

# Mt. Zion – St. Luke Lutheran Church



Mt. Zion – St. Luke Lutheran Church, Oglethorpe, Georgia: Founded 1838

## **Our Mission Statement:**

*We are called to seek out and invite all our neighbors to experience the love of God and the joy of Christian fellowship.*

**Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.**

**Sunday Worship: 11:00 a.m.**

**Holy Communion every Sunday.**

**All are welcome to commune with us.**

**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Sunday, September 17, 2017**

**Welcome** to Mt. Zion - St. Luke Lutheran Church! We hope that today's Worship Service will be spiritually refreshing for you and that you will worship with us again! We enjoy children of all ages at our worship services, but a nursery room is available if needed. An usher can direct you.

All who seek to meet the Risen Christ in the bread and the wine are invited to commune with us. The usher will direct you to the rail. We alternate weekly between the common cup and individual cups of wine or grape juice. The pastor will give you a wafer or bread, saying, "The body of Christ, given for you." to which you respond, "Amen." The communion assistant will offer the wine or grape juice, saying, "The blood of Christ, shed for you." to which you respond "Amen." Gluten-free wafers are also offered for those who prefer them. Those not receiving communion are invited to come forward for a blessing, crossing your arms over your chest so the pastor knows.

If there is something we can do to help make your worship experience more meaningful, please let one of the ushers know. *Please complete our guest form at the entrance!*

### Serving Today

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<b>Ministers:</b>	The People of Mt. Zion - St. Luke
<b>Presiding Minister:</b>	Pastor Barbara Koch
<b>Organist:</b>	Collette Fand
<b>Lectors:</b>	Jon Coogle and Katie Felker
<b>Communion assistant:</b>	Julia Snipes
<b>Ushers:</b>	Jim Trask and Jimmy Watson
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Max Wood and Bobby Martin
<b>Acolyte:</b>	Ava Felker

*Today's Flowers were given to the glory of God in loving memory of James Smith, Sarah and John Trask and in honor of Mary Ann Smith by Tricia and Jimmy Trask*

### Weekly Calendar

**Today, Sunday, September 17th** – Sunday School; Worship; Mutual Ministry; Family Day Dinner

**Tuesday, September 19th** – Centering Prayer 8:30 a.m.

**Wednesday, September 20th** – Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

**Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup>** - Oaks Nursing Home 10:00 a.m.

***Please Pray For Members:*** Jim Arnold, Al Coogle, Bess Edwards, Brenden Fitzgerald, Jr, Mary Hammock, Myrtle Joiner, Nancy McCarty, Tommy Martin, Zack Martin, Helen Smith, Leigh Powell and Tricia Trask, Tony Webb, Lucile Williams and for all the ministries of our church and for our Military.

***For Friends and Family:*** Matthew Anderson, John Arnold, Trey Chapple, Chic Cole, Brian Dietz, Karen Drysdale, Joann Edwards, Trey Futrell, Allison Greene, Langdon Harp, Freddie & Linda Hartley, Jenny Joiner, Nancy Joyce, Mary Lamberth, Harris Lott, Charlene Oliver, Ron Ricklef, Kim Sangster, and Virginia Taylor. Those affected by Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma.

Church: 478- 472-6173  
Pastor Barb Koch

Email: [wepray@windstream.net](mailto:wepray@windstream.net)  
Cell: 912-677-7011

Website: [www.MZSL.org](http://www.MZSL.org)  
[pastorbarbkoch@windstream.net](mailto:pastorbarbkoch@windstream.net)

**Readings for Sunday, September 24, 2017: Jonah 3:10-4:11; Ps.145:1-8; Phil. 1:21-30; Matt. 20:1-16**

## **PRELUDE**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

*We stand.*

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the ✠ holy Trinity,  
the one who fashions us, the one who heals us,  
the one who reforms us again and again.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P: Source of all life,

**C: we confess that we have not allowed  
your grace to set us free.  
We fear that we are not good enough.  
We hear your word of love freely given to us,  
yet we expect others to earn it.  
We turn the church inward,  
rather than moving it outward.  
Forgive us. Stir us.  
Reform us to be a church powered by love,  
willing to speak for what is right,  
act for what is just,  
and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.**

P: God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us  
and to empower our lives in the world.  
In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.  
God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up  
as God's people who will always be made new,  
**Amen.**

