

Introduction to the day

Perhaps the church, at its best, is “all ears.” God urges the faithful, again and again, to “listen up!”—to heed the word that gives life. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Martha, and the early church at Colossae. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the word of life.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the diverse people of God.

OPENING SONG/PRELUDE

Love the Lord

©Lincoln Brewster

(sung by Wing & A Prayer only)

WELCOME

The congregation is invited to stand as they are able and to face the baptismal font.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,
whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have not followed your path
but have chosen our own way.**

**Instead of putting others before ourselves,
we long to take the best seats at the table.**

**When met by those in need,
we have too often passed by on the other side.**

Set us again on the path of life.

**Save us from ourselves
and free us to love our neighbors.**

Amen.

Hear the good news!

God does not deal with us according to our sins
but delights in granting pardon and mercy.

In the name of ✙ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

You are free to love as God loves.

Amen.

Please remain standing and turn to face the altar as you are able.

GATHERING SONG

Open the Eyes of My Heart

©Paul Baloche

Music & lyrics on following page

♩=112

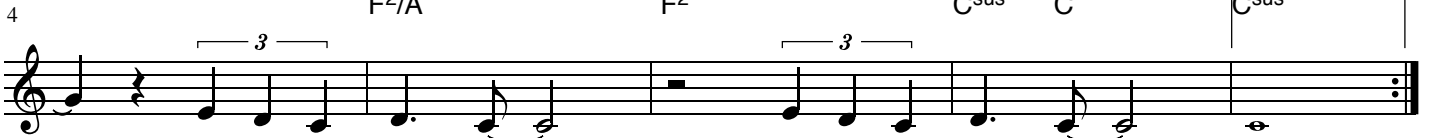
CHORUS

C⁵

G/B



O - pen the eyes _ of my heart, _ Lord, _ o - pen the eyes _ of my heart; .



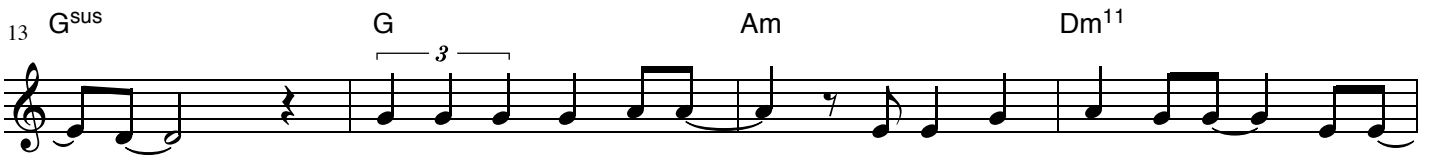
I want to see You, _ I want to see You. _

