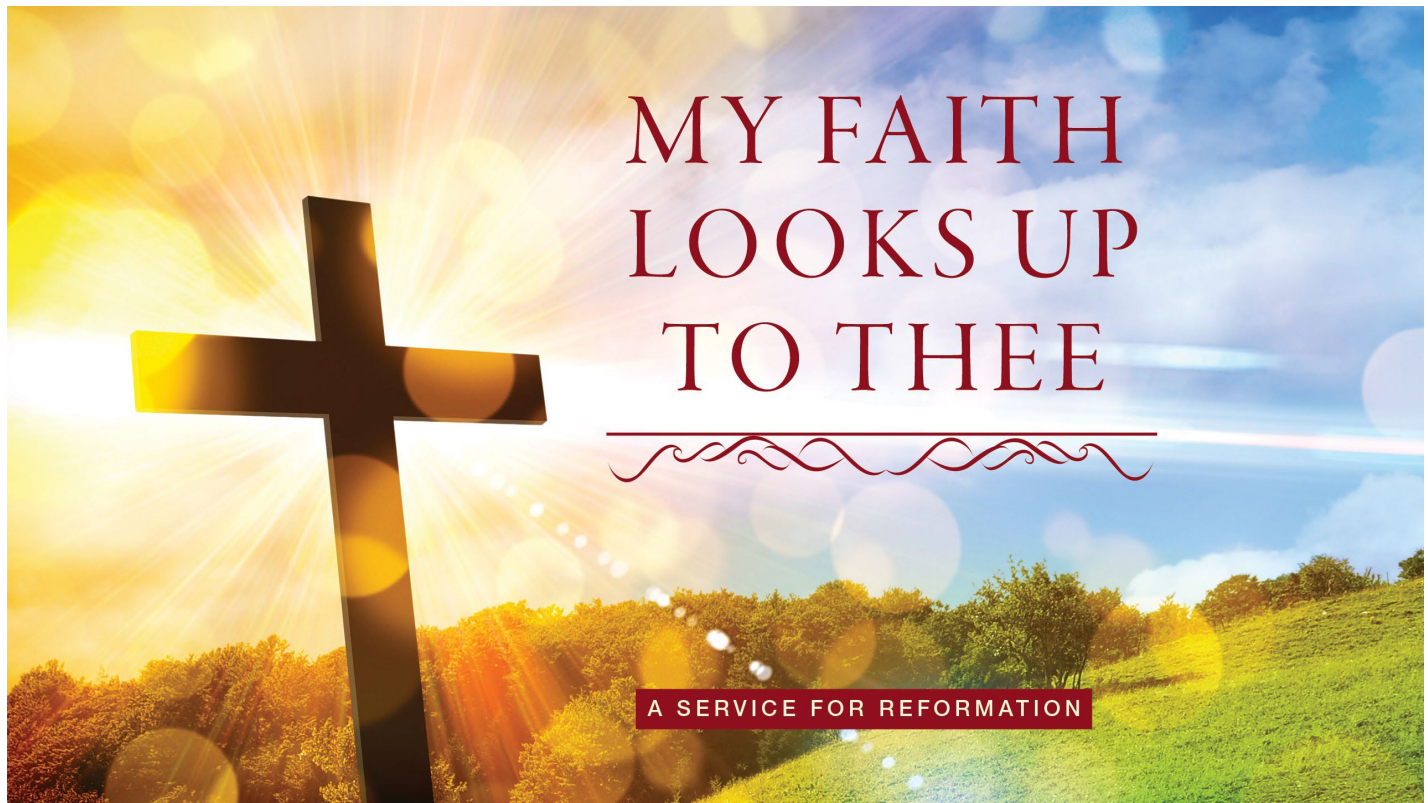


My Faith Looks Up to Thee

A Service for Reformation



Welcome to this special service for Reformation called "My Faith Looks Up To Thee." In this service we will focus our attention on the true faith we have in Jesus by his grace. Martin Luther reminded us in the Reformation that faith in Jesus is not something that we earn or achieve, but something that is given to us through the Holy Spirit. So we will celebrate that truth today in this service through word and song.

This service for Reformation focuses our attention on the true faith we have in Jesus by his grace. Our faith in him is not something that we earn or achieve, but something that is given to us through the Holy Spirit. By faith we come to know that we are forgiven, blessed and saved by the very Son of God.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Invocation

- P In the name of the Father
C who is faithful.
P In the name of the Son
C in whom we put our faith.
P In the name of the Spirit
C who keeps us in the one true faith. Amen.

