



HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE TWO

The Church of St. John the Divine

9:00 am — March 8, 2026

WELCOME



Welcome to St. John the Divine. We want to get to know you! Take your first step by completing a welcome card and placing it in the offering plate or scan this QR code to introduce yourself online.

Everything you need to join us in worship is found in this booklet. Hearing assistance is available. Please see an usher, who will be happy to help you!

FOR FAMILIES

Worshippers of all ages are encouraged to fully take part in all aspects of the service. Children's packets may be found in the narthex (lobby), children's Bibles are in the pews, and nursery care for children birth – age 2 is available next door in the administration building. Also available is a Church Family Room just off the narthex with comfortable furniture, toys, and a screen to view the service.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The church altar greenery is given to the glory of God in loving memory of Mary Bain Pearson by her children, Jim Pearson, Bain Pearson, and Gary Pearson. To donate altar flowers in memory, thanksgiving, or honor of someone, visit sjd.org/flower-dedications or contact Hayden Coie at 713.354.2241 or hcoie@sjd.org.

*The cover photo is stained glass of Jesus praying in the garden found on the east side of the church. Photo by the Rev. Greg Buffone.
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HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE TWO

9:00 am — March 8, 2026

The Third Sunday in Lent — Year A

PRELUDE *Threnodi* (an ode to mourning)

Frederik Magle *b. 1977*

Dr. Maiko Sasaki, *clarinet*

THE WORD OF GOD

INTROIT

Oculi mei

Mine eyes are ever looking unto the Lord,
for he shall pluck my feet out of the net:
look thou upon me, and have mercy upon me,
for I am desolate and in misery.

Unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul:
my God, in thee have I trusted,
let me not be confounded.

*Glory be to the Father and to Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever will be, world without end. Amen.*

Text: from Psalm 25

HYMN 686 *Congregation stands.*



1 Come, thou fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace!
2 Here, I find my great - est trea - sure; hith - er by thy help, I've come;
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be!



Streams of mer - cy nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
Let thy good - ness, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee;



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove.
Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger wan-dering from the fold of God;
prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



Praise the mount! Oh, fix me on it, mount of God's un - chang-ing love.
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
here's my heart, oh, take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Words: Robert Robinson (1735-1790); Music: Nettleton, from *A Repository of Sacred Music, Part II*, 1813.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 351

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: His mercy endures for ever.

THE DECALOGUE

BCP 350

Celebrant: Hear the commandments of God to his people:

I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.

You shall have no other gods but me.

People: Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: You shall not make for yourself any idol.

People: Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

People: Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

People: Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: Honor your father and your mother.

People: Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: You shall not commit murder.

People: Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: You shall not commit adultery.

People: Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: You shall not steal.

People: Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: You shall not be a false witness.

People: Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

People: Amen. Lord, have mercy.

THE SCRIPTURAL EXHORTATION

BCP 352

Celebrant: Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. — *Hebrews 4:14,16*

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Congregation kneels for a moment of silence.

*All: Most merciful God,
we confess that 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.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.*

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

THE KYRIE

Gerre Hancock 1934-2012



Lord, _____ have mer-cy. Lord, _____ have mer-cy.

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

Christ, _____ have mer - cy. Christ, _____ have mer - cy.

Lord, _____ have mer - cy. Lord, _____ have mer - cy.

Lord, _____ Lord, _____ Lord, _____ have mer - cy. _____

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THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

THE LESSONS *Congregation sits.*

The Old Testament

Exodus 17:1-7

¹All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the Lord, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" ³But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵And the Lord said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the Lord by saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 95 *(read responsively by whole verse)*

Venite, exultemus

¹ Come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

² *Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.*

³ For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.

⁴ *In his hand are the caverns of the earth,
and the heights of the hills are his also.*

⁵ The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands have molded the dry land.

⁶ *Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.*

7 For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

8 *Harden not your hearts,
as your forebears did in the wilderness,
at Meribah, and on that day at Massah,
when they tempted me.*

9 They put me to the test,
though they had seen my works.

10 *Forty years long I detested that generation and said,
“This people are wayward in their hearts;
they do not know my ways.”*

11 So I swore in my wrath,
“They shall not enter into my rest.”

*At this time, students in 1st to 5th grade are invited to join
The Bridge Worship in the Nau Family room. Students will rejoin this service at the Peace.*

Hymn 658 Congregation stands.



