

336-227-4251 | INFO@HC-B.ORG | 320 EAST DAVIS ST. (27215) | PO BOX 1336 (27216) | BURLINGTON, NC

 THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF THE
HOLY COMFORTER

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

JANUARY 28, 2024

8:15AM | 10:30AM | HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WELCOMES YOU

WELCOME TO ALL NEWCOMERS AND VISITORS

Please complete the information card and place it in the offering plate or hand it to one of the ushers.

WE, THE PEOPLE OF HOLY COMFORTER

Though very diverse politically and socially, care for each other and care deeply for how our faith is manifested in the community. We believe all people are equal in God's hand. Our nurturing congregation has an appreciation for diverse perspectives and opinions. We grow through a continually evolving and questioning discussion regarding our faith, God, and society. We welcome all, without reservation, into our Christian body to be part of a loving and sharing family.

WE CARE

Please call the church office at (336) 227-4251 if you or someone you know needs visitation, prayers or other assistance because of illness or inability to attend worship service.

OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

To worship God, revealed to us as Creator, as Jesus the Christ, and as the Holy Spirit, and experience God's presence within the church family, nurturing each other through a comprehensive parish program while affirming each other's individual ministries and responding to Jesus' continuing call to minister to others.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

PROCESSIONAL HYMN | 535

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim

1 Ye ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim,
2 God rul - eth on high, al - might - y to save;
3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne!
4 Then let us a - dore, and give him his right:

and pub - lish a - broad his won - der - ful Name;
and still he is nigh: his pres - ence we have.
Let all cry a - loud, and hon - or the Son.
All glo - ry and power, all wis - dom and might,

the Name all - vic - to - rious of Je - sus ex - tol:
The great con - gre - ga - tion his tri - umph shall sing,
The prais - es of Je - sus the an - gels pro - claim,
and hon - or and bless - ing, with an - gels a - bove,

his king - dom is glo - rious; he rules o - ver all.
as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus our King.
fall down on their fa - ces, and wor - ship the Lamb.
and thanks nev - er - ceas - ing and in - fi - nite love.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Officiant
People

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GLORIA | S-280



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Officiant
People

The Lord be with you.
And Also with you.

COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All children are invited to follow the crucifer to Godly Play in the Children's Chapel.

FIRST LESSON

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

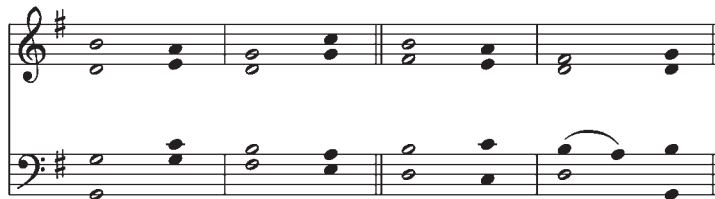
Moses said: The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE | S-409

Psalm 111

Confitebor tibi



1 Hallelujah!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole | heart, *
in the assembly of the upright, in the conger- | gation.

2 Great are the deeds of the | Lord! *

they are studied by all who de- | light in them.

3 His work is full of majesty and | splendor, *

and his righteousness endures for | ever.

4 He makes his marvelous works to be re- | membered; *

the Lord is gracious and full of com- | passion.

5 He gives food to those who | fear him; *
he is ever mindful of his | covenant.

6 He has shown his people the power of his | works *
in giving them the lands of the | nations.

7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and | justice; *
all his commandments are | sure.

8 They stand fast for ever and | ever, *
because they are done in truth and | equity.

9 He sent redemption to his people;
he commanded his covenant for | ever; *
holy and awesome is his | Name.

10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of | wisdom; *
those who act accordingly have a good understanding;
his praise endures for | ever.