1, 3.
C^{sus}

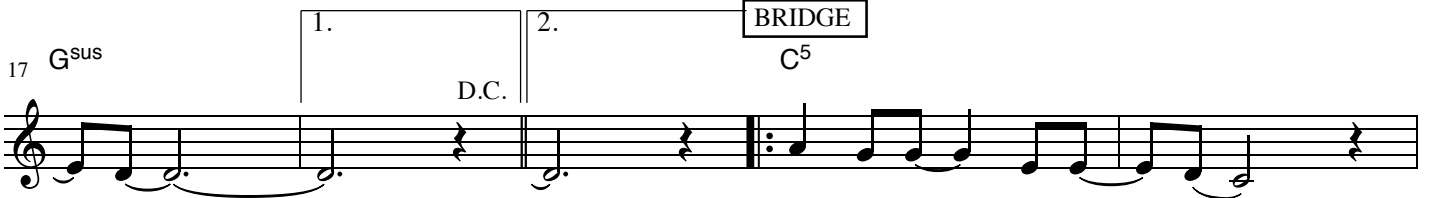
VERSE



To see You high and lift - ed up, _ shin - ing in the light of Your glo -

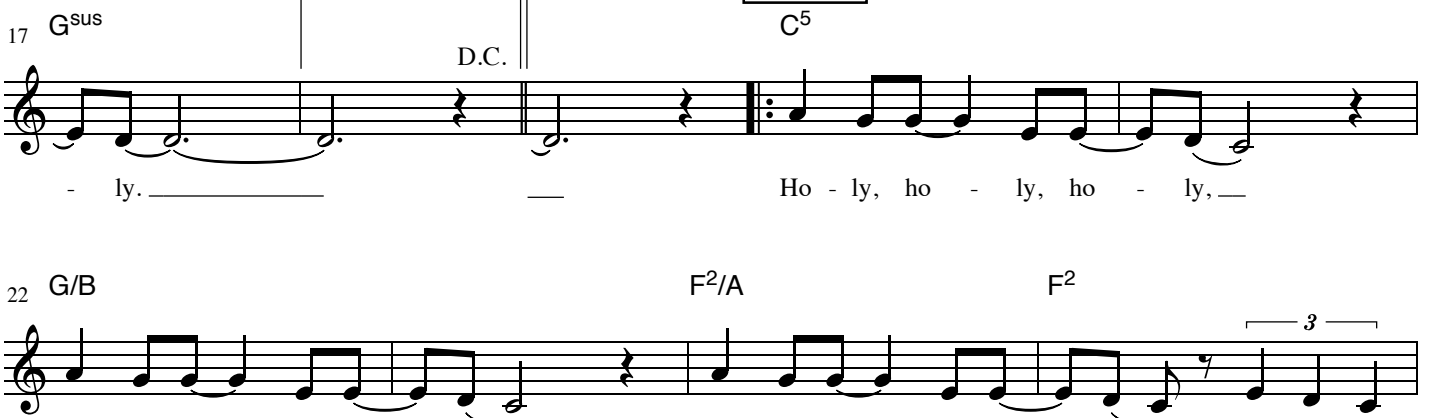


- ry. _ Pour out Your pow'r and love; _ As we sing ho - ly, ho - ly, ho -

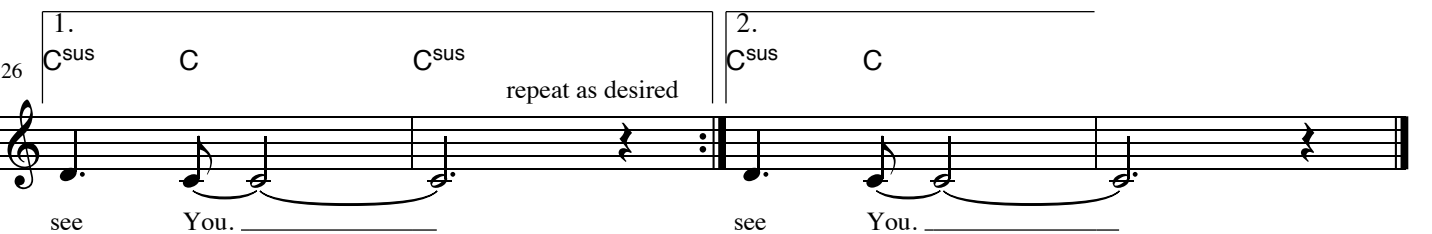


- ly. _ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, _

BRIDGE



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly; _ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, _ I want to



see You. _ see You. _

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.

KYRIE

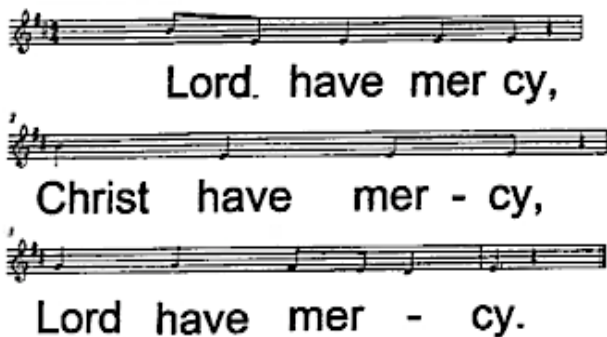
Kyrie

©Kent Alleluia Liturgy

Leader

In peace, let us pray
to the Lord

CONGREGATION



Lord. have mer cy,
Christ have mer - cy,
Lord have mer - cy.

