

St. David's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sunday, October 13, 2019

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion

8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

ELW Setting 8

Pastor: The Reverend Faron H. Johnson

Minister of Music: Michael Busija

Church: 479-4110; Fax: 479-2994

www.stdavidslutheran.org

Welcome to St. David's Lutheran Church!

We are blessed by your presence and honored that you have chosen to worship with us today. Please take a moment to sign the friendship sheet that is located in the booklet at the end of each pew, near the center aisle. These sheets will be collected after the service.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is offered to all who are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and who recognize the Sacrament as the true body and blood of our Lord. Baptized children are also welcome to receive the elements at the Lord's table at St. David's with the guidance and consent of their parents or guardians. Persons, who may not wish to receive the bread and wine of the communion, are still welcome to come to the table to receive a blessing. To do so please fold your hands and bow your head.

Prayer Requests may be made by placing the request in the small wooden box at the rear, near the doors through which you entered. The acolyte will collect the requests and they will be included during the prayers of the congregation.

For your comfort there is a restroom, equipped with a changing table and supplies and a water fountain located upstairs. Simply exit through the double doors back into the narthex. The restroom is straight ahead in the parlor, beside the grandfather clock, and the water fountain is to the right at the beginning of the hallway.

Devotional – The worship folder you are holding is also a weekly devotional booklet. The prayers and Scripture readings are appropriate for use at any time during the week. The liturgy itself is a Scripturally based order for daily prayer and devotion with Scriptural references noted where they apply. Even the hymns are appropriate tools for prayer and praise. Finally, there is a daily lectionary of Scripture readings for the rest of the week on the last printed page.

INTRODUCTION

It's a miracle! Multiple miracles! The waters of holy baptism have healed us. The body and blood of Jesus in holy communion have made us clean. We have died with Christ and been raised with him. For all this we have returned to offer thanks. From this place we are sent on our way rejoicing to share the good news.

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

The assembly stands.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father,
and of the † Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The presiding minister may lead one of the following or another prayer of preparation.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The assembly stands.

GATHERING HYMN

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing



1 Oh, for a thou - sand tongues to sing my great Re - deem - er's praise,
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
3 The name of Je - sus charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease,
4 He speaks, and lis - t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive;



the glo - ries of my God and king, the tri - umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.
sings mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn - ful, bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.



5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!

6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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GREETING

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

KYRIE

Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Refrain

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and



peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

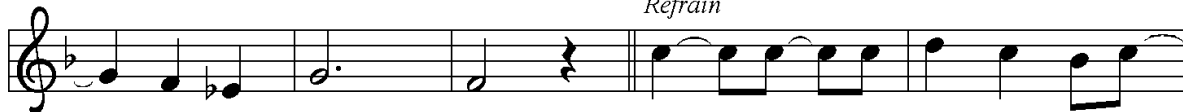


1 Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you

Refrain



for your glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high-



est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



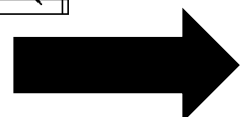
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and



peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 3 For you a -



lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.



A - men. A - men. A - men.

Final refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and peace to God's



peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God in the high-



est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. . . .

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Almighty and most merciful God, your bountiful goodness fills all creation. Keep us safe from all that may hurt us, that, whole and well in body and spirit, we may with grateful hearts accomplish all that you would have us do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD WITH CHILDREN

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c

A reading from 2 Kings the 5th chapter.

{Naaman, a Syrian general, suffers from leprosy. In this passage Elisha miraculously cures his illness, but only after Naaman realizes, with the help of his servants, that he also needs healing for his pride. This foreign general then acknowledges the sovereignty of the God of Israel.}

¹Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. ²Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." ⁷When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."

⁸But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." ⁹So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. ¹⁰Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean."

¹¹But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! ¹²Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. ¹³But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more,

when all he said to you was, ‘Wash, and be clean’?” ¹⁴So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

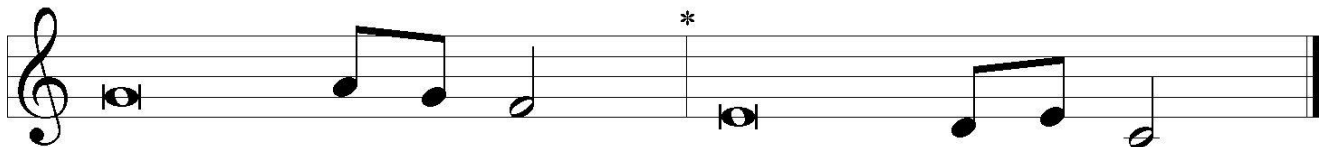
^{15a-c}Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, “Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 111 (sung responsively)

Psalm Tone 1



¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with | my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the | congregation.

