

*Introduction to the day: Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them a flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.*

## **GATHERING**

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

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### **OPENING SONG/PRELUDE**

*Majestic*

©Lincoln Brewster

*(sung by Wing & A Prayer only)*

### **WELCOME**

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

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
whose teaching is life,  
whose presence is sure,  
and whose love is endless.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

God our comforter:

**like lost sheep, we have gone astray.**

**We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.**

**We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.**

**We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.**

**Free us from our sin, gracious God.**

**Listen when we call out to you for help.**

**Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

**Amen.**

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

By the gift of grace in ✚ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.

Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

**Amen.**

### **GATHERING SONG**

*Come, Now is the Time to Worship*

©Brian Doerksen

Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart  
Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God. Come . . .

One day every tongue will confess you are God; One day every knee will bow.  
Still the greatest treasure remains for those you've gladly chosen now.

Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart  
Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God. Come . . .

# GREETING

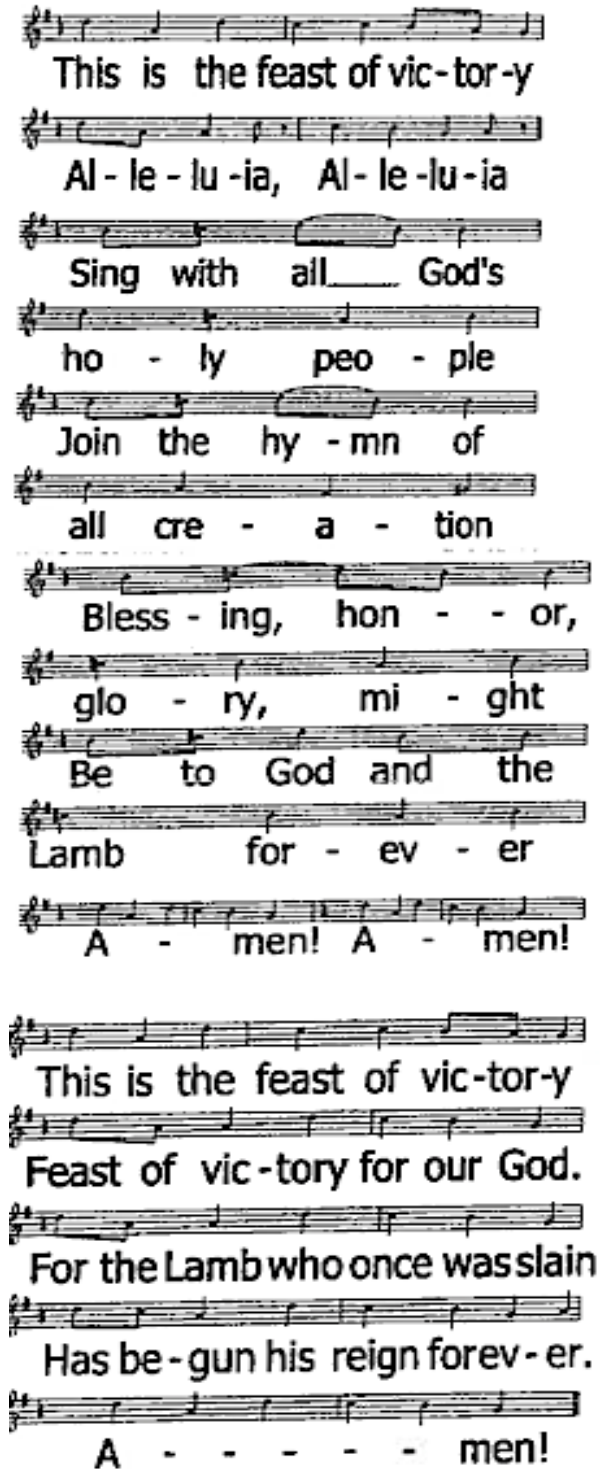
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE *This Is the Feast*

©Kent Alleluia Liturgy



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.

O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## WORD

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

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**FIRST READING:**      **Jeremiah 11:18-20**      (Roger Linn)

*Today's reading tells of the suffering of the prophet Jeremiah, who announced God's word to Judah but was met with intense opposition and persecution. Jeremiah continues to trust in God in the midst of his suffering.*

*A reading from Jeremiah.*

<sup>18</sup>It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew;  
then you showed me their evil deeds.

<sup>19</sup>But I was like a gentle lamb  
led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me  
that they devised schemes, saying,

“Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,  
let us cut him off from the land of the living,  
so that his name will no longer be remembered!”