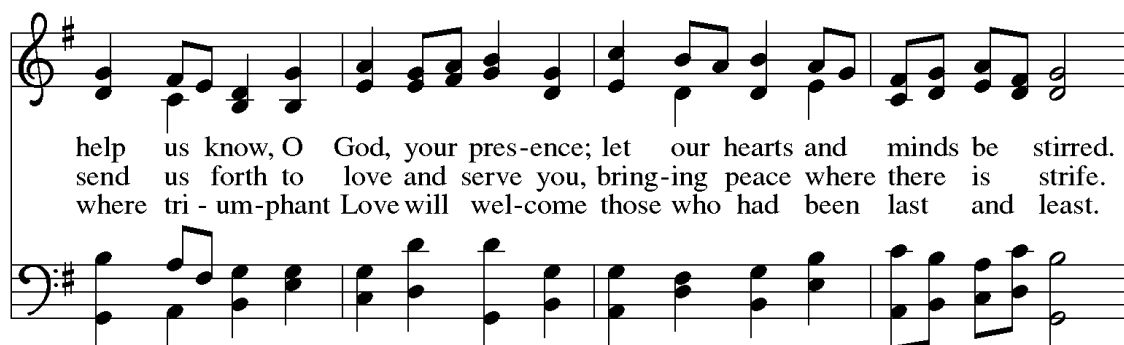
### **ENTRANCE HYMN:**

*We Gather at Your Table*

# As We Gather at Your Table



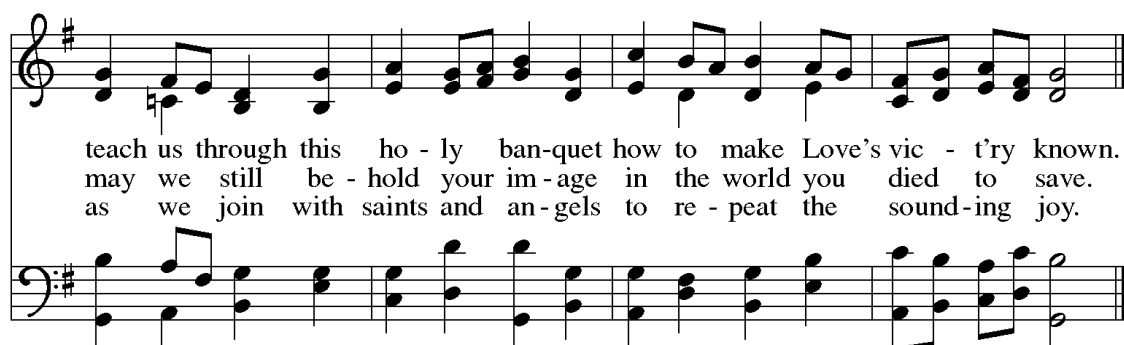
1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,  
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;  
3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.  
where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;  
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;  
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.  
may we still be - hold your im-age in the world you died to save.  
as we join with saints and an-gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855–1932

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## 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.**

**CELEBRATION HYMNAL:** (red book)

*Lord I Lift Your Name On High*

Hymn 107

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

**C: O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*We sit.*

## FIRST READING: GENESIS 50:15-21

*After Jacob's death, the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.*

<sup>15</sup>Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 103:8-13

<sup>8</sup>The LORD is merciful and gracious,  
**slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

<sup>9</sup>He will not always accuse,  
**nor will he keep his anger forever.**

<sup>10</sup>He does not deal with us according to our sins,  
**nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

<sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
**so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;**

<sup>12</sup>as far as the east is from the west,  
**so far he removes our transgressions from us.**

<sup>13</sup>As a father has compassion for his children,  
**so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.**

## SECOND READING: ROMANS 14:1-12

*This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.*

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. <sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. <sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." <sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

*We stand.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (sung)

**C: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
And a light unto my path.**

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
And a light unto my path.**

Text: Amy Grant, based on Psalm 119:105

Music: Michael W. Smith

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P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

### GOSPEL: MATTHEW 18:21-35

*When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.*

<sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. <sup>23</sup>“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ**

*We sit.*

### SERMON

*(A brief silence for reflection follows.)*

*We stand.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

*Oh Father, We Have Wandered*

1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;  
 2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,  
 3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,

in fool-ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.  
 be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.  
 com-pas-sion-ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,

But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,  
 In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,  
 grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.

as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.  
 in glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.  
 Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929–2006  
 Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750  
 Text from *Resource Collection of Hymns and Service Music for the Liturgy*, © 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc.

