



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

319 South 5th Street, Albion, Nebraska 68620

www.zionalbion.org + office @zionalbion.org + 402-395-2043

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9am-4pm; Fri: Office Closed

January 26, 2025 ✚ THE 3rd SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

God's glory is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of God's glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.

✚ GATHERING ✚

Prelude

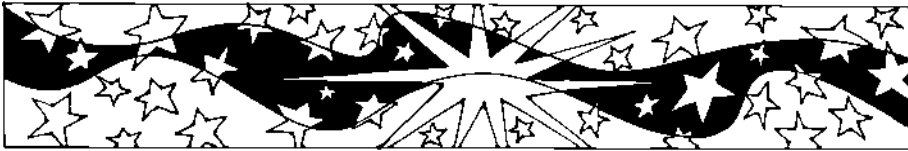
(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)

Welcome

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church in Albion! We offer a warm welcome to all who are worshipping in person or by way of Vyve Cable Channel 21 and Facebook Live. We hope that you encounter a word of God's grace and love in this worship service.

Holy Communion will be celebrated today. At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Christ are welcome to share in the Lord's meal. Holy Communion will be distributed in person or by pre-packaged elements. If you are uncomfortable coming forward, please pick up the communion elements as you enter worship. We will partake of the sacrament as directed by the pastor within the worship service. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with an usher. Gluten Free wafers are available on request.

Welcome to Worship



Third Sunday After The Epiphany

Confession & Forgiveness

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

God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all.

**If we say we have fellowship with him
while we are walking in darkness,
we lie and do not do what is true.**

But if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light,
we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

**Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,
the light no darkness can overcome.**

(Silence is kept for self-reflection and confession.)

Most merciful God,
**troubled and penitent, we confess our sins to you.
Our deeds are evil; we have loved darkness rather than the light.
We languish in the shadow of death.**

**Let your mercy dawn upon us for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son,
who was anointed by the Spirit to proclaim your favor.
Within our hearts, and in our lives, let there be light!**

God, who once commanded light to shine out of the darkness,
has shone in our hearts to give the light of
the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ,
who was handed over to death for our trespasses
and was raised for our justification.

For his sake your sins are forgiven.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, walk as children of light.

Amen.

Gathering Song

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing!

#886



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
- 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
- 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
- 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

- 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!

- 6 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, 1707-1788, alt.

Music: Carl G. Gläser, 1784-1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

Public Domain

Opening Litany

Through your word, O Jesus of Nazareth,
you have shared the message of salvation.

Reveal your good news to us again this day.

O Christ, our brother, you took on human flesh
and became poor for our sake, so that our souls might be renewed.

**Reveal to us your mighty power
to enrich the very poor in spirit.**

O Lord, our Healer,
you set your followers' sights on the treasures of heaven.

**Reveal to us how you open the eyes of those
who are blinded by the things of this world.**

On the cross, O Savior, you took on the sins of the whole world.
**Reveal to us how you release us from our captivity in sin,
through your life, death, and resurrection.**

In your life, you fulfilled all the prophecies about the Messiah.
Show us how God's will can be fulfilled in our life of faith.

Son of God the Father,
speak to us now, through your Holy Scriptures.

Apostolic Greeting

The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the wisdom of God the Father,
and the light of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Hymn of Praise *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!* #308 (v. 1&5)

I O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with
God's own truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy!
Of Ja - cob's line, King Da - vid's son, our Lord and Sav - ior,
you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly! Low - ly,
ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich
in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!

5 Oh, let the harps break forth in sound!
Our joy be all with music crowned,
our voices gaily blending!
For Christ goes with us all the way—
today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
His love is never ending!
Sing out! Ring out!
Jubilation!
Exultation!
Tell the story!
Praise to Christ, who reigns in glory!

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship* © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin, Augsburg Fortress
Music: Philipp Nicolai
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Prayer of the Day

Let us pray... (*A brief silence is kept.*)

Blessed Lord God,

you have caused the holy scriptures

to be written for the nourishment of your people.

Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn,

and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises,

we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life,

through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

First Reading

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that “the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

A reading from Nehemiah.

