

Palm Sunday

April 5, 2020

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
215 N. Warren St.
Orwigsburg, PA
570-366-2316
www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN

OPENING PROCLAMATION

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. **Hosanna in the highest.**

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵"Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

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

THE BLESSING OF THE PALMS

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

Let us pray. We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed Messiah and King by those who spread garments and branches along his way.

Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Let us go forth in peace. **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION OF THE PALMS

THE PALMS

1. O'er all the way green palms and blossoms gay
Are strewn this day in festive preparation,
Where Jesus comes, to wipe our tears away,
E'en now the throng to welcome Him prepare.

Refrain:

Join all and sing His name declare,
Let ev'ry voice resound with acclamation,
Hosanna! Praised be the Lord!
Bless Him, who cometh to bring us salvation!

2. His word goes forth, and people by its might
Once more their freedom gain from degradation,
Humanity doth give to each his right,
While those in darkness find restored the light. *[Refrain]*

3. Sing and rejoice, O blest Jerusalem,
Of all thy sons sing the emancipation,
Thro' boundless love, the Christ of Bethlehem
Brings faith the hope to thee forevermore. *[Refrain]*

CLOSING PROCLAMATION

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. **Hosanna in the highest.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray.

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The refrain will be introduced by the cantor. The congregation will repeat the refrain. The appointed verse will be sung by the choir. The congregation will repeat the refrain.

REFRAIN



Glo - ry to you, O Word of God, Lord Je - sus Christ.

VERSE

Christ humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above ev'ry name.

THE PASSION ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW

The Passion of Our Lord according to St. Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

NARRATOR: One of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,

JUDAS: "What will you give me if I betray Jesus to you?"

NARRATOR: They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray Him. On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying,

DISCIPLE: "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

NARRATOR: Jesus said,

JESUS: "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples." ' "

NARRATOR: So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, He took His place with the twelve; and while they were eating, He said,

JESUS: "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me."

NARRATOR: And they became greatly distressed and began to say to Him one after another,

DISCIPLE: "Surely not I, Lord?"

NARRATOR: He answered,

JESUS: "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of Him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born."

NARRATOR: Judas, who betrayed Him, said,

JUDAS: "Surely not I, Rabbi?"

NARRATOR: He replied,

JESUS: "You have said so."

NARRATOR: While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it He broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said,

JESUS: "Take, eat; this is my body."

NARRATOR: Then He took a cup, and after giving thanks He gave it to them, saying,

JESUS: "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

NARRATOR: When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,

JESUS: "You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee."

NARRATOR: Peter said to Him,

PETER: "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you."

NARRATOR: Jesus said to him,

JESUS: "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times."

NARRATOR: Peter said to Him,

PETER: "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you."

NARRATOR: And so said all the disciples. Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples,

JESUS: "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

NARRATOR: He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then He said to them,

JESUS: "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me."

NARRATOR: And going a little farther, Jesus threw Himself on the ground and prayed,

JESUS: "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want, but what you want."

NARRATOR: Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and He said to Peter,

JESUS: "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

NARRATOR: Again He went away for the second time and prayed,

JESUS: "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done."

NARRATOR: Again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, He went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then He came to the disciples and said to them,

JESUS: "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

NARRATOR: While He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd, with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

JUDAS: "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him."

NARRATOR: At once he came up to Jesus and said,

JUDAS: "Greetings, Rabbi!"

NARRATOR: ...and kissed Him. Jesus said to him,

JESUS: "Friend, do what you are here to do."

NARRATOR: Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested Him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him,

JESUS: "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?"

NARRATOR: At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

JESUS: "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled."

NARRATOR: Then all the disciples deserted Him and fled. Those who had arrested Jesus took Him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following Him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put Him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and one of them said,

ACCUSER: "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'"

NARRATOR: The high priest stood up and said,

HIGH PRIEST: "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?"

NARRATOR: But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to Him,

HIGH PRIEST: "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God."

NARRATOR: Jesus said to him,

JESUS: "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

NARRATOR: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

HIGH PRIEST: "He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?"

NARRATOR: They answered,

1st CHIEF PRIEST: "He deserves death."

NARRATOR: Then they spat in His face and struck Him; and some slapped Him, saying,

2nd CHIEF PRIEST: "Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?"

NARRATOR: Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to Him and said,

1st SERVANT GIRL: "You also were with Jesus the Galilean."

NARRATOR: But he denied it before all of them, saying,

PETER: "I do not know what you are talking about."

NARRATOR: When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw Him, and she said to the bystanders,

2nd SERVANT GIRL: This man was with Jesus of Nazareth."

NARRATOR: Again he denied it with an oath,

PETER: "I do not know the man."

NARRATOR: After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,

1st BYSTANDER: Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you."

NARRATOR: Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

PETER: "I do not know the man!"

NARRATOR: At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said:

JESUS: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times."

NARRATOR: And he went out and wept bitterly. When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about His death. They bound Him, led Him away, and handed Him over to Pilate the governor. When Judas, His betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said,

JUDAS: "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood."

NARRATOR: But one said,

1st CHIEF PRIEST: "What is that to us? See to it yourself."

NARRATOR: Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests took the pieces of silver; one said,

2nd CHIEF PRIEST: "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money."

NARRATOR: After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me." Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked Him,

PILATE: "Are you the King of the Jews?"

NARRATOR: Jesus said,

JESUS: "You say so."

NARRATOR: But when He was accused by the chief priests and elders, He did not answer. Then Pilate said to Him,

PILATE: "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?"

NARRATOR: But He gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

NARRATOR: Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So, after they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

PILATE: "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

NARRATOR: For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed Him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him,

PILATE'S WIFE: "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about Him."

NARRATOR: Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them,

PILATE: "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?"

NARRATOR: And they said,

CONGREGATION: "Barabbas."

