

Service of Holy Communion

June 26, 2022, 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

Clavinova

My Faith Looks Up to Thee - Lowell Mason/ arrg. Cindy Berry

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Clavinova

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1774/ arrg. Cindy Berry

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.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,
whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have not followed your path
but have chosen our own way.**

Instead of putting others before ourselves,

we long to take the best seats at the table.

When met by those in need,

we have too often passed by on the other side.

Set us again on the path of life.

Save us from ourselves

and free us to love our neighbors.

Amen.

Hear the good news!

God does not deal with us according to our sins
but delights in granting pardon and mercy.

In the name of ✙ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

You are free to love as God loves.

Amen.

GATHERING ELW #805 - *Lead On, O King Eternal*

1 Lead on, O King eternal!

The day of march has come;
henceforth in fields of conquest
your tents will be our home.
Through days of preparation
your grace has made us strong;
and now, O King eternal,
we lift our battle song.

2 Lead on, O King eternal,
till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper
the sweet amen of peace;
for not with swords loud clashing,
nor roll of stirring drums,
but deeds of love and mercy
the heav'nly kingdom comes.

3 Lead on, O King eternal:
we follow, not with fears,
for gladness breaks like morning
where'er your face appears.
Your cross is lifted o'er us;
we journey in its light;
the crown awaits the conquest;
lead on, O God of might!

Text: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1862-1917

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



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for-give us; in your prom-ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign God, ruler of all hearts, you call us to obey you, and you favor us with true freedom. Keep us faithful to the ways of your Son, that, leaving behind all that hinders us, we may steadfastly follow your paths, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

THE WORD

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21

In the story preceding today's reading, the prophet Elijah flees for his life to the security of God's mountain. There God reveals to Elijah that there are still other faithful people in Israel and commissions him to anoint new leaders, including his own successor, Elisha.

¹⁵Then the LORD said to [Elijah,] "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place.

¹⁹So he set out from there, and found Elisha son of Shaphat, who was

plowing. There were twelve yoke of oxen ahead of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle over him. ²⁰He left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." Then Elijah said to him, "Go back again; for what have I done to you?" ²¹He returned from following him, took the yoke of oxen, and slaughtered them; using the equipment from the oxen, he boiled their flesh, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: *Psalms* 16

¹Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."

²**All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.**

³But those who run after other gods
shall have their troubles multiplied.

⁴**I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,
never take their names upon my lips.**

⁵O LORD, you are my portion and my cup;
it is you who uphold my lot.

⁶**My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**

⁷I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night after night.

⁸**I have set the LORD always before me; because God is at my right
hand, I shall not be shaken.**

⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.

¹⁰**For you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see the pit.**

¹¹You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

SECOND READING: *Galatians 5:1, 13-25*

For Paul, the freedom Christ gives is not permission to do whatever we want. It is the invitation to be what we could not be otherwise. The power and guidance of Christ's Holy Spirit produce a different kind of life, one marked by the fruit of this Holy Spirit.

¹For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

¹³For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. ¹⁴For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. ¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, ²¹envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²²By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. ²⁴And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



GOSPEL READING: *Luke 9:51-62*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the ninth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus is unwavering in his commitment to his mission in Jerusalem and will not be swayed by pettiness. In a series of striking cases in point, he calls his disciples to a similar single-mindedness.

⁵¹When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵²And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; ⁵³but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" ⁵⁵But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶Then they went on to another village.

⁵⁷As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ⁵⁹To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." ⁶⁰But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." ⁶²Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

"For freedom Christ has us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery!" Stirring words from Paul in

today's second reading. Everyone wants to be free. In our country, we cherish our various freedoms -- freedom to govern ourselves, freedom for individuality, freedom to worship where and as we please. Next weekend we'll celebrate those freedoms and our independence on July 4th. As Americans, the word "freedom" has a strong hold on our hearts and minds.

"For freedom Christ has set us free!" Not only are we free as citizens of the United States; God has set us free through his son, Jesus Christ. We are no longer burdened by guilt or a sense of unworthiness; we are no longer captive to sin and death. We are no longer rejected because of our bloodline, or our social standing, or whatever the latest fad is for judging people. No matter what the world says, God in Jesus Christ has set us free: free to belong, free to be loved, free to live.

Freedom is great, but then what? What sort of freedom have we been given, and what is its purpose? One type of freedom could be the opposite of weariness: "If only I were free to..." change jobs, leave town, meet someone new. Children and young people celebrate freedom from school when summer comes; they can sleep late and focus on activities they enjoy. People across the world long for the freedom to speak and vote freely, or to live as their authentic selves without being ridiculed, threatened, or harmed. And some people simply want freedom from responsibility. But what does Paul mean when he says "For freedom Christ has set us free"?

Paul talks about freedom by contrasting 'life in the flesh' with 'life in the Spirit.' By 'flesh' Paul does not mean strictly "bodily things," he means our human life apart from God's gracious will. 'Life in the flesh' is self-centered. I live in the flesh any time I am thinking only about myself - what *I* want, what I can get, and how to make myself comfortable - without considering what's best for the community around me, or what God's Word requires.

