

ST. MATTHIAS'
Episcopal Church

The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost, September 21, 2025

10:30 a.m. — The Holy Eucharist

The Rev. Gregory Bezilla, Celebrant

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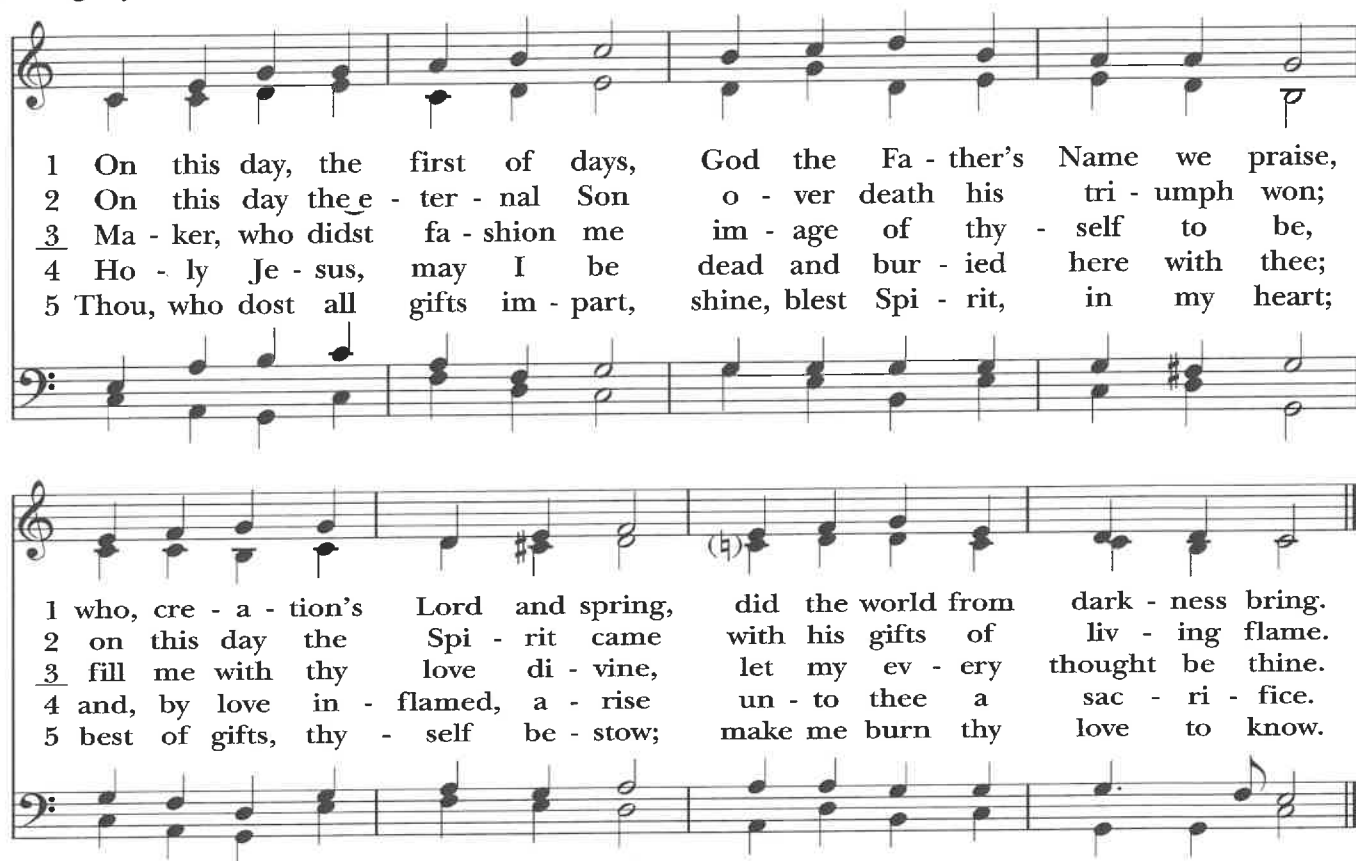
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The Word of God

WELCOME and Announcements

Prelude: *Andante (from Voluntary in F, Op. 7, No. 6)—John Stanley*

Opening Hymn: *On This Day, the First of Days, (from The Hymnal 1982, 47)**



The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It consists of two systems of music. The first system contains the first five verses of the hymn. The second system contains the next five verses. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves, with the piano accompaniment on the bottom staff of each system. The key signature is one flat (F major or D minor), and the time signature is common time (C).