¹All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the

women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁸So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 19

Let us read Psalm 19 responsively.

¹The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker’s handiwork.

**²One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

³Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,

**⁴their sound has gone out into all lands,
and their message to the ends of the world,
where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

**⁶It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again;
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

⁸**The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear
and gives light to the eyes.**

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²**Who can detect one's own offenses?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

¹⁴**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.

A reading from First Corinthians.

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body

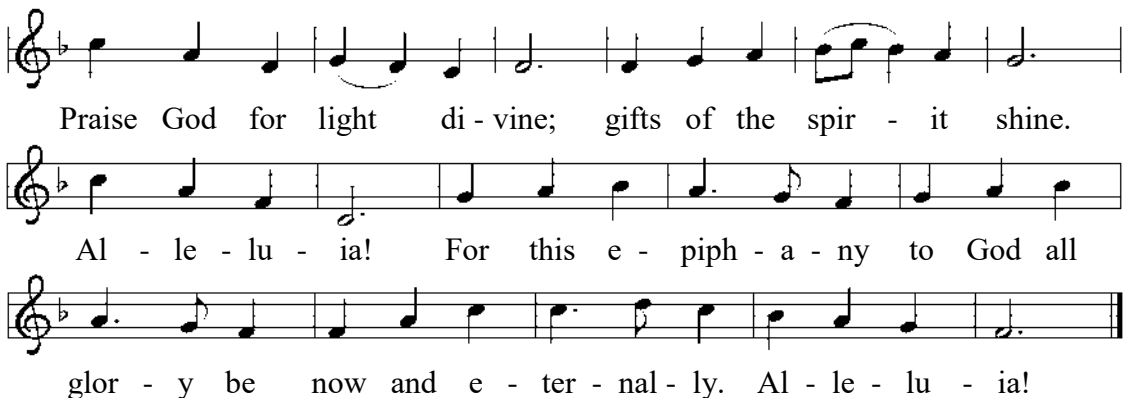
were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a}But strive for the greater gifts.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia Verse

(Tune: #408)



Praise God for light di - vine; gifts of the spir - it shine.

Al - le - lu - ia! For this e - piph - a - ny to God all

glor - y be now and e - ter - nal - ly. Al - le - lu - ia!

Tune: Public Domain

Holy Gospel

Luke 4:14-21

Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.

The Holy Gospel according St. Luke, the 4th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

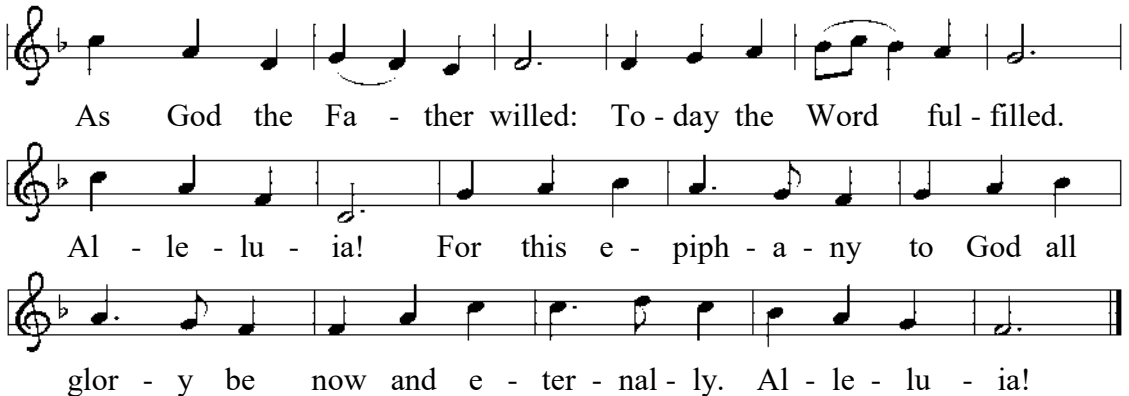
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Gospel Response

(Tune: #408)



As God the Fa - ther willed: To - day the Word ful - filled.

Al - le - lu - ia! For this e - piph - a - ny to God all

glor - y be now and e - ter - nal - ly. Al - le - lu - ia!

