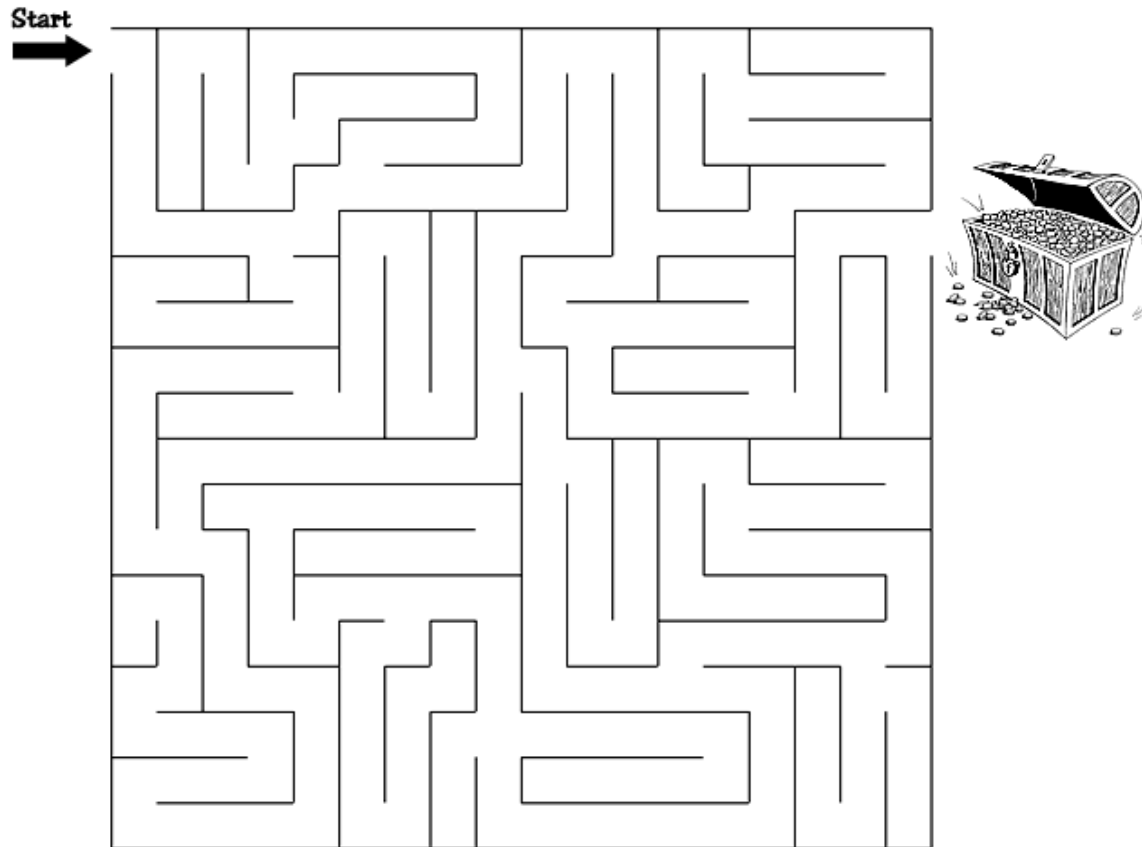
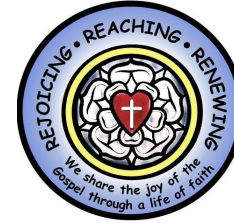


Treasure in the Field Maze

Can you find the way to the hidden treasure?



The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field.
When a man found it, he hid it again,
and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.
(Matthew 13:44)



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

July 26, 2026 ✚ Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

✚ GATHERING ✚

Prelude

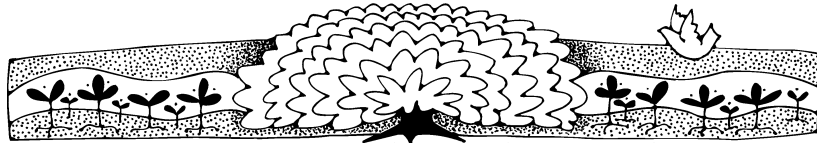
(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)

Welcome

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church in Albion! We offer a warm welcome to all who are worshipping in person or by way of 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



The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Confession and Forgiveness

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

God of all mercy and consolation,
come to the help of your people,
turning us from our sin to live for you alone.