1 As longs the deer for cool - ing streams in parched and bar - ren ways, so
2 For thee, my God, the liv - ing God, my thirst - y soul doth pine: O
3 Why rest - less, why cast down, my soul? Hope still, and thou shalt sing the
4 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, the God whom we a - dore, be



longs my soul, O God, for thee and thy re - fresh - ing grace.
when shall I be - hold thy face, thou Ma - jes - ty di - vine?
praise of him who is thy God, thy health's e - ter - nal spring.
glo - ry, as it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

Words: New Version of the Psalms of David, 1696, para. of Psalm 42:1-7; Music: Martyrdom, Hugh Wilson (1764-1842).

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

⁵So Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

⁷A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."⁸(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." ¹⁷The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." ¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." ²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." ²⁶Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

²⁷Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" ²⁸So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, ²⁹"Come,

see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?”³⁰ They went out of the town and were coming to him.

³¹Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.”³² But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”³³ So the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought him something to eat?”³⁴ Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.³⁵ Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest’? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.³⁶ Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.³⁷ For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

³⁹Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me all that I ever did.”⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days.⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word.⁴² They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. R. Leigh Spruill

THE NICENE CREED *Congregation stands.*

BCP 358

*We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.*

*For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, *Form I revised*

BCP 383

Celebrant: Let us pray for the church and for the world.

Congregation kneels.

Leader: With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying
“Lord, have mercy.”

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and
for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For our Bishops, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let
us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For this city, for every city and community, and for those who live in them; and for our ministry partners at Agape Development, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, especially John, Sally, Lisa, Bruce, Karen, Cynthia, Zoe, Ellen, Patricia, Madeleine, Alfonso, Temple, Carol, Amy, Betsy, Gil, Marilee, Bailey, Mary, Chuck, Lindy, June, Anne, and Carlotta, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For persecuted Christians throughout the world, and for all who suffer because of their faith, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, especially David Knight, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For the newborn children of our church family, especially Georgia Edith Holland, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: In the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

People: To thee, O Lord our God.

Silence

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, may your love point all people to the cross and our reconciliation with the Father; may your Spirit fill us and guide our steps in ministry; and may your light shine forth in our generation through your Church of St. John the Divine as we commit ourselves wholly to you. *Amen.*

THE PEACE *Congregation stands.*

BCP 360

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Your financial offerings fuel ministries that Change Lives for God in Christ. You may make your Sunday offering in one of two ways:

- ✘ *By placing your offering in the plate during the Offertory or*
- ✘ *By scanning the QR code with your phone.*



THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

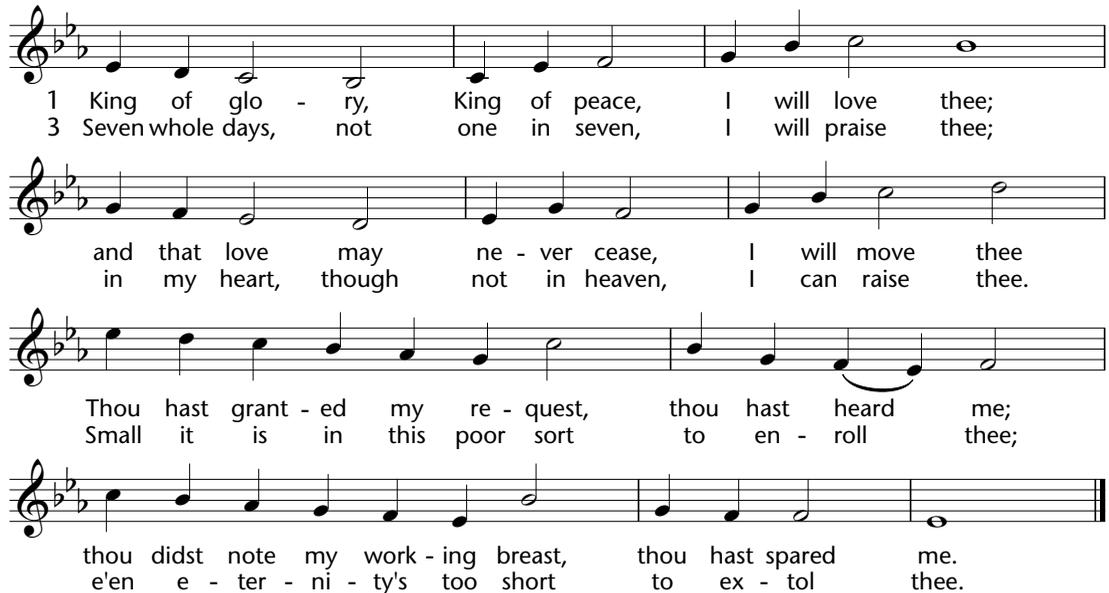
Anthem

Herbert Howells 1892-1983

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks,
So longeth my soul after thee, O God.
My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God.
When shall I come to appear before the presence of God?
My tears have been my meat day and night,
While they daily say to me: 'Where is now thy God?'

