

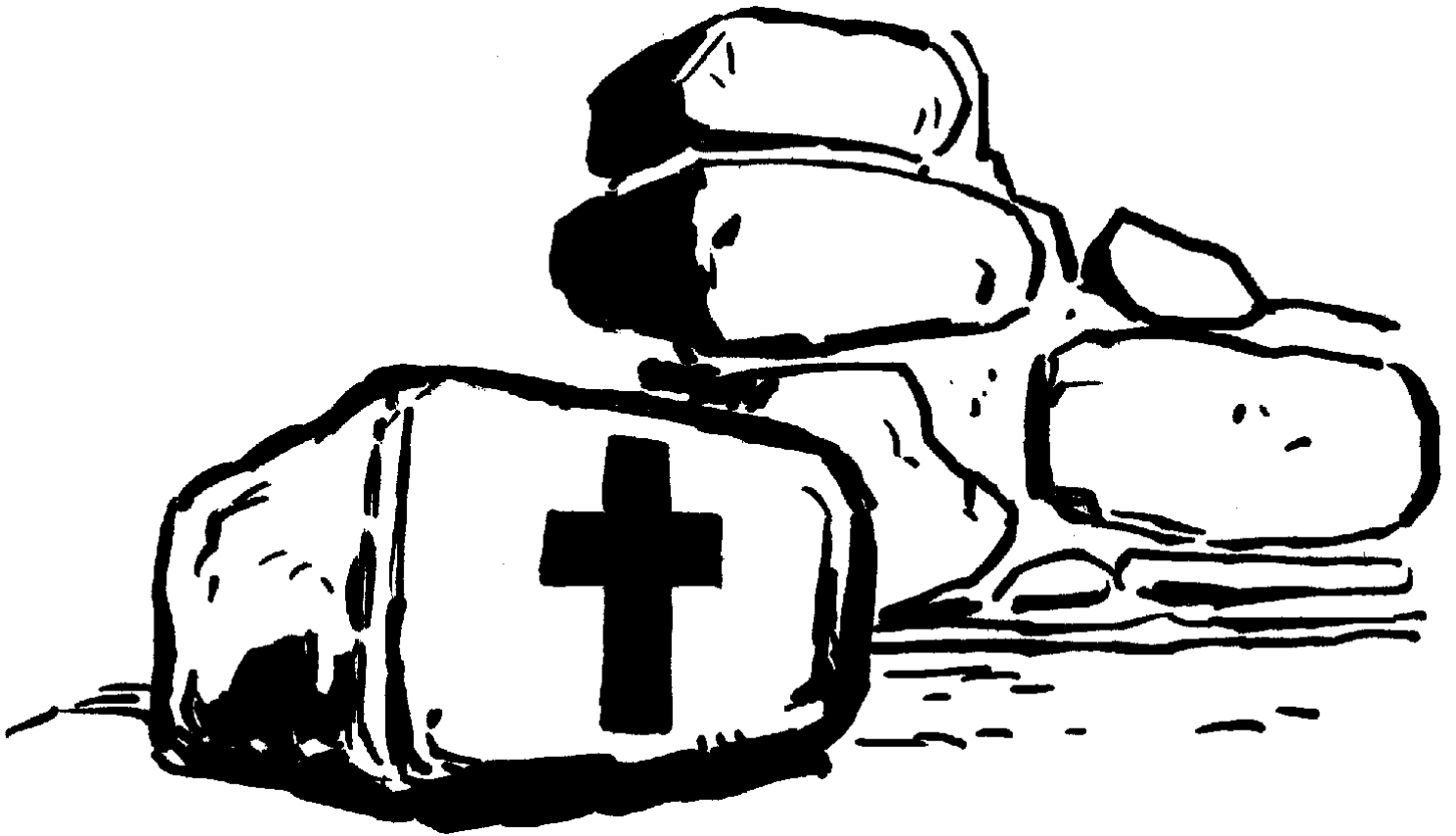


Saint Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

New Milford, New Jersey

A Congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

www.smelcnewmilford.org



Pentecost 16

"The Nothing That is Everything"

Sunday, October 2, 2011

**Saint Matthew's
Evangelical Lutheran
Church**

A New Jersey District
congregation of the Lutheran
Church -
Missouri Synod

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Lee Bigbee
Voters Body President

