

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Season of Creation

Worship Aid for September 13th, 2026 at 10:15 am



Love God, Love People, Make Disciples

Nativity: an inclusive faith community, following the way of Jesus to nourish the body, mind, and spirit of the people of our south metro communities and beyond.

Nativity Episcopal Church is committed to practice the way of love. We follow Jesus' example of radical hospitality as we celebrate God's presence in all people. We welcome all persons, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, age, physical or mental capacity, education, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic or marital status. All are invited as full participants in the life and ministries of our community.



Notice that our service is livestreamed and you may be visible on the camera.

You may reach the office at Nativity@NativityMN.org or 952-435-8687

Nativity Episcopal Church Leadership
The Rev. Dana Fath Strande, Rector
The Rev. Kathleen K. Brusco, Assisting Priest
The Rev. Diane Luther, Deacon
Chloe Hrbacek, Parish Office Coordinator
Clayton Heidbreder, Music Minister
Charlotte McLendon, Organist
Jean Hines, Children and Youth Minister

Nate Gooden, Senior Warden
Theresa May, Junior Warden
Steve Grier, Treasurer

15601 Maple Island Road, Burnsville, MN 55306
nativitymn.org; 952-435-8687
Office email: nativity@nativitymn.org

Liturgical Ministers
Lector: Nancy Wood
Prayer Leader: Christin Eaton
Eucharistic Ministers:
Ushers: Francesca Carr & Avelenna Melsha
Tech: Elliott Grier

Next Week: September 20th

Lector	Marguerite Kirchhoff
Prayer Leader	Mary Feeney
Eucharistic Ministers	Phyllis Rowley & Christina Kopischke
Usher (x2)	
Tech	Paul Brusco

The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration to pray and respond together to the cry of Creation: the ecumenical family around the world unites to contemplate and care for our common home, the Oikos of God.

The Season's "Celebration" begins on September 1, the day that several Christian denominations celebrate as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and others celebrate as the Feast of Creation. It ends on October 4, the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, who is beloved by many Christian denominations.

This year, we will unite around the theme "Living Water"

"In the Season of Creation, we turn again to Christ, through whom all things were made and in whom all things hold together. In his incarnation, death, and resurrection, God's love is revealed not only for humanity but for the whole created order. To care for creation is therefore an essential expression of Christian discipleship and an integral mark of the Church's mission: to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and to sustain and renew the life of the earth. As we follow Christ, we are called to share in his reconciling work, seeking justice, healing, and hope for the earth and for all who dwell within it."

The Most Reverend and Right Honorable

Dame Sarah Mullally,

Archbishop of Canterbury

PRELUDE
OPENING HYMN

Charlotte McLendon
Gather Us In



1. Here in this place new light is stream - ing,
2. We are the young— our lives are a mys - t'ry,
3. Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter,
4. Not in the dark of build - ings con - fin - ing,



Now is the dark - ness van - ished a - way,
We are the old— who yearn for your face,
Here we will take the bread of new birth,
Not in some heav - en, light - years a - way, But



See in this space our fears and our dream - ings,
We have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
Here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