Text: Psalm 42:1-3

PRESENTATION HYMN 382 *Congregation stands.*



1 King of glo - ry, King of peace, I will love thee;
3 Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee;

and that love may ne - ver cease, I will move thee
in my heart, though not in heaven, I can raise thee.

Thou hast grant - ed my re - quest, thou hast heard me;
Small it is in this poor sort to en - roll thee;

thou didst note my work - ing breast, thou hast spared me.
e'en e - ter - ni - ty's too short to ex - tol thee.

Words: George Herbert (1593-1633); Music: *General Seminary*, © 1976 David Charles Walker.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

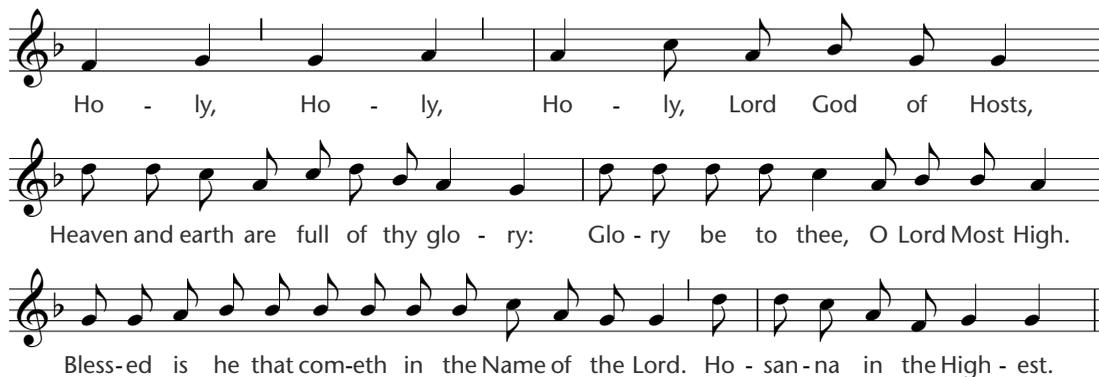
Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS S-113

John Merbecke



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of thy glo - ry: Glo - ry be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Bless-ed is he that com-eth in the Name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the High - est.

Setting by John Merbecke (1510?-1585?), adapt. *Hymnal 1940*.

Congregation kneels.

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "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. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.
Amen.

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

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,

for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Agnus Dei

Gerre Hancock



Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on__ us.



Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy__ on us.



Je - sus re - deem - er of the world, give us your peace.

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Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

- ✘ *All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion.*
- ✘ *If you are not baptized, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*
- ✘ *If you are not baptized and want to be, please contact one of the clergy.*
- ✘ *Please be guided by the ushers to the communion rail.*
- ✘ *You may drink from the common chalice or intinct from the intinction cup.*
- ✘ *Gluten-free wafers are available upon request at the altar rail.*

Hymn 343



1 Shep - herd of souls, re - fresh and bless thy cho - sen pil - grim flock
2 We would not live by bread a - lone, but by thy word of grace,
3 Be known to us in break - ing bread, and do not then de - part;
4 Lord, sup with us in love di - vine, thy Bo - dy and thy Blood,



with man - na in the wil - der - ness, with wa - ter from the rock.
in strength of which we trav - el on to our a - bid - ing - place.
Sa - vior, a - bide with us, and spread thy ta - ble in our heart.
that liv - ing bread, that heaven - ly wine, be our im - mor - tal food.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854); Music: St. Agnes, John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876).

God so loved the world,
 that he gave his only begotten son
 that whoso believeth in him should not perish,
 but have everlasting life.

Text: John 3:16

Song

Jacques Berthier

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and ne-ver be hun - gry

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.

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Hymn 692

1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest; and
 2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give the
 3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light; look
 in your wea - ri - ness lay down your head up - on my breast." I
 liv - ing wa - ter; thirst - y one, stoop down and drink and live." I
 un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright." I
 came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry worn, and sad; I
 came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream; my
 looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my Star, my Sun; and
 found in him a rest - ing place, and he has made me glad.
 thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
 in that light of life I'll walk till pil - grim days are done.

Words: Horatius Bonar (1808-1889); Music: *Kingsfold*, English folk melody, adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958).

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *Congregation kneels.*

BCP 365

Celebrant: Let us pray.