Edwin Geiger
**Voters' Body Vice-
President**

Deborah Bigbee
Scott Helming
Robert Hille
Channing Wilson
Board of Elders

Warren Born
Minister of Music

Christina Rottinger
Secretary
Approx. hours
Tues., Weds.,
THURS 9am-3pm

As We Gather This Sunday
"The Nothing That is Everything"

Garbage! That's the Apostle Paul's evaluation of everything compared to "the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord." Do you consider your faith and relationship to God through Christ Jesus as the most valuable thing in your life, above everything and everyone? Today, St. Paul paints "the big picture" that puts everything into proper perspective. There is nothing else in all creation---no possessions, relationships, or accomplishments---that surpass the blessing of knowing Christ. His sacrifice, death, and resurrection secure for us eternal life, reconciliation with God the Father, and ultimately triumph over sin, death, and the devil.



Saint Matthew's Mission Statement

We are a congregation of Christians who worship, pray, hear the Word of God, receive the sacraments, give thanks, grow through Christian education, serve others, and witness to God's love because God has commanded it and we believe this. We attempt to follow this commandment at all times and in all aspects of our lives, especially in church where the fellowship of believers is reinforced. We rely on the work of the Holy Spirit to guide our thoughts, words, and deeds in our daily relationships; and to lead us in the use of our time, talent, and treasure.

Our Worship Service This Week: Special Worship Service of Remembrance

Words of Welcome

At this time, Pastor Iovine will outline some parish news and information. For further information on these announcements, please look in the "Saint Matthew's Matters" insert in your bulletin AND on our church's website, www.smelcnewmilford.org and click the "Saint Matthew's Matters" under the "About Us" tab.

Prelude - Pre-Service Prayer & Meditation

"We Gather Together," arr. Healey Willan

↑ Opening Hymn

"Christ Is Our Cornerstone," Lutheran Worship hymnal, #290

Christ is our cornerstone, On him alone we build;
With his true saints alone The courts of heav'n are filled.
On his great love Our hopes we place Of present grace And joys above.

Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hallowed courts shall ring;
Our voices we will raise The Three in One to sing
And thus proclaim In joyful song, Both loud and long, That glorious name.

Here, gracious God, do now And evermore draw near;
Accept each faithful vow, and ev'ry suppliant hear.
In copious show'r One all who pray Each holy day Your blessing pour.

Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we implore,
And may that grace, one giv'n, Be with us evermore
Until that day When all the blest To endless rest Are called away.

Text: author unknown, Latin, c. 700; tr. John Chandler, 1806-76

Tune: John Darwall, 1731-89

Invocation and Verses

P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Restore us, O God;

C: **let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

P: Then we shall not turn back from You;

C: **give us life, and we will call upon Your name!**

Psalm 80:3, 18

Kyrie

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud.** Psalm 27:7a

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Be gracious to me and answer me!** Psalm 27:7b

P: 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.