<sup>20</sup>But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously,  
who try the heart and the mind,  
let me see your retribution upon them,  
for to you I have committed my cause.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM:** Psalm 54      (Roger Linn)

<sup>1</sup>Save me, O God, by your name; in your might, defend my cause.

<sup>2</sup>**Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth.**

<sup>3</sup>For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought my life,  
those who have no regard for God.

<sup>4</sup>**Behold, God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life.**

<sup>5</sup>Render evil to those who spy on me; in your faithfulness, destroy them.

<sup>6</sup>**I will offer you a freewill sacrifice  
and praise your name, O LORD, for it is good.**

<sup>7</sup>For you have rescued me from every trouble,  
and my eye looks down on my enemies.

**SECOND READING:** James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a (Roger Linn)

*The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.*

*A reading from James.*

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup>For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.<sup>4:</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8a</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**KIDS' MESSAGE** (Pastor Carolyn)

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

**GOSPEL:** Mark 9:30-37

*Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.*

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>30</sup>[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;<sup>31</sup>for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." <sup>32</sup>But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup>Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" <sup>34</sup>But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." <sup>36</sup>Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

# SERMON

*The congregation is invited to stand as they are able.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY *I Love to Tell the Story* (ELW 661)



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,  
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat  
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.  
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!  
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;  
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard  
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.  
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.  
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

### *Refrain*



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

## 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

(Roger Linn)

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

God of community, we pray for the church around the world. Unite us in our love for you. Help us overcome our divisions, that we are encouraged to work together for your sake. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, we pray for this hurting earth. Awaken in us a new desire to care for this world and empower us to support agencies, organizations, and individual efforts to heal our environment. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of cooperation, we pray for nations of the world embroiled in conflict. Inspire leaders to listen to each other and work towards peaceful solutions to disagreements. Protect the vulnerable, especially children, who cannot find safety in their home or country. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of comfort, we pray for all who live with mental or physical illness. Help them find appropriate care. Bring healing and wholeness when the path forward seems bleak. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, we pray for the young people of this congregation. Renew in us your call to welcome the children in our midst. As they grow, strengthen their faith and our commitment to them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of consolation, we give you thanks for our loved ones who have died and pray for all who grieve today. Shine your grace on all your saints. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*The congregation may offer additional prayer concerns either aloud or in the chat box*

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

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

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

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## 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 in these unusual times.*

*If you are worshipping with us onsite, and wish to give an offering, please use the basket on the back table.  
You may also give online using the QR code in the announcements section of this bulletin.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,  
you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,  
and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.

You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

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 life given for us and his rising from the grave,  
we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:  
strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,  
and by this bread and cup make of us the body of 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 words of the language of your heart.

**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

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

*If you are joining us online, you welcome to take communion in your home or to be in a time of prayer.  
If you are worshipping with us onsite, please follow the directions of Pastor Carolyn and the ushers.*

*After communion, the congregation is invited to stand as they are able.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord of life,  
in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

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

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## BLESSING

People of God, you are Christ's body,  
bringing new life to a suffering world.

The holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

Holy ©Brenton Brown

*Lyrics on next page*



*verse:* Holy holy, God Almighty, who was and is to come  
God of glory, You're so worthy, all the saints bow down (repeat)

*chorus:* Holy is Your name in all the earth, Righteous are Your ways O merciful  
Everything You've done is just and true, Holy Holy God are You, Holy Holy God are You

*verse:* Holy holy, God Almighty, who was and is to come  
God of glory, You're so worthy, all the saints bow down

*chorus:* Holy is Your name in all the earth, Righteous are Your ways O merciful  
Everything You've done is just and true, Holy Holy God are You, Holy Holy God are You

*bridge:* All blessing, all honor, belongs to You, All power, all wisdom is Yours  
All blessing, all honor, belongs to You, All power, all wisdom is Yours

*chorus:* Holy is Your name in all the earth, Righteous are Your ways O merciful  
Everything You've done is just and true, Holy Holy God are You  
Holy is Your name in all the earth, Righteous are Your ways O merciful  
Everything You've done is just and true, Holy Holy God are You, Holy Holy God are You

*verse:* Holy holy, God Almighty, who was and is to come  
God of glory, You're so worthy, all the saints bow down  
God of glory, You're so worthy, all the saints bow down  
All the saints bow down, all the saints bow down, all the saints bow down

*The congregation invited to face the baptismal font.*

## **DISMISSAL**

The living Word dwells in you. Go in peace.  
**Thanks be to God and we will.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**