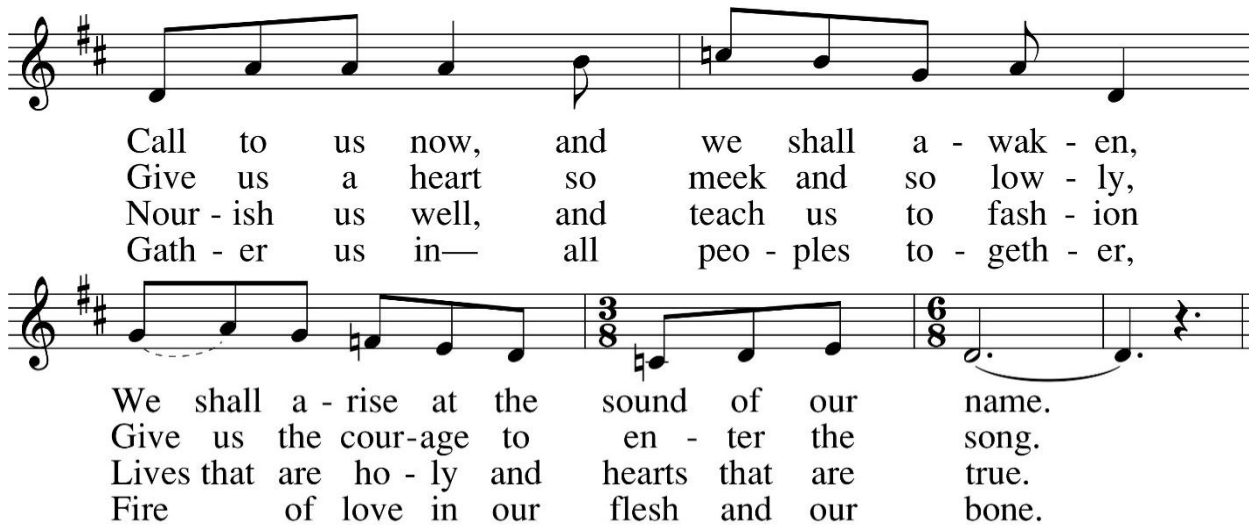
Brought here to you in the light of this day.
Called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
Call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
Now is the King - dom, now is the day.



Gath - er us in— the lost and for - sak - en,
Gath - er us in— the rich and the haugh - ty,
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion,
Gath - er us in and hold us for ev - er,



Gath - er us in— the blind and the lame;
Gath - er us in— the proud and the strong;
Give us to eat the bread that is you;
Gath - er us in and make us your own;



Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 Give us a heart so meek and so low - ly,
 Nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 Gath - er us in— all peo - ples to - geth - er,
 We shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 Give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.
 Lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950
 Tune: GATHER US IN, Irregular; Marty Haugen, b.1950
 © 1982, GIA Publications, Inc.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

All: **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Presider: In the beginning, the Spirit of God hovered over the waters. And God called them good.

All: **Come Holy Spirit and cleanse the waters.**

Presider: The prophet saw a river flowing from the Temple, and wherever the river flowed, everything lived.

All: **Come Holy Spirit and renew the face of the Earth.**

Presider: Jesus cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me...Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water."

All: **Come, Holy Spirit and heal your people.**

OPENING PRAYER

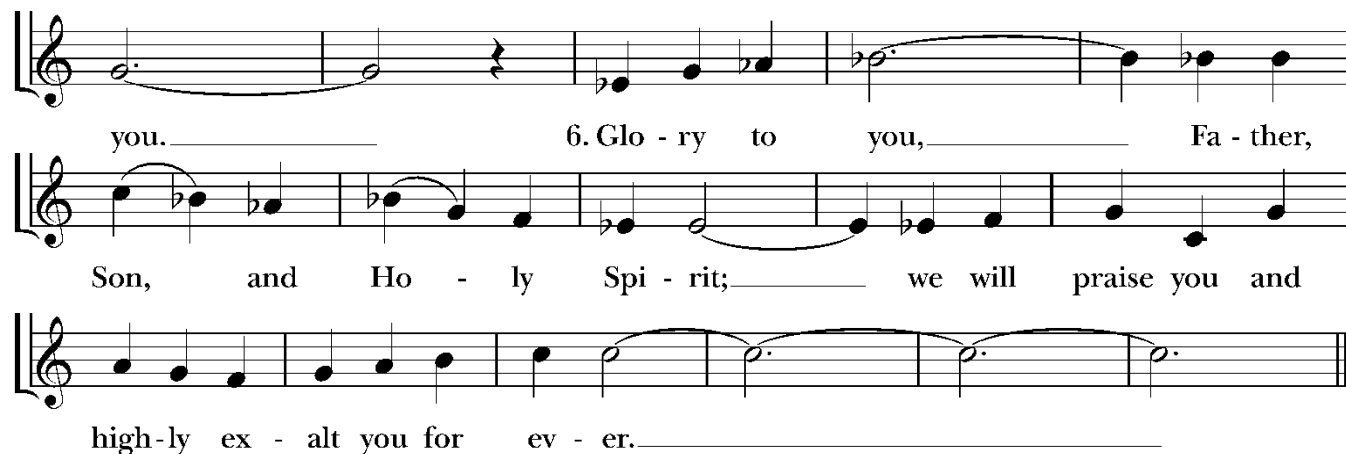
Presider: Almighty and ever living God, we thank you for your love in all creation, and especially for your gift of water to sustain and cleanse all life. Christ is the living water, cleansing, refreshing, and making all things new. So now we offer our thanks for the waters that bring beauty to all that we enjoy, the wild places, the bush, the mountains, coast and the sea. We give thanks and praise for all good lands, for the trees and pastures, for our plentiful crops, and for the living water that quenches them.