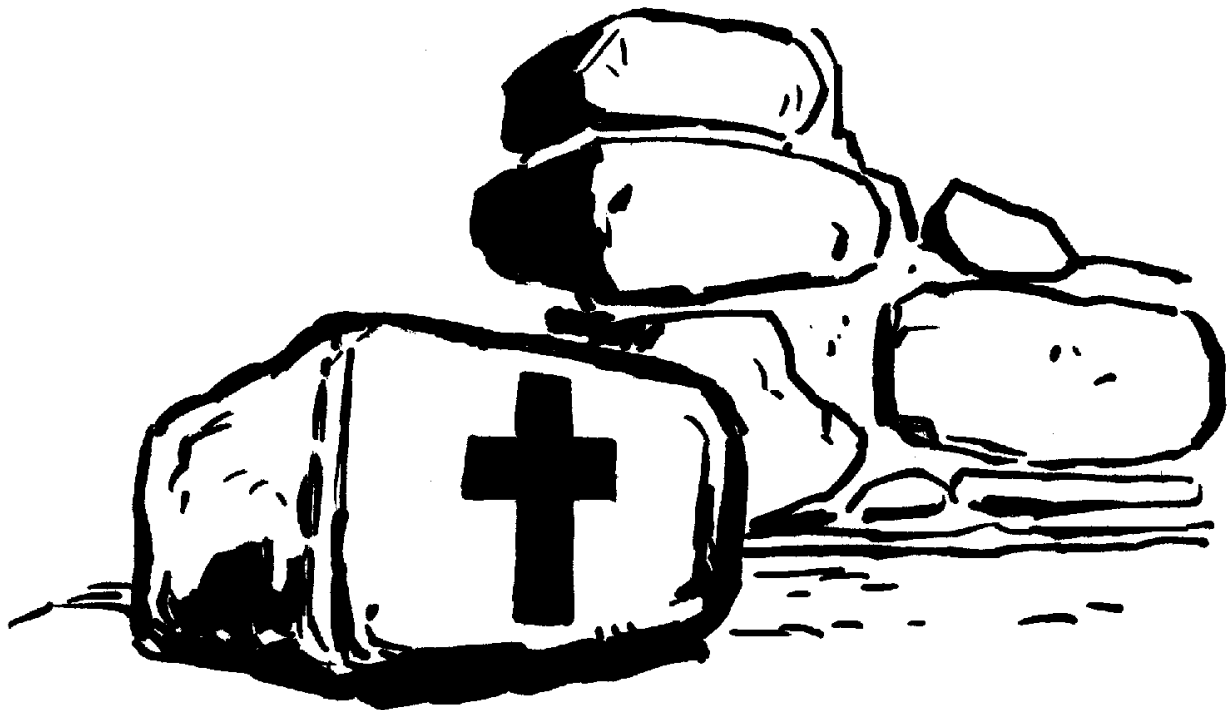
C: **Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud.**

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Be gracious to me and answer me!**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.


C: **Amen.**



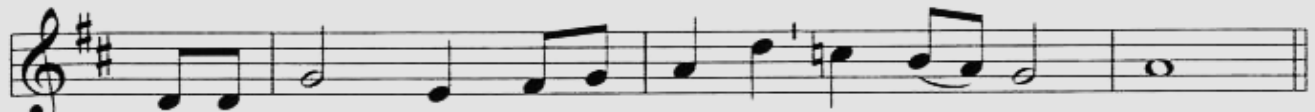
Hymn of Praise - This is the Feast

From Lutheran Service Book, Divine Service Setting Two


Refrain



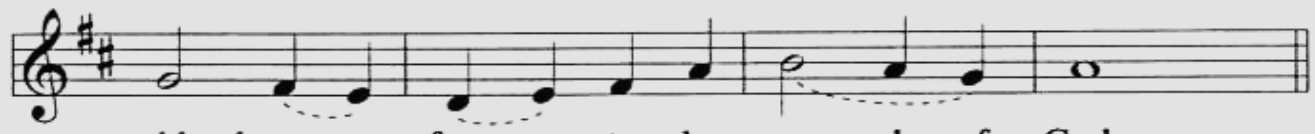
C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



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




1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5 For the Lamb _____ who was slain has be -

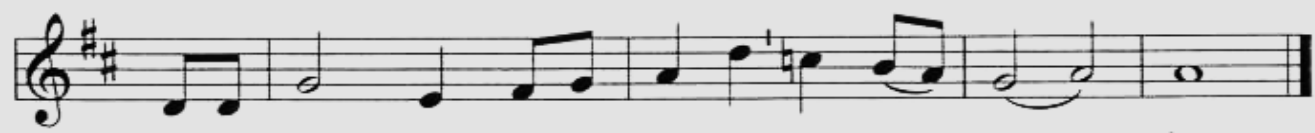


blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



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

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

C: **Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

↓ Old Testament

Isaiah 5:1-7

(The Lord's vineyard destroyed.)

L: The Old Testament Reading for the 16th Sunday after Pentecost is taken from Isaiah, Chapter 5:

Let me sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
and he looked for it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.
And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem
and men of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.
What more was there to do for my vineyard,
that I have not done in it?
When I looked for it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?
And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and briars and thorns shall grow up;
I will also command the clouds

that they rain no rain upon it.
For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the men of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
and he looked for justice,
but behold, bloodshed;
for righteousness,
but behold, an outcry!

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14
(The priority of Christ)

L: The Epistle Reading is taken from Philippians, Chapter 23

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

↑ Alleluia and Verse

Matthew 21:42b
We say the Alleluia and Verse together.

P: Alleluia.

