



SERVICE OF THE WORD – SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES ARE IN **BOLD** TYPE

*Are you
envious
because
I am
generous?*

MATTHEW 20:15



PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.
Amen.

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways.

We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves.

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We are slow to share the good news of your gift of salvation.

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection,
Christ has made us his own. Hear now the truth that God proclaims:

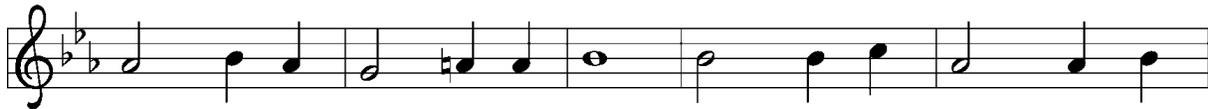
Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, may you live each day in freedom
and joyfully share in the holy work God sets before us in the world.

Amen.



1 Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and pow'r, wis - dom and
 2 Let all the heav - ens sound forth Je - sus' name; let all the
 3 Ev - er as - cend - ing the song and the joy, ev - er de -
 4 Give we the glo - ry and praise to the Lamb! Take we the



rich - es and strength ev - er - more, be to the Lamb who our
 earth sing his glo - ry and fame. O - cean and moun - tain, stream,
 scend - ing the love from on high; bless - ing and hon - or and
 robe and the harp and the palm; sing we the song of the



bat - tle has won, whose are the king - dom, the crown, and the
 for - est, and flow'r ech - o his prais - es and tell of his
 glo - ry and praise— this is the theme of the hymns that we
 Lamb who was slain, dy - ing in weak - ness and ris - ing to



throne; whose are the king - dom, the crown, and the throne!
 pow'r; ech - o his prais - es and tell of his pow'r.
 raise; this is the theme of the hymns that we raise.
 reign; dy - ing in weak - ness and ris - ing to reign!

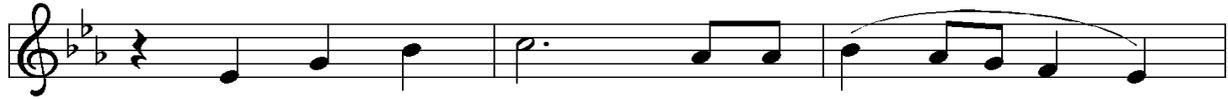
APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Glory to God"



Glo - ry to God in the high -



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



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



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry. 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.



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



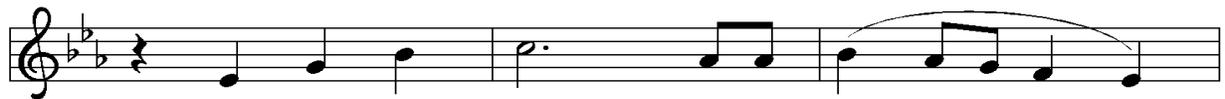
lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,



Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of



God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo - ry to God in the high -



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray together.

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

A reading from the prophet Jonah.

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. ⁶When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. ⁷Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: “By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. ⁸Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. ⁹Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish.” ¹⁰When God saw what the people did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. ⁶The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” ⁹But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

¹I will exalt you, my God and king, and bless your name forever and ever.

²**Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.**

³Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised! There is no end to your greatness.

⁴**One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.**

⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.