All: **Amen.**

GLORIA

Benedictus es, Domine

1. Glo - ry to you, Lord
 God of our fa - thers; you are wor - thy of praise;
 glo - ry to you. 2. Glo - ry to you
 for the ra - di - ance of your ho - ly Name; we will
 praise you and high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.
 3. Glo - ry to you in the splen - dor of your
 tem - ple; on the throne of your ma - jes - ty, glo - ry to
 you. 4. Glo - ry to you, seat - ed bet -
 ween the Cher - u - bim; we will praise you and
 high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.
 5. Glo - ry to you, be - hold - ing the
 depths; in the high vault of hea - ven, glo - ry to



Music: John Rutter (b. 1945). Copyright © 1985 Oxford University Press, Inc.

COLLECT IN REMEMBRANCE OF 9/11

Presider: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty and loving God, who desires peace for his children, hear our prayer this day as we recognize the twenty-fifth anniversary of September 11. We remember those of many nations and differing faiths whose lives were cut short by the fierce flames of anger and hatred. Hasten the time when the menace of war shall be removed. Cleanse both us and those perceived to be our enemies of all hatred and distrust. Pour out the spirit of peace on all the rulers of our world that we may be brought through strife to the lasting peace of the kingdom of your Son; Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE FIRST READING

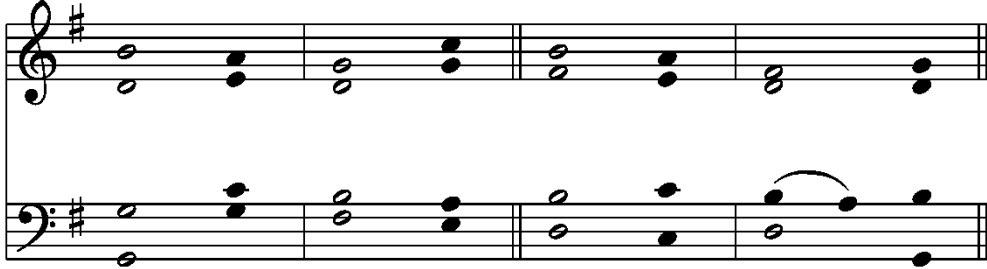
Genesis 50:15-21

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 103:8-13

There are 4 measures to the chant, spread out over 2 verses then repeated. The first note is held for most of the line until the underline signals moving to next note.



- 8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 He will not always ac-cuse us,
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our sins from us.
- 13 As a father cares for his children,
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.

THE SECOND READING

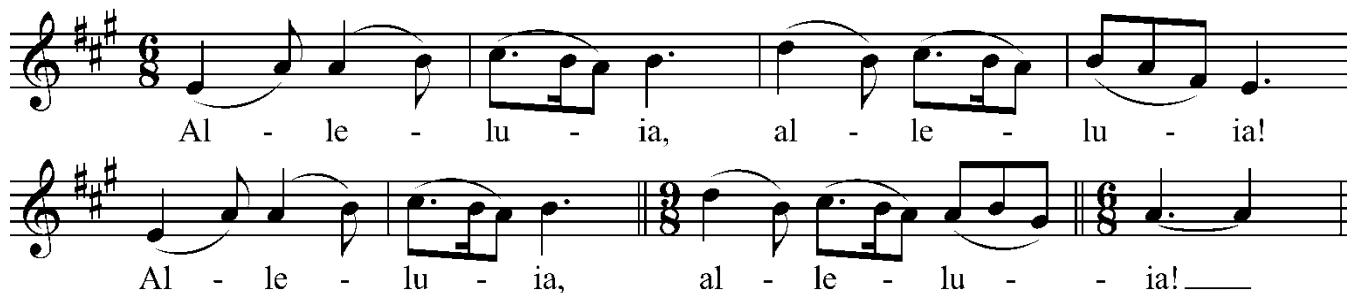
Romans 14:1-12

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Celtic Alleluia



Words and Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker (b.1947) © 1985 OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213 [www.ocp.org]. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

***All:* Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospel is read.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S RESPONSE TIME

All children and youth are invited to go with a Children & Youth ministry volunteer during the sermon and prayers.

