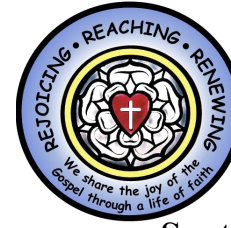
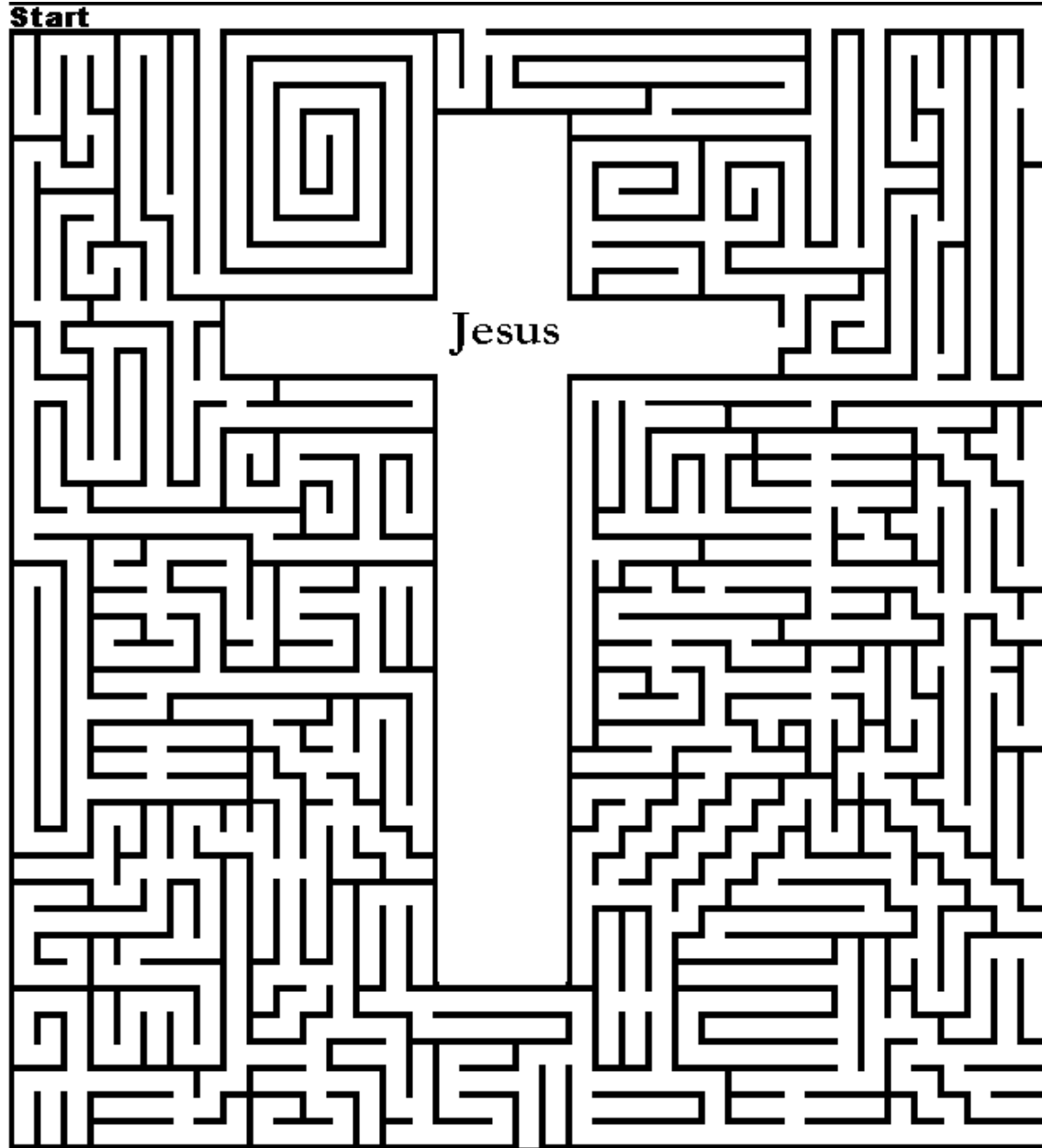


Find your way to Jesus...



