

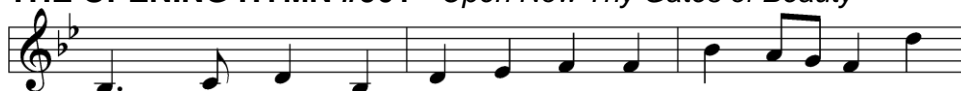
# THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 16, 2024

*“God at Work Among Us”*

## THE WELCOME

### THE OPENING HYMN #901 *“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”*



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty; Zi - on, let me  
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore Thee; Come Thou al - so  
3 Here Thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed; Here Thy seed is  
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en; Let me keep Thy  
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee; Let Thy will be



en - ter there, Where my soul in joy - ful du - ty  
un - to me. Where we find Thee and a - dore Thee,  
du - ly sown. Let my soul, where it is plant - ed,  
gift di - vine, How - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en;  
done in - deed. May I un - dis - turbed draw near Thee



Waits for Him who an - swers prayer. Oh, how bless - ed  
There a heav'n on earth must be. To my heart, O  
Bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone, So that all I  
May Thy Word still o'er me shine As my guid - ing  
While Thou dost Thy peo - ple feed. Here of life the



is this place, Filled with sol - ace, light, and grace!  
en - ter Thou; Let it be Thy tem - ple now!  
hear may be Fruit - ful un - to life in me.  
star through life, As my com - fort in all strife.  
foun - tain flows; Here is balm for all our woes.

*(please stand)*

## THE INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C: Who made heaven and earth.**

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☐ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

*(please be seated)*

## THE INTROIT

P: It is good to give thanks to the LORD,

**C: to sing praises to Your name, O Most High.**

P: The righteous flourish like the palm tree

**C: and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.**

P: They are planted in the house of the LORD;

**C: they flourish in the courts of our God.**

P: They still bear fruit in old age;

**C: they are ever full of sap and green,**

P: to declare that the LORD is upright;

**C: He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P: It is good to give thanks to the LORD,

**C: to sing praises to Your name, O Most High.**

## THE KYRIE



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

## **THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS** ~ *Glory to God in the Highest* (page 204 in the hymnal)

**To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;  
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!  
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name we sing—  
Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav'nly King.**

**To You, O sole-begotten, The Father's Son, we pray;  
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.  
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,  
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high—**

**For You alone are holy, You only are the Lord.  
Forever and forever, Be worshiped and adored;  
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High,  
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.**

## **THE SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** *(spoken)* **And also with you.**

**P:** Let us pray. Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

## **THE OLD TESTAMENT READING** Ezekiel 17:22-24 (ESV)

Thus says the Lord GOD: "I Myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I Myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest. And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it."

**P:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

## **THE EPISTLE** 2 Corinthians 5:1-17 (ESV)

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always of good

courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that One has died for all, therefore all have died; and He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised. From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard Him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(please stand)*

### **THE ALLELUIA AND VERSE** *(page 205 in the hymnal)*

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

### **THE HOLY GOSPEL** Mark 4:26-34 (ESV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 4th chapter.

**C: *(spoken)* Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come." And He said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." With many such parables He spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to His own disciples He explained everything.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: *(spoken)* Praise to You, O Christ.**

## THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*(please be seated)*

## THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### THE HYMN OF THE DAY #577 "Almighty God, Your Word is Cast"



1 Al - might - y God, Your Word is cast Like  
2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe This  
3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares The  
4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, Life -



seed in - to the ground; Now let the dew of  
ho - ly seed re - move, But give it root in  
ris - ing plant de - stroy, But let it yield a  
giv - ing grace be - stow That all whose souls the



heav'n de - scend And righ - teous fruits a - bound.  
ev - 'ry heart To bring forth fruits of love.  
hun - dred - fold The fruits of peace and joy.  
truth re - ceive Its sav - ing pow'r may know.

## THE SERMON "God at Work Among Us" Text: Mark 4:26-34

## **THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS #785** *“We Praise You, O God” (v. 1)*

**We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;  
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.  
We lay it before You, we kneel and adore You;  
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.**

*(please stand)*

## **THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*(Each petition concludes with the following response: “Let us pray to the Lord,” “**Lord, have mercy.**”)*

### **THE PREFACE** *(responses are spoken)*

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C: And also 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.**

**P:** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### **THE SANCTUS ~ Holy, Holy, Holy**

**Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord God of Sab-a-oth a-dored;  
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.  
Sing ho-san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san-na to the Lord;  
Tru-ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

### **THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**P:** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

## 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 ever. Amen.

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE PAX DOMINI ~ *The Peace of the Lord*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

