

ORDER OF SERVICE

Holy Communion ELW Setting 1 (red) p. 94-115 ~

4th Sunday after Pentecost

[* Indicates when the congregation is standing as able]

[**Bolded** section of text is for congregation to recite]

Music Director: Lois Horst

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

* Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our wrondoings to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

Lord, we are so beaten down by life. We see the shadows all around us and shrink away from your light in our fears. We turn our backs on others because we don't believe that we have anything to offer. Our attitudes and our actions often reflect anger and hostility rather than compassion and hope. Please forgive us, Lord. Please heal and restore us to wholeness and hope. Give us courage to be your disciples. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Jesus does not say that discipleship is easy. He says that we are called to serve and that he will be with us. That is truly good news. Our service will be supported and encouraged by our Lord who has healed and restored us. Rejoice! For you have been called and made whole by the love of God. **Amen.**

* Hymn (red) ELW 876 Let the Whole Creation Cry

- 1 Let the whole creation cry,
"Glory to the Lord on high!"
Heav'n and earth, awake and sing,
"Praise to our almighty king!"
Praise God, angel hosts above,
ever bright and fair in love;
sun and moon, lift up your voice;
night and stars, in God rejoice.
- 2 Servants striving for the Lord,
prophets burning with the word,
those to whom the arts belong
add their voices to the song.
Pow'rs of knowledge and of law,
to the glorious circle draw;
all who work and all who wait,
sing, "The Lord is good and great!"
- 3 Men and women, young and old,
raise the anthem loud and bold,
and let children's happy hearts
in this worship take their parts;
from the north to southern pole
let the mighty chorus roll:

"Holy, Holy, Holy One;
glory be to God alone!"

Text: Stopford A. Brooke, 1832-1916, alt.

*** Apostolic Greeting (p. 98)**

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

Response: **And also with you.**

*** Canticle of Praise (p. 99)**

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.
Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

*** Prayer of the Day**

Patient Lord, you quietly call us into service, not offering the road of easy service and cheap discipleship, but rather sharing with us the needs of the world and proclaiming that you will be with us always. Our ministries of faithful service are based in the knowledge of your powerful, healing presence and mercy. Give us courage, Lord, to be your disciples. Let us be bold in our proclamation of your healing mercy in our attitudes and our actions. For it is in Jesus' Name, that we pray. Amen.

Choir 'In Christ alone' (Getty/Townend)

Word

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-13

The First Reading is from the Prophet Jeremiah, chapter 20:

⁷ O LORD, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all day long; everyone mocks me. ⁸ For whenever I speak, I must cry out; I must shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. ⁹ If I say, "I will not mention him or speak any more in his name," then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. ¹⁰ For I hear many whispering: "Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. "Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him and take our revenge on him." ¹¹ But the LORD is with me like a terrifying warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonour will never be forgotten. ¹² O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous; you see the heart and

the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause. ¹³ Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

Response: Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 69:7-10. 16-18 (sung responsively)

Psalm 69 is sung responsively:

⁷ Surely, for your sake I have suffered reproach,
and shame has covered my face.

**⁸ I have become a stranger to my own kindred,
an alien to my mother's children.**

⁹ Zeal for your house has eaten me up;
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

**¹⁰ I humbled myself with fasting,
but that was turned to my reproach.**

¹⁶ Answer me, O LORD, for your love is kind;
in your great compassion, turn to me.

**¹⁷ Hide not your face from your servant;
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.**

¹⁸ Draw near to me and redeem me;
because of my enemies deliver me.

*** Gospel Acclamation (p. 102)**

Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia.
Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia.

*** Gospel: Matthew 10:24-39**

Response: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the twelve:] ²⁴ "A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; ²⁵ it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! ²⁶ "So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. ³² "Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. ³⁴ "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law, ³⁶ and one's foes will be members of one's own household. ³⁷ "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, ³⁸ and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

Response: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*** Hymn (red) ELW 796 How Firm a Foundation**

- 1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said
who unto the Saviour for refuge have fled?
- 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."
- 3 "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.
The flames shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume and your gold to refine."
- 4 "Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove
my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,
like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.

Message

Grace and peace from our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The God who sees the sparrow fall and knows each of us by name is the same God who sees and values every people and culture. Today we give thanks for the gifts and resilience of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples, and we pray for continued healing and reconciliation on this National Day of indigenous peoples. We acknowledge that we gather on the traditional territory of the Chonnonton, Anishinaabe, and Haudenosaunee Peoples. We give thanks for their enduring presence, their stewardship of this land, and the rich gifts they continue to share. May God guide us in the work of truth, respect, and reconciliation.

Dear Friends,

When my children were little they once found a robin's egg on the ground in the park. They searched all around, but there was no nest in sight and no mother robin to be found. So they carefully picked it up and brought it home. Determined to help, they placed it in a padded basket. They heated a wheat bag in the microwave and gently set the basket on top of it. "We're going to hatch the egg!" they proudly announced. They didn't want to hear any objections. Surely something so beautiful—a tiny, shining blue egg—must contain a living bird. Surely it could still be saved.