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

September 1, 2024 ✚ The 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (John 6:63). Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We who were washed in the word when we were born in the font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

✚ GATHERING ✚

Prelude

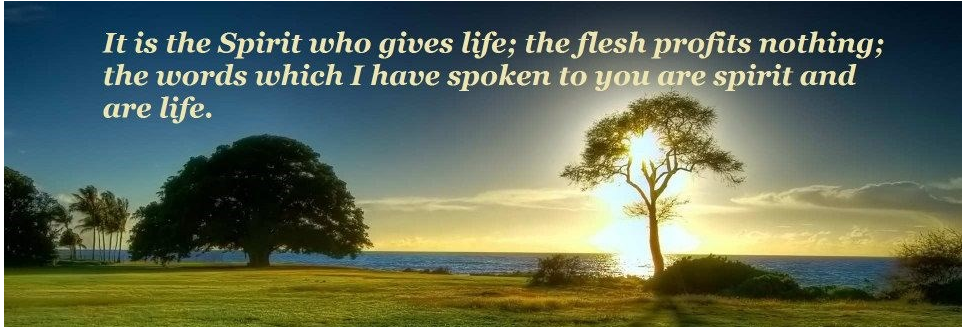
(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)

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.

SEPTEMBER



The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Confession & Forgiveness

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

The Lord our God is near whenever we call to him.

Let us therefore give heed to his Word.

With true and honest hearts, let us confess our sins to the Lord.

(Silence for confession and self-examination.)

O God, the Giver of every good and perfect gift,
we confess that we are imperfect.

**Our minds are filled with hate and prejudice;
our tongues are uncontrolled;
our deeds do not bear witness to our faith.**

As sinners we stand condemned.

**We plead the merits of your perfect Son, Jesus Christ,
who willed and spoke and did what you command.**

**For our sakes he obeyed;
for his sake we beg forgiveness.**

The will of God is your redemption.

The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

In his name and for his sake,

I declare to you the full forgiveness of all your sins.

Honor him with your lips... and your hearts.

We will be doers of God's Word!

Clean or Unclean?

So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with 'unclean' hands?" Mark 7:5 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
C	E	I	P	R	Q	F	L	M	A	K	J	T	X	D	H	N	O	S	V	U	G	B	W	Z	Y

1. 16-18-17-18-5 _____
2. 16-10-17-15-19 _____
3. 24-10-19-16 _____
4. 2-10-13-3-17-22 _____
5. 16-2-10-5-13 _____
6. 24-18-5-19-16-3-4 _____
7. 1-8-2-10-17 _____
8. 5-21-8-2-19 _____

HEART HONOR	CLEAN RULES	HANDS WASH	WORSHIP EATING
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Sending Song

For the Beauty of the Earth

#879



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Refrain



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, alt.
Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872
Public Domain

Dismissal

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



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Gathering Song

O Master, Let Me Walk with You

#818



1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the



paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly



help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836-1918, alt.
Music: H. Percy Smith, 1825-1898
Public Domain

Opening Litany

You have given us the gift of language,
but we have abused that gift, O Lord.
Forgive us and guide us to use words that are pleasing to you.

When we get into a pattern of using your name in vain, O Lord,
help us to use your name alone to worship and praise.

When we tend to speak ill of others, O Lord,
help us to speak well of them instead, as you have taught us to do.

When we start using words only to stir up controversy, O Lord,
help us to use words that are more likely to bring harmony and peace.

You have given us the gift of talents and abilities, O Lord.
Help us to use them according to your will.

When we begin to do those things that only satisfy ourselves, O Lord,
help us to do more of those things that satisfy the needs of others.

When we get into the habit of doing those things
that focus attention only on ourselves,
help us to do more of those things that focus our attention on you.

When what we do only serves to dishonor you,
help us to do more of those things that glorify you.

For all that we have said and done to deny our relationship with you,
we are truly sorry.