Psalm 143:1-6, 8

- P Hear my prayer, O Lord;
C give ear to my supplications in your faithfulness; answer me in your righteousness.
P Do not enter into judgment with your servant,
C for no one living is righteous before you.
P For the enemy has pursued me, crushing my life to the ground,
C making me sit in darkness like those long dead.
P Therefore my spirit faints within me;
C my heart within me is appalled.
P I remember the days of old;
C I think about all your deeds;
P I meditate on the works of your hands.
C I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.
P Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning,
C for in you I put my trust.
P Teach me the way I should go,
C for to you I lift up my soul.

Confession and Forgiveness

- P O God, you have been so faithful to us, providing us with everything we need to support this body and life. But we have not always been faithful to you.
C We confess to you our faithlessness and failings. We have taken your gifts for granted. We have complained about our station in life. We have mistreated the people you have placed around us. We have not served others the way we ought. We have not loved as you have loved us. We have ignored your calling and gone our own ways. We have put our faith in other things besides you. Forgive us, restore us and bring us back into your good graces. We humbly ask that our faith in you flourish once again.

(Please observe a time of self-examination to reflect on our sins.)

P Receive this Good News: God, who is faithful and just, will forgive your sins and cleanse you of all your unfaithfulness. Through his Son Jesus Christ, who died for your sins and rose again, you have new life, grounded in faith, redeemed by grace and sustained by the Spirit. Therefore, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

O God, My Faithful God

1 O God, my faith - ful God, true foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,
 2 Give me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing
 3 Keep me from say - ing words that lat - er need re - call - ing;
 4 When dan - gers gath - er round, oh, keep me calm and fear - less;

with - out whom noth - ing is, all per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:
 what - ev - er you com - mand, my call - ing here ful - fill - ing—
 guard me, lest i - dle speech may from my lips be fall - ing;
 help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheer - less;

give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in
 to do it when I ought, with all my might—and bless
 but when, with - in my place, I must and ought to speak,
 help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,

a con - science free from blame, a soul un - stained by sin.
 what - ev - er I have wrought, for you must give suc - cess.
 then to my words give grace, lest I of - fend the weak.
 and, by your Spir - it's might, to live at peace with all.

Prayer of the Day

Let Us Pray....Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading ... Genesis 15:1-6

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Epistle Reading ... Galatians 3:23-29

Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading - Luke 5:17-25

P: The Gospel according to Luke the 5th Chapter

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

On one of those days, as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with him to heal. And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus, but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus. And when he saw their faith, he said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you." And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, "Why do you question in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the man who was paralyzed—"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home." And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God.