That little encounter from years ago reminded me how quickly things can change. One moment there is a beautifully woven nest holding those bright blue eggs, a picture of life, hope, and new beginnings. The next moment, a gust of wind, a storm, or a curious animal changes everything. The egg falls out of the nest. What seemed full of promise is suddenly broken. Life can sometimes feel like that.

People we love struggle, hurt, and suffer. Relationships break. Health declines. Dreams change. Loved ones die and leave behind beautiful memories—and an ache in our hearts that never seems to be completely healed. Life is full of challenges. And today's Gospel doesn't try to hide that reality.

In fact, Jesus speaks with startling honesty – his words even sound very harsh. He tells his disciples that following him will not always be easy. They will experience rejection, misunderstanding, and suffering. The same world that opposed him will often oppose those who follow him. Dietrich Bonhoeffer once summarized this truth with the famous words: "When Christ calls a person, he bids him come and die." Those are hard words.

Jesus reminds us that following him reshapes everything. Our priorities, our loyalties, our possessions, even our closest relationships are placed into the hands of God. Nothing remains untouched by the call of Christ. Yet this difficult Gospel contains one of the most comforting promises in all of Scripture. Jesus says: *"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid."*

Notice what Jesus does not say. He does not say that sparrows never fall. He does not say that storms never come. He does not say that faithful people never suffer. The sparrow still falls. The difference is that it does not fall alone.

A good friend of my family was a gospel and spiritual singer from Trinidad and Tobago. She often told the story of her grandmother, who sang the same song to her every night as a child: *"His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He's watching me."* As a little girl, she found great comfort in knowing that God cared even for something as small and seemingly insignificant as a sparrow. And that is exactly Jesus' point. A sparrow seems insignificant. When they come to the bird feeder we won't break out in ahs and ohs – it would be a different story with a hummingbird, or a blue jay, or a cardinal. Sparrows are ordinary. Unremarkable. Easily overlooked. Yet God notices them and cares for them.

How much more, then, does God care for you? Sometimes we take suffering and loss as signs that God has abandoned us. Even Jesus cried from the cross: *"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"* Yet today's Gospel tells a different story. God does not always rescue us from every tragedy. God does not always prevent the sparrow from falling out of the nest. God did not prevent the robin's egg from falling to the ground. But neither the sparrow nor the robin's egg falls outside God's care. Same for us. When we fall, we do not fall alone either. God knows us completely. Jesus says that even the hairs of our heads are numbered—and when I look at my husband – who is bald - I sometimes think that is easier for God to do with some of us than with others!

But the point is this: God knows you intimately. Your joys, fears, the burdens you carry. God knows the grief you hide from others, your needs before you can even put them into words. God's care for you is so profound that nothing about your life escapes God's notice.

As mentioned before this Sunday, we also celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day. It is a day to give thanks for the cultures, languages, traditions, and wisdom of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. It is also a reminder that many Indigenous communities have experienced profound loss, displacement, injustice, and suffering. Yet their stories are also stories of resilience, perseverance, and hope. They remind us that God's people often carry wounds, but they also carry strength. They remind us that hardship does not have the final word.

The God who sees the sparrow fall sees every people, every community, every child of God. No one is forgotten. No one is invisible. No one falls outside the care of the Creator. When we live knowing this truth, everything changes. When we believe that even if the sparrow falls, it does not fall outside the hands of God, then fear begins to lose its grip. I know that is not easy.

And I know we feel a bit helpless when we look at this broken world with all those people who have seemingly fallen out of the nest, kicked out by other with violence, forgotten and lost. But there are days where life is good. Where we feel seen and heard and celebrated, part of a loving and caring community.

Yesterday was such a day at least for me: The Neighbours Day we hosted here at St. Luke's was a day full of joy, people from many walks of life and different cultures got together, listened to good music, enjoyed being together. It was wonderful to be part of this. Of course, yesterday was a good day as the German Soccer Team won their second game in the World Cup. But I genuinely celebrated with the Canadian Team as well on Thursday. My husband and my godson Julian had been in the stadium in Toronto, and they came back home with a glow in their eyes. And it was not only because of the win, but they had also been in awe about all the people from all over the world, who just celebrated with each other and had fun. It is good to have those days where life seems easy, where we feel seen and loved and hopeful and not alone.

Especially, because there are plenty of things that make us afraid. We worry about our health, our loved ones, our future. We wonder what tomorrow will bring. We carry griefs that still ache and burdens that seem too heavy.

Jesus does not pretend that these fears aren't real. He knows the world can be difficult. He knows that storms come. He knows that hearts break. He knows that loss is part of life. And yet he says, "Do not be afraid." Not because nothing bad will ever happen and every prayer will be answered exactly as we wish or the robin's egg will magically find its way safely back into the nest.