**Give us the power of your Holy Spirit
that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness,
and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.
(Silence for meditation and self-examination.)

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God,
Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.
As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,
and by his authority, I therefore declare to you
the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father,
and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Parable of the Hidden Treasure

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field." Matthew 13:44 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on Matthew 13:44 (NIV)

*Find the hidden words. The words have been placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.
When you locate a word, draw a circle around it.*

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

FOUND	KINGDOM	PARABLE	BOUGHT
HEAVEN	SOLD	MAN	HIDDEN
JOY	FIELD	TREASURE	FIELD

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Sending Hymn

Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

WOV #783

1 Seek ye . . . first the king - dom of God and its
2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and
3 We do not live by bread . . . a - lone, but by

righteous - ness, and all these things shall be
you shall find; knock and the door shall be
ev - 'ry word that pro - ceeds from the

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
mouth . . of . . . God. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

Text: st. 1, Matthew 6:33, adapt. Karen Lafferty, b. 1948; st. 2 Matthew 7:7, st. 3, Matthew 4:4
Music: Karen Lafferty, b. 1948
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Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Opening Hymn

Gather Us In

#532

1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,

van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,

brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.

Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and

blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,

we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text & Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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Opening Litany

People of God, you are citizens of an everlasting kingdom.
And because you believe, the Lord will look out for you.

If God be for us, who can be against us?

When we feel small in comparison to the throngs of people
living, working and thriving all around us,
God helps us to grow and become strong.

If God be for us, who can be against us?

When we feel lost because of sin and confess what we have done,
God takes us back and erases the past.

If God be for us, who can be against us?

When the world makes us feel worthless,
God shows us how valuable we are in his eyes.

If God be for us, who can be against us?

Jesus said, “Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it,
so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”

In our prayer life, God is on our side.

St. Paul writes, “God is faithful.
He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear.
But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out
so that you can stand under it.”

In the midst of temptation, God is on our side.

Now with the power of God —
the same power that raised Christ from the dead — on our side,
**we can pray without ceasing, conquer evil without fear,
and love forevermore in the kingdom of his grace.**

Apostolic 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.



faint - ed, thirst - ing, Lord, for thee! Thine I am, O spot - less Lamb;
quak - ing, Je - sus calms my fear. Light-nings flash and thun - ders crash;
saves us, gives sweet peace with-in. I have borne this world - ly scorn;



no - thing in this world can hide thee, naught I ask be - side thee.
yet, though sin and hell as - sail me, Je - sus will not fail me.
still in thee lies pur - est plea - sure: Je - sus, price-less trea - sure!

Text: Johann Franck, 1618-1677; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
Music: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662; arr. hymnal version
Public Domain

Table Blessing

May 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.)*

Compassionate God,
**through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

Announcements

Benediction

God all mighty, God most merciful,
bless us, keep us, and grant us peace.
In the name of the Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

true re - deem - er art. Our souls thou wak - est; our bonds thou
 change them with a breath. Where-fore the sto - ry tell of his
 break - est. Who trusts thee sure - ly has built se - cure - ly
 glo - ry with heart and voic - es; all heav'n re - joic - es
 and stands for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! Our hearts are
 in him for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! We shout for
 pin - ing to see thy shin - ing, dy - ing or liv - ing,
 glad - ness, tri - umph o'er sad - ness, love him and praise him
 to thee are cleav - ing; naught can us sev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!
 and still shall raise him glad hymns for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549-1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
 Music: Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, 1556-1622
 Public Domain

Distribution Hymn *Jesus, Priceless Treasure* #775

1 Je - sus, price-less trea - sure, source of pur - est plea - sure,
 2 In thine arm I rest me; foes who would mo - lest me
 3 Hence, all fears and sad - ness, for the Lord of glad - ness,
 tru - est friend to me: ah, how long I've pant - ed, and my heart has
 can-not reach me here. Though the earth be shak - ing, ev - 'ry heart be
 Je - sus, en - ters in. God, who dear-ly loves us, from all tri - al

Hymn of Praise *Father, I Adore You* W&P #37

1 Fa - ther,
 2 Je - sus, I a - dore you, lay my life be -
 3 Spir - it,
 fore you; how I love you.

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Prayer of the Day

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

Beloved and sovereign God,
through the death and resurrection of your Son
you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy.
By your Spirit, give us your wisdom,
that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord. Amen.

