

# HOLLYWOOD LUTHERAN CHURCH

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, July 16, 2023



## INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.



## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

**Empowered by the Holy Spirit, our mission is to offer God's Word of Love, Grace, Mercy and Justice to our homes, congregation, city and all creation.**

### **Welcome**

We are delighted you have come to worship. Relax, sing, and center yourself on the presence of God here today. Let the congregation and this bulletin guide you and follow along as you are able. Join us after the service for refreshments. We look forward to meeting you. **Mask: we ask that if you aren't feeling well, have a cold, or cough, have been around someone that is sick, or simply feel like something is coming on, please wear a mask. It takes a little effort from everyone in order to stay safe and healthy.**

### **Visitor**

Please complete the attendance card located in the pew, you may also include prayer, concerns, and other information you would like the church to know. If you are interested in meeting with the pastor, learning more about our community, or becoming a member, please make a note on the card.

### **Music**

If you don't know a song, sing along as you are able, and don't worry about getting it right. Just praise.

### **Children are Welcomed Here**

Children enrich our worship experience. The sounds of crying, laughing, and talking are welcome in our church; these sounds are a true gift and remind us of God's presence. Children may find crayons and coloring sheets helpful during worship, you can find some in our narthex.

### **Holy Communion**

The congregation will be celebrating Holy Communion this morning. All are welcome no matter your background. Both wine and grape juice, and gluten-free bread are offered at the table. **In an effort to keep everyone safe and healthy, we ask that you stand 3 feet from others.**



## **This Morning Worship Service Begins With**

### **PRELUDE**

Janet Weber

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.  
*The congregation is invited to stand as they are able to or feel comfortable.*



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,  
 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;  
 3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;  
 4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;  
 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.  
 where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.  
 let my soul, where it is plant - ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,  
 how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en, may thy word still o'er me shine  
 may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless - ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!  
 To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!  
 so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.  
 as my guid - ing star through life, as my com - fort in all strife.  
 Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

**GREETING**

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

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
 who forgives all our sin,  
 whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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

Gracious God,

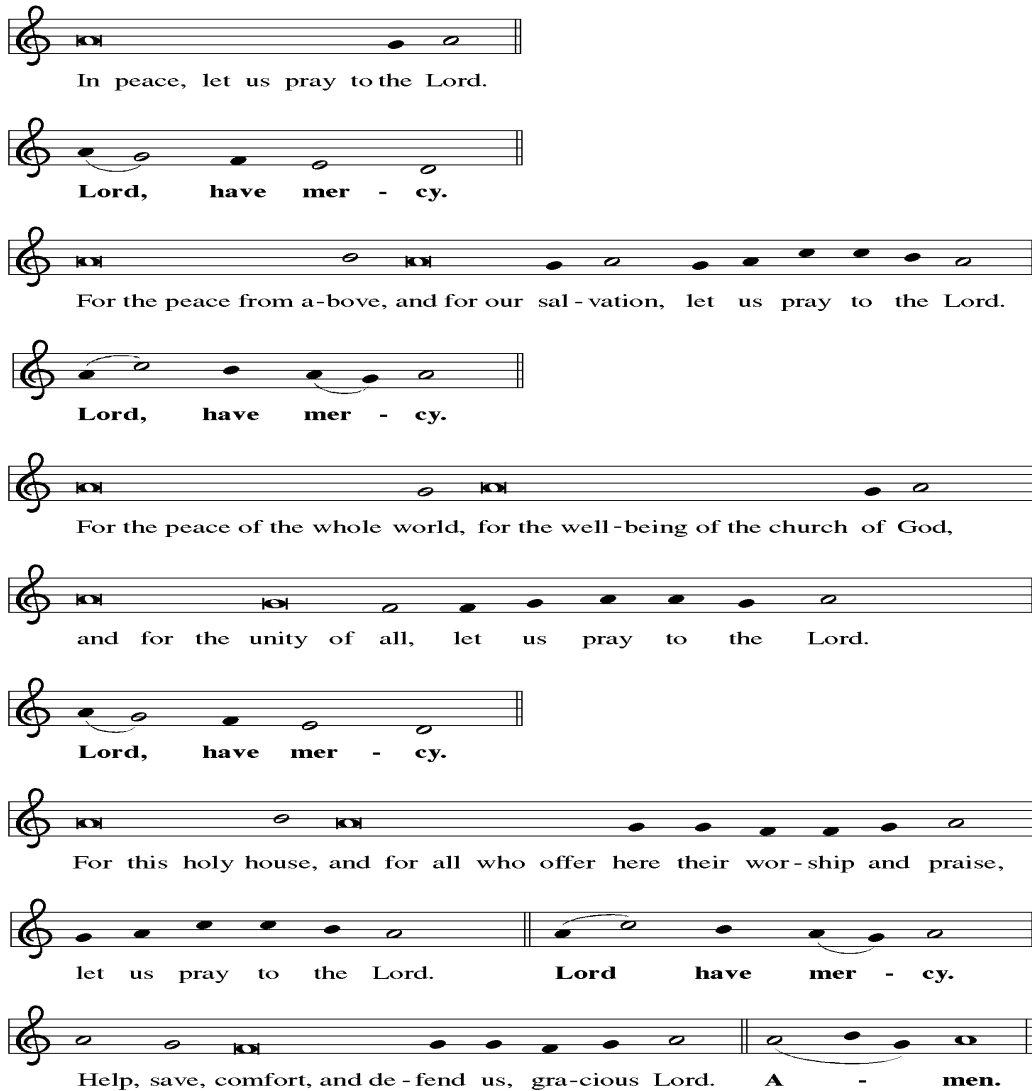
**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

## KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

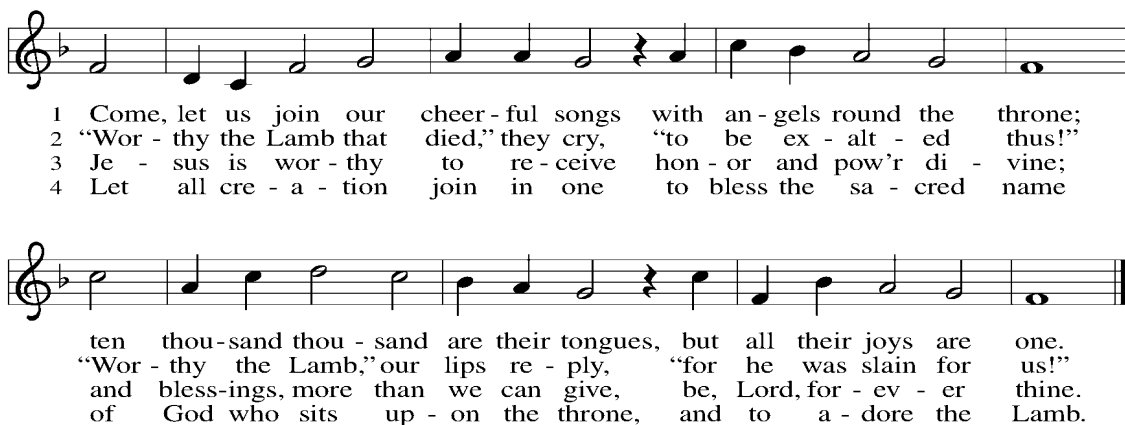
let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs

(ELW 847)



1 Come, let us join our cheer-ful songs with an - gels round the throne;  
2 "Wor - thy the Lamb that died," they cry, "to be ex - alt - ed thus!"  
3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re - ceive hon - or and pow'r di - vine;  
4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name

ten thou - sand thou - sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.  
"Wor - thy the Lamb," our lips re - ply, "for he was slain for us!"  
and bless - ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.  
of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

*The congregation is invited to be seated.*

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

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-13**

A reading from Isaiah.

*God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.*

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy,  
and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;  
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,  
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 65: 9-13**

*Refrain: Your paths overflow with plenty* **R**

You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water.

You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

**You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;  
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

You crown the year with your goodness,  
and your paths overflow with plenty.

**May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,  
and the hills be clothed with joy.**

May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain;  
let them shout for joy and sing. **R**

**SECOND READING: Romans 8:1-11**

A reading from Romans.

*There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.*

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The congregation is invited to stand as they are able to or feel comfortable.*

## 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.

## GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.*

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

The gospel of the Lord.

### **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The congregation is invited to be seated.*

## SERMON

*The congregation is invited to stand as they are able to or feel comfortable.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### For the Fruit of All Creation

(ELW 679)

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.  
For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.  
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.  
For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,  
fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
In the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

## APOSTLES' CREED

**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

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

Guide your church, O God, to sow seeds of forgiveness and righteousness on good soil. Direct your people to proclaim your love in this congregation and throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Sustain your creation, O God, by sending favorable weather, causing trees and fields to grow, protecting waterways from pollution, and instilling in all people the need to be good stewards. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Maintain peace among all people, O God, and raise up lawyers to work for justice in the courts, advocates to speak for the downtrodden, and politicians to work on behalf of the common good. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Heal those who are sick, O God. Guide health care workers to care for those who suffer, scientists to conduct lifesaving research, and counselors to care for victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Answer the prayers of those gathered in worship, O God. Protect those who travel near and far, accompany visitors to this congregation, and nurture our faith. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Inspire us by the faithful departed, O God, examples of your embodied love, whose confidence in the resurrection guides us in living lives worthy of the gospel. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For what else shall we pray for today?