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## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**C: 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.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

*After each petition:*

P: Lord in your mercy,

**C: Hear Our Prayer**

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit.

**C: Amen**

## **PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

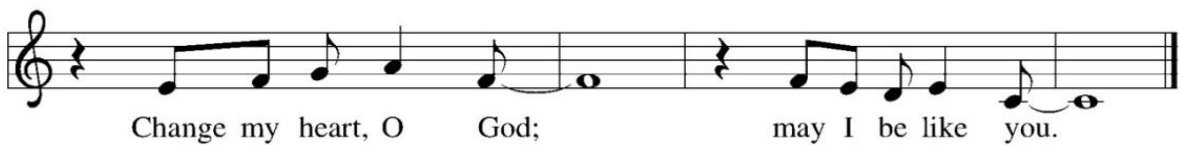
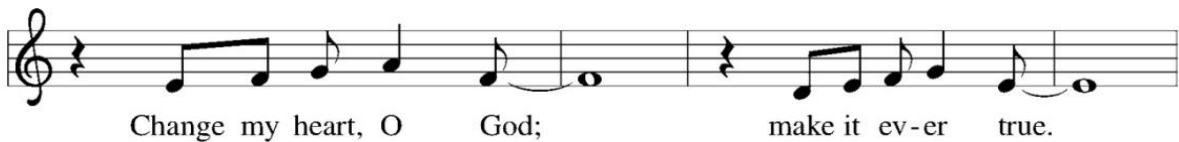
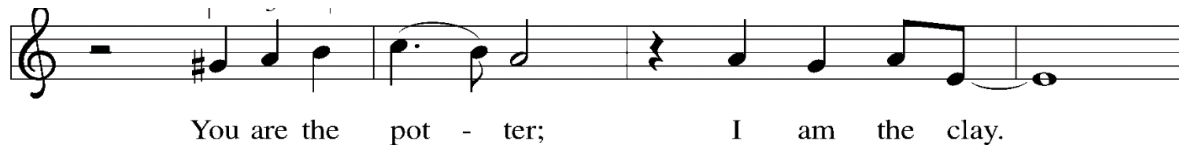
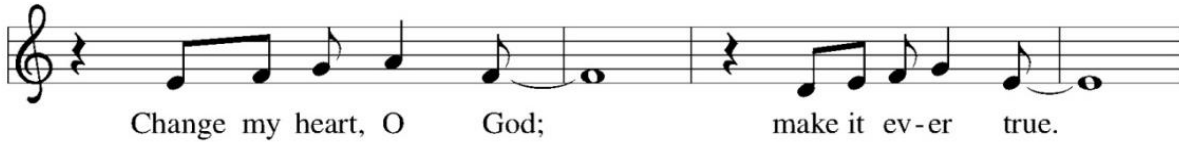
*We sit.*

## **OFFERING**

*We stand.*

**OFFERING SONG:**     *Change my heart, O God*

## Change my Heart, O God



Text: Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953

Music: CHANGE MY HEART, Eddie Espinosa

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### OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

**C: God of life, you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

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

### Holy, Holy, Holy *Santo, santo, santo*

San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra.  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.

Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: San - to e - res Se - ñor.  
My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the next two lines. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and simple melodic lines.

Text: Argentine traditional  
Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, Argentine traditional

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Abundant God, from your good soil you make enough to feed and inspire all your children, and out of your earth you bring the glory of resurrected life. Come among us now through the power of your Spirit, that we may be transformed into your likeness, and that these gifts of bread and wine may become for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ; who, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, blessed, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

“Take and eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”  
And then he took the cup of wine, blessed it, and gave it to them, saying, “Take and drink, all of you. This is a new covenant in my blood, which was shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me.”  
Great is the mystery of faith.