2

Leader

For the peace from above,
and for our salvation, let us pray
to the Lord

CONGREGATION

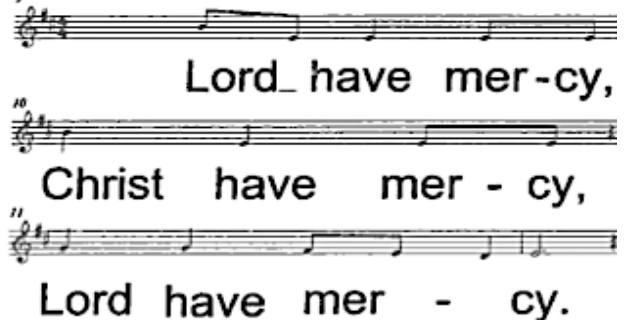


Lord_ have mer- cy,
Christ have mer - cy,
Lord have mer - cy.

Leader

For peace in the world,
for the health of God's church,
and for all unity, let us pray
to the Lord

CONGREGATION

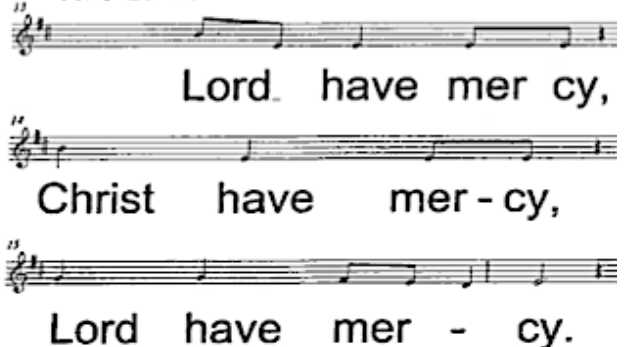


Lord_ have mer - cy,
Christ have mer - cy,
Lord have mer - cy.

Leader

For this holy house,
and we who offer praise, let us pray
to the Lord

CONGREGATION

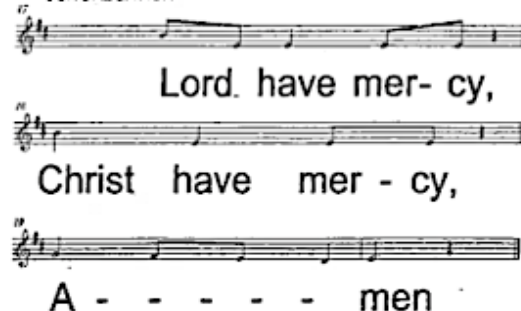


Lord_ have mer cy,
Christ have mer - cy,
Lord have mer - cy.

Leader

Help, save, comfort and defend us,
gracious Lord

CONGREGATION



Lord. have mer- cy,
Christ have mer - cy,
A - - - - - men

This is the feast of vic-tor-y
 Feast of vic-tory for our God.
 This is the feast of vic-tor-y
 Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia
 Wor-thy is the
 Lamb who was slain
 His blood to set us free
 Peo-ple of God to serve the Lord
 Serve the Lord for e-ver.
 Po-wer, rich-es,
 wis-dom, strength
 Hon-or, bless-ing, glo-ry

All be-long to God on high.
 Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
 This is the feast of vic-tor-y
 Feast of vic-tory for our God.

This is the feast of vic-tor-y
 Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia
 Sing with all God's
 ho-ly peo-ple
 Join the hy-mn of
 all cre-a-tion
 Bless-ing, hon-or,
 glo-ry, mi-ght
 Be to God and the
 Lamb for-ev-er
 A-men! A-men!

This is the feast of vic-tor-y
 Feast of vic-tory for our God.
 For the Lamb who once was slain
 Has be-gun his reign forev-er.
 A - - - - - men!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Genesis 18:1-10a (Bruce Seiler/Nancy Garman)

The LORD visits Abraham and Sarah to tell them that the long-awaited promise of the birth of a child will be fulfilled for them in their old age.

A reading from Genesis.

¹The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ²He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. ³He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." ⁶And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." ⁷Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." ^{10a}Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 15 (Bruce Seiler/Nancy Garman)

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;**

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: Colossians 1:15-28 (Bruce Seiler/Nancy Garman)

This letter offers a mystical teaching, that the great mystery of God is “Christ in you.” Because Christ is present in the church, Christians share in his life, suffering, and glory.

A reading from Colossians.

