



January 7, 2024

# Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## Welcome & Announcements

### Gathering Hymn

### **“Arise, Your Light Has Come!”**

**ELW #314 vs 1,2&4**

1 Arise, your light has come!  
The Spirit's call obey;  
show forth the glory of your God  
which shines on you today.

2 Arise, your light has come!  
Fling wide the prison door;  
proclaim the captive's liberty,  
good tidings to the poor.

4 Arise, your light has come!  
The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing,  
God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947  
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## Call to Confession

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ⲥ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **C: Amen.**

P: 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. **C: Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

## Prayer of Confession

P: Gracious God,

**C: 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.**

## Forgiveness

P: 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. **C: Amen.**

## 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.**

## This is the Feast



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

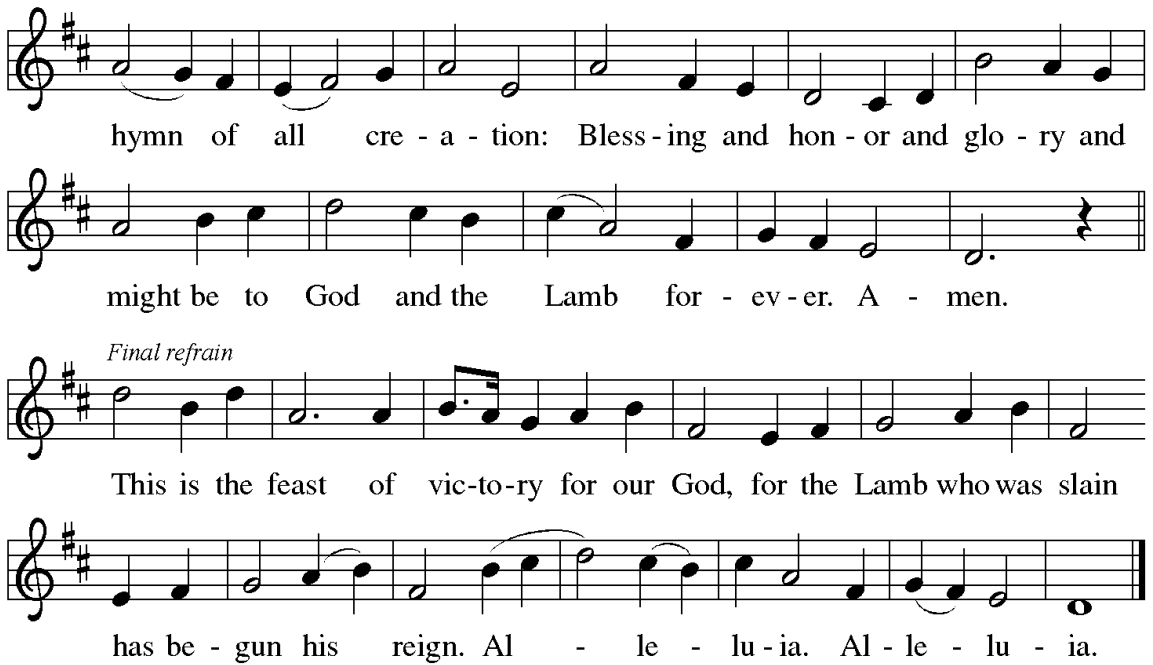
Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and  
might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain  
has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

**C: Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Anthem (8:30)

Adult Choir

**“Shines the Light” – Dengler and Dengler**

## Word

*God Speaks to Us in Scripture Reading, Preaching, and Song.*

**Reading: Genesis 1:1-5**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

**Reading: Acts 19:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. <sup>2</sup>He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” <sup>3</sup>Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” <sup>4</sup>Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” <sup>5</sup>On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—<sup>7</sup>altogether there were about twelve of them.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

**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.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, chapter one.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

**Gospel: Mark 1:4-12**

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

<sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Children's Message

**Sermon**

**"Heavens Torn Apart"**

**Pastor Kathy**

**Hymn of the Day**

**"Shall We Gather at the River"**

**ELW #423**

1 Shall we gather at the river,  
where bright angel feet have trod,  
with its crystal tide forever  
flowing by the throne of God?