**C: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

P: Sanctify your groaning creation, that your universe may breathe your breath and be filled with life anew. Sanctify us, so that we may love what you love, and do what you would have us do. We ask this in Jesus' name

**C: Amen**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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 TO COMMUNION

**P: The gifts of God for the people of God.  
*We sit.***

## DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

### COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God*



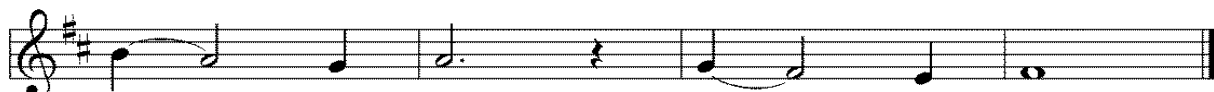
**Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.**



**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.**

Contributors: Vazquez/Webb  
Tune: © 1999, Augsburg Fortress Publishers

COMMUNION HYMNS:

# Let Us Break Bread Together



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.

*Refrain*



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.



3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

## Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;  
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;  
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.  
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,

let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,  
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,  
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;  
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,

be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.  
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.  
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.  
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740-1778  
Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1784-1872

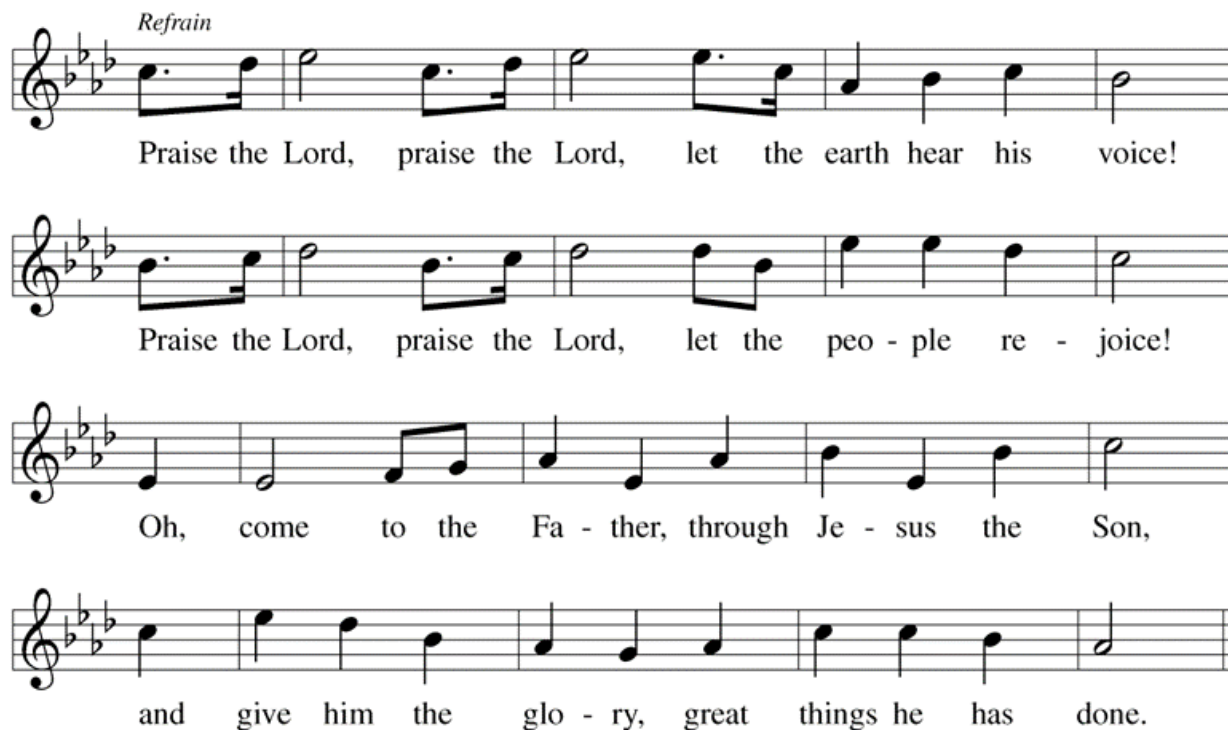
*We stand.*

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

**C: Amen.**

## POST COMMUNION SONG

*Refrain*



Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!

Oh, come to the Fa - ther, through Je - sus the Son,

and give him the glo - ry, great things he has done.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: TO GOD BE THE GLORY, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.

**C: Amen.**

## BLESSING

**SENDING HYMN:**     *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

# Go, My Children, with My Blessing



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.  
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.  
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.  
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."  
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."  
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.  
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional  
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

## DISMISSAL:

**P:** Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

**C:** Thanks be to God!

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