But because we belong to God. God knows us completely and walks with us every step of the way. And because nothing—not suffering, not loss, not uncertainty, not even death itself—can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Perhaps my children were right about one thing after all. That little robin's egg was precious, because it was a part of God's good creation.

And if God cares for a robin's egg, if God watches over even the sparrows of the air, how much more does God care for you? We may stumble and fall. But none of us falls outside the loving hands of God. Amen.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

*** Hymn (red) ELW 798 Will You Come and Follow Me**

- 1 "Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?
- 2 "Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r
in you and you in me?
- 3 "Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?

Will you set the pris'ners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?

4 "Will you love the you you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?"

5 Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949. Text © 1987 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
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* **Apostles' Creed (p. 105)**

With the whole church we confess our Christian 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 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.

* **Prayers of Intercession**

Response: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world. Each prayer petition concludes with the response: 'God of grace, hear our prayer.'

A brief silence.

Life-giving God, you have called your people to lose their lives for Jesus' sake. Strengthen your church to follow you in the face of difficulty. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Creator God, you know every sparrow that falls to the ground. Protect migrating birds, endangered species, and their natural habitats. Empower us to care for your creation. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Sovereign God, you call us to act justly and love mercy. Protect those with marginalized identities to whom we have not shown the abounding love of Jesus. Bring an end to oppression and bigotry in all forms. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Sustaining God, you promise to provide for us. Help those living with disability. Comfort those experiencing any sort of illness or suffering, especially and those we name in our hearts God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Empowering God, strengthen us to live out our diverse callings. We pray especially for fathers and father figures, that they show your compassion and care. We pray for all for whom this day is difficult or painful. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Faithful God, we give thanks for saints who have claimed their baptismal promises. May we follow their example of faith and service. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Saviour. **Amen.**

*** Peace (p. 106)**

The Peace of Christ will be with you always.

Response: **And also with you.**

Meal

Offering

*** Hymn of the Month (blue) ACS 943 As the Wind Song**

1 As the wind song through the trees,
as the stirring of the breeze,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
as the heart made strangely warm,
as the voice within the storm,
so it is with the Spirit of God.
Never seen, ever known where this wind has blown
bringing life, bringing pow'r to the world,
as the dancing tongues of fire,
as the soul's most deep desire,
so it is with the Spirit of God.

2 As the rainbow after rain,
as the hope that's born again,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
as the green in the spring,
as a kite on a string,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
making worlds that are new,
making peace come true,
bringing gifts, bringing love to the world,
as the rising of the yeast,
as the wine at the feast,
so it is with the Spirit of God.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, 1931–2020. Text © 2005 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

*** Offering Prayer**

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**

*** Great Thanksgiving (p. 107)**

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.

*** Preface**

It is right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Saviour Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*** Response (p. 108)**

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

*** Thanksgiving at the Table V (p. 65)**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, now and forever. Amen.

*** Lord's Prayer (p. 112)**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

*** Invitation**

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast! Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*** Words of Administration for live stream**

The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

*** Lamb of God (p. 112)**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Administration of Elements

At the direction of the usher(s), communicants come forward, entering the center aisle from both sides and receive the bread from the pastor and then proceed to take wine from the common cup or an individual cup from the tray closest to the pew you are sitting in (used cups are placed in baskets right beside the Worship Assistant). Individuals not receiving communion are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

Communion Hymns (red) ELW 167, 732

Now the Feast and Celebration ELW 167

Refrain

Now the feast and celebration,
all of creation sings for joy
to the God of life and love and freedom;
praise and glory forevermore!

- 1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,
whose blood has freed and united us
to be one great people of God. *Refrain*
- 2 Power and riches, wisdom and might,
all honour and glory to Christ forever. *Refrain*
- 3 For God has come to dwell with us,
to make us people of God;
to make all things new. *Refrain*

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Borning Cry ELW 732

- 1 "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell."
- 2 "When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;

you were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun."

- 3 "In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been,
with just one more surprise."
- 4 "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold."

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937. Text © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker

*** Table Blessing**

May this meal nourish us and refresh us, may it strengthen us and renew us, may it unite us and keep us
in God's gracious love, now and forever. **Amen.**

*** Prayer after Communion**

Loving God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit
to love our neighbours as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Sending

*** Blessing**

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

*** Hymn (red) ELW 810 O Jesus, I Have Promised**

- 1 O Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me,
my master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle
if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if you will be my guide.
- 2 Oh, let me feel you near me;
the world is ever near.
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer
to shield my soul from sin.

3 Oh, let me hear you speaking
in accents clear and still
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will.
Now speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
now speak and make me listen,
O Guardian of my soul.

4 O Jesus, you have promised
to all who follow you
that where you are in glory
your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
oh, give me grace to follow,
my master and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1874, alt.

*** Dismissal**

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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