²**Great are your | works, O LORD,
pondered by all who de- | light in them.**

³Majesty and splendor | mark your deeds,
and your righteousness en- | dures forever.

⁴**You cause your wonders to | be remembered;
you are gracious and full | of compassion.**

⁵You give food to | those who fear you,
remembering forev- | er your covenant.

⁶**You have shown your people the power | of your works
in giving them the lands | of the nations.**

⁷The works of your hands are faithful- | ness and justice;
all of your pre- | cepts are sure.

⁸**They stand fast forev- | er and ever,
because they are done in | truth and equity.**

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your cove- | nant
forever;
holy and awesome | is your name.

¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the begin- | ning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God’s praise en- |
dures forever.**

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 2:8-15

A reading from 2 Timothy the 2nd chapter.

{Though Paul is chained as a prisoner, he reminds Timothy that the word of God is never shackled or confined. He encourages his young friend to proclaim that word of freedom in an honest and upright life as well as in his teaching and preaching.}

⁸Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, ⁹for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. ¹⁰Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. ¹¹The saying is sure:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

¹²if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he will also deny us;

¹³if we are faithless, he remains faithful—
for he cannot deny himself.

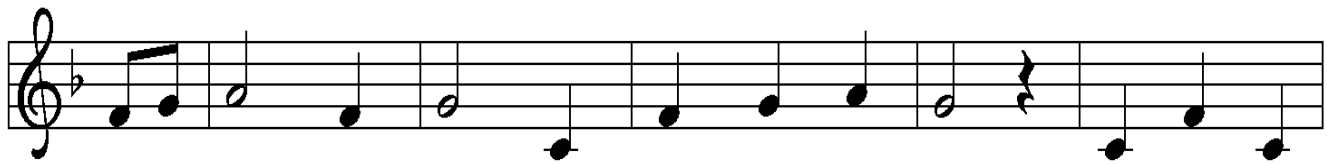
¹⁴Remind them of this, and warn them before God that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. ¹⁵Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

VERSE



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Luke 17:11-19

The holy gospel according to Luke the 17th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

{Jesus' mission includes making the unclean clean again. Unexpectedly, a cleansed Samaritan leper becomes a model for those who would praise and worship God and give thanks for God's mercy.}

¹¹On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" ¹⁴When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? ¹⁸Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

HOMILY

Silence for reflection may follow.

HYMN OF THE DAY

The assembly stands.

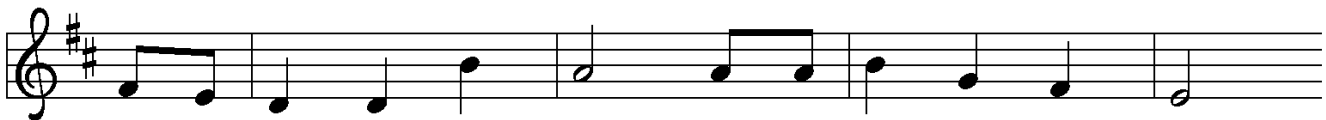
Baptized and Set Free



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.
2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.
3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,
4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.
Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.
and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.
All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door
For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:
As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:
Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.
end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.
pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.
one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956
Music: BAPTIZED AND SET FREE, Cathy Skogen-Soldner
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Together we confess our faith:

APOSTLE'S 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Knowing the one in whom we trust, and with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

O God, you promise your church: if we die with you, we will also live with you; if we endure, we will also reign with you; even when we are faithless, you remain faithful. Strengthen us to believe your gracious promises. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Great are your works, O Lord, and we delight in the wonder and majesty of creation. As the earth brings forth its fruit, renew your creation so that all creatures are sustained and nourished. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The heritage of nations belongs to you and your Spirit fills the earth. Bless presidents, prime ministers and chancellors; lawmakers, judges, governors, and county officials, so that they reflect your faithfulness and uprightness in their work for the people. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You wash us and we are made clean. In your compassion, immerse all who are sick and suffering in your care (*especially*). Heal us, even when there may be no cure, and give us thankful hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You called a people to be your own and yet you have shown limitless love and mercy to people of every nation. Open our hearts so that, like you, we welcome the stranger in our midst. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With love and thanksgiving, we remember those who have died in you (*especially*). Give us certainty to trust the salvation that is in Christ Jesus. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting and delighting in you, we commend all our lives into your loving hands. We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Peace be with you.

Peace be with you.