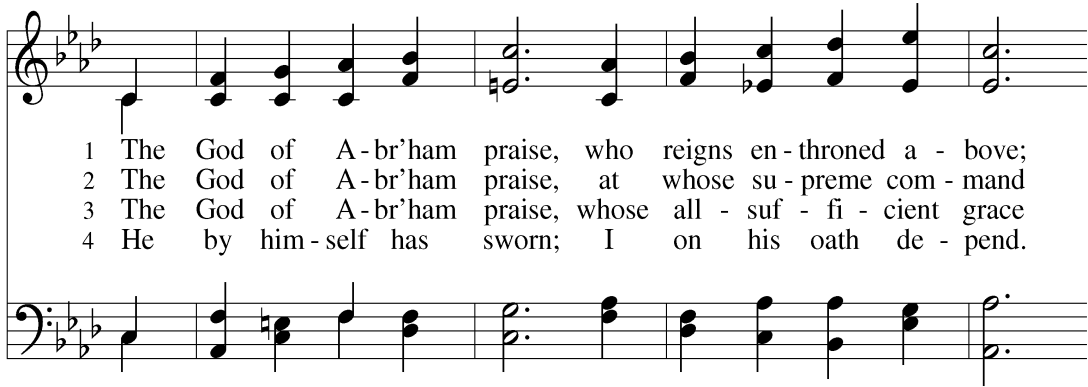
P: The Gospel of the Lord

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

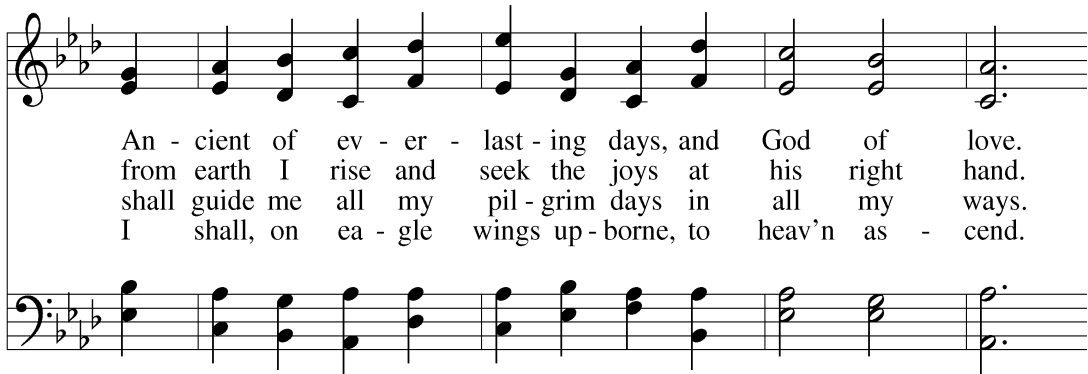
Sermon – Rev. Rick Neu

Sermon Hymn – (next page)

The God of Abraham Praise



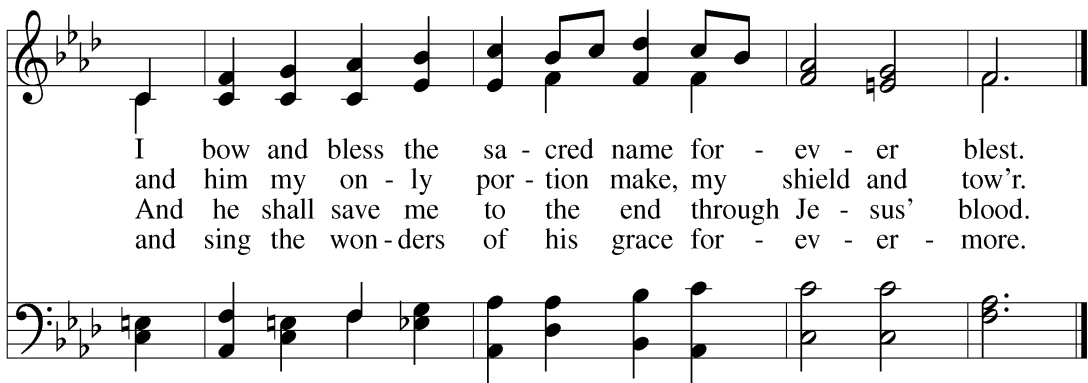
1 The God of A-br'ham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove;
2 The God of A-br'ham praise, at whose su-preme com-mand
3 The God of A-br'ham praise, whose all-suf-fi-cient grace
4 He by him-self has sworn; I on his oath de-pend.



An-cient of ev-er-last-ing days, and God of love.
from earth I rise and seek the joys at his right hand.
shall guide me all my pil-grim days in all my ways.
I shall, on ea-gle wings up-borne, to heav'n as-cend.



Je-ho-vah, great I AM! By earth and heav'n con-fessed;
I all on earth for-sake—its wis-dom, fame, and pow'r—
He deigns to call me friend; he calls him-self my God!
I shall be-hold his face; I shall his pow'r a-dore,



I bow and bless the sa-cred name for-ev-er blest.
and him my on-ly por-tion make, my shield and tow'r.
And he shall save me to the end through Je-sus' blood.
and sing the won-ders of his grace for-ev-er-more.

Welcoming New Members to the Congregation

Presentation of New Members

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for Christine, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as a new member into the life and ministry of this congregation.

Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our 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.**

Address and Questions

The presiding minister addresses those being welcomed.

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Sister in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

(Christine responds): I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

(The minister addresses the assembly): People of God, do you promise to support and pray for Christine in her life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Welcome

A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly.

Let us welcome this sister in Christ to this community of faith.

(Congregation responds): **We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

Prayers

P O Faithful Lord, thank you for the Reformation and for reformers like Martin Luther, who opened the eyes of the Church to the Gospel message that we are saved by grace through faith alone in you, not because of anything we have done, but by your love and mercy to us on the cross. O Jesus, precious Lord,

C my faith looks up to thee.

P O Faithful Lord, keep our faith in you strong through the power of the Holy Spirit. Stir us to grow closer to you in prayer, to expand our minds through the study of your Word, and to deepen our relationships with others through your forgiving love. O Jesus, precious Lord,

C my faith looks up to thee.

P O Faithful Lord, we thank you for the sacrament of Baptism that made us members of your family of faith through water and the Word. And we praise you for the bread and wine of Holy Communion, which are your body and blood, for our nourishment in the faith and our forgiveness of sins. O Jesus, precious Lord,

C my faith looks up to thee.