### THE AGNUS DEI ~ *The Lamb of God*



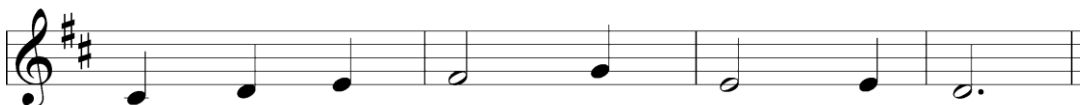
1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

*(please be seated)*

# THE DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

## #619 "Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior"



1 Thy bod - y, giv'n for me, O Sav - ior, Thy blood which  
2 With Thee, Lord, I am now u - nit - ed; I live in  
3 Who can con - demn me now? For sure - ly The Lord is  
4 Though death may threat - en with dis - as - ter, It can - not  
5 My heart has now be - come Thy dwell - ing, O bless - ed,



Thou for me didst shed, These are my life and  
Thee and Thou in me. No sor - row fills my  
nigh, who jus - ti - fies. No hell I fear, and  
rob me of my cheer; For He who is of  
ho - ly Trin - i - ty. With an - gels I, Thy



strength for - ev - er, By them my hun - gry soul is fed.  
soul, de - light - ed It finds its on - ly joy in Thee.  
thus se - cure - ly With Je - sus I to heav - en rise.  
death the mas - ter With aid and com - fort e'er is near.  
prais - es tell - ing, Shall live in joy e - ter - nal - ly.

### *Refrain*



Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!



#589 "Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens"



1 Speak, O Lord, Your ser - vant lis - tens, Let Your Word to  
2 Oh, what bless - ing to be near You And to lis - ten  
3 Lord, Your words are wa - ters liv - ing When my thirst - ing  
4 As I pray, dear Je - sus, hear me; Let Your words in



me come near; New - born life and spir - it give me,  
to Your voice; Let me ev - er love and hear You,  
spir - it pleads. Lord, Your words are bread life - giv - ing;  
me take root. May Your Spir - it e'er be near me



Let each prom - ise still my fear. Death's dread pow'r, its in - ward  
Let Your Word be now my choice! Man - y hard - ened sin - ners,  
On Your words my spir - it feeds. Lord, Your words will be my  
That I bear a - bun - dant fruit. May I dai - ly sing Your



strife, Wars a - gainst Your Word of life; Fill me, Lord, with  
Lord, Flee in ter - ror at Your Word; But to all who  
light Through death's cold and drea - ry night; Yes, they are my  
praise, From my heart glad an - thems raise, Till my high - est



love's strong fer - vor That I cling to You for - ev - er!  
feel sin's bur - den You give words of peace and par - don.  
sword pre - vail - ing And my cup of joy un - fail - ing!  
praise is giv - en In the end - less joy of heav - en.

## #821 "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the  
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans Are we  
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, Here on  
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om -  
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the



scep - ter, His the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the  
 left in sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! He is  
 earth our food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! Here the  
 nip - o - tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! Born of  
 scep - ter, His the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the



tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.  
 near us; Faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how.  
 sin - ful Flee to You from day to day.  
 Mar - y, Earth Your foot - stool, heav'n Your throne.  
 tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.



Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der  
 Though the cloud from sight re - ceived Him When the  
 In - ter - ces - sor, Friend of sin - ners, Earth's Re -  
 As with - in the veil You en - tered, Robed in  
 Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der



like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out of  
 for - ty days were o'er, Shall our hearts for -  
 deem - er, hear our plea Where the songs of  
 flesh, our great High Priest, Here on earth both  
 like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out of



ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by His blood."  
 get His prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more?"  
 all the sin - less Sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.  
 priest and vic - tim In the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.  
 ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by His blood."

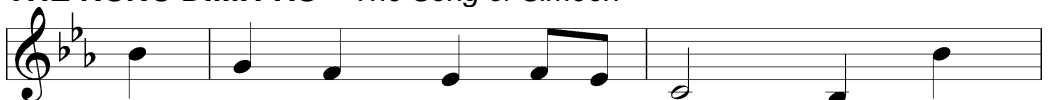
*(please stand)*

## THE DISMISSAL

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✕ in peace.

C: Amen.

## THE NUNC DIMITTIS ~ *The Song of Simeon*



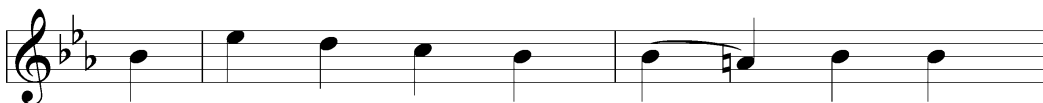
1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All



part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the



glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;



A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is



to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -



peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## THE POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## THE BENEDICAMUS

P: Let us bless the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance on you and ✠ give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

*(please be seated)*

## THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Acknowledgments**

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