1 On this day, the first of days, God the Fa - ther's Name we praise,
2 On this day the e - ter - nal Son o - ver death his tri - umph won;
3 Ma - ker, who didst fa - shion me im - age of thy - self to be,
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, may I be dead and bur - ied here with thee;
5 Thou, who dost all gifts im - part, shine, blest Spi - rit, in my heart;

1 who, cre - a - tion's Lord and spring, did the world from dark - ness bring.
2 on this day the Spi - rit came with his gifts of liv - ing flame.
3 fill me with thy love di - vine, let my ev - ery thought be thine.
4 and, by love in - flamed, a - rise un - to thee a sac - ri - fice.
5 best of gifts, thy - self be - stow; make me burn thy love to know.

6 God, the blessed Three in One,
dwell within my heart alone;
thou dost give thyself to me:
help me give myself to thee.

Words: Latin; tr. Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), alt. Music: *Gott sei Dank*, melody from *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704;
adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant and People: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gloria *St. Matthias' Mass—John A. Murdock*

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and

peace to his peo - ple on earth. _____

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and

peace to his peo - ple on earth!

Music: John A. Murdock, September 2025

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Collect of the Day: Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading: *Amos 8:4-7*

Reader: A reading from the Book of Amos.

Hear this, you that trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
saying, "When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain;
and the sabbath,
so that we may offer wheat for sale?
We will make the ephah small and the shekel great,
and practice deceit with false balances,

buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals,
and selling the sweepings of the wheat."
The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

Reader: The Word of the Lord **People: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 113 ***Laudate, pueri*** (read responsively by half verse)

1 Hallelujah!

Give praise, you servants of the LORD; *
praise the Name of the LORD.

2 Let the Name of the LORD be blessed, *
from this time forth for evermore.

3 From the rising of the sun to its going down *
let the Name of the LORD be praised.

4 The LORD is high above all nations, *
and his glory above the heavens.

5 Who is like the LORD our God, who sits enthroned on high *
but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?

6 He takes up the weak out of the dust *
and lifts up the poor from the ashes.

7 He sets them with the princes, *
with the princes of his people.

8 He makes the woman of a childless house *
to be a joyful mother of children.

Second Reading: *1 Timothy 2:1-7*

Reader: A reading from the First Letter of Paul to Timothy.

First of all, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

who gave himself a ransom for all

-- this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn: *Seek Ye First*, (from *Gather 4*, 641)+

Verses



1. Seek ye _____ first the _____ king - dom of God
 2. Ask, and it shall be _____ giv - en un - to you.
 3. You do not live by _____ bread _____ a - lone,
 4. Where two or three are _____ gath - ered in my name,



and his _____ right - eous - ness, _____
 seek, and _____ you shall _____ find, _____
 but by _____ ev - 'ery _____ word, _____
 there am _____ I in their midst; _____



and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you;
 knock, and the door shall be o - pened un - to you;
 that comes _____ forth from the mouth _____ of _____ God;
 and what - so - ev - er you ask _____ I will do;

Refrain



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



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



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

Text: Matthew 6:33, 7:7; adapt. by Karen Lafferty, b. 1948

Tune: *Seek Ye First*, Irregular; Karen Lafferty, b. 1948

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Gospel Reading: *Luke 16:1-13*

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord. **People:** **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Gregory Bezilla

The Nicene Creed *(Please stand as you are able)*

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.

