of God has brought you this far on your journey and will guide your future steps. All of who you are is welcome here.

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.

WELCOME TO THE STORY

In today's gospel many people take offense at Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus' disciples peel off. This is the backdrop in John's gospel for Peter's confession of faith. "To whom can we go?" asks Peter, in words we sometimes sing just before the gospel is read. "You have the words of eternal life." In order to take such a stand, as Peter and Joshua did, Paul tells us to arm ourselves with the word of God. We pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the gospel.

A Story that Invites Us

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: “*Sweet Hour of Prayer*” – Bell Choir

WELCOME

Please Stand

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: Whether we come to worship with regrets and sadness or with joy and thanksgiving, passing the peace of Christ heals the broken places in our lives and seals our bonds of fellowship. Let us take time to share this gift of peace with one another, both in this worship space and in our hearts. The peace of Christ is with you.

All: And also with you.

Please safely share the peace with one another.

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

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

P: Merciful God, buffeted by the winds of life,

All: we have grown weary and yearn for your hand to hold us.

P: Pour forth your words of peace, and bring us back to life.

All: Forgive us when we are heedless to the needs of others.

P: Correct our ways when we are self-centered and neglect the poor and powerless.

All: Be our vision when we seek refuge in our wealth and possessions.

P: Draw us to you, Holy One,

All: and lead us into life. Amen.

Silence for Reflection

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

P: Hear the good news: In Christ, we are united and reconciled with God.

All: We will rejoice in the knowledge that we receive forgiveness and abundant life in God's name.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Why have you come to this place?

All: We are tired in body and spirit.

L: Why have you come today?

All: We have come to follow Jesus.

L: Come and eat your fill.

All: But there are only five barley loaves and two fish.

L: There is plenty for all.

All: Jesus gathers the fragments of our lives, that nothing may be lost. Come! Let us worship.

OPENING HYMN: "Open Up the Heavens"

Favorite Hymn of Cindy Franco

We've waited for this day
We're gathered in your name
Calling out to you
Your glory like a fire
Awakening desire
Will burn our hearts with truth
You're the reason we're here
You're the reason we're singing

Chorus:

Open up the heavens
We want to see you
Open up the floodgates
A mighty river
Flowing from your heart
Filling every part of our praise

Your presence in this place
Your glory on our face
We're looking to the sky
Descending like a cloud
You're standing with us now
Lord, unveil our eyes
You're the reason we're here
You're the reason we're singing

Chorus

Show us, show us your glory
Show us, show us your power
Show us, show us your glory, Lord
(Repeat)

Open up the heavens
We want to see you
Open up the floodgates
A mighty river
Flowing from your heart
Filling every part of our praise
(4 times)

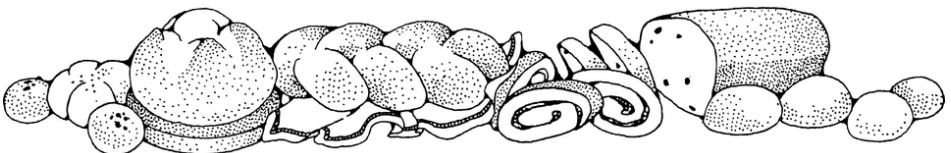
GREETING

P: God of grace and glory, pour out the power of your Holy Spirit on our worship and our gathering.

All: Strengthen and protect us with your steadfast faithfulness.

P: Feed us with the bread of life, and guide our steps with the wisdom of your word.

All: In your holy name, we pray. Amen.



LITANY

L: In the beginning...

All: The dance began to swirl and ponder.

L: In the beginning, all was dark.

All: And the dance cast forth bright light.

L: In the beginning, the earth burst forth with wondrous things, creatures of all sorts, mountains and hills, vast seas and rivers, valleys and desert areas.

All: And the God of the Dance saw that it was good and blessed it all.

L: In our beginning, God blessed us.

All: And the dance went on, through our lives, into all that we have done.

L: Sometimes the dance was slow and plodding; at other times it was sprightly and fast.

All: Yet in the midst of it all, the God of the Dance is with us.