SERMON

The Rev. Dana Fath Strande

NICENE CREED

Presider: Let us declare our faith in God.

Presider and All:

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with
the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

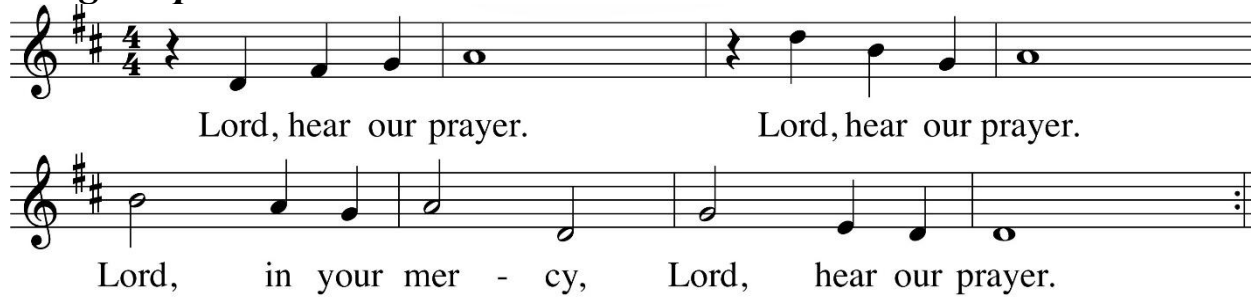
**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son,
he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sung Response:

A Celtic Rune



Text: Liam Lawton, b.1959

Tune: Liam Lawton, b.1959; arr. by Ian Callanan, OP

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Deacon: Gracious God, we lift our voices to you in prayer as we ask your blessings on your Church and on all your creation. Grant that we may humbly serve you, seeking your hand in all we do.

Leader: Look, Lord, upon your whole Church. We pray especially for Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury, for The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand, and Polynesia. In the Episcopal Church we pray for Calvary Parish in Rochester and for the Bishop Whipple Mission in Morton. We pray for Sean, our Presiding Bishop and for Craig, our Bishop of Minnesota. Bless and guide us here at Nativity that we will welcome all as you have welcomed us. May we grow in love for you and for each other. Watch over all our work, especially Building Our Future. Hear us as we pray,

All(Sung): Lord, hear our prayer....

Leader: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the world, that they will care for those whom they serve and find ways to bring justice and peace across all boundaries. Give us the grace to look upon your created world with honest vision and true caring. Show us ways to tend this earth that you have given us, restoring its plenty, healing its ills, and protecting all your living creatures. Hear us as we pray,

All(Sung): Lord, hear our prayer...

Leader: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble. We pray especially for...are there others?

The people may bring their own petitions.

Leader: Deliver them from their distress of body, mind, or spirit.

Leader: We offer thanks for our many blessings and name to you silently or aloud the
graces you have given.

The people may bring their own thanksgivings.

Leader: We pray for those whose life is ending...are there others?

The people may bring their own petitions.

Leader: And we pray for those who have died...are there others?

The people may bring their own petitions.

Leader: And for those who mourn. Give to these departed eternal rest and let your light
perpetual shine upon them. Hear us as we pray,

All(Sung): Lord, hear our prayer...