A Litany for the Mission of the Church *(from The Book Occasional Services)*

Holy God, in whom all things in heaven and earth have their being,
Have mercy on us.

Jesus the Christ, through whom the world is reconciled to the Father,
Have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit, whose glory fills the world and searches the depths of God,
Have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God,
Have mercy on us.

From blind hearts and petty spirits that refuse to see our need for your love,
Savior, deliver us.

From pride, self-sufficiency, and the unwillingness to admit our own need of your compassion,
Savior, deliver us.

From discouragement in the face of pain and disappointment, and from lack of persistence and thoroughness,
Savior, deliver us.

From ignorance, apathy, and complacency that prevent us from spreading the Gospel,
Savior, deliver us.

O God, we pray for the gifts of ministry. Inspire our minds with a vision of your kingdom in this time and place.
Hear us, O Christ.

Open our eyes, that we may see your glory in all creation.
Hear us, O Christ.

Open our ears, that we may hear from every mouth the hunger for hope and stories of refreshment.
Hear us, O Christ.

Open our lips, that we may tell in every tongue the wonderful works of God.
Hear us, O Christ.

Open our hearts, that we may discern the work to which you call us.
Hear us, O Christ.

Send us with your Good News into our neighborhoods, communities, and all parts of the world.
Hear us, O Christ.

Strengthen us, that we may each accomplish the work you give us to do.
Hear us, O Christ.

Sustain and encourage all who minister in your name in lonely, dangerous, and unresponsive places.
Hear us, O Christ.

Open the hearts and hands of many to support your Church in this and every place.
Hear us, O Christ.

Let us pray for those in need of our prayers: _____.

Joe Clark	/Ashley	Clive Burnett
Nicole	/Mason	Dylan Lowe
Chris	Kara	Ronda Toll
Sarah	David B.	Carol Gibbs
/Kayode	Archana	Judy
Ernest Adler	Winston	Carmela Clay
Adam	Beverley	Eric
Hun	Trish	/Angela Brown
Amy	Floyd	Consuelo Johnson
Gene Towsen	Sarah Harriman	The Allen Family
Ann Tobias	/David Sr.	Shirley Jenkins
Robert Papsco	David Jr.	Garvin Martin
Paul Papsco	Darian Scalard	Stephanie
William	Kay Gray	Brad
Bob Bledsoe	Mary Evelyn Parker	
Renay Hardy	Eunice Ellerich	

We also pray for those in the military, especially:

Callen Ziegler	Sooky Brooks
Austin Majette	Jake Hentges
Michael S Handlan	Ethan Moro
Spencer Schoenweis	Jacob Murdock
Marshall Ketron	Andrew Rodgers

Reader: Lord, in your mercy,
People: **Hear Our Prayer**

We pray in thanksgiving for those celebrating Birthdays this week_____.

Dawn Fiske	22
Michelle Henry	24
Ed Mazur	24

Reader: Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear Our Prayer

Let us remember before God our brothers and sisters who have departed this life and are at rest, especially for the repose of the soul of Geoffry Overfield, son of The Rev. Brenda Overfield.

Reader: Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear Our Prayer

Prayer for Discernment

Gracious God, we are grateful for the blessings bestowed upon St. Matthias' Episcopal Church that have laid the foundation for us and our Parish. We pray for your guidance with open hearts and minds. Grant the Discernment Committee wisdom, faith, and trust in your will. Be with us as we seek a shepherd who will be a strong spiritual leader for our congregation, and to help us to share Christ's light in our world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Children Enter the Church from Sunday School at the Peace.

We Are the Church

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, suitable for children's singing. The lyrics are: 'I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to - geth - er! All who fol - low Je - sus, all a - round the world! Yes, we're the church to - geth - er!' The first staff ends with a double bar line.

I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to -
geth - er! All who fol - low Je - sus,
all a - round the world! Yes, we're the church to - geth - er!