Please be seated after the Peace is shared.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY HYMN

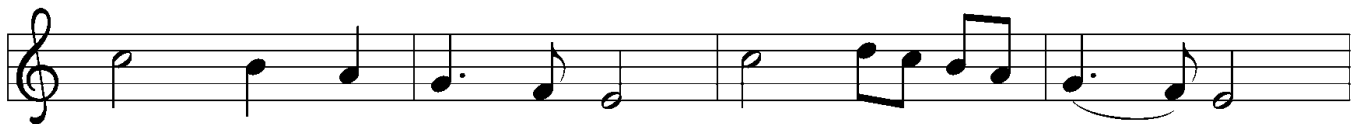
Come, Ye Disconsolate



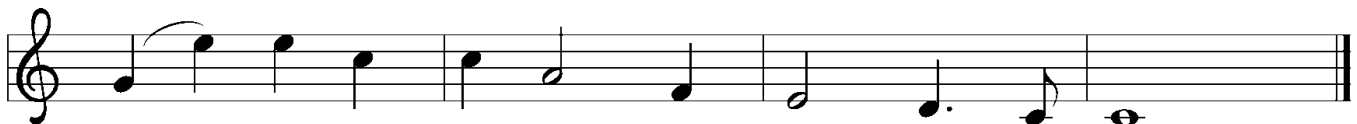
1 Come, ye dis - con - so - late, wher - e'er ye lan - guish;
2 Joy of the des - o - late, light of the stray - ing,
3 Here see the Bread of life; see wa - ters flow - ing



come to the mer - cy - seat, fer - vent - ly kneel.
hope of the pen - i - tent, fade - less and pure;
forth from the throne of God, pure from a - bove.



Here bring your wound - ed hearts, here tell your an - guish;
here speaks the Com - fort - er, ten - der - ly say - ing,
Come to the feast of love; come, ev - er know - ing



earth has no sor - row that heav'n can - not heal.
"Earth has no sor - row that heav'n can - not cure."
earth has no sor - row but heav'n can re - move.

Text: Thomas Moore, 1779–1852, sts. 1–2; Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872, st. 3
Music: CONSOLATOR, Samuel Webbe Sr., 1740–1816

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

The assembly stands.

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 indeed 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 Savior 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:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho-



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -



est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy,
and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.
Amen.

THE 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,

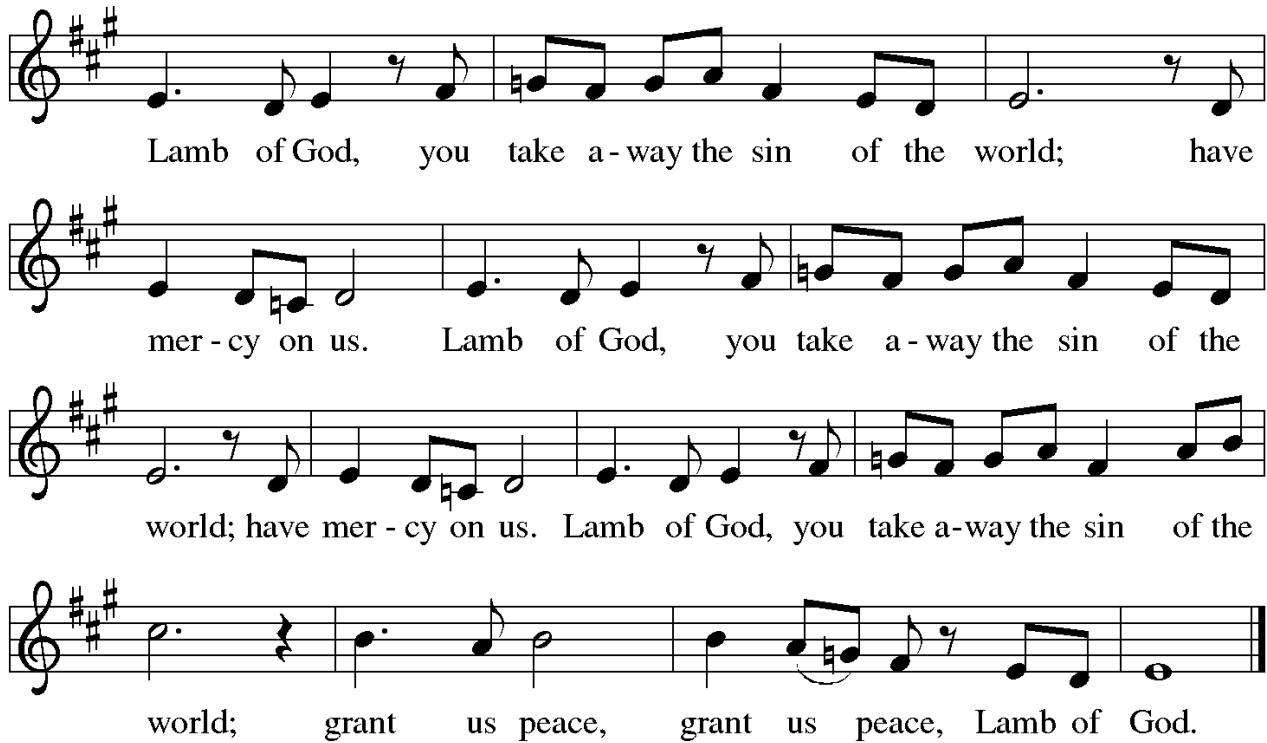
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

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, Lamb of God.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

The assembly is seated.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION is offered to all who are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and who recognize the Sacrament as the true body and blood of our Lord. Baptized children are also welcome to the Lord's table at St. David's with the guidance and consent of their parents or guardians.