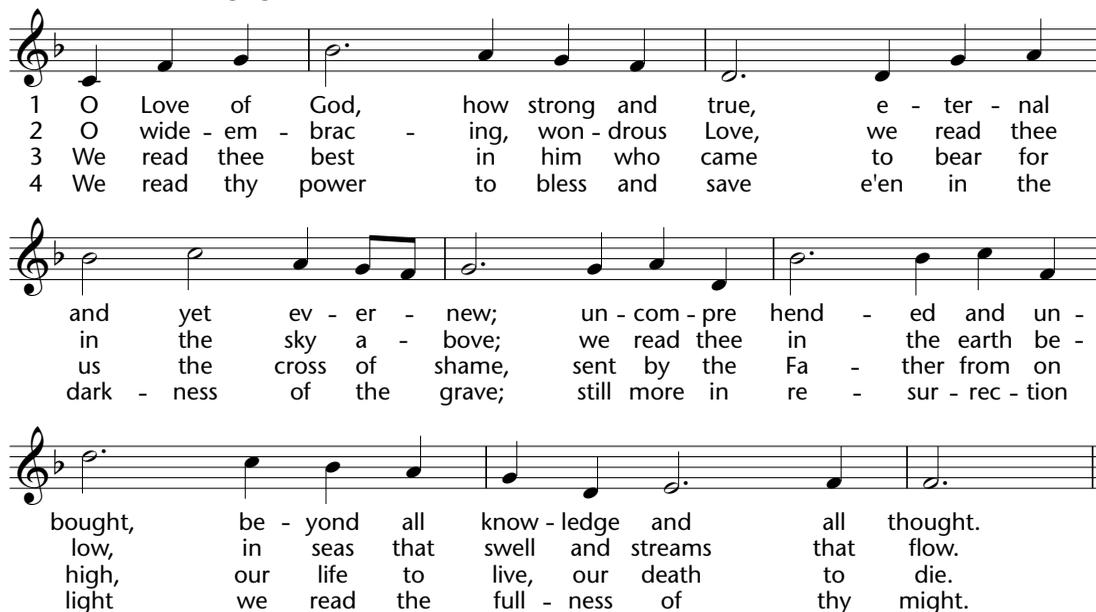
*People: Eternal God, heavenly Father,
 you have graciously accepted us as living members
 of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
 and you have fed us with spiritual food
 in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
 Send us now into the world in peace,
 and grant us strength and courage
 to love and serve you
 with gladness and singleness of heart;
 through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

THE PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Book of Occasional Services 13

Celebrant: Look mercifully on this your family, Almighty God, that by your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore; through Christ our Lord. *Amen*

HYMN 455 *Congregation stands.*



1 O Love of God, how strong and true, e - ter - nal
2 O wide - em - brac - ing, won - drous Love, we read thee
3 We read thee best in him who came to bear for
4 We read thy power to bless and save e'en in the
and yet ev - er - new; un - com - pre hend - ed and un -
in the sky a - bove; we read thee in the earth be -
us the cross of shame, sent by the Fa - ther from on
dark - ness of the grave; still more in re - sur - rec - tion
bought, be - yond all know - ledge and all thought.
low, in seas that swell and streams that flow.
high, our life to live, our death to die.
light we read the full - ness of thy might.

Words: Horatius Bonar (1808-1889); Music: *Dunedin*, Vernon Griffiths (1894-1985).

THE DISMISSAL

Thanks be to God.

“Alleluia” is omitted during the season of Lent, as a kind of verbal fast, creating a sense of anticipation and greater joy when the word returns at the Easter Vigil.

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TODAY'S MUSICAL OFFERING

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“My soul is athirst for God...”

The first several verses of Psalm 42 express the soul's longing for God, even during the more challenging times of life when God seems far away and the soul sorrowfully cries, “Where is now thy God?” At the Offertory, the Chorale offers a poignant setting of this text by 20th Century Anglican composer Herbert Howells. Howells wrote this anthem in a single day in January 1941, while snowed in and under a nearly constant air assault which was occurring over London at that time. The musical language is simple and expresses a great longing for God. After the forte cry of “Where is now thy God,” the composer reflectively repeats the first two verses of the text, leaving us with the final question “when shall I come to appear before the presence of God.”

John 3:16 is perhaps one of the most familiar and often quoted passages in the Bible. At the Ministration, we hear an elegant, a cappella setting of this text, “God So Loved the World”, by contemporary British conductor and composer, Bob Chilcott. Short, repetitive phrases lend a meditative quality to this work, like the sung prayer of Taizé.

Today we welcome Dr. Maiko Sasaki, a clarinetist who enjoys a professional career as a solo, chamber, and orchestral musician. Dr. Sasaki plays in prestigious orchestras such as ROCO, Opera in the Heights, the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Houston, and the Chamber Orchestra of San Antonio. At the prelude, Dr. Sasaki offers Frederik Magle's *Threnodi* (an ode to mourning).



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The Most Rev. Josiah Idowu-Fearon, *Bishop in Residence*
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