Deacon: Dearest Lord, we offer these prayers from our hearts, knowing that you hear us
with love and wisdom. Look upon us today as we tell you our needs and ask for
your direction. We stand here on this earth that you have given us as we praise
your Name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

***All:* Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Deacon and All:

**Merciful and sustaining God,
we have sinned against you.**

**We confess our lack of gratitude for the beauty
and bounty of your creation:**

**teach us to see that your earth sustains us
and all that lives.**

**We confess that we have misused your earth:
grant us amendment of life.**

**We confess that we have been intemperate in our appetites:
strengthen us in self-control.**

**We confess that we have taken
the abundance of your world for granted:
make us urgent now for its protection.**

**Forgive and renew us now
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
with whom you live and reign, one God,
now and forever. Amen.**

Presider: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

All: **Amen**

THE PEACE

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, OR ANY OTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR A BLESSING

BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING

All students, teachers, and school staff are welcome to come and receive a blessing and pick up a contact tag for book bags.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

The Presider invites the gifts of the congregation, with these or other words

Presider: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

OFFERTORY HYMN

O God, Our Words Cannot Express

This hymn is sung to the tune of “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” (Hymnal 680) with different lyrics. It was written in response to the tragedy of 9/11. We are singing it today in honor of the 25th anniversary, and for all who are victims of terrorism and violence.

Verse 1: O God, our words cannot express
The pain we feel this day.
Enraged, uncertain, we confess
Our need to bow and pray.

Verse 2: We grieve for all who lost their lives...
And for each injured one.
We pray for children, husbands, wives
Whose grief has just begun.

Verse 3: O Lord, we're called to offer prayer
For all our leaders, too.
May they, amid such great despair,
Be wise in all they do.

Verse 4: We trust your mercy and your grace;
In you we will not fear!
May peace and justice now embrace!
Be with your people here!

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THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

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

Presider: God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

All: **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Presider: At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

All: **By your will they were created and have their being.**

Presider: From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

All: **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Presider: Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

All: **By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

Presider: And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est!

Music: *Mass of Remembrance*, Marty Haugen, © 1987, GIA Publications, Inc.

Presider: And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Presider: Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

All: **We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Presider: Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

All: **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Presider: Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

All: **AMEN.**

Presider: And now, as our Savior, Christ, has taught us, we are bold to say;

Presider and All:

**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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Presider: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

FRACTION ANTHEM

Let Us Be Bread

Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord, bro-ken and shared,
life for the world. Let us be wine, love free - ly poured.
Let us be one in the Lord.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff covers the first line of lyrics, the second staff covers the second line, and the third staff covers the third line. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Text: Thomas J. Porter, b.1958
Tune: Thomas J. Porter, b.1958
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INVITATION

Presider: So come to this table,
you who have much faith
and you who would like to have more;
you who have been here often
and you who have not been for a long time;
you who have tried to follow Jesus,
and you who have failed;
Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

The Gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth (Hymnal 416)



POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Presider: Let us pray.

Presider and All:

**From this table, we have been fed
and given nourishment
to be your hands
and feet in the world.**

**Create in us a new heart and a new vision,
O God, that the gifts of your Spirit may work in us,
and renew the face of the earth.**

**May we be one with you so that our work is yours
and your work is ours.**

**Lead us to transform our lives
to reflect your glory in Creation;
through Jesus Christ our Savior
who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and forever. Amen.**