This morning we Commune by **intinction**. The congregation will proceed down the center aisle and receive the host from the pastor. Then, those seated on the right will go right and those seated on the left will go left, receive the chalice from one of the Communion assistants by dipping the host into the chalice. Then everyone returns by the side aisles.

[Distribution of Communion]

COMMUNION HYMN

We Come to You for Healing, Lord

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The first system contains five lines of lyrics. The second system contains four lines of lyrics. The third system contains four lines of lyrics. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

1 We come to you for heal - ing, Lord, of
2 As once you walked through an - cient streets and
3 You touch us through phy - si - cians' skills, through
4 When nights are long with wake - ful - ness, through
5 We come to you, O lov - ing Lord, in
bod - y, mind, and soul, and pray that by your
reached toward those in pain, come, ris - en Christ, a -
nurs - es' gifts of care, and through the love of
days when strength runs low, grant us your gift of
our dis - tress and pain, in trust that through our
Spir - it's touch we may a - gain be whole.
mong us still with pow'r to heal a - gain.
faith - ful friends who lift our lives in prayer.
pa - tience, Lord, your calm - ing peace to know.
nights and days your grace will heal, sus - tain.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

Music: MARTYRDOM, Hugh Wilson, 1764–1824

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The assembly stands.

After all have returned to their places, the minister may say these or similar words.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of blessing,
at this table we have seen you face to face,
and in the gift of Christ's body and blood,
our hearts have been refreshed.

Send us now to shine with your goodness
and bear witness to the one we have received:
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care:

As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread,
assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament
with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*.

In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this
sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence
through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

QUIET MEDITATION

SENDING HYMN

Now Thank We All Our God

1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voic - es,
2 Oh, may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,

who won-drous things has done, in whom this world re - joic - es;
with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and Spir - it blest, who reign in high - est heav - en,

who, from our moth - ers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;

with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878
Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

GOSPEL MESSAGE

Close-by Jesus

The lepers kept their distance. They kept their distance from Jesus as they shouted to him their pleas for mercy. They are not the only lepers we find in the story of Jesus. Matthew 8 begins with a leper coming near to Jesus and kneeling before him to ask for healing, which comes at the touch of Jesus' hand. In Mark 14 we hear that Jesus is eating at the house of Simon the leper. Lepers do not always keep their distance from Jesus, but these ten did. What keeps them from getting too close to Jesus?

There is a running joke in some congregations that Lutherans do not sit in the first several rows of the worship space. We may seek the front-row seats at concerts, sporting events, and elementary school award ceremonies. We like to be close to the action. Yet, when the action is the word of God read and proclaimed or holy communion broken and shared, we sometimes find a way to keep our distance. We do not occupy those prime seats. Closeness implies intimacy. Is there something we fear about being too close to Jesus?

All of the lepers are healed as they go on their way. Nine of them continue to keep their distance from Jesus. Only one returns, doing everything *but* keep his distance. Falling on the ground at Jesus' feet, the leper is full of praise that Jesus chose to heal, to come near, when the leper was distant. Though we may try to keep our distance from Jesus, Jesus does not keep his distance from us.

Like the ten, we, too, cry out for mercy in the Kyrie. With the one, we then sing praise to the close-by Jesus, the Jesus who comes near to us in the water of the font, in the sharing of the peace, and in the breaking of the bread.

Daily Readings for the Week October 13-19

Sunday:	2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c Psalm 111 2 Timothy 2:8-15 Luke 17:11-19
Monday:	Psalm 61 2 Kings 5:15-19a Acts 26:24-29
Tuesday:	Psalm 61 2 Kings 5:19b-27 Ephesians 6:10-20
Wednesday:	Psalm 61 2 Kings 15:1-7 Matthew 10:5-15
Thursday:	Psalm 121 Isaiah 54:11-17 Acts 17:22-34
Friday:	Psalm 121 Genesis 31:43—32:2 2 Timothy 2:14-26
Saturday:	Psalm 121 Genesis 32:3-21 Mark 10:46-52

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