Life in the flesh is when I plan, speak, and act **based** solely on what is desirable for *me*, without considering how my words and actions affect others and the world. *That* is what Paul means by "life in the flesh." It is greedy, self-centered, conflicted, and it is opposed to "life in the Spirit."

Jesus Christ has set us free from 'life in the flesh' so that we may live "in the Spirit," which is a gift. Yet we fall back into slavery when, blinded by what we want or need, we end up in quarrels and

break off into factions, when what becomes most important is who's right and who's wrong, and we decided we don't want any contact with those others.

All that is 'life in the flesh;' we encounter a lot of it these days. But we don't have to live like that. As people reborn in Jesus Christ, we have no business living like that. God has freed us from life in the flesh, yet those things stick to us like damp cloths in humid weather -- our aggression, our conflicts, our envy of others.

But God, who loves us endlessly, continues to give us life in the Spirit, beautiful and gracious. Life in the Spirit is marked by peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, self-control. Where there is life in the Spirit, people are mindful-of and caring-toward one another, and that builds community. Life in the Spirit fills us with joy, joy because we're part of God's good creation. We become generous, not from obligation, but from gratitude for the goodness of God's world and our share in it.

I see life in the Spirit here among you in so many ways - little and big: the cards you send and the phone calls you make when someone in the congregation is sick or troubled. That's a little thing, but it means a lot. I know because I was on the receiving end when I recently had COVID. Hearing that one is cared for, matters.

There's a family on the southside this congregation has helped numerous times over the years. It started 6 or 7 years ago when they happened by, looking for school supplies for their two kids, and we had a whole collection here, so we gave them what they needed. That continued for a few years and the staff got to know their kids, who were good, diligent students. One year we got them new uniforms for school. A few times we've helped with a light bill.

Now the youngest child, a smart kid, is about to start his senior year. He got a job this summer at a fast food restaurant to help his Dad, who is disabled has trouble paying the bills. They were short on rent, so Shepherd King helped with that. One more year and that young man will graduate from high school - with help from all of you. Only the staff and I have been privileged to know him, but it's all of you who have supported and helped that family. That's life in the Spirit -- people of God coming together to build this place of welcome, safety, and caring for all.

It's God's Spirit who makes us a community of Jesus' followers where strangers find hope. It's God's Spirit who rounds us up and

brings us to worship where our spirits are filled. It's God's Spirit who sends people here so we might bless them, and in turn, they bless us as well. It's God's Spirit who raises us up and dusts us off again and again when we fall back into the slavery of life in the flesh, pulling us out of that self-centered orientation to see, care-about, and respond-to the greater good of the world around us.

"For freedom Christ has set us free!" Paul declares. What wonderful news. You are free, free to accept the gift of life in the Spirit -- a life of joy and kindness, of peace, a life where you are loved and so is everyone else; a life of gentleness and generosity and simplicity. It will slip from your hands; because you and I are human, we'll revert back to the selfish life of the flesh. But God's ever-present grace will bring us back again and again Spirit's presence and we will be set free: free to serve the Savior, free to be people of God.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW # 800 - *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*

- 1 Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
stoop to my weakness, strength to me impart,
and make me love you as I ought to love.

- 2 I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
no sudden rending of the veil of clay,
no angel visitant, no op'ning skies;
but take the dimness of my soul away.

- 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.
Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!

- 4 Teach me to love you as your angels love,
one holy passion filling all my frame:
the baptism of the heav'n-descended dove,
my heart an altar, and your love the flame.

The assembly stands.

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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need.

A brief silence.

God of faithfulness, set the face of your church firmly on you. Rooted in your self-giving love, may the church find freedom in loving our neighbors. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of gentleness, strengthen the earth's ability to heal. Where there are dangerous storms, bring calm. Where there are destructive fires, bring rain. Protect homes, habitats, and livelihoods threatened by climate disasters. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of peace, guide all who govern, that they place the good of their citizens above self-promotion. Anoint leaders of nations with your Spirit of

neighborly love. Protect refugees and all who live under tyranny or conflict. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of kindness, reveal your healing presence to all who are sick or dying. Uphold those who grieve. Support the needs of any who are unemployed, hungry, or have nowhere to lay their heads. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of love, attend to those struggling with addiction, depression, or uncontrolled anger. Provide support systems and loving companions as they work toward health, that they may rest in hope and know the fullness of joy in your presence. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of joy, we give thanks for all who have died and now celebrate the inheritance of life in you. Keep their examples of faithfulness always before us, that we trust your promises in life and in death. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of mercy, receive the petitions of this gathered people...