*Refrain*

Yes, we'll gather at the river,  
the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
gather with the saints at the river  
that flows by the throne of God.

2 On the margin of the river,  
washing up its silver spray,  
we will walk and worship ever,  
all the happy golden day. *Refrain*

3 Ere we reach the shining river,  
lay we ev'ry burden down;  
grace our spirits will deliver,  
and provide a robe and crown. *Refrain*

4 Soon we'll reach the shining river,  
soon our pilgrimage will cease;  
soon our happy hearts will quiver  
with the melody of peace. *Refrain*

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

Apostles' Creed (8:30)

**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.**

### **Baptism of Emelisse Louise Schmiesing (10:30)**

*Emelisse is the daughter of Bella Schmiesing and Jordan Hillesheim. Her baptismal sponsors are Jade Ohotto and Saige Wilfahrt. May God's blessing be upon this child.*

People of God, do you promise to support *Emelisse*, and pray for *her* in *her* new life in Christ? **C: We do.**



### **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

P: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**C: I renounce them.**

P: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**C: I renounce them.**

P: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**C: I renounce them.**

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C: 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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: 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.**

The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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



Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**C: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world. Amen.**

**Hymn (10:30)**

**"Jesus Loves Me!"**

**ELW #595 vs 1**

Prayers of the People

P: Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

Sharing God's Peace

Offertory

**Offertory Hymn**

**"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"**

**ELW #184**



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of

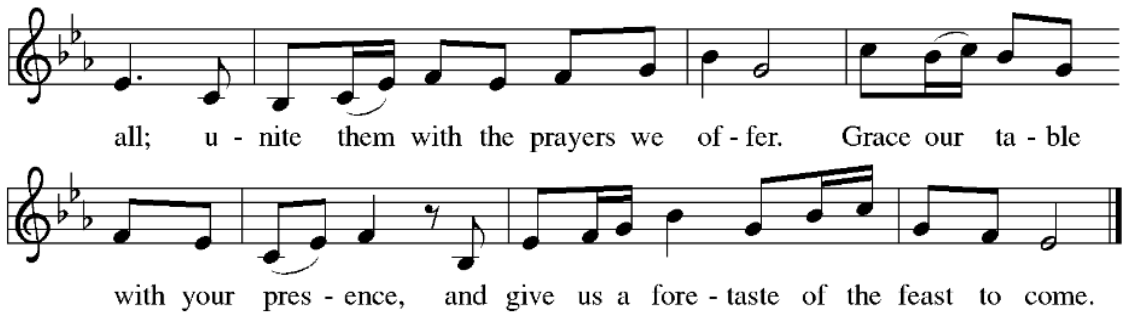


bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of





Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
 Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927  
 Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## Offertory Prayer

P: Let us pray.

**C: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## Holy Communion

*Today we celebrate Holy Communion: If you are a guest, please know you are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Jesus said that the body and blood are given "for you and for all people." For gluten-free wafers, ask the pastors. If you desire to commune while seated, please sit near an aisle and let an usher know. We will bring communion to you. Children not yet communing are invited forward to receive a blessing. If you would like to have grape juice instead of wine, please hold up your index finger when you reach a communion server.*

