

Prelude

Noisy Offering

GATHERING

Gathering Hymn

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

Hymn No. 836

Greeting

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

Hymn of Praise

“Now the Feast and Celebration”

Hymn No. 167

Prayer of the Day

(Together) **O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Teaching Moment

Children’s Sermon

WORD

First Lesson

Acts 10:44–48

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.

⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?”

⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

(After the reading:) The word of the Lord. **R/ Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 98 *(Responsively, Lector and People)*

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness
in the sight of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

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**⁴Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.

**⁶With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.

**⁸Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
who comes to judge the earth.**

⁹The LORD will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

Second Lesson

1 John 5:1–6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

(After the reading:) The word of the Lord. **R/ Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

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**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia,
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

John 15:9–17

(Spoken after the announcement) **R/ Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹²This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you.

¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the

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(3)

master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

(Spoken after the reading) **R/ Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Christine Thomas-Echelbarger

Hymn of the Day

“Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth”

Hymn No. 735

(To the tune of “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”)

Blessing of High School Seniors

Prayers of Intercession

Confident that the resurrection of Christ has defeated sin and death, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

(After each petition:) Let us pray..... **Have mercy, O God.**

Hear our prayers for the sake of the one who has set us free, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R/ And also with you.

MEAL

Choir Anthem

"How Can I Keep from Singing"

Arr. Davis (8:30)

Martin Hubmann, Oboe & Zichao Lin, Violin

Offering

Offering Prayer

(Together) **Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

R/ And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

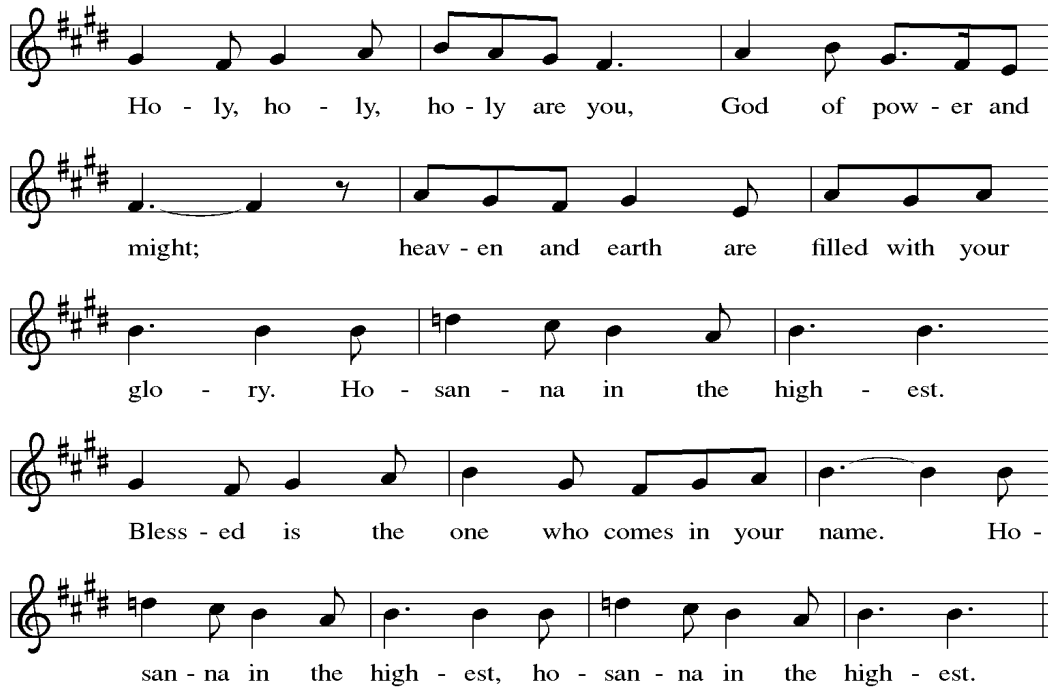
R/ We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R/ It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(4)

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy, living, and loving God... Through him all glory is yours Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

(Together) **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.**

Invitation

Jesus said, "I am the true vine. Abide in me as I abide in you." All are welcome.

Lamb of God

Distribution

We invite all baptized Christians and visitors of all denominations, even the youngest, to the table of the Lord. Children who desire a blessing rather than receiving the bread and the wine should stand with folded hands to indicate their preference. Please follow the ushers' directions to one of several communion stations in the sanctuary. If you need to have the sacrament brought to your pew, please inform an usher. Receive the wine or indicate a preference for grape juice by asking the server or pointing to the center of the tray.

Distribution Hymns

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

Hymn No. 742

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

Hymn No. 879

Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

R/ Amen.

Prayer after Communion

(Together) **Life-giving God, we give you thanks for nourishing us with the bread of heaven and the wine of love, Jesus our risen Savior. As you send us into the world, guard us from the power of evil, keep us in unity with all your people, and by your Spirit move us to testify to your grace in our words and actions; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

Benediction

Almighty God, who raised our Lord Jesus from death,
lift you up and restore you to wholeness.

Amen.

Jesus Christ, the Word of life,
bless you and send you to be his witnesses.

Amen.

God the Holy Spirit, who renews the whole earth,
refresh you in the gift of baptism this day and always.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

“Borning Cry”

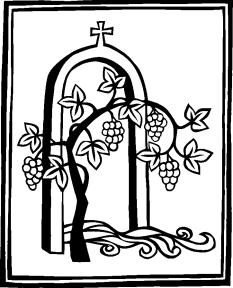
Hymn No.732

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news. Serve the Lord.

R/ Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude



This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

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