Tune: Public Domain

Children's Time Sermon

Hymn of the Day

One Bread, One Body

#496

Refrain



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of
bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y
through-out the earth, we are one bod-y in this one Lord.

1 Gen-tile or Jew, ser-vant or free,
2 Man-y the gifts, man-y the works,
3 Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown,

Refrain

wom-an or man, no more.
one in the Lord of all.
gath-cred to one for all.

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Apostles' Creed

Living together in trust and hope, let us profess our faith...

**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 into hell.

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

P With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us,
let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A As your word is opened in our midst,
we give thanks for all who share scripture:
for parents, grandparents, and godparents; teachers and mentors;
deacons, pastors, bishops, and scholars.
Inspire passion for the stories of faith.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P As heavens declare your glory and the sky proclaims your work,
we lift our voices in awe of quarks and atoms,
vast stars and solar systems.
Guide us to speak on behalf of your handiwork.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A As Jesus proclaimed life and freedom in his community,
energize communities and nations to eliminate poverty,
engage in prison ministry and transformative justice,
and envision new ways of working together for your promised reign.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P As your word and presence revive the soul, accompany all
experiencing depression, anxiety, or eating disorders; be a source of
strength for all affected by memory loss and their caregivers;
draw near to all undergoing medical treatment or surgery, especially...
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A As we are made one body in baptism, strengthen all who serve.
Renew and inspire all who use their gifts
in this congregation, community, and the world.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P Here other intercessions may be offered either aloud or in silence.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A As our faith is strengthened by saints who have gone before us,
we remember leaders of the early church,
and beloved friends and family who have died.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope
that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

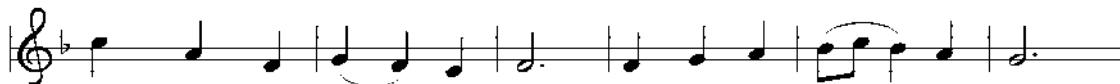
Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

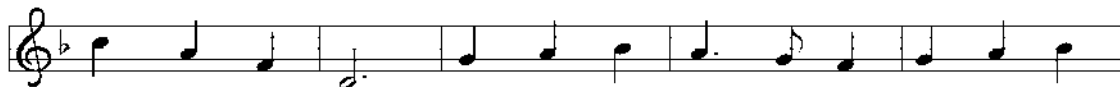
✠ OFFERING ✠

Offering Response

(Tune: #408)



Un - chang - ing Fa - ther of Lights in whom the world de - lights,
There - fore your prais-es we sing, and in our hands we bring



by whom we live: help us to un - der-stand your ev - er -
gifts in re - turn. Use them, we hum - bly pray, to spread the



op - en hand brings bless-ings to the land; great gifts you give!
light of day that all, by its glad ray, your love may learn.

Tune: Public Domain

✠ MEAL ✠

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also 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 our thanks and praise.



Proper Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

Christ is the Lamb of God

(Tune: #408)

Christ is the Lamb of God. For our sakes, to the cross he trod.

O Lamb of God, for our sal - va - tion we give thanks and

praise to Thee now and e - ter - nal - ly, O Lamb of God.

Tune: Public Domain

Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ,
in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation.

You sent a star to guide the Magi to where the Christ was born;
and your signs and witnesses in every age and through all the world
have led your people from far places to his light.

In his baptism and in his table fellowship
he took his place with sinners.

Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor,
proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who were oppressed,
and to announce that the time had come
when you would save your people.

On the night in which he was betrayed
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

Again after supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this in remembrance of me.

And so, in remembrance of these, your mighty acts in Jesus Christ
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice as we proclaim the mystery of faith...

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in our gathering; within this meal;
among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, Almighty God,
Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray together as Jesus taught us...

**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

(Tune: #742)



Lamb of God, our might-y Sav - ior all our sins you take a - way.



Lamb of God, by your great fa - vor, Lord, have mer-cy now, we pray.



Lamb of God, our pray'rs a - ttend - ing, nev - er let your mer-cies cease,



But, your Ho - ly Spir - it send - ing, grant us all your gift of peace.