⁶**They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness.**

⁷They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

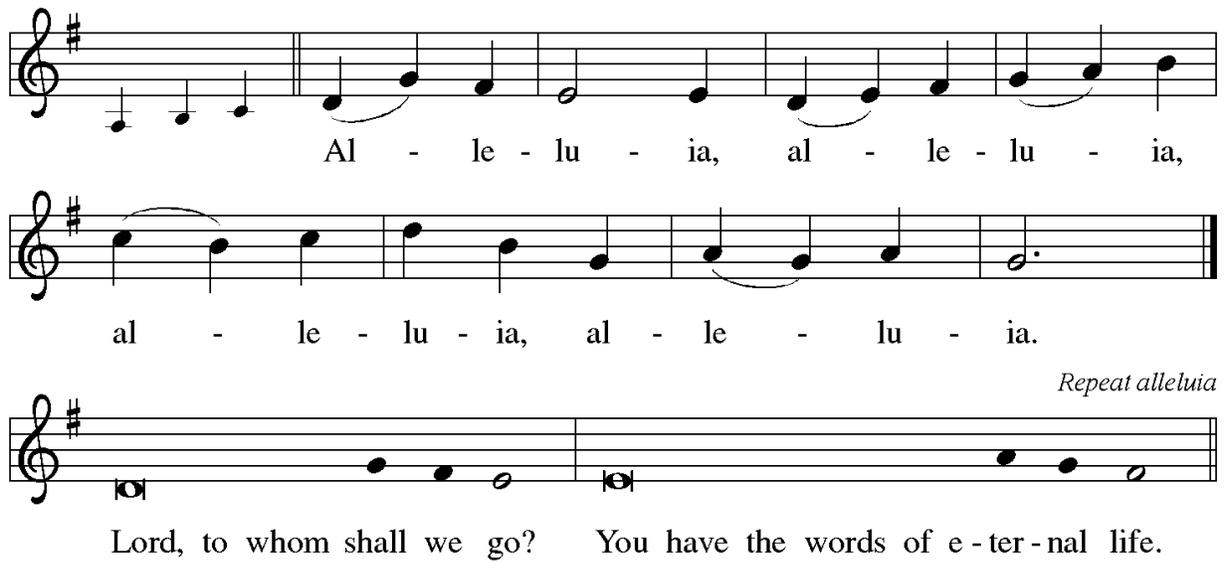
⁸**The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians.

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. ²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well - ³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, from the 20th chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

ELW 733



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
 stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
 pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM FOR EMMERSON, CAROLINE, AND HARRY

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of Baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Parents: We present Emmerson Lee Ingram, Caroline Rai Ingram, and Harold Winston Mills, IV for Baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your children baptized into Christ?

Parents: We do.

As you bring Emmerson, Caroline, and Harry to receive the gift of Baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with them among God's faithful people, bring them to the word of God and the Holy Supper, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the Holy Scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer, so that they may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help Emmerson, Caroline, and Harry grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: We do.

People of God, do you promise to support Emmerson, Caroline, and Harry, and pray for them in their new life in Christ?

All: We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I now ask you all to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

We renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

We renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

We renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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 \dagger resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. In the river Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the Baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of Baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

BAPTISM

Emmerson Lee, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Caroline Rai, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Harold Winston, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

LAYING ON OF HANDS *(congregation extends their hands towards the baptized children)*

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Emmerson Lee, Caroline Rai, and Harold Winston with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

CHRISMATION (*a cross is drawn in oil on each child's forehead*)

Emmerson Lee, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

Caroline Rai, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

Harold Winston, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

WELCOME (*a candle is lit and given to each of the newly baptized*)

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome these newly baptized children of God into the community of faith. **We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Generous God, you reverse the order of the world, making the last first, and the first last. Where this gospel challenges the church, equip it for its works of service. Enlighten our hearts, that we may abandon worldly prestige and find our lasting value in the way you have made us. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Nothing in creation is outside your concern, Almighty God. In your mercy, tend to your creation, especially those places in our nation that are currently devastated by wildfire. Give us an impassioned spirit of restoration where destruction currently rages. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Where we find envy and create enemies, you provide enough for all. Bring peace to places of conflict and violence. Inspire all leaders with creativity and wisdom. Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers, and development workers. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Reveal yourself to all in need as you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, ready to relent from punishing. Accompany judges and lawyers, victims of crime and those serving sentences. Give fruitful labor and a livelihood to those seeking work. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Even beyond our expectations, you choose to give generously. Grant life, health, and courage to all who are in need, especially, Bob, Karen, Neal, Jean, Margaret, Donna, Kay, Yvonne, Eddie, Steve, Henri, John, Bea, Jack, Jill, Eric, Doug, Mary, Jennifer, Frank, Bill, Madeline, Ed, Earl, Barbara, Steven, Kathy, and Ted.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We give you thanks for the new life which you lovingly pour out in the waters of Baptism. We rejoice with the Mills family, who brought Emmerson, Caroline, and Harry to the sacrament that draws us together as one family. Bless their new life in Christ and sustain us all in the faith you have gifted to us. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We praise you for the generations that have declared your power to us. Give us faithfulness to follow them, living for Christ, until you call us to be reunited in the joyful song around the throne. We pray for those who are grieving, especially Windy Cole and her family, following the death of her uncle. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

LITANY OF PEACE

We joyfully proclaim the reality of the peace that only Christ can provide. His peace is the way he abides with every one of us, showing us that we are beloved. We celebrate his peace, therefore, in this house of prayer, in our homes, among one another, and to every corner of creation. We, the church - the ones who have received his peace - take up the task of sharing the peace of Christ with the world, following his example.