L: This dance, called Life, is everywhere - in the light and in the dark. It is in places of hope and in places of deepest sorrow and tragedy.

All: How shall we dance our dance for God?

L: We shall live lives of hope and peace, bringing the good news of Jesus Christ and all that he taught to us, so that others may join the dance.

All: Praise be to the God of the Dance, the God of Creation, the God of Life. Hear us as we sing:

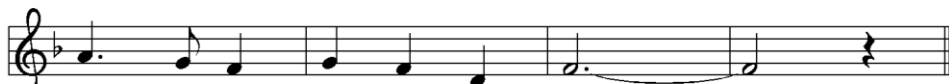


HYMN OF PRAISE: "Glory to God"

Refrain



All: Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and



peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you



for your glo - ry. *Refrain* Glo - ry to God in the high-



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



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



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

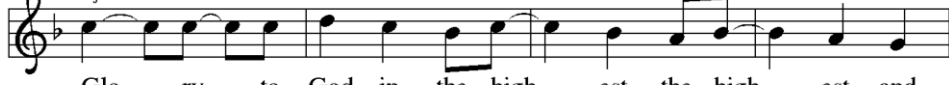


world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat-ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain



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

peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 3 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. A - men. A - men.
Final refrain
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and peace to God's
 peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God in the high -
 est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal.

All: **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. Amen.**

Be Seated

The Story that Shapes and Forms Us

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

R: God, teach us how to dance to the rhythm of your wisdom;

All: show us how to laugh

R: so that we can live for the praise of your glory in Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

R: The first reading is from Joshua, chapter twenty-four, beginning with the first verse.

FIRST READING: *Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18*

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. And Joshua said to all the people, “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. 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.”

Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; 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; 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.”

R: Here ends the reading. The second reading is from Ephesians, chapter six, beginning with the tenth verse

SECOND READING: *Ephesians 6:10-20*

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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.

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. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. 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. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

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. 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, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

R: This is the living Word of God, lifted before the people of God.

All: We give thanks for God's unfailing Word. Amen.

Please Stand

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.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P: *The Holy Gospel according to John, the sixth chapter.*

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

GOSPEL: *John 6:56-69*

[Jesus said,] “Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. 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.” He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. 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. And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

P: The Gospel, the good news of God.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Be Seated

CHILDREN’S TIME – Pastor Barbara



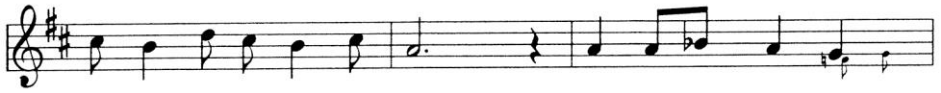
Please Stand

HYMN: "You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord"

Favorite Hymn of Kathy Miedema, Janice Schaefer, and
Marta Wicke



1 You who . . . dwell in the shel - ter of the Lord, who a -
2 Snares of the fowl - er will nev - er cap - ture you, and
3 For to the an - gels God's giv - en a com - mand to



bide in this shad - ow for life, say to the Lord: "My . . .
fam - ine will bring you no fear; un - der God's wings your . . .
guard you in all of your ways; up - on their hands they will



ref - uge, . . . my . . . rock in whom I . . . trust!"
ref - uge . . . with . . . faith - ful - ness your . . . shield.
bear you up, lest you dash your foot a - gainst a stone.

Refrain



"And I will raise you up on ea - gle's wings



bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the



sun, and hold you in the palm of my hand."

Be Seated

MESSAGE – Rick Koski

A Story that Feeds Us

INVITATION TO OFFERING

L: As God has welcomed us, so God invites us to welcome others with generous gifts and heartfelt love.

All: May we share our offerings and gifts in this spirit of generosity and love.

THANKFUL OFFERING

Please Stand

OFFERTORY RESPONSE



1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Bread of heaven, thank you for nourishing us with your mercy and your grace. Thank you for blessing us to be your disciples—disciples who share freely with your world.

All: May our gifts and offerings become food and blessings for your world. Amen.