Words: Richard K. Avery and Donald S. Marsh, 1972

Music: *Port Jervis*, 77.87 with Refrain; Richard K. Avery and Donald s. Marsh, 1972

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The Peace

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

People: And also with you.

The Holy Communion

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

Offertory: *Appalachian Sunrise* – Joseph Martin

At the Presentation: *Doxology* – *Lasst uns erfreuen* (Thomas Ken; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams)+

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; praise
God, all crea - tures here be - low; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
lu ia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise
Je - sus Christ, whose pow'r up - lifts! Praise the Spir - it, Ho - ly Spir - it! Al - le -
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapt. by Gilbert H. Vieira, 1978
Music: *Lasst uns erfreuen*, 1623; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
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Eucharistic Prayer C

BCP 369

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

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

Glory to you for ever and ever.

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.

By your will they were created and have their being.

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.

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

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.

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

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: Mass of Creation - Marty Haugen

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of pow - er, God of might, heav - en 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 Creation*, Marty Haugen, © 1984, GIA Publications, Inc.

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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Mothers and 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.

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

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.
AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread:

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. So come you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is the Lord who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here. **Amen.**

Communion: On the Blue Ridge – Joseph Martin

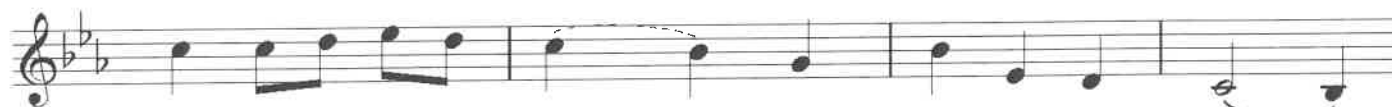
Be Thou My Vision, (from The Hymnal 1982, 488)*



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 High King of hea - ven, when vic - tory is won,



all else be nought to me, save that thou art—
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
may I reach hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun!



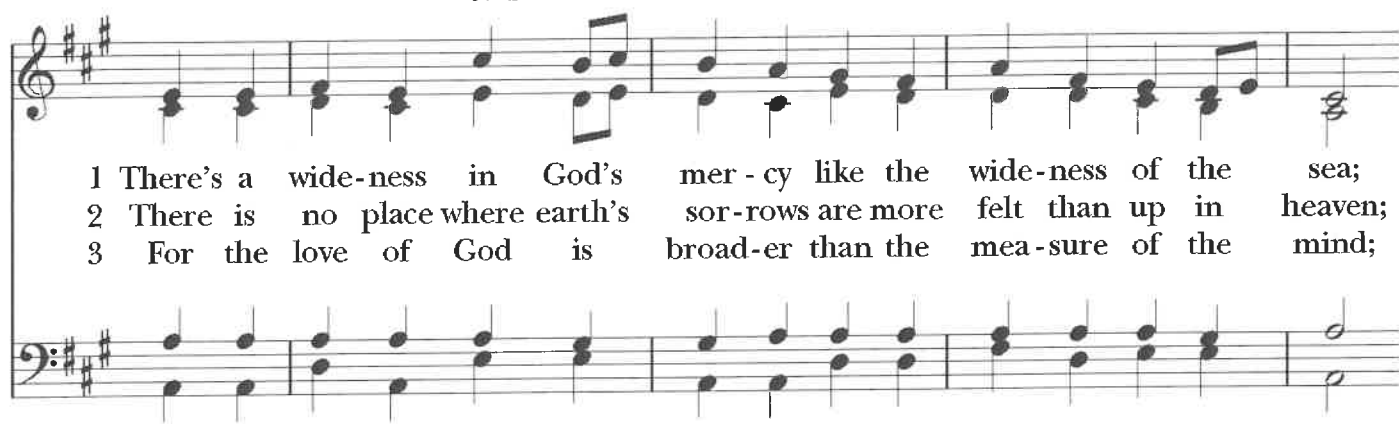
thou my best thought, — by day or by night,
thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be;
Heart of my heart, — what - ev - er be - fall,