Tune: Public Domain

Distribution

If you are joining us from home or are taking communion in your seat:

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

Distribution Hymn *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness* #843



- 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at-ing light;
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil-dren with a strong yet gen-tle word;
- 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf-fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris-'ners, turn-ing blind-ness in - to sight.
 praise the One who drove out de-mons with a pierc-ing, two-edged sword.
 Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal-ing ev - 'ry dread dis-ease,
 Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des-ert's burn-ing sand;
 Let us sing for joy and glad-ness, see-ing what our God has done.



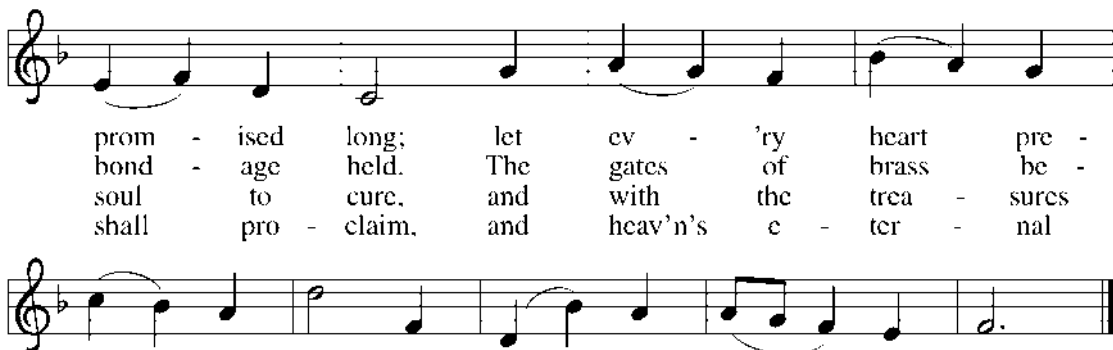
calm-ing storms and feed - ing thou-sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
 from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench-ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
 Praise the one re - deem-ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955 © 1987 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
 Music: J. Wyeth, Repository of Sacred Music, Part III, 1813
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Distribution Hymn *Hark, the Glad Sound!* #239



- 1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
- 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
- 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
- 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to • en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Phillip Doddridge, 1702-1751
 Music: Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820
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Table Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and preserve you unto eternal life. **Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*

Nourishing God,

at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink.

Strengthen us for service,

**and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing
for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

Announcements

Benediction

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness,
who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name,

✠ bless your going out and your coming in, today and forevermore.

Amen.

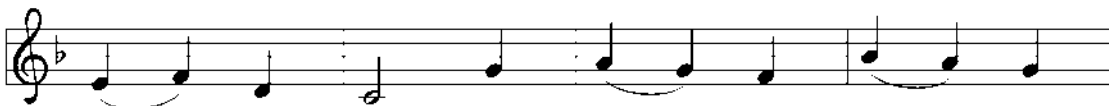
Sending Song

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

#551



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in
 2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the
 3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter
 4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings
 bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to
 joy like seed and, all our days, to
 to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.
 share a dream and help the blind to see.
 cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.
 pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

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Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



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Word Search Puzzle **Body Parts**

S	I	N	G	O	O	D	A	Q	A
B	U	T	E	E	T	H	Z	N	D
L	A	C	T	U	R	A	E	C	H
S	W	O	K	A	S	I	O	R	A
D	F	I	N	G	E	R	S	N	N
S	O	C	O	R	Y	A	M	B	D
A	O	A	S	A	E	A	R	E	L
H	T	L	E	G	T	N	I	O	J
E	D	T	L	P	I	N	A	S	O
T	U	R	E	I	S	L	I	P	S



Eye



Ear



Nose



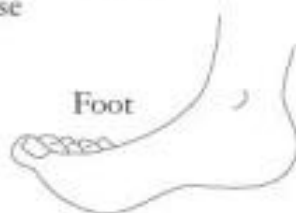
Leg



Hair



Hand



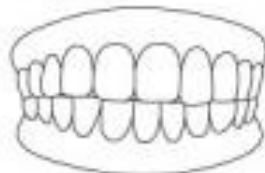
Foot



Fingers



Lips



Teeth

We are the body of Christ.