NARRATOR: Pilate said to them,

PILATE: "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

NARRATOR: All of them said,

CONGREGATION: "Let Him be crucified!"

NARRATOR: Then he asked,

PILATE: "Why, what evil has he done?"

NARRATOR: But they shouted all the more,

CONGREGATION: "Let Him be crucified!"

NARRATOR: So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

PILATE: "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves."

NARRATOR: Then the people as a whole answered,

CONGREGATION: "His blood be on us and on our children!"

NARRATOR: So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed Him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around Him. They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on His head. They put a reed in His right hand and knelt before Him and mocked Him, saying,

SOLDIER: "Hail, King of the Jews!"

NARRATOR: They spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. After mocking Him, they stripped Him of the robe and put His own clothes on Him. Then they led Him away to crucify Him. As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry His cross. And when they came to a place called *Golgotha* (which means Place of a Skull),

(At the mention of Golgotha, the congregation should stand and remain standing for the remainder of the reading.)

NARRATOR: they offered Him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when He tasted it, He would not drink it. And when they had crucified Him, they divided His clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over Him. Over His head they put the charge against Him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Then two bandits were crucified with Him, one on His right and one on His left. Those who passed by derided Him, shaking their heads and saying,

2nd BYSTANDER: "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

NARRATOR: In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, mocked Him, saying,

1st CHIEF PRIEST: "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him.

2nd CHIEF PRIEST: "He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'"

NARRATOR: The bandits who were crucified with Him also taunted Him in the same way. From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice,

JESUS: "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?"

NARRATOR: ...that is,

JESUS: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

NARRATOR: When some of the bystanders heard it, one said,

3rd BYSTANDER: "This man is calling for Elijah."

NARRATOR: At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to Him to drink. But another said,

4th BYSTANDER: "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."

NARRATOR: Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed His last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After His resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified. The Centurion said,

CENTURION: "Truly this man was God's Son!"

NARRATOR: Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for Him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb. The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,

1st CHIEF PRIEST: "Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first."

NARRATOR: Pilate said to them,

PILATE: "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can."

NARRATOR: So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

NICENE CREED

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

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 resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

God of life, bind your faithful people into one body. Enliven the church with your Spirit and bless the work of those who work for its renewal. Accomplish your work of salvation in us and through us, for the sake of the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of life, you love the world you have made and you grieve when creation suffers. Restore polluted lands and waterways. Heal areas of the world ravaged by storms, floods, wildfires, droughts, or other natural disasters. Bring all things to new life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of life, show redemption to all who watch and wait with eager expectation: those longing for wars to cease, those waiting for immigration paperwork to finalize, those seeking election, and those in dire need of humanitarian relief. Come quickly with your hope. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of life, you weep with those who grieve. Unbind all who are held captive by anxiety, despair, disease, illness, or pain (*especially...*). Fill us with compassion and empathy for those who struggle and keep us faithful in prayer. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of life, we give thanks for opportunities for this congregation to collaborate with our community in caring for the needs of our neighbors. Strengthen our ties with other local congregations, agencies, and services. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of life, you are our resurrection. We remember all those who have died and trust that, in you, they will live again. Breathe new life into our dry bones, that we, too, might live with you forever. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN



What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all his ben-e-fits to me? I will



of-fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv-ing and will call on the name of the Lord.



I will take the cup of sal-va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord.



I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all his peo-ple,



in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru-sa-lem.

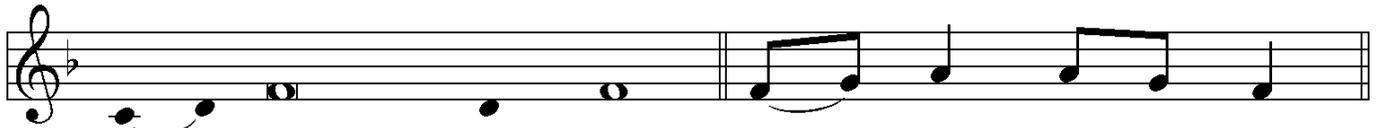
MEAL

OFFERTORY PRAYER

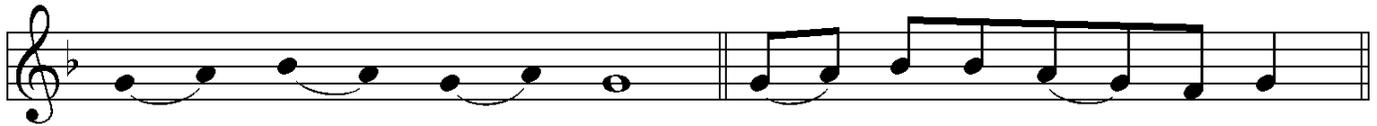
Generous God, you do not feed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and all that you have given into our care that this feast that we share might be transformed into a bountiful feast that welcomes all, in the name of Jesus Christ, our host and our guest.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should in all times and all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, Holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, 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. 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 in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

Happy are those who are called to his supper.

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

DISTRBUTION

The Sacrament will be distributed by Intinction, pulpit side first. Please move into the center aisle, proceed to the Pastor, and receive the bread in your open hand. Then turn to the assistant, where you may dip the host into the wine and partake, returning to your seat by the side aisle. The lectern side will follow, then the choir. Those unable to come forward will receive the Sacrament in their pews.

AGNUS DEI

☐ 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.

COMMUNION HYMN(S)

TABLE BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Heavenly Father, by his death on the cross your Son freed us from the bondage of sin and death. Watch over your Church and all who celebrate these Holy Mysteries. In this Sacrament, give us food for our journey from death to life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

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

SENDING HYMN

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Trust in God. Rest in his faithfulness.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Our Liturgy and Music are used by permission through Augsburg Fortress License #20611.