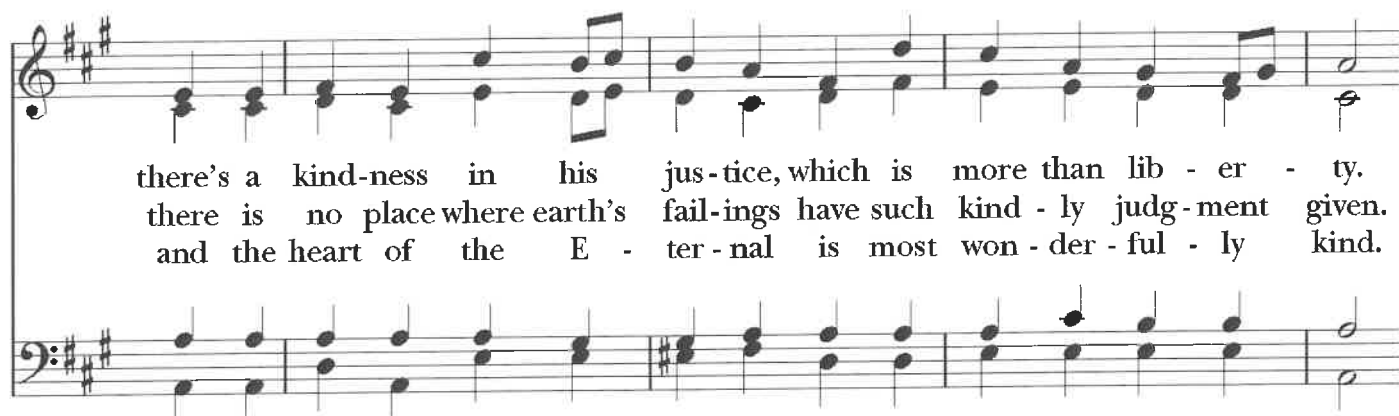
wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.
still be my vis - ion, O Ru - ler of all.

Words: Irish, ca. 700; versified Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931); tr. Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935), alt. Copyright © by permission of the Estate of Eleanor Hull and Chatto & Windus Ltd. Music: *Slane*, Irish ballad melody; adapt. *The Church Hymnary*, 1927; harm. David Evans (1874-1948) Copyright © by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

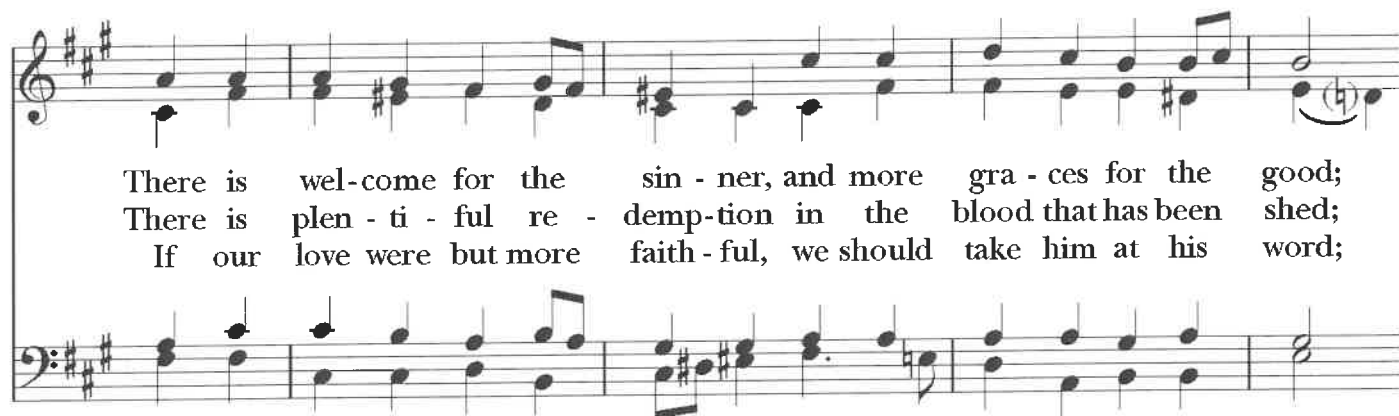
*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy, (from The Hymnal 1982, 470)**