C: **Alleluia.**

P: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;
C: **this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

P: Alleluia.
C: **Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:33-46

(The Parable of the Tenants)

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 21st Chapter:
C: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

(Jesus said) “Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is marvelous in our eyes’?”

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

↓ Hymn of the Day

“Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sin,” Lutheran Worship hymnal, Hymn #276

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sin My great Redeemer’s praise
The glories of my God and King, The triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God, Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad The honors of your name.

The name of Jesus charms our fears And bids our sorrows cease,
Sings music in the sinner’s ears, Brings life and health and peace.

He breaks the pow’r of canceled sin; He sets the pris’ner free,
His blood can make the foulest clean; His blood avails for me.

Look to the Lord, who did atone For sin, O fallen race.
Look and be saved through faith alone, Be justified by grace.

See all our sins on Jesus laid; The Lamb has made us whole.
His soul was once an off’ring made For ev’ry human soul.

To God all glory, praise, and love Be now and ever giv’n
By saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heav’n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88
Tune: John B. Dykes, 1823-76

Sermon

↑ Creed

The Nicene Creed

**All: I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven**

and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

Offering

Voluntary

“Alleluia, Give Thanks,” arr. Tom Porter

Prayer of the Church

Our weekly prayers are responsive in nature. At the end of each petition, “Lord, in Your mercy,” is spoken, to which the congregation responds, “Hear our prayer.”

P Confident that our Lord hears the prayers of His faithful, let us approach His throne of mercy interceding on behalf of the church and the world.

E For faithfulness to Christ, our great High Priest, that in all things we may bear witness to Him and His loving kindness, Lord, in Your mercy:

C Hear our prayer.

P For faithful Christians, here and scattered throughout the world, that God would embolden them to make the good confession, even in the midst of persecution, Lord, in Your mercy:

C Hear our prayer.

E For the leaders of our Synod, including our president, vice-presidents, and district presidents, those who lead and teach in our seminaries and universities, as well as all pastors, teachers, and other servants, that God would give them humble hearts to serve His people, Lord, in Your mercy:

C Hear our prayer.

P For the women in our churches who serve in so many capacities, and especially for the work of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, that God would continue to bless their manifold expression of love for Him and His church, Lord, in Your mercy:

C Hear our prayer.

E For all orphans, that they would be given a safe place in which to grow and thrive, and for kind and generous couples who will open their hearts to give them permanent homes through adoption, Lord, in Your mercy:

C Hear our prayer.

P For the sick and dying (*especially...*), that God would grant patience in times of trial, healing as He so wills, and comfort when death draws near, Lord, in Your mercy:

C Hear our prayer.

E For those who commune this day at the Lord's altar, that they may find peace and life as they eat the Lord's life-giving body and drink His death-defying blood, Lord, in Your mercy:

C Hear our prayer.

P For the saints who have gone before us, let us give thanks and praise to God. That we may look forward with sure confidence to the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting, Lord, in Your mercy:

C Hear our prayer.

E Grant our petitions, O Lord, for the sake of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Preface

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 Him thanks and praise.

