



**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

P: Together, let us call on the name of the Lord: Father, + Son and Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

↑ **GATHERING HYMN**

*Amazing Grace*

**#199**

↓ **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Jesus, thank you for your inviting words on the cross, "Father, forgive them for they don't know what they are doing." And so, we come before you now.

**C: Jesus, we bare our hearts to you alone.**

**We have clutched at our bank accounts, forgetting our funds are all yours...and we have missed opportunities for generosity.**

**We have pursued dark paths to pleasure, cutting corners on loyalty, honesty, sobriety and purity...and we have lost the simplicity of childlike trust and obedience.**

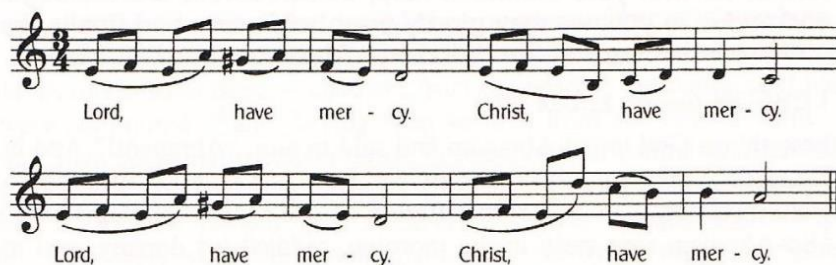
**We have achieved success at the expense of others, puffing our accomplishment and excusing our failure...and we have missed the security and joy of living as your beloved.**

P: Every offense, every shortcoming, every rebellion was nailed to the cross! By grace through faith you are saved, not by anything you have done but through faith in what Christ has done. Your debt is paid in full. Rise in freedom, peace and beauty to serve the Lord.

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God our Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

**KYRIE ELEISON (PLEA FOR MERCY)** *Hymnal page 22*



## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS (SONG OF GLORY) *Hymnal page 23-24*

*Cantor: Glory be to God on high and on earth peace, good will to all.*

1 Lord, we praise your name on high, wor - ship you and glo - ri - fy.  
2 You have borne the sins of all. Mer - cy, Lord, and hear our call.  
3 You, a - lone, the Ho - ly One, You, a - lone, God's on - ly Son,

To the Lamb of God we cry and join the an - gel's song.  
Ev - 'ry - one, both great and small, come join the an - gel's song.  
In your name we've just be - gun to join the an - gel's song.

Glo - ri - a! Let the mu - sic flow. Glo - ri - a! To the earth be - low.

Glo - ri - a! Feel our hearts a - glow with the joy - ful an - gel's song.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY together

Holy God, we come in the name of the risen Christ to worship you. This world will never be big enough to contain the thanks and praise that are due for your saving deeds in Jesus of Nazareth. Nor will the church be ever joyful enough to celebrate the blessings you have lavished upon us. In your Word, in the music, in Communion, give us a glimpse of your glory. Through Christ Jesus our ever-living Lord. Amen!

### RESPONSIVE READING: **Psalm 116:10-16 (NIV)**

R: <sup>10</sup> I trusted in the LORD when I said, "I am greatly afflicted";

C: <sup>11</sup> in my alarm I said, "Everyone is a liar."

R: <sup>12</sup> What shall I return to the LORD for all his goodness to me?

C: <sup>13</sup> I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.

R: <sup>14</sup> I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.

C: <sup>15</sup> Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful servants.

R: <sup>16</sup> Truly I am your servant, LORD; I serve you just as my mother did;  
you have freed me from my chains.

R: The Word of the Lord    **C: THANKS BE TO GOD!**

**NEW TESTAMENT READING: Acts 7:44-60 (NIV)**

<sup>44</sup> “Our ancestors had the tabernacle of the covenant law with them in the wilderness. It had been made as God directed Moses, according to the pattern he had seen. <sup>45</sup> After receiving the tabernacle, our ancestors under Joshua brought it with them when they took the land from the nations God drove out before them. It remained in the land until the time of David, <sup>46</sup> who enjoyed God’s favor and asked that he might provide a dwelling place for the God of Jacob. <sup>47</sup> But it was Solomon who built a house for him.