And for all that you have said and done
to forgive us and make us your own,
we are truly thankful.

May we now live for you
in word and deed.

Apostolic Greeting

The blessing of the Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
the glorious love bestowed by the + Son,
and the power of the promised Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

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.

Refrain

All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav'n a - bove.
We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

Text: Matthias Claudius, 1740-1815; tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817-1878, alt.
Music: Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747-1800
Public Domain

Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*
Holy God,
**you have welcomed us to this meal
and fed us with dignity at your table.
Send us now to welcome others
and to be at peace with one another,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

+ SENDING +

Announcements

Benediction

May you go as God's people who are blessed to be a blessing.
May you go in the name of Jesus to touch and heal the hurt around us.
May you go with a strong presence of God's Holy Spirit
to be light and love to all the world.
May you go in the name of the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

Text & Music: Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953
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Distribution Hymn *We Plow the Fields and Scatter* #681



1 We plow the fields and scat - ter the good seed on the land,
2 You on - ly are the mak - er of all things near and far.
3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,



but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand,
You paint the way - side flow - er, you light the eve - ning star.
the seed - time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.



who sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,
The winds and waves o - bey you, by you the birds are fed;
No gifts have we to of - fer for all your love im - parts,



the breez - es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain.
much more to us, your chil - dren, you give our dai - ly bread.
but what you most would trea - sure—our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*
O God, our strength,
without you we are weak and wayward creatures.
Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside,
and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that
we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Labor Day Litany

People of God, whatever you do,
work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.
Thank you, O Lord of labor,
for the talents, abilities, and skills you have blessed us with,
so that we can serve both you and one another.

People of God, whatever you do,
work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.
Thank you, O Lord of labor,
for the jobs and careers that we currently have,
and for the opportunities that those positions have provided for us.

People of God, whatever you do,
work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.
Thank you, O Lord of labor, for giving us the energy and strength
to do the tasks that we have been given to do.

People of God, whatever you do,
work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.
Thank you, O Lord of labor, for all that we have learned
and all that we have come to understand in our work life.

People of God, whatever you do,
work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.
Thank you, O Lord of labor,
for all the benefits that the work you have given us to do
has brought to both us and others.

People of God, keep up the good work.
**Thank you, O Lord of labor,
for all that you do to help us get our work done.**

✠ WORD ✠

First Reading

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and to neither add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's children.

A reading from Deuteronomy.

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

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

Psalm 15

Let us read Psalm 15 responsively.

¹LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

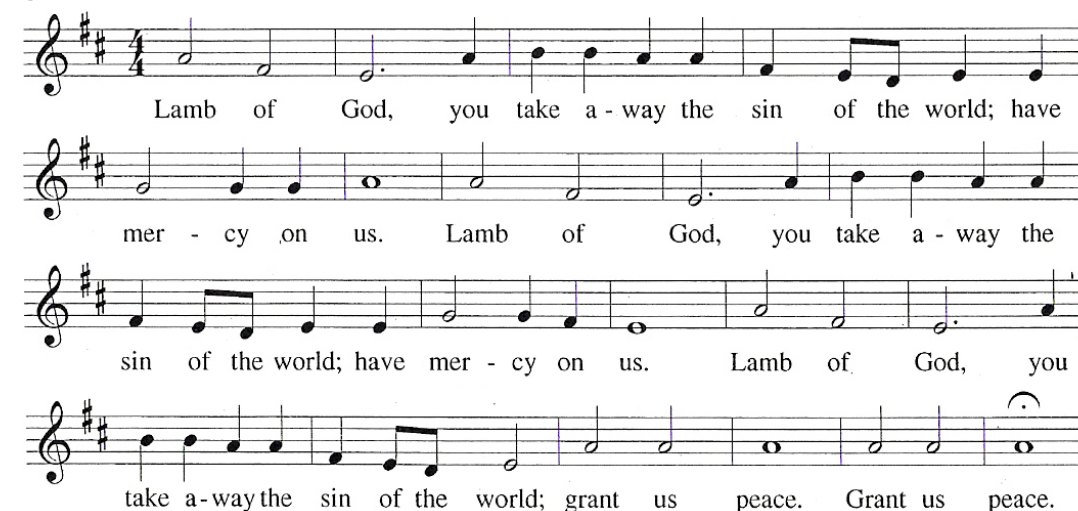
²**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