P O Faithful Lord, in response to your love help us to serve you faithfully in word and deed by showing care to those in need. Grant us a willingness to follow in your footsteps, traveling to the places you want us to go to show your love. O Jesus, precious Lord,

C my faith looks up to thee.

P O Faithful Lord, be with those who are sick or injured or suffering in any way, especially... Let their faith in you never waver, let healing come to them, and may those who are near to them lift them through this hard time by your grace. O Jesus, precious Lord,

C my faith looks up to thee.

P O Faithful Lord, continue to bless this faith community and the bonds we have with one another. Be present in all our interactions and our plans to expand the Church and share the faith with all the world. We put our trust in you for all things. O Jesus, precious Lord,

C my faith looks up to thee.

P O Faithful Lord, we give you thanks for our new member, Christine, whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others,
C **my faith looks up to thee. Amen.**

Offering

Reception of our tithes and offerings

Offertory Hymn:

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;

praise him a - bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Offertory Prayer

P: God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Be-loved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving dialogue

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

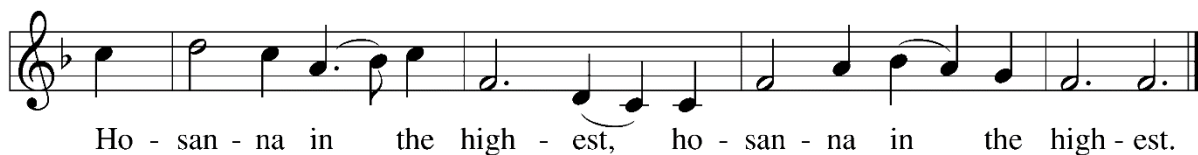
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Preface

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; 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 the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord



Thanksgiving at the Table: AUTUMN

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**

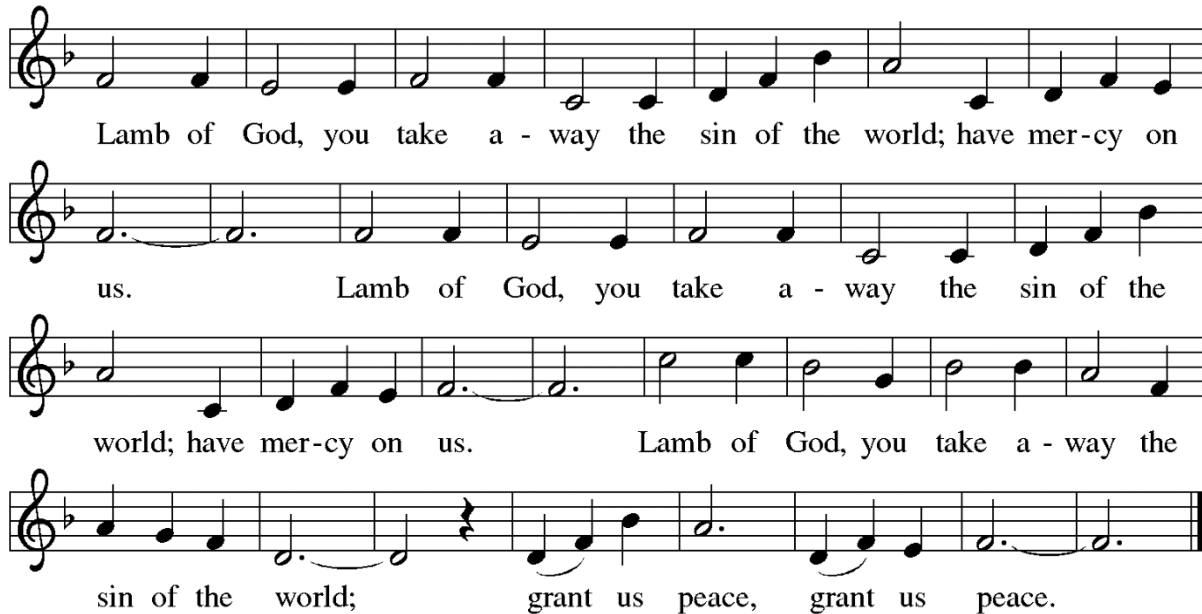
Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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.**

FRACTION

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Invitation to Communion

Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

Communion

The Body of Christ given for you. The Blood of Christ shed for you.
(Please use hand sanitizer before coming to the Altar. Both intinction and common cup are available.)

Table Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. Amen

Closing Hymn

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day, wipe sor - row's
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -

guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
trust re - move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Benediction

P Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life (Revelation 2:10). The Lord bless you and keep you in faith. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you through faith in him. The Lord look upon you favor, fill you with faith and grant you his peace.

C Amen.