THE PRAYERS

L: 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. Holy God, you have the words of eternal life. Lead the church to put its trust in Jesus, the living Word. Direct preachers, teachers, writers, and all the baptized in faithful speech and bold witness. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

L: 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 work of conservation organizations, ELCA advocacy, and local climate justice advocates. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

L: 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. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

L: God of new life, protect students and teachers for a new school year. Bring an end to school shootings and cycles of violence. Move us to do all that is necessary to ensure a safe future for our children. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Merciful God,,

All: receive our prayer.

L: Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

L: Our Creator is with you.

All: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to our Creator.

L: Let us give thanks to our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

P: Lifegiving God, your word speaks in the void, calling into being things that are not, inviting us to share your work of creation.

All: We thank you for the ages long; of gathering stars and cooling earth, of life evolving and waking eyes of wonder.

P: We thank you for the creatures with whom we share the world; for their lives so different from our own

All: and the richness they reveal.

P: We thank you for our Redeemer, formed from Mary's flesh and nurtured by her faith; he walked the growing earth and proclaimed a fearless kingdom of bird and lily,

All: child and stranger, the beggar and the blind.

P: On the cross, he joined the labor of all creation's yearning; in his rising, he hallowed all flesh to bear the glory of God;

All: he gives the brooding Spirit to bring to birth a living hope.

P: Therefore, with all that has life through him; with animals and angels and all who hope for a new creation, we share the song of love which sounds from all eternity:

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

P: Holy are you, and holy is your child, Jesus Christ, who taught his disciples in stories and parables,

All: that the realm of God is all around us when we look with the eyes of faith.

P: On the night in which he gave himself up, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup, offered thanks and gave it to the disciples, saying: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my life in the new covenant, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." And so, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be the body of Christ to a world that yearns to be made new.

All: We ask this through Jesus Christ our Savior, by whom and with whom and in whom in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory be yours, Mother of blessings, for ever and ever. Amen.

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

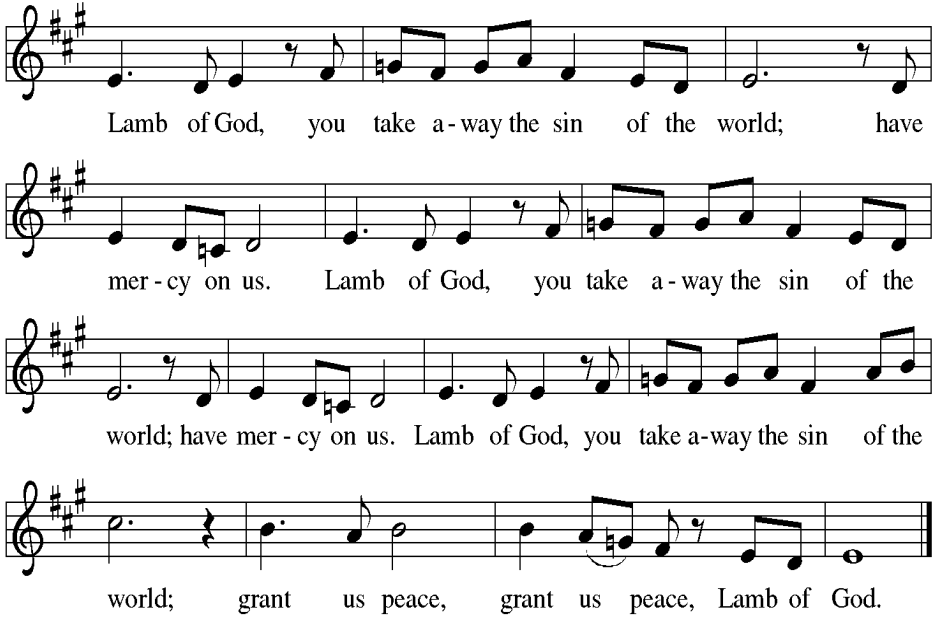
All: Happy are we who receive Jesus the Bread of Life.

Be Seated

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



LAMB OF GOD



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, Lamb of God.