**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



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

Change My Heart, O God

#801 (3x)



*“Take, eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”*

When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
*“Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, 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, in union with Christ’s offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
That we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, 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,**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected,
but they honor those who fear the LORD.
They have sworn upon their health
and do not take back their word.**

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain,
nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

Second Reading

James 1:17-27

The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.

A reading from James.

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.


²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and

widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia Verse

Family of God



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! The Lord our God be
blessed! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Your Word brings right-
eous-ness. With
all your works, we praise you! Ex - alt your Name for - ev - er! Al - le -
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Sing al - le - lu - ia!

Holy Gospel

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

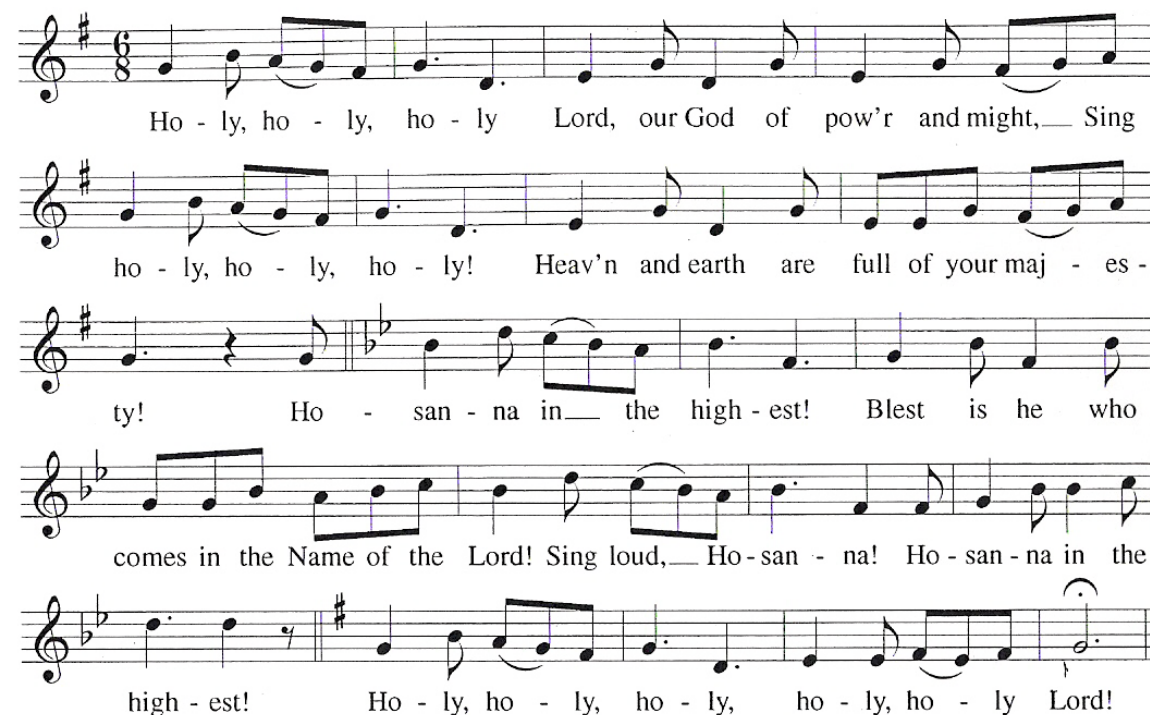
The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 7th Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord!