✚ WORD ✚

First Reading

I Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

A reading from First Kings.

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and
 God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶And Solomon said, “You
 have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David,
 because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in
 uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great
 and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today.
⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place
 of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how

to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you." The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 119:129-136

Let us read Psalm 119 responsively.

¹²⁹Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.

¹³⁰**When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.**

¹³¹I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.

¹³²**Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name.**

¹³³Order my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.

¹³⁴**Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.**

¹³⁵Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶**My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching.**

Second Reading

Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

A reading from Romans.

²⁶Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how

**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

Lamb of God

Family of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace. Grant us peace.

Distribution
If you are joining us from home or are taking communion from your seat:
The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.
The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

Distribution Hymn

In Thee is Gladness

#867

1 In thee is glad - ness a - mid all sad - ness, Je - sus, sun - shine of my
2 Je - sus is ours! . . We fear no pow - ers, not of earth or sin or
heart. By thee are giv - en the gifts of heav - en, thou the
death. He sees and bless - es in worst dis - tress - es; he can

*“Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.”*

After supper Jesus took the cup.

Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples saying,

*“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.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”*

Great is the mystery of faith.

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

Everlasting God, you have promised

that nothing can separate us from your love.

Be with your children who know hardship, distress, or persecution;

visit your beloved who experience famine, nakedness, peril, or sword;

abide with us in death, as in life;

give us nothing to fear from angels or rulers,

from things present, or things to come,

or in the face of powers, or height, or depth,

or anything else in all creation.

Knowing that you did not withhold your own Son,

but gave him up for all of us,

inscribe in us faith that you will with him

bestow upon us everything else as well.

We pray in union with Christ in the power of your Holy Spirit,

who helps us in our weakness,

and intercedes with sighs too deep for words,

Father of all, 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.

to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;

we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

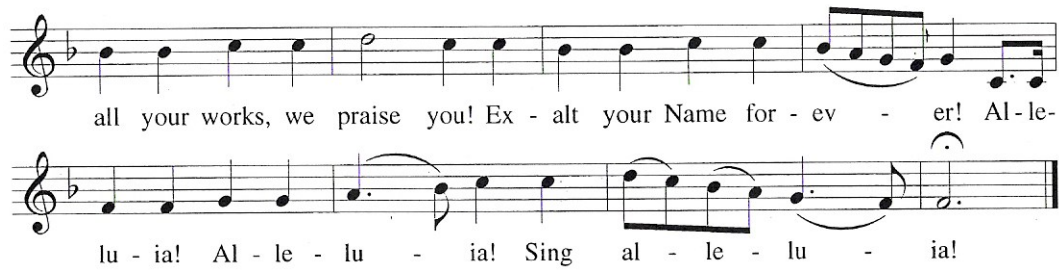
³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

Alleluia Verse

Family of God





Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad.

⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

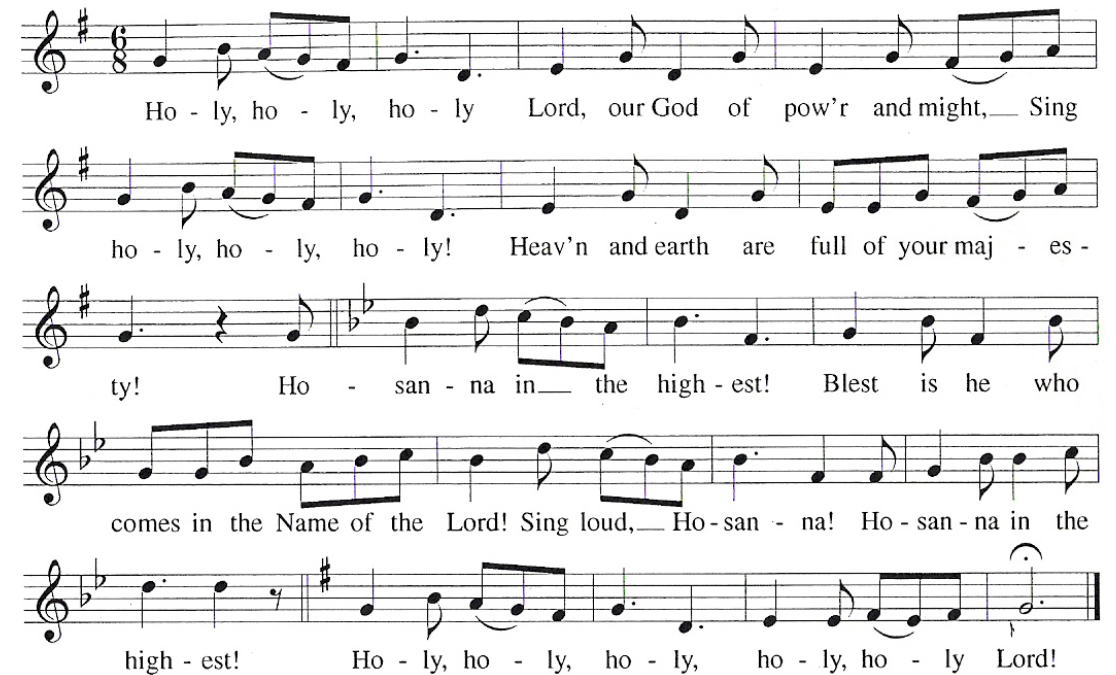
⁵¹"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵²And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the

And so we gladly thank you,
 with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven,
 singing the hymn of your unending praise.

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy

Family of God



Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

You, Lord God, are like a merchant who sacrifices everything
 because you above all want us, your pearl,
 buried in the world's field.

And in that field also you grow grain and grape
 to feed us from your heart now and forever.

Come among us now through the power of your Spirit,
 that we may be transformed into your likeness,

and that these gifts of bread and wine may become for us
 the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ;
 who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks.
 broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,

bear fruit for you. Please fill our cup full of your
 dreams of all here; U - nite them in pray'r with these
 bless - ing, we pray. And gath - er a har - vest from
 of - f'rings we bring. Pre - side at our ta - ble, and
 what you have sown, That we may be fed with the
 grant us, we pray, A fore - taste of your prom - ised
 bread of life. 2. Now come. A - men.

✠ 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

Sovereign God, you foreknew us, before the universe was created.
 In Abraham and Moses you called us to be your people.
 You predestined us through the power of your Holy Spirit
 to be conformed to the image of your crucified and risen Son.
 In Jesus you justified us by your grace,
 and on the last day you will glorify us to live with you forever.

kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of
 his treasure what is new and what is old.”
 The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Time
Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Be Thou My Vision

#793

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,
 naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!
 thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,
 wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931
 Music: Irish Traditional
 Public Domain

Apostles’ Creed

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess 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 Trusting in God’s steadfast love for all God has made,
let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.
A brief silence.

A God our wisdom and our song,
we pray for bishops, candidacy committees,
those preparing for seminary,
those awaiting call as deacons or pastors,
and all who seek to lead your disciples in any way.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P God our breath and our heartbeat,
help us to recognize signs of your presence among us.
Protect and support diverse ecosystems,
from national parks to family farms, from ranches to wild places.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A God our peace and our guide, help civic leaders
hear all their peoples’ stories with compassion and curiosity,

and remind us of your love from which we can never be separated.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P God our intercessor and our lawgiver,
dismantle the barriers to care and recognition of all who
live with chronic illness, mobility struggles, pain, and uncertainty.
We pray especially for . . .
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A God our redeemer, may we trust your love above and beyond all else
that distracts, annoys, frightens, exhausts, or divides us.
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 God who seeks, finds, and saves,
for our community’s part in the ongoing gift of creation,
and for the riches of faith and hope which came before,
we give you thanks. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness,
we cast all our cares upon you,
through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

Peace

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

✠ OFFERING ✠

Offering Response

Family of God

1. Your vine - yards, O Lord, may they
(2.) gath - er the hopes and the

Offering Response continues on the next page.