P: The Lord be with you,

**C: And also with you.**

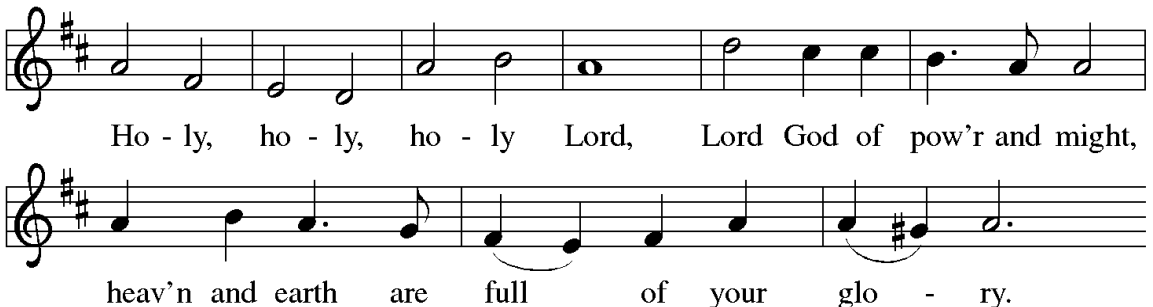
P: Lift up your hearts,

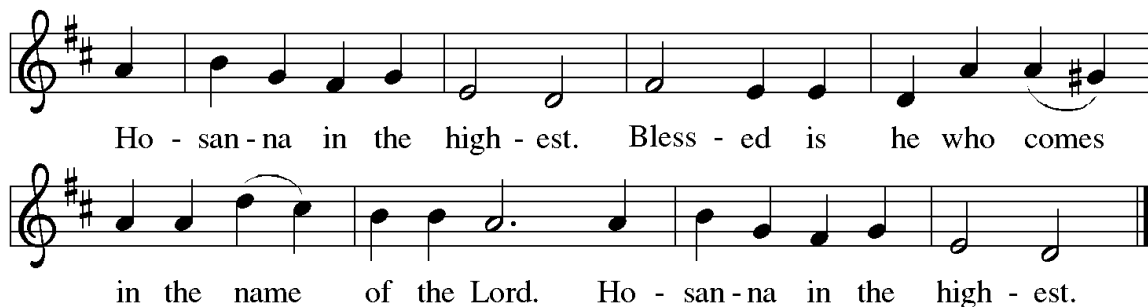
**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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

