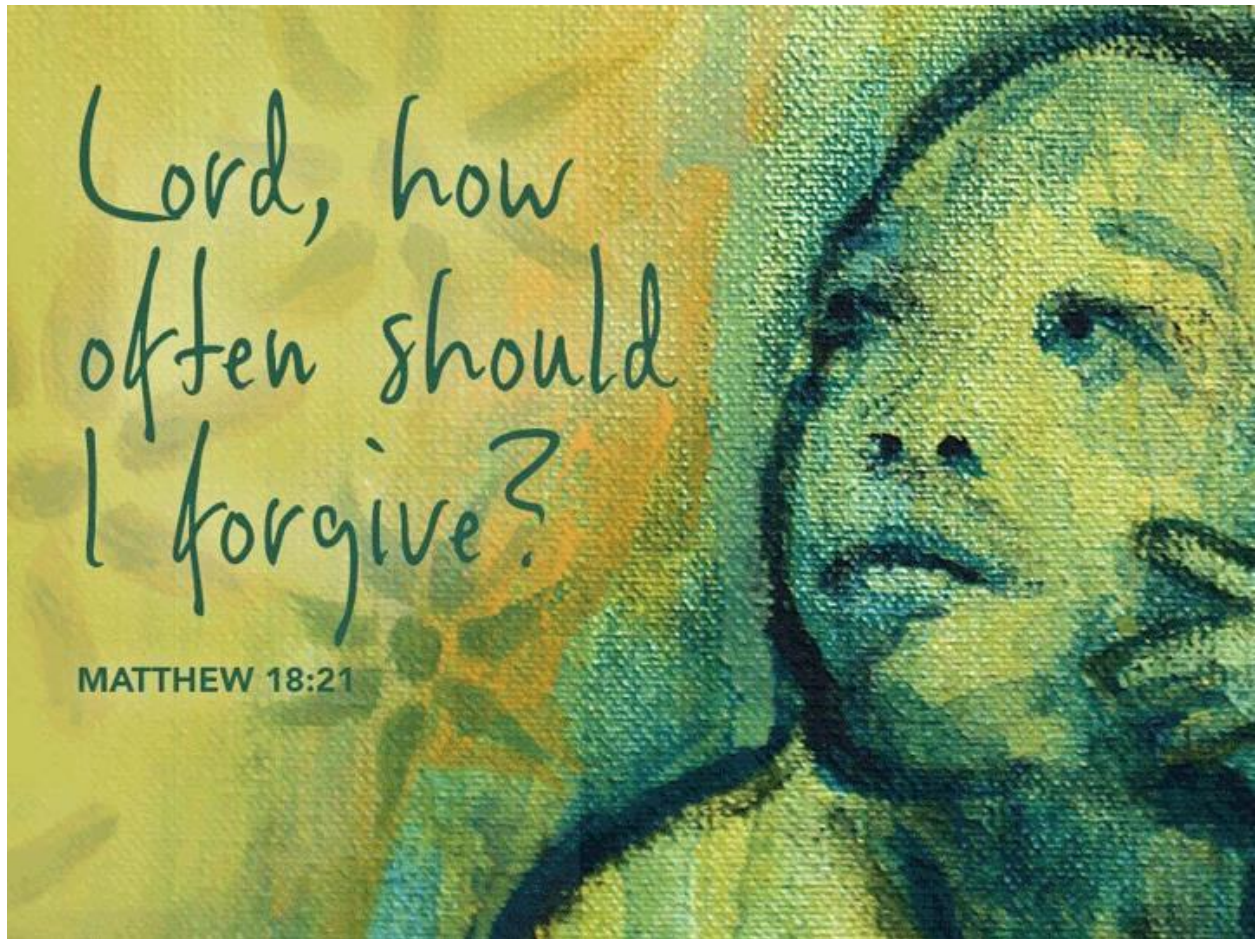


**15th Sunday after Pentecost**  
ELW Holy Communion Setting One  
Sunday, September 13, 2020



**All Saints Lutheran Church, ELCA**

*722 Rockbridge Road SW*

*Lilburn, GA 30047*

*Rev. Dr. Ruth E. Hamilton, Interim Pastor*

*John Womack, Director of Music and Organist*

[www.allsaintsilburn.org](http://www.allsaintsilburn.org)