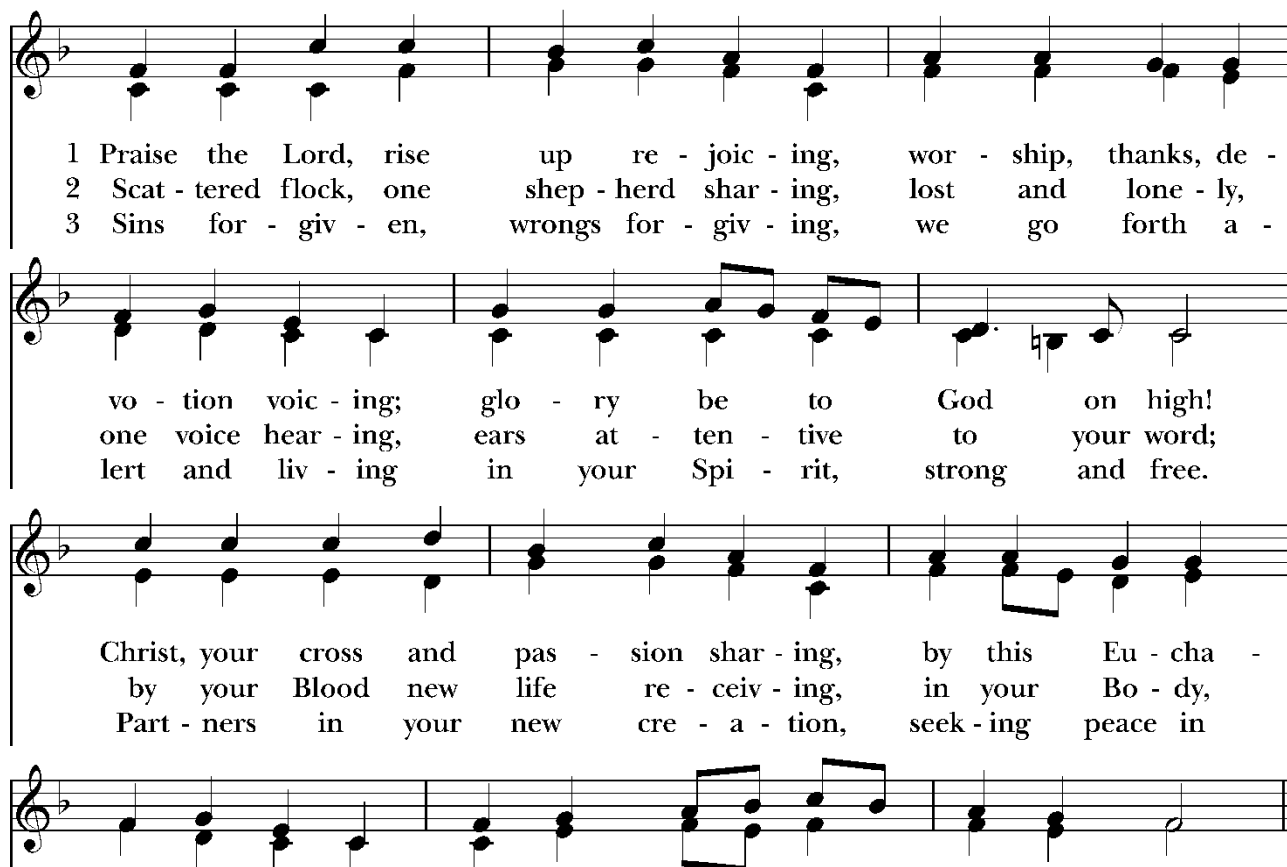
BLESSING

Presider: May we be carried by the flow of the great river of life. May we discover a hidden spring within, gushing forth. May we be carried to the shores of the sacred and renewed. And the blessing of the Holy Trinity, Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you this day and forever more,

All: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing (Hymnal 334)



1 Praise the Lord, rise up re - joic - ing, wor - ship, thanks, de -
 2 Scat - tered flock, one shep - herd shar - ing, lost and lone - ly,
 3 Sins for - giv - en, wrongs for - giv - ing, we go forth a -

vo - tion voic - ing; glo - ry be to God on high!
 one voice hear - ing, ears at - ten - tive to your word;
 lert and liv - ing in your Spi - rit, strong and free.

Christ, your cross and pas - sion shar - ing, by this Eu - cha -
 by your Blood new life re - ceiv - ing, in your Bo - dy,
 Part - ners in your new cre - a - tion, seek - ing peace in

rist de - clar - ing yours the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
 firm be - liev - ing, we are yours, and you the Lord.
 ev - ery na - tion, may we faith - ful fol - lowers be.

Words: Howard Charles Adie Gaunt (1902-1983), alt. By permission of Oxford University Press. Music: *Alles ist an Gottes Segen*, melody att. Johann Balthasar König (1691-1758), alt.; harm. Johann Löhner (1645-1705), after chorale ver. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

DISMISSAL

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

TODAY AT NATIVITY

Parish Potluck

After Service – Sunday, September 13th

Sacrament of Healing

After Service – Sunday, September 13th

WEEKLY AT NATIVITY

Adult Faith Formation

9-9:50am – Sundays

Children's Worship & Response

During Service – Sundays

Coffee Hour

After Service – Sundays

Community Café

5-6pm – Wednesdays

UPCOMING

Bell Choir & Choir Begins Again

5 & 6:15pm – Tuesday, September 15th

Youth Faith Formation Begins Again

11:30am – Sunday, September 20th

Newcomer Orientation

After Service – Sunday, September 27th