## Holy, Holy, Holy



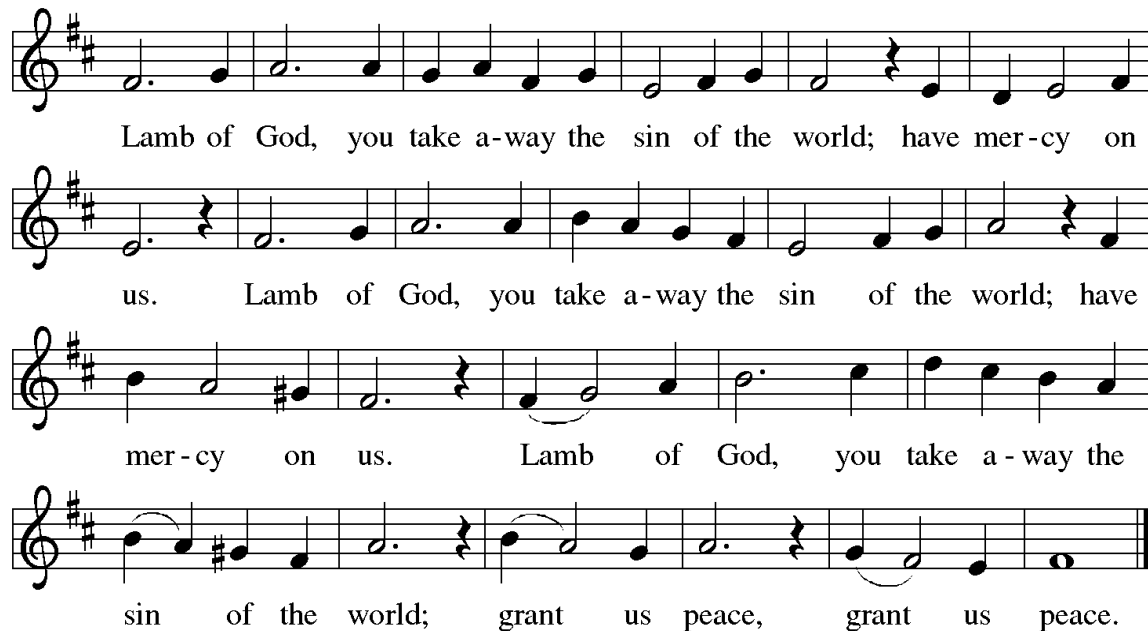


## Words of Institution

### The Lord's Prayer

**C:** Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

### Lamb of God



## Communion Hymns

ELW #453, ELW #456

## Communion Blessing and Prayer

### Benediction

#### Sending Hymn

#### “God, Whose Almighty Word”

**ELW #673 vs 1-3**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 God, whose almighty word<br>chaos and darkness heard<br>and took their flight:<br>hear us, we humbly pray,<br>and where the gospel day<br>sheds not its glorious ray,<br>let there be light.      | 2 Christ, who once came to bring,<br>on your redeeming wing,<br>healing and sight;<br>health to the troubled mind,<br>sight where illusions blind;<br>oh, now to humankind<br>let there be light. |
| 3 Spirit of truth and love,<br>life-giving, holy dove,<br>speed forth your flight;<br>move on the water's face<br>bearing the lamp of grace,<br>and in earth's darkest place<br>let there be light. |   |

Text: John Marriott, 1780-1825, alt.

#### Dismissal

P: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

#### ***In Our Prayers This Week:***

Audrey Broste, Russ Brown, Eloise Finstad, Dixie Flitter, Marj Frederickson, Brenda Gruenhagen, Brad Haynes, Nicole Hubert, Marilyn Hudson, Sharon Hulke, Ken Johnson, Lyndon Jones, Mavis Jones, Dave Marsh, Treacy Meyer, George Putnam, Karyl Putnam, Pam Riebe, Sharon Riser, Gabrielle Rolloff, JoAnn Saffert

Family of Joyce Jobe



**Senior Pastor:** Kathleen Ulland-Klinkner  
**Education Ministries Coordinator:** Lindsay Medina  
**Business Administrator:** Lois Aufderheide  
**Director of Music Ministries:** Tom Maidl  
**Choir Director:** Madeline Cacciatore-Warta  
**Pianist:** Tom Maidl  
**Deacon:** (8:30) Coryn Enck, Jenny Krosch  
(10:30) Linda Postel, Karissa Fenske  
**Acolytes:** (8:30) Kylie Domeier, Kamryn Gehring  
(10:30) Zoey Havemeier, Claire Kveno  
**Communion Server:** (8:30) Deb Kaehler  
**Lector:** (8:30) Deb Kaehler  
**Ushers:** (8:30) Jim Schmidt, Roger Lund  
**P/P:** (8:30) Amanda Neidecker

**Associate Pastor:** Dave Nissen  
**Office Administrator:** Jen Geiger  
**Facilities Manager:** Scott Kathman  
**Handbell Director:** Sarah Berger  
  
**A/V:** Jeff Julien  
  
(10:30) Becca Warta  
(10:30) Trevor, Katie & Cullen Slette  
(10:30)

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	Weekly Offering	YTD Offering	YTD Budget
12/31 General Offering	\$ 32,140.12	\$ 530,071.17	\$ 528,323.12
12/31 Building Fund	\$ 5,345.00	\$ 73,571.99	\$ 54,999.88
TOTAL:	\$ 37,485.12	\$ 603,643.16	\$ 583,323.00
12/31 World Hunger	\$ 5.00	\$ 7,250.33	

**\*\* Year End Numbers pending final deposits/postmarked mail.**

ATTENDANCE	9:00 AM	12:00 Noon	3:00 PM	5:00 PM
12/24/23	61	90	395	187

ATTENDANCE	9:00AM Sun.	7:30PM Wed.
12/31/23	111	85