## **Introduction to the day**

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

## **---GATHERING---**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

## **NARTHEX TIME**

**9:50-10:05 am**

## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP/GREETING**

**Joyce Holdrich**

## **CONGREGATIONAL NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Lisette Branscomb**  
*Congregational President*

## **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM WITH CANDLE LIGHTING AND WATER! (ELW p. 97)**

**Pastor Ruth Hamilton**

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

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*A candle is lit. Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

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.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.  
We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.  
To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!  
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love,  
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee,  
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908, alt.  
 Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional, arr. John Roberts, 1807-1876

GREETING

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

Let us pray.

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### ----WORD---

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

## ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN

Mary Kay Kates

### FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

Jack Branscomb

*After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.*

A reading from Genesis.

<sup>15</sup>Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

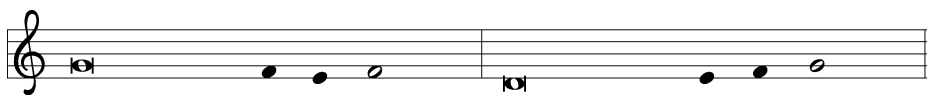
Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13

John Womack

LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy. (*Ps. 103:8*)



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[ <sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, | O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.

<sup>2</sup>Bless the LORD, | O my soul,  
and forget not | all God's benefits—

<sup>3</sup>who forgives | all your sins  
 and heals all | your diseases;  
<sup>4</sup>who redeems your life | from the grave  
 and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy; R  
<sup>5</sup>who satisfies your desires | with good things  
 so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.  
<sup>6</sup>O LORD, you provide | vindication  
 and justice for all who | are oppressed.  
<sup>7</sup>You made known your | ways to Moses  
 and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.  
 ] <sup>8</sup>LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,  
 slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love; R  
<sup>9</sup>you will not al- | ways accuse us,  
 nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.  
<sup>10</sup>You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,  
 nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.  
<sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,  
 so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.  
<sup>12</sup>As far as the east is | from the west,  
 so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.  
<sup>13</sup>As a father has compassion | for his children,  
 so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD. R

**SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12**

**Jack Branscomb**

*This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.*

A reading from Romans.

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
 and every tongue shall give praise to God."

<sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Word of God, word of life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 102)**

**Pastor Ruth Hamilton**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
*Repeat alleluia*

*Alleluia.* We have an advocate, Jesus | Christ the righteous;\* your sins are forgiven on account | of his name. *Alleluia.* (1 John 2:1, 12)

**GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35**

**Pastor Ruth Hamilton**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.*

<sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## God, When Human Bonds Are Broken

1 God, when hu-man bonds are bro-ken and we lack the love or skill  
 2 Through that still-ness, with your Spir-it come in-to our world of stress,  
 3 You in us are bruised and bro-ken: hear us as we seek re-lease  
 4 Send us, God of new be-gin-nings, hum-bly hope-ful in-to life.  
 5 Give us faith to be more faith-ful, give us hope to be more true,

to re-store the hope of heal-ing, give us grace and make us still.  
 for the sake of Christ for-giv-ing all the fail-ures we con-fess.  
 from the pain of ear-lier liv-ing; set us free and grant us peace.  
 Use us as a means of bless-ing: make us stron-ger, give us faith.  
 give us love to go on learn-ing: God, en-cour-age and re-new!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929  
 Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889  
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### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**Barb Litke**

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

You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Make your ways known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,



**hear our prayer.**

Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, we pray especially for:

- June Hix; Trudy Hanson; Sharon O'Connor; Ann Robinson; Gail Guffey.
- Hilton Austin; Marjorie O'Brien; Jerry Barnes; Sue Silver; Dixie Wigbels.
- Cherrie Scharnberg; Jim Scobee; Charlie Kuni; Cathy; Ted Haag; Sherry Lang.
- Leisa Wiggley; Officer Max Brewer; Bronwyn Yale Blanco; Rosie Marks; Marta.
- Margaret Robinson; Rick Robinson; Sondra Fowler; Pinky Palm.
- Chris Holdrich, Stephanie, and all healthcare workers.
- Rob and Maija Miller.
- Bob, Ingrid, Sonya, Connie, and Phillip.
- Doni Saunders, Joanne Heckman, and Richard Kraus.
- Children, parents, teachers, and school administrators.
- All those impacted by or in the path of disasters and disaster response, especially those in California.