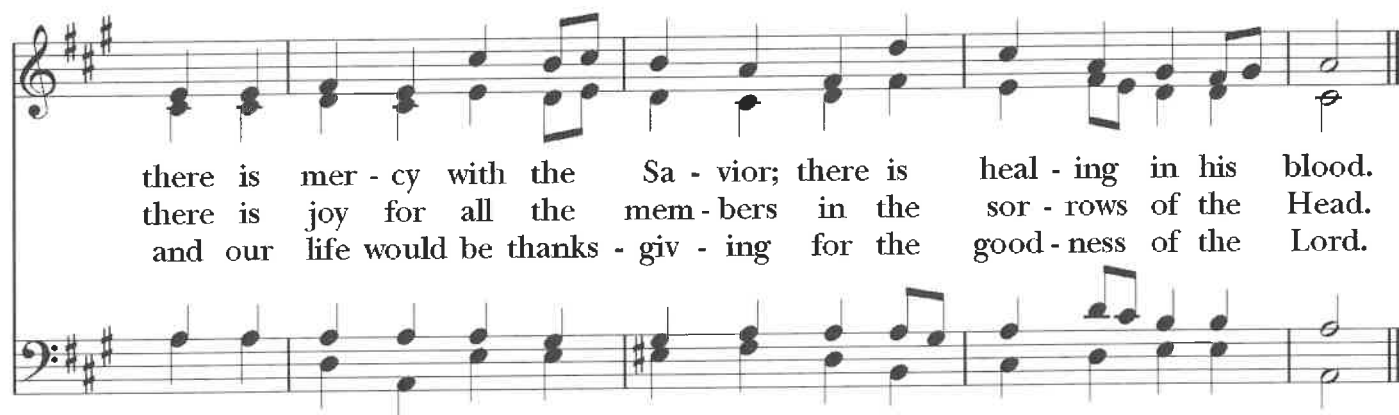
1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy like the wide-ness of the sea;
 2 There is no place where earth's sor-rows are more felt than up in heaven;
 3 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sure of the mind;



there's a kind-ness in his jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
 there is no place where earth's fail-ings have such kind - ly judg-ment given.
 and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.



There is wel-come for the sin - ner, and more gra - ces for the good;
 There is plen - ti - ful re - demp-tion in the blood that has been shed;
 If our love were but more faith - ful, we should take him at his word;



there is mer - cy with the Sa - vior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
 there is joy for all the mem - bers in the sor - rows of the Head.
 and our life would be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

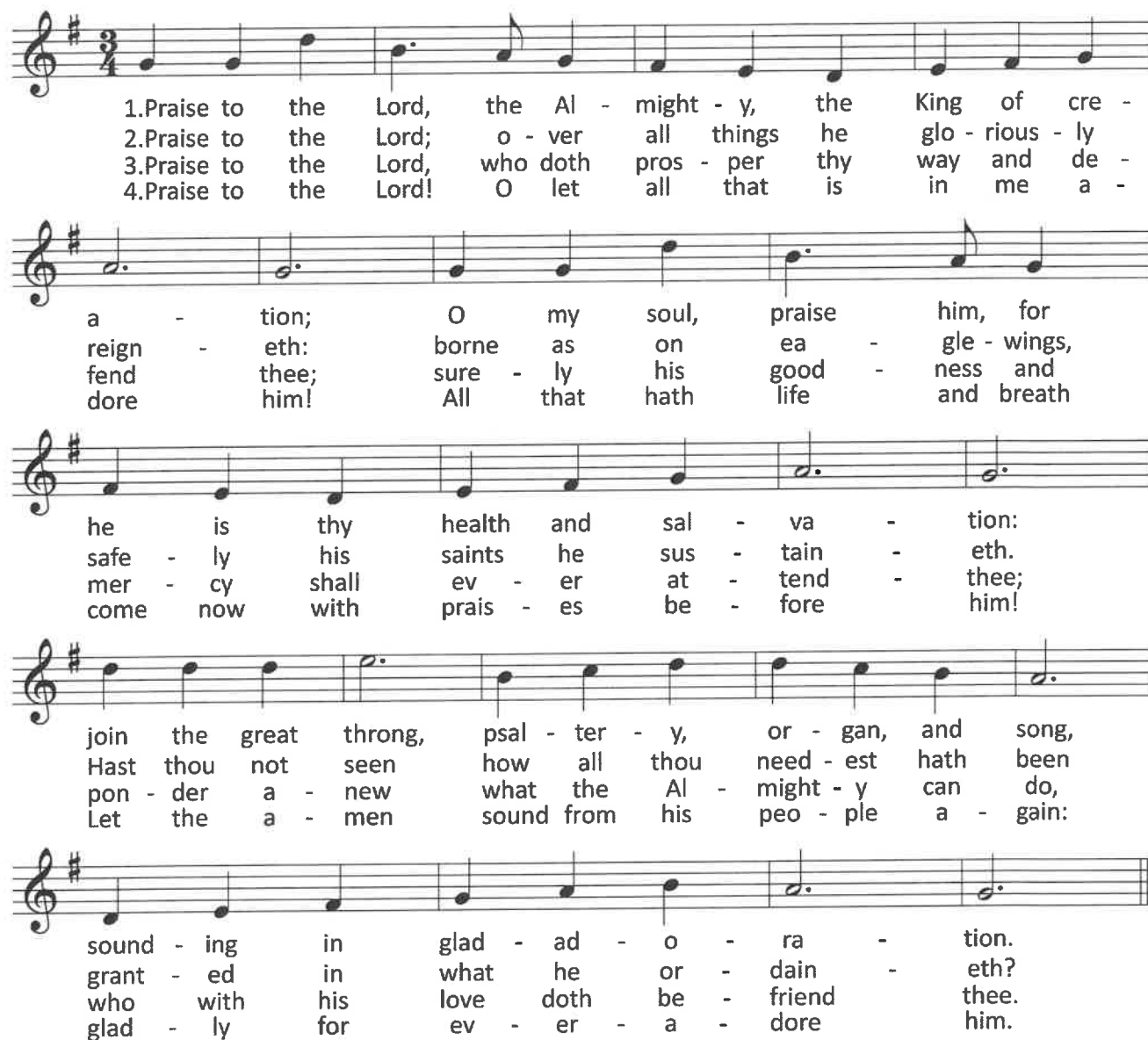
Words: Frederick William Faber (1814-1863), alt. Music: Beecher, John Zundel (1815-1882), alt.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Please stand as you are able)

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Benediction

Closing Hymn: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, (from The Hymnal 1982, 390)*



1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
2. Praise to the Lord; o - ver all things he glo - rious - ly
3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy way and de -
4. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

a - tion; O my soul, praise him, for
reign - eth: borne as on ea - gle - wings,
fend thee; sure - ly on his good - ness and
dore him! All that hath life and breath

he is thy health and sal - va - tion:
safe - ly his saints he sus - tain - eth.
mer - cy shall ev - er at - tend thee;
come now with prais - es be - fore him!

join the great throng, psal - ter - y, or - gan, and song,
Hast thou not seen how all thou need - est hath been
pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do,
Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain:

sound - ing in glad - ad - o - ra - tion.
grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?
who with his love doth be - friend thee.
glad - ly for ev - er - a - dore him.

Text: *Lobe den Herren, den mächtigen König*; Joachim Neander, 1650--1680; tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
Tune: *Lobe den Herren*, 14 14 47 8; *Stralsund Gesangbuch*, 1665; descant by C. S. Lang, 18991-1971,
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Celebrant: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *Canzona in G Minor – Domenico Zipoli*