*We invite prayers from the congregation to be shared.*

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The congregation is invited to be seated.*

*The usher will now pass with the offering plate.*

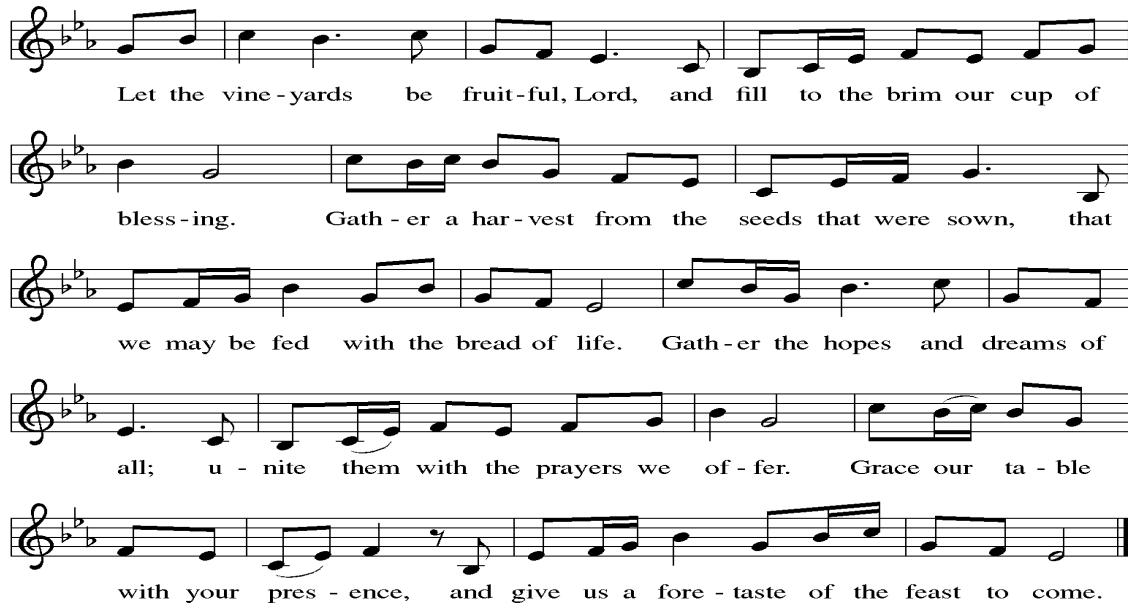
## MUSIC

*The congregation is invited to stand as they are able to or feel comfortable.*

Janet Weber

## OFFERING

### Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

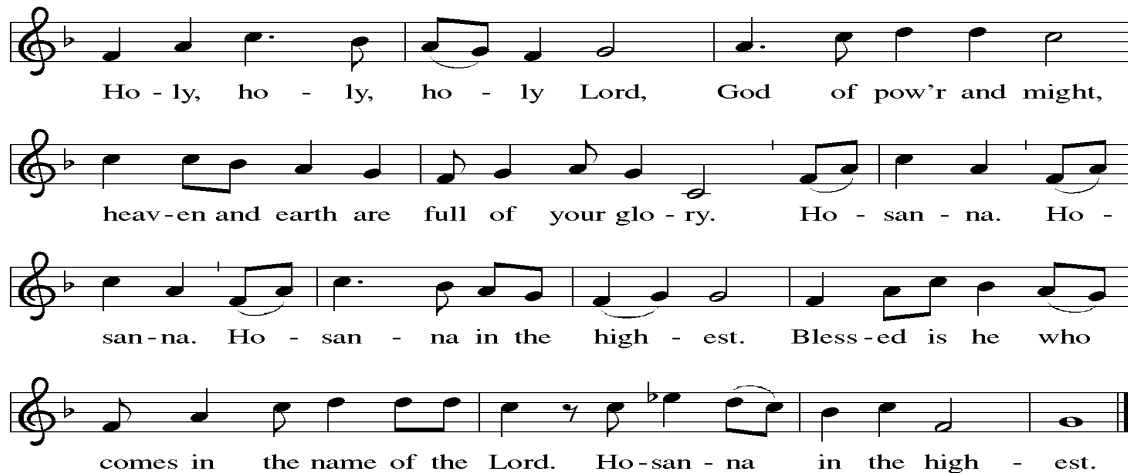
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are 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 in the high-est.



## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

## LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

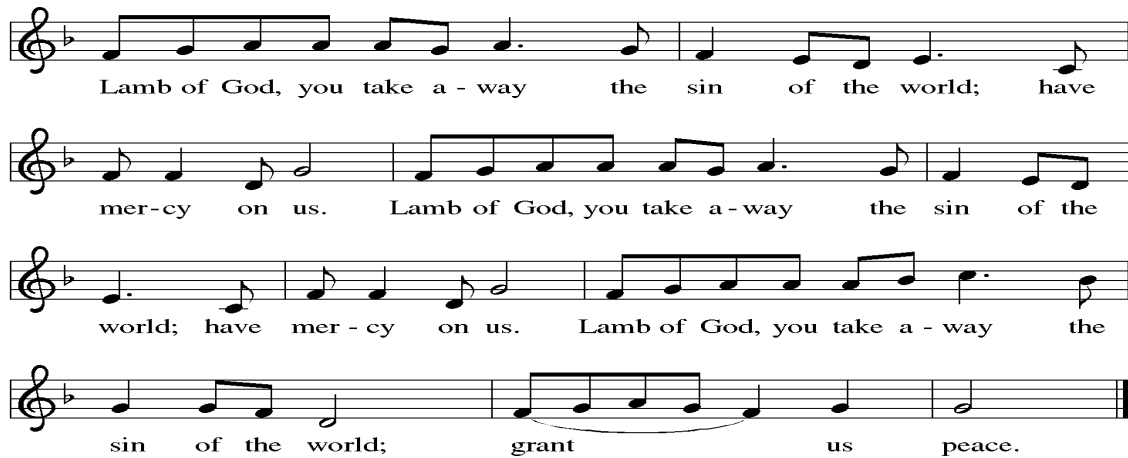
**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

"Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are they who are called to His table."

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

## COMMUNION SONG



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.

*The congregation is invited to stand as they are able to or feel comfortable.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

### Savior, Again to Your Dear Name

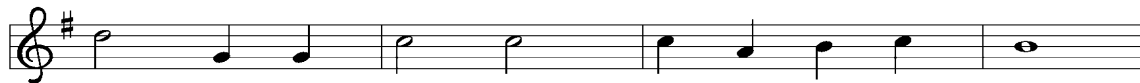
(ELW 534)



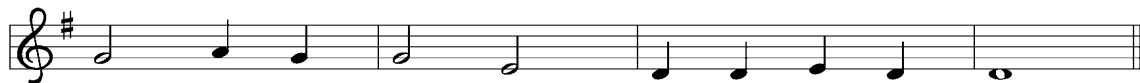
1 Sav - ior, a - gain to your dear name we raise  
2 Grant us your peace up - on our home - ward way;  
3 Grant us your peace, Lord, through the com - ing night;  
4 Grant us your peace through - out our earth - ly life,



with one ac - cord our part - ing hymn of praise;  
with you be - gan, with you shall end the day;  
for us trans - form its dark - ness in - to light.  
our balm in sor - row, and our stay in strife;



once more we bless you ere our wor - ship cease,  
guard all the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,  
Keep us from harm and dan - ger till the dawn;  
then, when your voice shall bid our con - flict cease,



then, low - ly bend - ing, wait your word of peace.  
that in this house have called up - on your name.  
your eve - ning pres - ence prom - ise to your own.  
call us, O Lord, to your e - ter - nal peace.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

Janet Weber



Please offer your prayers throughout the week for the following individuals:

**Special Prayer:**

God of peace, give leaders of nations the wisdom to choose peace over war, dialogue over conflict. Comfort those who are in fear and are caught in the middle of the conflict.

**For healing:**

Sherry Bond, Ethan Vermillion, Sandy, Patrick Tapia, David Dias

**For trust in your mercy:  
For wholeness and well-being:**

Javier Cruz

**For strength and healing in fighting  
cancers:**

Ashlyn (Rouls niece), Barbara "B" Wilke, Beverly Harris, Jennifer Yates, Johnny Birge, Will Terry, Jaha Blackwell, Sam Gros, Debra Lande, Tim Pugh

**For hopefulness and strength:**

Forrey Family  
For all people in the military who are deployed or serving our country.

**Memorial Candles are lit in memory of:**

Mary Lou Forrey

As a reminder, this community is inclusive and welcomes all of God's people. The rainbow candelabra located on the altar serves as a reminder of this community's inclusive and intentional welcome to the LGBTQ+ community.

The paschal candle located at the entrance of the sanctuary is used by our congregation as the welcoming light of Jesus Christ. In the same way that it has traditionally been utilized as light to the world.

If anyone would like to add or re-add a name please email or call our office.

[hollyluth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hollyluth@sbcglobal.net) (323)667-1212

Names normally remain on our list for a month or it's removed before by request.



## HOLLYWOOD LUTHERAN CHURCH

### 102nd Year,

We are a congregation of the Southwest California Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Email: [hollyluth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hollyluth@sbcglobal.net) Phone: (323)667-1212

Website: [www.hollywoodlutheranchurch.net](http://www.hollywoodlutheranchurch.net) Youtube: HLCstudios

**In Today's Liturgy**

Sermon: Ted Goulet

Assisting Minister:

Lector: Karla Richards

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Plants are given to the glory of God

**Special Dispensation**

Ted Goulet, has been authorized by Reverend Toni Castaneda Carrera of the Southwest California Synod, to preside at Holy Communion today.