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

God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with your Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

Thank you for your faithful giving to the ministry of Jesus at Shepherd King. If you wish to give to Shepherd King, there is a donate button on our website - www.skllcsa.org

THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance: you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Holy Communion is open to all baptized Christians. You do not need to be Lutheran or a member of this congregation to receive communion; all are welcome. Individualized Communion Cups are available in the Narthex. There are Wine, Juice & Gluten Free options.

(Please have the bread and wine/juice ready for Holy Communion)

THE 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.

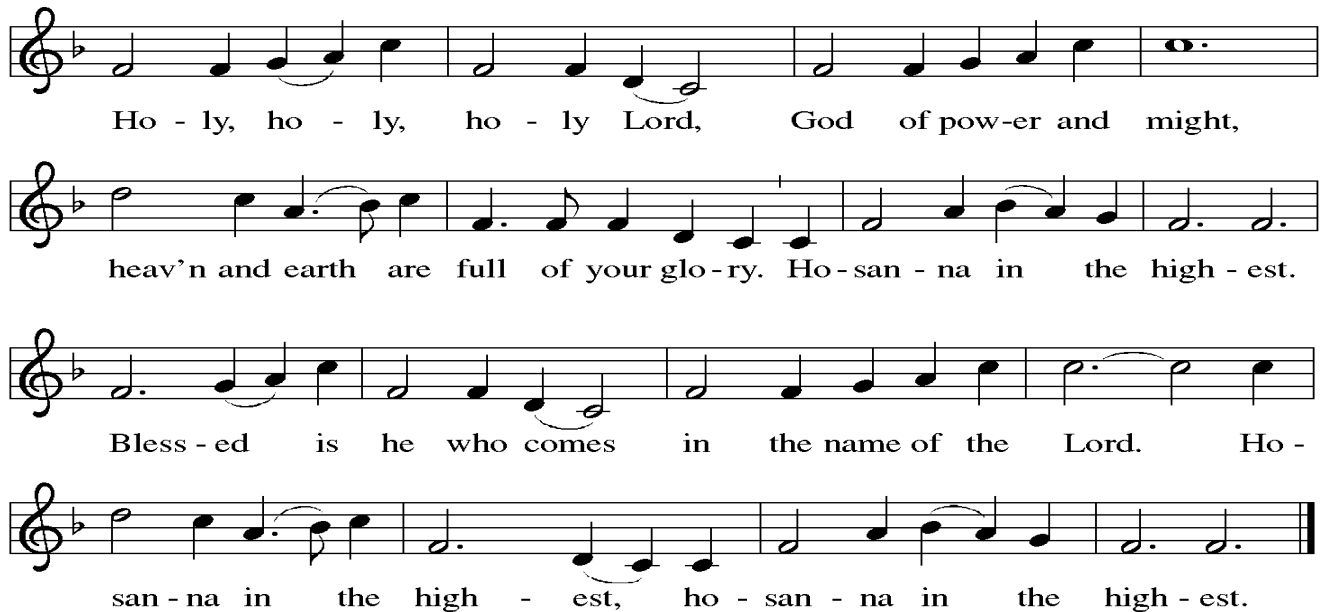
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS

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:

“Holy, Holy, Holy”



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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Mighty God, throughout the ages you have delivered your people from evil and death. Be at our table now to deliver us from our wrongs, our troubles, and our pain. Pour out your Spirit on us; fill us with fire and holy breath. Put your word on our lips that we may prophesy; give us visions and dreams of your Church and your world made new. For Jesus' sake, satisfy our hunger for truth and justice, for mercy and loving-kindness, and for unity over division, as we remember...

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 in remembrance of me.

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet.

Take the bread and eat, this is the body of Christ, given for you. (*please consume the bread*)

Take the cup and drink, this is the blood of Christ, shed for you. (*please drink from the cup*)

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today at 4pm Steinway Artist, Don Irwin will present a concert here at Shepherd King. There is no cost to attend the concert, although we will be collecting an offering for CAM, Christian Assistance Ministries. Please come, and bring your friends, family, and neighbors. It will be a wonderful concert. There will be a light reception midway through the program and Don will have some of his CDs on hand for you to purchase.

Tomorrow, at 9:30am, the Support Ministries Committee will decorate the outside for July 4.

Bible Study meets on Tuesday morning at 10:30.

Book Discussion meets on Thursday at 7pm, in person and via Zoom, to discuss chapters 6 and 7 of *Short Stories by Jesus*, by Amy-Jill Levine.

We're glad so many of you tune in to worship with Shepherd King on Sundays. Please call us at 210-344-5881, if you're in need of prayer, a listening ear, or anything else.

BLESSING

The God of peace, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN ELW # 818 - *O Master, Let Me Walk With You*

- 1 O Master, let me walk with you
in lowly paths of service true;
tell me your secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.

- 2 Help me the slow of heart to move
by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.
- 3 Teach me your patience; share with me
a closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong,
- 4 In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broad'ning way,
in peace that only you can give;
with you, O Master, let me live.

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836-1918, alt.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Clavinova

How Firm a Foundation - Joseph Funk/ arrg. Cindy Berry

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