To lands and people ravaged by warfare, and to systems built on injustice and inequality,

Jesus will be made known: **Peace be with you.**

To our nation, struggling with viruses too many to name,

Jesus will be made known: **Peace be with you.**

To families torn apart by discord, and to friends separated by disagreement,

Jesus will be made known: **Peace be with you.**

To servants of God who suffer for righteousness, and to the needy, whose help and hope is but Grace alone,

Jesus will be made known: **Peace be with you.**

And today, here, and now, the Peace of Christ is with you. **And also with you. Amen.**

OFFERING

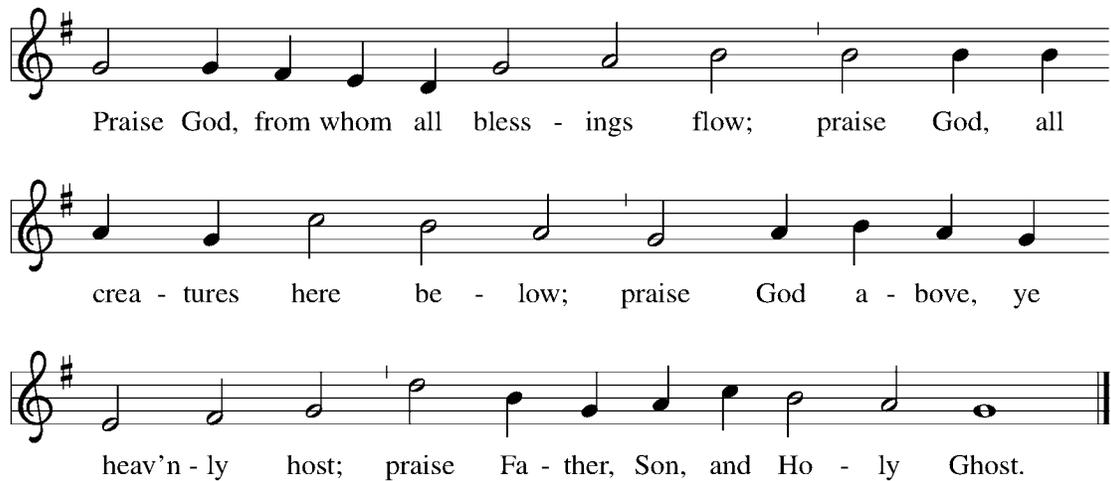
<https://onrealm.org/gracerockhill/-/give/now>

ANTHEM

“This Is My Father’s World”

arr. Dan Forrest

OFFERTORY RESPONSE (*Stand*) "Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow"



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together. Merciful God,

our gifts seem small, but we know you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our entire lives. We long to be fed at your table once more, but in this time of distance, draw near to your children, and let us feast on the Gospel hope you freely share with the world. Accept the offering we bring and strengthen us for service in your name, for the sake of the risen Christ. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

United as one church, deployed across a great distance, we unite our voices and join in the prayer that our Lord taught us:

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

“God of Wonders”

With praise

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics placed below the notes. Chords are indicated above the staff at various points.

Lyrics:
 Lord of all cre - a - tion,
 Ear - ly in the morn - ing
 of wa - ter, earth and sky,
 I will cel - e - brate the light.
 the heav - ens are Your tab - er - na - cle;
 And as I stum - ble in the dark - ness,
 glo - ry to the Lord on high,
 I will call Your name by night.
 God of won - ders be - yond our gal - ax - y, You are ho - ly,
 ho - ly. The u - ni - verse de - clares Your maj - es -
 ty. You are ho - ly, ho - ly,
 Lord of heav - en and earth, Lord of heav - en and earth.

Chords: Dsus, Em, Csus2, G, D, Am7.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You serve as the light of Christ for the world.

Thanks be to God.

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