<sup>48</sup> “However, the Most High does not live in houses made by human hands. As the prophet says:

<sup>49</sup> “‘Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me?’ says the Lord. Or where will my resting place be? <sup>50</sup> Has not my hand made all these things?’

<sup>51</sup> “You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! <sup>52</sup> Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him— <sup>53</sup> you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it.”

<sup>54</sup> When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup> But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

<sup>57</sup> At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, <sup>58</sup> dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

<sup>59</sup> While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup> Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep.

**R: The Word of the Lord    C: THANKS BE TO GOD!**

**↑HALLELUJAH**



**P: THE HOLY GOSPEL according to Luke Chapter 23**

**C: GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!**

<sup>33</sup> When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. <sup>34</sup> Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

<sup>46</sup> Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last.

**P: This is the GOSPEL of our Lord! C: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!**

**MESSAGE**

“Stephen’s Good Trouble”

**Pastor Ben Unseth**

**↑ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Apostles’ Creed**

**C: I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

**↓ HYMN OF THE DAY**

*His Mercy Is More*

**Song Sheet**

**OFFERING and OFFERING RESPONSE**

*As ushers bring forward the offering, ↑ to sing*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below.*

*Praise Him above ye heav'nly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

**↑ PRAYERS**

**P: Lord, in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.**

**↓ WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**EXHORTATION**

God our Father, in his exuberant and abundant mercy and grace, has given his only Son, our Lord and Savior, to forgive our sins and to give us faith to trust in this, his very promise, that in his body and in his blood he redeems us and reconciles us with our Father. And when we ask: when is a person rightly prepared to receive this sacrament? We respond: one who has faith. Thus, we boast in Christ because we know that faith comes from hearing and hearing comes through the Word of Christ forgiving our sins. Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

## PREFACE

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.**

P: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O Lord holy Father, almighty everlasting God: Through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, our Lord and Savior, who ascending above the heavens and sitting at your right hand, poured out the Holy Spirit as he had promised upon the chosen disciples, causing the whole earth to rejoice. Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you, and singing....

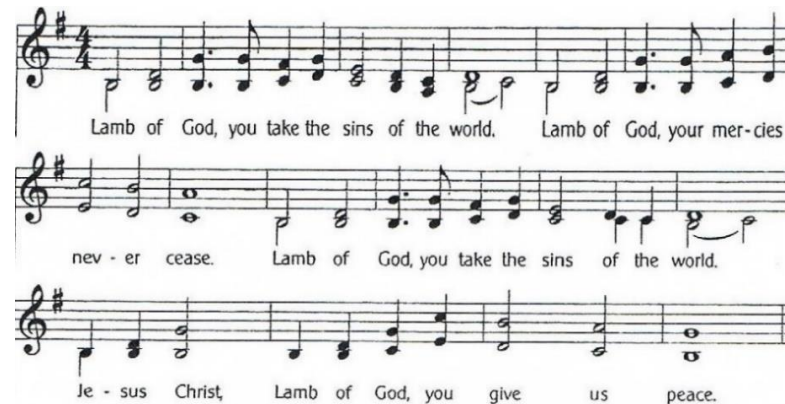
## SANCTUS



## ↑LORD'S PRAYER

**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**

## AGNUS DEI



## BLESSING (after distribution)

P: The body of our Lord Jesus Christ and his precious blood strengthen and preserve you in true faith to everlasting life.

↑**NUNC DIMITTIS** (Now Dismiss Your Servants)

**Lord, now let your servants depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people: A light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen**

**BENEDICTION**

P: May the Lord bless you and protect you. May the Lord lift his smiling face to you and be gracious to you. May the Lord show you his favor and give you his peace.

↑**SENDING HYMN**

*Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus*

**#78**

**DISMISSAL:**

P: Go in peace and serve the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**