¹⁵[Christ Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;¹⁶for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

²¹And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²²he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him—²³provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

²⁴I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. ²⁵I became its servant according to God’s commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. ²⁷To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

KIDS' MESSAGE (Jeri Wartena)

The congregation is invited to stand as they are able to welcome the Gospel

GOSPEL: Luke 10:38-42 (Pr. Carolyn Brodt)

During his visit to the home of Mary and Martha, Jesus reminds Martha that her concern for her many tasks distracts from the one thing that precedes all else: abiding in the presence of God.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁸Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.” ⁴¹But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴²there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON (Pr. Carolyn Brodt)

The congregation is invited to stand as they are able

HYMN OF THE DAY *We Fall Down*

©Kutless/Chris Tomlin

VERSE

F#

C#

D#m7

B



We fall _ down, _ we lay our _ crowns _ at the feet _ of Je -

4

G#m

F#

C#

D#m7



- sus, _ the great - ness _ of _ mer - cy and _ love _ at the feet .

CHORUS

7

B

C#

F#/A#

Bmaj7

F#/A#



_ of Je - sus. And we cry ho - ly, ho - ly, ho -

10

G#m

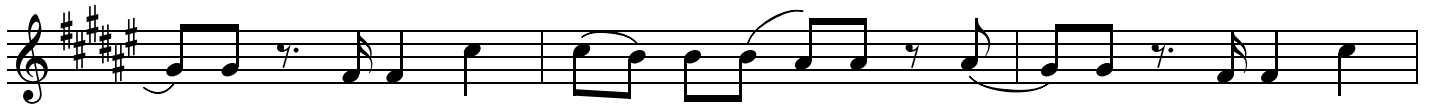
F#/A#

Bmaj7

F#/A#

G#m

D#m7 C#



- ly, and we cry ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, and we cry

13

Bmaj7

F#/A#

G#m

F#/C#

C#7



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lamb. _

15

F#

B/F#

1.

F#

E2

2.

F#



CREED

Let us join with Christians throughout the world and confess our shared faith using the words of the 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.**

Please be seated

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need.

Ever-present God, in Christ you fill all things. As your church gathers to hear your word, share your meal, and receive your blessing, teach us to welcome strangers as we have been welcomed by you.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Through Christ you created all things, visible and invisible. Teach humankind to honor and protect all creation, including living things that remain hidden from our eyes such as air, atmosphere, molecules, and microscopic creatures. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Through Christ you reconcile all things. Motivate those in power to end enslavement, dehumanization, or brutality of any kind and to protect and improve the lives of Indigenous peoples.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Through Christ you bring peace. Assure all who are worried and distracted by many things of your constant presence. Soothe those suffering in mind, body, or spirit. Sustain all who are afflicted and those who serve as caregivers. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

In Christ you make your word fully known. Inspire this worshiping community of Bethel, to abide fully in your word as we sit at the feet of Jesus. Bless the ministry of teachers and Bible study leaders.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

In Christ you brought forth the firstborn from the dead. We give thanks for the saints you have gathered at your table. Gather us with them in your eternal glory. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

(Prayer requests provided by congregation to be added here by Reader)

God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with your Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping.

Amen.

PEACE

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

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

*We acknowledge that all we have is a gift from God and in gratefulness
we return to God a portion of the time, finances, and gifts that God has given us.
Thank you so much for your continued support.*

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance: you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,
our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,
in the harmonious world of your creation,
the plants and animals, the seas and stars
were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world,
you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

In 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 for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he 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 for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
his acts of healing,
his body given up,
and his victory over death,
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal:
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us using the language of our hearts.

**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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy.
Come to the banquet.

*All are welcome to join in our communion celebration.
Please follow the directions of Pastor Carolyn and the ushers.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Life-giving God,
through this meal you have bandaged our wounds
and fed us with your mercy.

Now send us forth to live for others,
both friend and stranger,
that all may come to know your love.

This we pray in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

The congregation is invited to stand as they are able.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The God of peace,
Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you, comfort you,
and show you the path of life
this day and always.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Because Of Your Love

©Paul Baloche

Intro:

Yeah Yeah

verse 1

As we come into your presence
We remember ev'ry blessing
That you've poured out so freely from above

verse 2

Lifting gratitude and praises
For compassion so amazing
Lord we've come to give you thanks
For all you've done

chorus

Because of your love we're forgiven
Because of your love our hearts are clean
We lift you up with songs of freedom
Forever we're changed because of your love

verse 1 & 2

ending

Yeah
Yeah yeah (3x)

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After brief announcements related to the ministry of Bethel, the congregation is invited to stand and face the font.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

Thanks be to God and we will.