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in faith, especially Chuck Frazier. As you equipped them, equip us with your protection and power, until with them we see your salvation. Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you (*especially John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, whom we commemorate today*). 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.**

**PEACE**

**Pastor Ruth Hamilton**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**---MEAL---**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**OFFERING**

<https://www.aplos.com/aws/give/AllSaintsLutheranChurch1/general>

**OFFERING of Bread and Wine**

Preparing your bread and wine

All



## OFFERING PRAYER

Barb Litke

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

### +DIALOGUE (ELW 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.

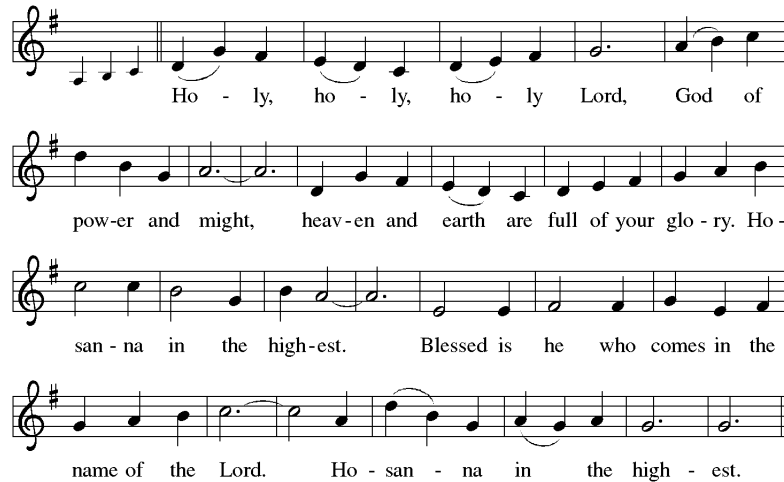
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### +PREFACE (ELW p. 108)

It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,  
al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resur - rec - tion  
opened to us the way of ev - er - last - ing life.  
And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,  
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

**+HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 108)**

**John Womack**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**+THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 108)**

**Pastor Ruth Hamilton**

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
you have brought us this far along the way.  
In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,  
but guided us into the path of love and light.  
In every age you sent prophets  
to make known your loving will for all humanity.  
The cry of the poor has become your own cry;  
our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.  
In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant  
to preach good news to the afflicted,  
to break bread with the outcast and despised,  
and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.  
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 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 death and resurrection,  
we await the day when Jesus shall return  
to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.  
Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen

**Amen.**

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,  
to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup  
with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.  
Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen

**Amen.**

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age,  
that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection,  
we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.  
Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

#### **+LORD'S PRAYER**

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

#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

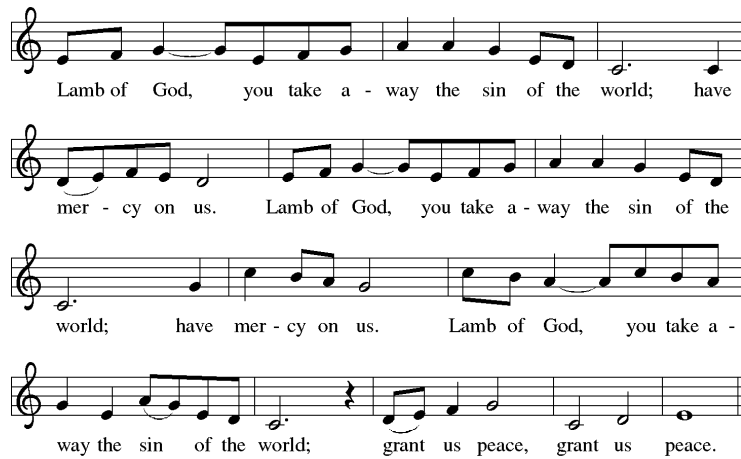
The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond:* Amen.

**COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 112)**

**John Womack**



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.

**POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

**Pastor Ruth Hamilton**

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

**Amen.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Barb Litke**

Let us pray.

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**---SENDING---**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**BLESSING**

**Pastor Ruth Hamilton**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✚ give you peace.

**Amen.**

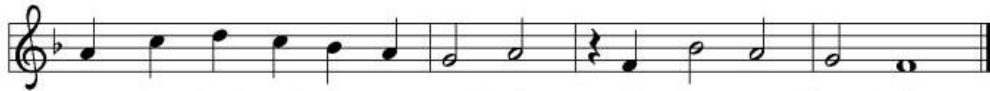
## Rise, Shine, You People!



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered  
 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;  
 3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,  
 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to  
 he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and  
 your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the  
 Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.  
 wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.  
 world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.  
 Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.  
 Music: WOJTKIEWICZ, Dale Wood, 1934-2003  
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**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Pastor Ruth Hamilton**

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### ---PRAYER LIST---

- ❖ June Hix, difficulty walking and sinus issues
- ❖ Trudy Hanson, breast cancer
- ❖ Sharon O'Connor, health issues
- ❖ Ann Robinson, mother-in-law of Karen Robinson (Rica Kelly's daughter), recovering from a fall, undergoing diagnostic tests
- ❖ Gail Guffey, mother-in-law of Sandy (Cherie Mason's daughter), in hospice after suffering a massive stroke
- ❖ Hilton Austin, tests for severe headaches
- ❖ Marjorie O'Brien, health issues
- ❖ Jerry Barnes, recovering after being hospitalized for pneumonia
- ❖ Sue Silver, recovering from laser surgery August 18
- ❖ Dixie Wigbels, for a diagnosis of her pain and numbness
- ❖ Cherie Scharnberg (friend of Cherie Mason), healing from brain surgery August 13
- ❖ Jim Scobee, pending heart surgery
- ❖ Charlie Kuni, for a diagnosis of arterial issues
- ❖ Cathy H. (friend of Joann Rosselle), hospitalized with COVID-19 and on a ventilator
- ❖ Ted Haag (friend of Joyce & John Holdrich for 60 yrs), for healing from ongoing lung cancer, undergoing chemo, prognosis is not favorable
- ❖ Sherry Lang (sister of Sheila Wagner), for healing from hip replacement surgery
- ❖ Leisa Wiggley (friend of All Saints' quilters), for healing from cancer
- ❖ APD Officer Max Brewer, now home, for healing and successful rehab and therapy
- ❖ Bronwyn Yale Blanco
- ❖ Rosie Marks (Cherie Mason's sister-in-law), struggling with recovery from colon cancer surgery
- ❖ Marta (long-time friend of Rica Kelly), for healing from health issues
- ❖ Margaret Robinson (mother-in-law of Sandra Robinson), recovering from broken hip and falls
- ❖ Rick Robinson (Sandra Robinson's husband), for healing
- ❖ Sondra Fowler (cousin of Sandra Robinson), for healing after the death of her husband
- ❖ Pinky Palm (wife of Pastor Randy Palm, Rock of Ages), healing from a broken femur
- ❖ Chris Holdrich (John & Joyce Holdrich's grandson) and Stephanie (friend of Joann Rosselle), for guidance and protection in their work as healthcare workers
- ❖ Bob (brother of Cherie Mason), unemployed due to COVID-19
- ❖ Rob & Maija Miller (Sue Martinson's niece) – financial issues with disability status & move to Wisconsin
- ❖ Ingrid, Sonya, Connie, Phillip – underemployed/unemployed
- ❖ Doni Saunders (friend of Cherie Mason); Joanne Heckman; Richard Kraus (father of Bruce Kraus) for reassurance and safety living in facilities where COVID-19 is present
- ❖ Children, parents, teachers, and school administrators, for guidance, wisdom, and cooperation in making wise decisions for all as schools re-open
- ❖ All those impacted by or in the path of disasters and disaster response workers, especially those in California
- ❖ Comfort and solace for the family and friends of Chuck Frazier, member of South Africa mission team with Al and Mary Kay Kates, who passed away from COVID-19