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy

Family of God

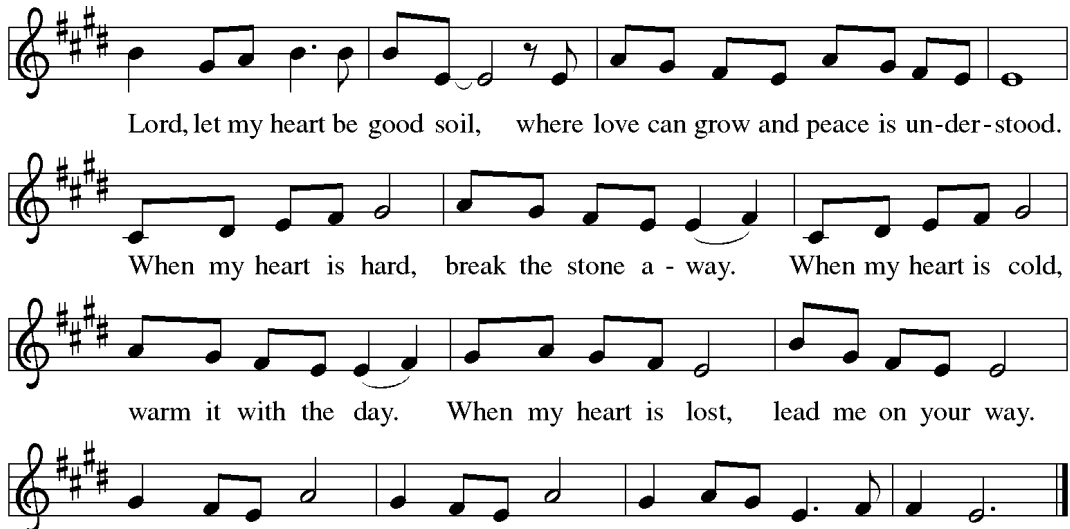


Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, our God of pow'r and might, Sing
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Heav'n and earth are full of your maj - es -
ty! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Blest is he who
comes in the Name of the Lord! Sing loud, Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na in the
high - est! Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!

Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
Though he was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor.
When hungry and tempted, he refused to make bread for himself
that he might be the bread of life for others.
When the multitudes were hungry, he fed them.
He broke bread with the outcast but drove the greedy out of the Temple.
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery into sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us
Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you; broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

✠ 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

Always and everywhere you are worthy of thanks and praise,
Almighty, All-providing God, through our Lord Jesus Christ,
the true Bread of Life, come down from heaven
that we might eat and not die, but be raised on the last day
and share forever in the feast to come.
And so, with all who bear your name on earth
and all who praise your name on high,
we join our voices in the everlasting hymn:



you hypocrites, as it is written,
‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’
⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”
¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all
of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going
in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”
²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions
come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit,
licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come
from within, and they defile a person.”
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Time
Sermon

Hymn of the Day *Take My Life, That I May Be* #685



1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;

take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

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, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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 Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit,
we pray with confidence for the church, God’s good creation,
and all who are in need.

(A brief silence is kept.)

A God of every generation,
give the church a sense of purpose and belonging.
Sustain and build up leaders and lay people
as we accompany one another in our life with Christ.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P God of creation, you named humans as co-creators with you.
Where the earth cries out in pain, bring wholeness.
Guide governments and industry,
that environmental laws and practices seek to heal and not harm.
Bring relief and justice
to people and places suffering from climate catastrophe.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A Sovereign God, we pray for local communities of every kind:
rural and urban; established and new. Lead those in authority
to seek the good of all through their words and actions
and to mentor others in honest and generous ways.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P Healing God, you draw near to all who are hurting.
Be with all who desire relief from chronic and acute illness,
cancer, and post-traumatic stress disorder.
Strengthen health care workers, therapists, and caregivers.
Tend to those who are close to our hearts, *especially...*
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A On this Labor Day weekend we remember and give thanks
for all who have fought for workers’ rights around the world.
Continue to improve working conditions and establish fair wages
so that all people may thrive.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P Here other intercessions may be offered either aloud or in silence.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A Comforting God, console us as we mourn our departed.
We hold fast to the promise
that death has been defeated by our Savior Jesus Christ.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God,
in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Peace

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

✠ OFFERING ✠

Offering Response

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

#512



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.