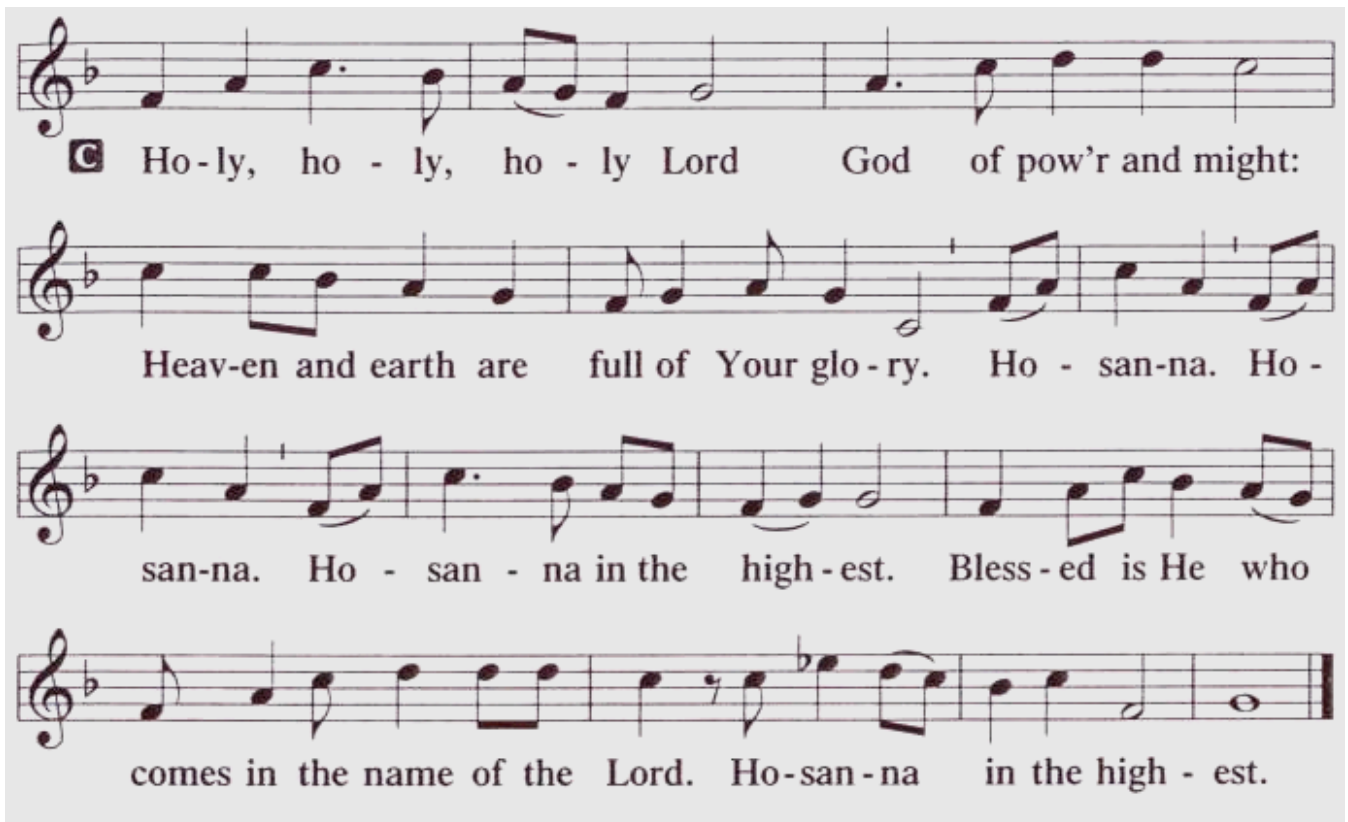
Proper Preface

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, the stone the builders rejected who has become the cornerstone in whom we are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy” -

Sung to the tune from the Lutheran Service Book, Divine Service Setting One, page 161



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.

Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Matthew 26: 26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. 1 Corinthians 11:26

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Revelation 22:20

P: Lord Jesus Christ, in giving us the gifts of Your body and blood in, with, and under this wine and bread, You remind us of Your life-giving sacrifice on the cross that secured for us eternal salvation. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer

A: 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.

Peace of the Lord

John 20:19

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

C: And also with you.

P: We share a sign of that peace with one another.

Agnus Dei

"Lamb of God"

Sung to the tune from the Lutheran Service Book, Divine Service Setting One, page 163



The image shows a musical score for the Agnus Dei. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "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 music is written in a simple, melodic style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

↓ Communion Distribution

"Holy Manna," arr. Robert Powell

The Lord's Supper will be distributed from the altar rail this morning.

↑ Prayer of Thanksgiving

E: Let us pray: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

“From All That Dwell Below the Skies,” Lutheran Worship hymnal, Hymn #440

From all that dwell below the skies Let the creator’s praise arise
Alleluia, alleluia!
Let the redeemer’s name be sung Through ev’ry land by ev’ry tong.
Alleluia, alleluia
Alleluia, alleluia
Alleluia!

Eternal are your mercies, Lord; Eternal truth attends your Word;
Alleluia, alleluia!
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore Till suns shall rise and set no more.
Alleluia, alleluia
Alleluia, alleluia
Alleluia!

All praise to God the Father be, All praise eternal Son, to thee.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Whom with the Spirit we adore Forever and forevermore:
Alleluia, alleluia
Alleluia, alleluia
Alleluia!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

Tune: Johann B. Konig, Harmonischer Liederschatz, 1738

Musical Benediction

“The Doxology,” arr. Austin Lovelace

Dismissal

Postlude

“All Glory, Laud and Honor,” arr. Austin Lovelace

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