DISTRIBUTION

Holy Communion is open to all.

Wine is red, grape juice is yellow, water is in the center of the tray.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

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

For communion at the altar rail:

When directed by the ushers, you may come up the center aisle to the altar rail, stand or kneel, and hold out your hand for the pastor to drop the host into. Eat. Then take a cup of wine (red), grape juice (light yellow), or water (clear) from the assistant. Drink. Then place your empty cup in the tray that follows. Rise and return to your seat via the side aisles.



COMMUNION HYMN: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

Favorite Hymn of Faye Williams



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



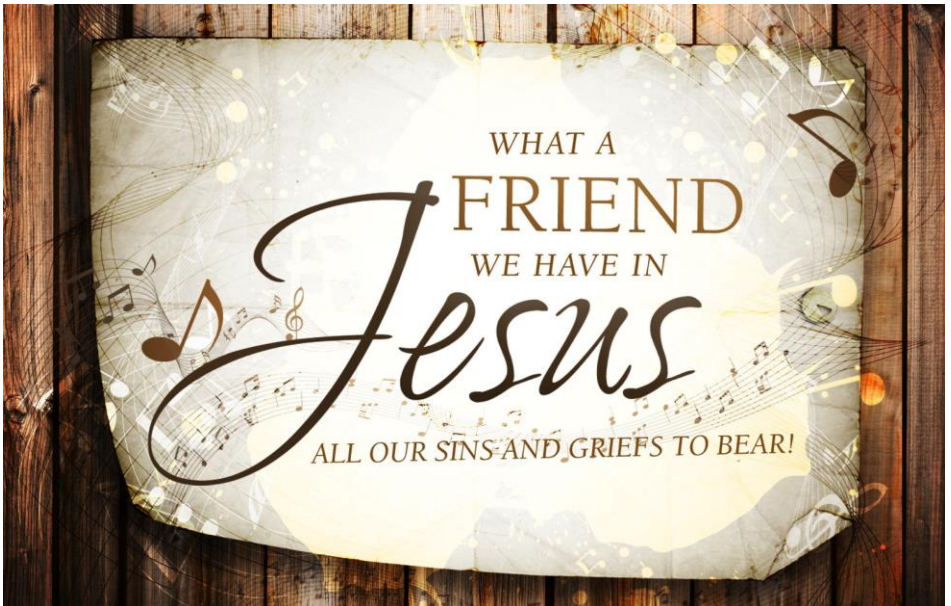
What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge—take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.



COMMUNION HYMN: "What Wondrous Love Is This"

Favorite Hymn of Ann Harren



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

SINGING BOWL

Please Stand

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: *Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask.*

All: **As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may share in your great love.

All: Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are an everlasting God!
Amen.

Be Seated

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAREWELL AND GODSPEED



Please Stand

A Story that Sends Us Out to Love and Serve

COMMISSIONING

P: Go to follow Jesus,

All: who gives us the bread of life.

P: Go to walk in the ways of Christ,

All: who strengthens us in our inner being through the power of the Holy Spirit.

P: Go to serve our living God,

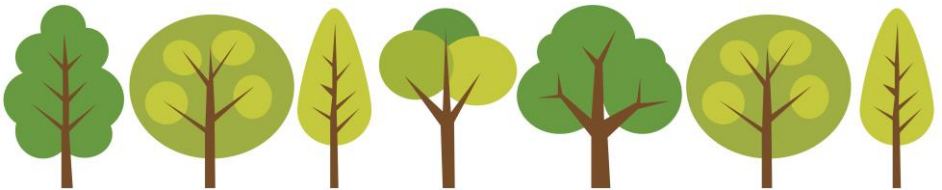
All: who gathers the fragments of our lives, that nothing may be lost.

SENDING HYMN: “The Trees of the Field” (sung twice)

Favorite Hymn of Collette Koski



You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace, and the
moun-tains and the hills will break forth be - fore you. There'll be
shouts of joy and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.
And all the trees of the field will clap their hands. The
trees of the field will clap their hands. The trees of the field will
clap their hands, while you go out with joy.



DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE