



Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 27, 2025

10 A.M. Worship

Celebrating the Risen Christ through Acts of Love, Care and Justice

THEME OF THE DAY (YEAR C)

Persistence in prayer is encouraged by Jesus and wins the attention of God when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus—is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God's own. "When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me." (Lectionary 17)

PRELUDE

Our Father God, in Heaven Above

Stanley E. Saxton

TOLLING THE WORSHIP HOUR

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

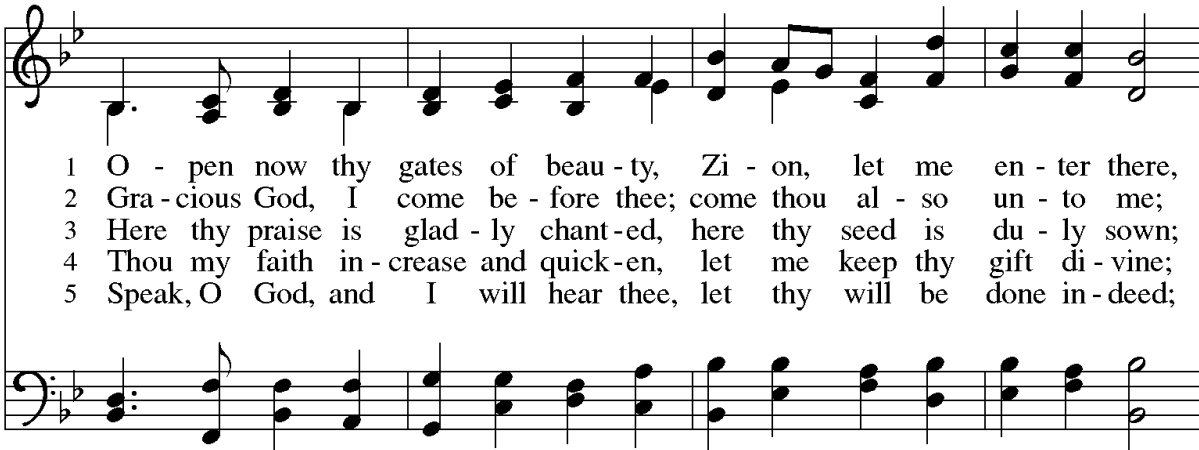
In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

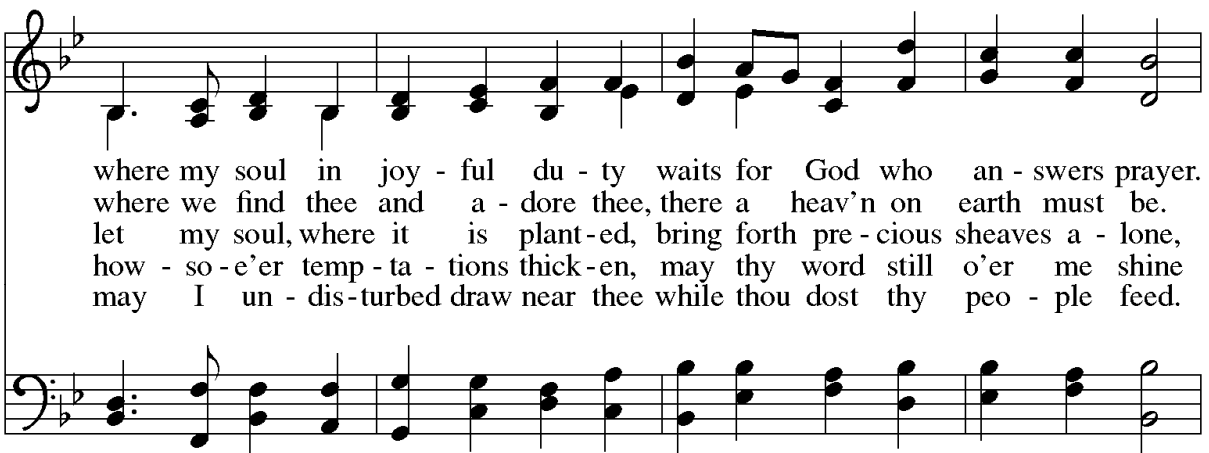
Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. **Amen.**

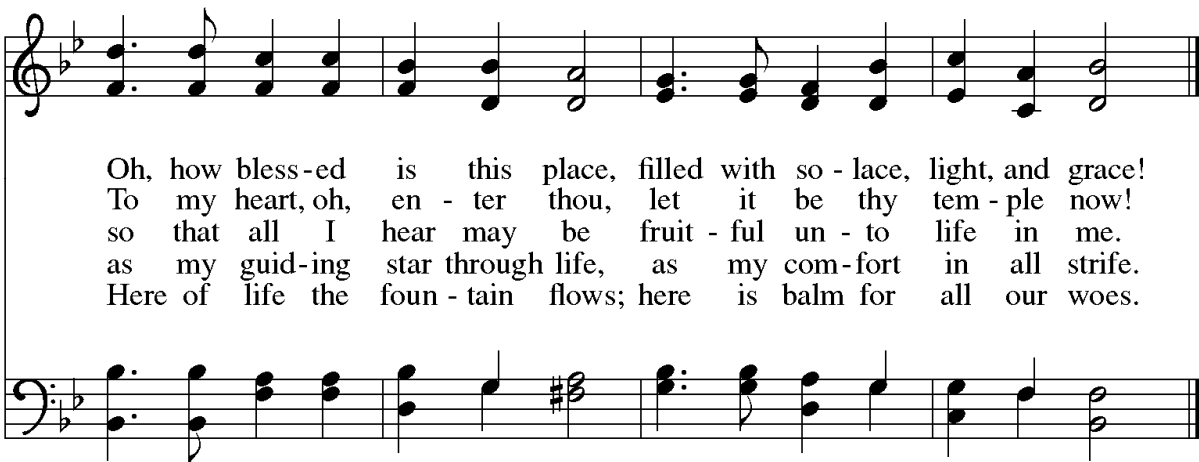
You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of ✝ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.
Amen.



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
 3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
 4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
 where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
 let my soul, where it is plant - ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
 how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en, may thy word still o'er me shine
 may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



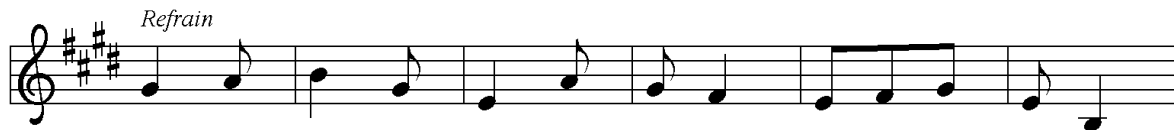
Oh, how bless - ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
 To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
 so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
 as my guid - ing star through life, as my com - fort in all strife.
 Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: UNSER HERRSCHER, Joachim Neander, 1650–1680

GREETING

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

And also with you.



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with You.

And also with you.

Let us pray... Almighty and ever-living God,

you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON / ANNOUNCEMENTS

W O R D

FIRST READING

Genesis 18:20-32

Pew Bible, pg. 12

In today's reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom for the sake of the few righteous people there, including Abraham's nephew, Lot.

²⁰ Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹ I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know."

²² So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD.

²³ Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵ Far be it

from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶ And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." ²⁷ Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸ Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there."

²⁹ Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰ Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." ³¹ He said, "Let me take it upon

myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." ³² Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

RESPONSE TO THE FIRST READING *(read responsively)*

Psalm 138

¹ I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise.

² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**

³ When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.

⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD, when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

⁵ They will sing of the ways of the LORD, that great is the glory of the LORD.

⁶ **The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.**

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

⁸ **You will make good your purpose for me; O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.**

The writer of this letter warns the congregation in Colossae about “the empty lure” of philosophies and traditions that compromise faith. Through the gift of faith, the church is mystically connected with Christ in his death and resurrection which is enacted in baptism.

⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him,
⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸ Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹² when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and the

uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

[¹⁶ Therefore, do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food or drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or Sabbaths. ¹⁷ These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the body belongs to Christ. ¹⁸ Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, initiatory visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, ¹⁹ and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with a growth that is from God.]

ALLELUIA VERSE (ALL sing)



Music: Now the Feast and Celebration, Marty Haugen

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In teaching his disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to focus on God's coming reign, God's mercy, and the strengthening of the community. Jesus encourages his disciples to child-like trust and persistence in prayer.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, chapter 11

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ [Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."

² So he said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, may your name be revered as holy.
May your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial."

⁵ And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,' ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' ⁷ And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me

in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹ "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? ¹³ If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

The Gospel of Our Lord!

Praise to you, O Christ.



1 Our Fa - ther, God in heav'n a - bove, we pray, u - nit - ed
 2 Give us to - day our dai - ly bread; let ev - 'ry - one be
 3 In time of tri - al, res - cue us. Let your word give suc -
 4 A - men. Yes, yes, it shall be so! Build up our faith and



in your love: Your name be hal - lowed. Help us, Lord,
 clothed and fed. For - give our sins, as we for - give
 cess to us when, on our left and on our right,
 make it grow; be - set by doubt, help us be - lieve



in faith - ful - ness to keep your word. Your king - dom come; your
 when oth - ers hurt us as we live. Help us to dwell in
 temp - ta - tions chal - lenge us to fight. De - liv - er us from
 what here we ask we shall re - ceive. So, by your prom - ise,



will be done on earth as there be - fore your throne.
 har - mo - ny and serve each oth - er will - ing - ly.
 e - vil's pow'r and com - fort us in life's last hour.
 in your name, with loud A - men your Yes we claim!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abridged; tr. hymnal version
 Music: VATER UNSER, V. Schumann, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1539
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PROFESSION OF FAITH — APOSTLES' CREED

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

(after each petition) **God of grace,
hear our prayer.**

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We share the peace of Christ with one another.

MEAL

GATHERING OF GIFTS

Ask the Complicated Questions

George Shearing

Scan here to give online.

You may also make your offering via US mail, or at: give.rlcplano.org,

Thank you!



Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat - tered on the hill were
 gath - ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo - ple from
 all the ends of earth be gath - ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,
 2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
 all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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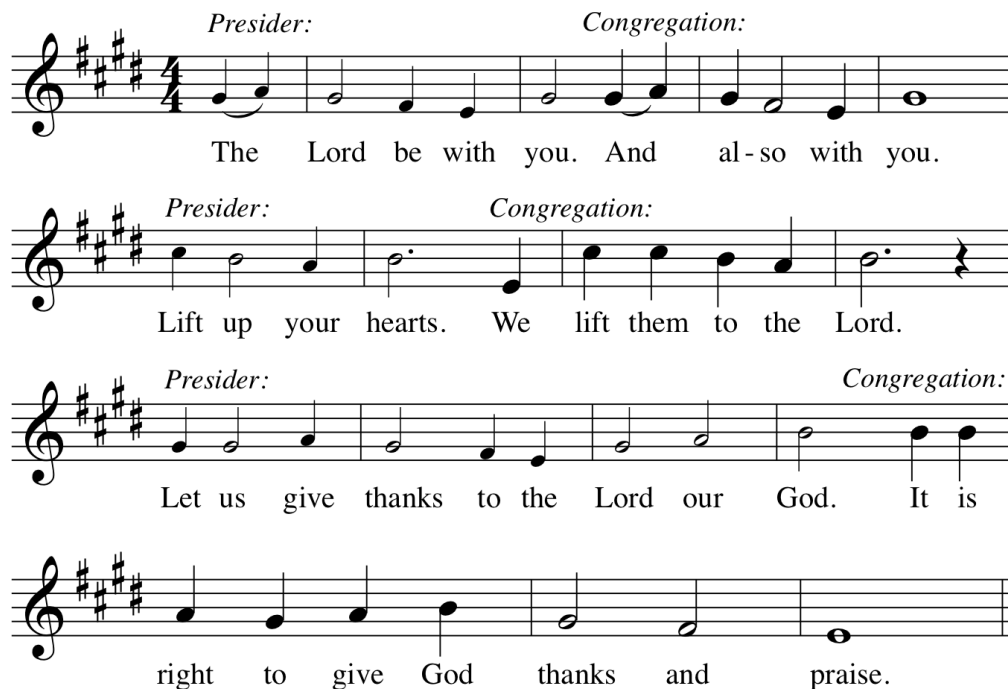
OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray...Creator God,

in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider: *Congregation:*



The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is

right to give God thanks and praise.

“It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...and join their unending hymn :

SANCTUS

ELW #191



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and

might; heav - en and earth are filled with your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (contemporary text)

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



1. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
2. Lamb of God, you break the chains of ha - tred and fear;
3. Lamb of God, you are the way of jus - tice and peace:
4. Lamb of God, you are the way of mer - cy and love:



have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us.



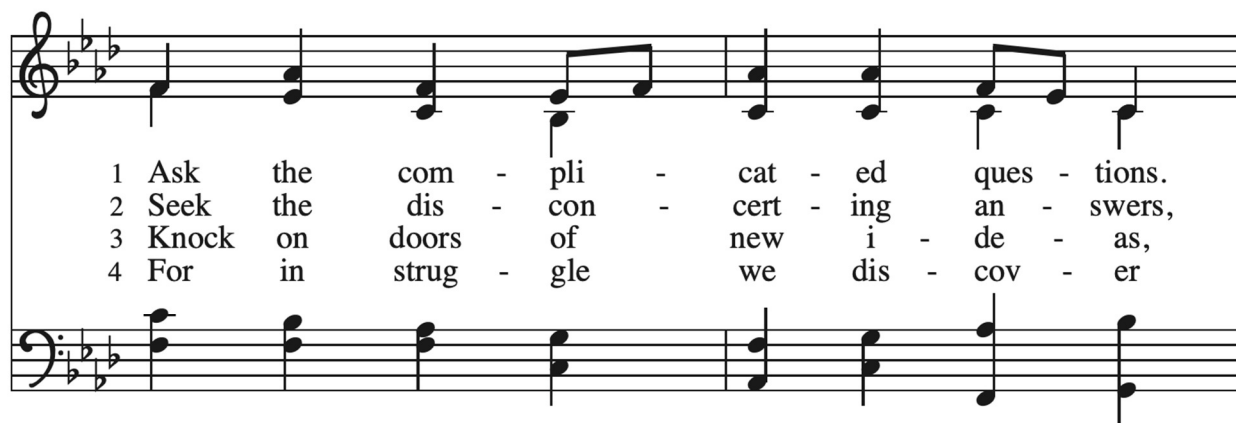
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



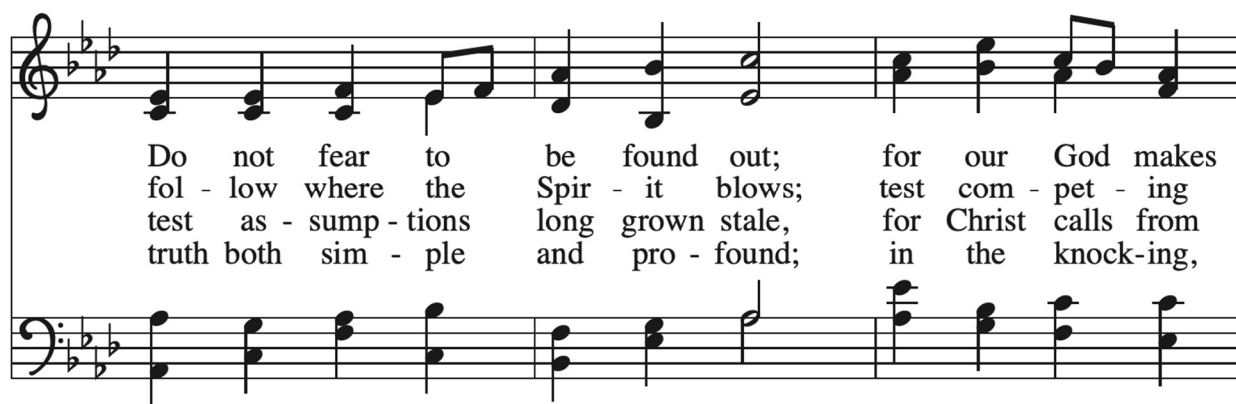
grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

Ask the Complicated Questions



1 Ask the com - pli - cat - ed ques - tions.
 2 Seek the dis - con - cert - ing an - swers,
 3 Knock on doors of new i - de - as,
 4 For in strug - gle we dis - cov - er



Do not fear to be found out; for our God makes
 fol - low where the Spir - it blows; test com - pet - ing
 test as - sump - tions long grown stale; for Christ calls from
 truth both sim - ple and pro - found; in the knock - ing,



strong our weak - ness, forg - ing faith in fires of doubt.
 truths for wis - dom, for in ten - sion new life grows.
 shores of won - der, dar - ing us to try and fail.
 ask - ing, seek - ing, we are o - pened, an - swered, found.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: RESTORATION, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. hymnal version

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TABLE BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray...Mothering God,
you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.

S E N D I N G

BENEDICTION

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ✠ bless you and give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

When It Seems the Day Will End



1 When it seems the day will end, and all
 2 When it seems the day will end, sink - ing
 3 When it seems the day will end, and a



light gives way to fear, we will speak your name a -
 low un - der our skin, we are dead and born a -
 cold - ness fills our bones, we will walk the way you've



gain to re - mind us you are here.
 gain, and with you now en - ter in.
 been, and our hearts will be your home.



Refrain
 New life ris - ing, New life ris - ing, ash - es fall - ing, ash - es fall - ing,



joy and weep-ing, joy and weep-ing, in your call-ing. in your call - ing.

Text: Justin Rimbo, b. 1980

Music: HUMBLE WALK, Justin Rimbo

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

When It Seems the Day Will End

Jim Loeffler



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