THE EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

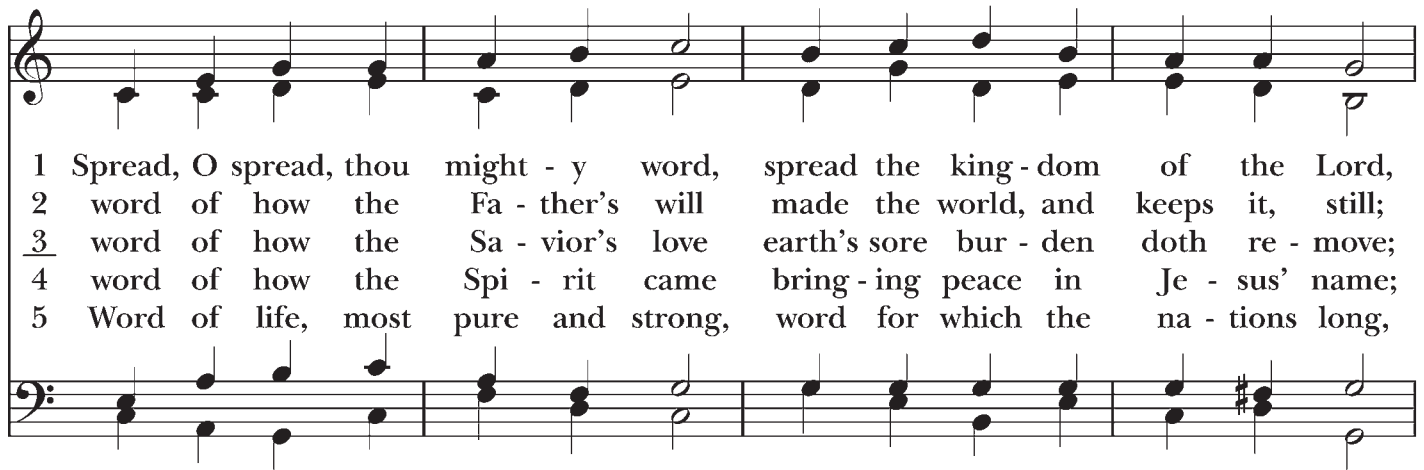
It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

**Reader
People**

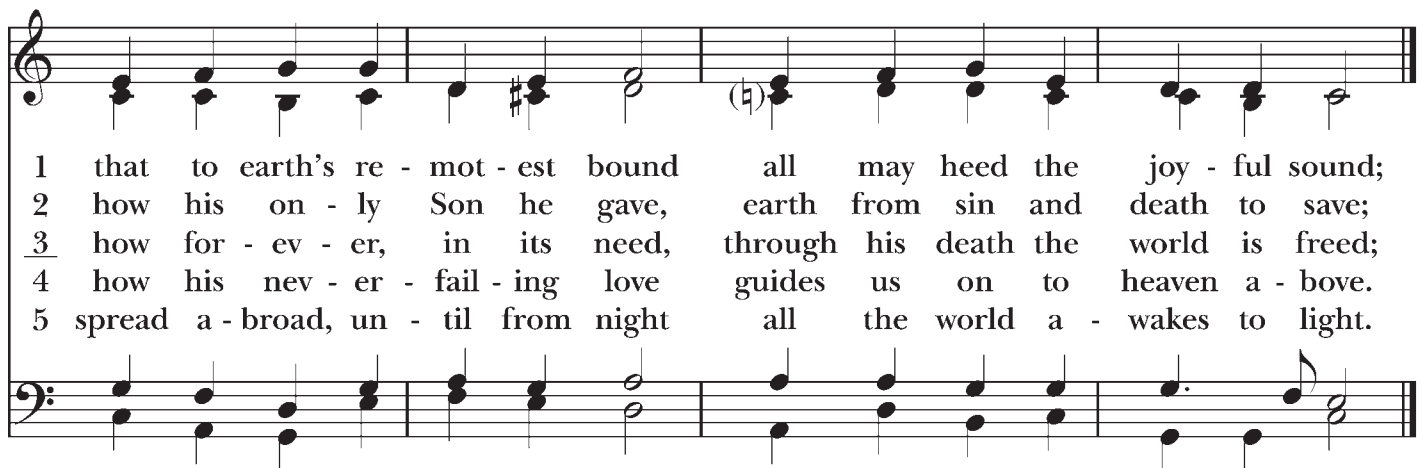
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN | 530

Spread, O spread, thou mighty word



1 Spread, O spread, thou might - y word, spread the king - dom of the Lord,
2 word of how the Fa - ther's will made the world, and keeps it, still;
3 word of how the Sa - vior's love earth's sore bur - den doth re - move;
4 word of how the Spi - rit came bring - ing peace in Je - sus' name;
5 Word of life, most pure and strong, word for which the na - tions long,



1 that to earth's re - mot - est bound all may heed the joy - ful sound;
2 how his on - ly Son he gave, earth from sin and death to save;
3 how for - ev - er, in its need, through his death the world is freed;
4 how his nev - er - fail - ing love guides us on to heaven a - bove.
5 spread a - broad, un - til from night all the world a - wakes to light.

The Officiant reads the Gospel, first saying

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

THE GOSPEL

Mark 1:21-28

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Gospeler

The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Officiant and People

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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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 THE PEOPLE

Form I | BCP 383

The Reader and People pray responsively

Deacon or other leader

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy."

Reader For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader For this city (town, village, _____), for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

- Reader** For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.
- People** **Lord, have mercy.**
- Reader** For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air [or through outer space], let us pray to the Lord.
- People** **Lord, have mercy.**
- Reader** For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
- People** **Lord, have mercy.**
- Reader** For _____, let us pray to the Lord.
- People** **Lord, have mercy.**
- Reader** For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- People** **Lord, have mercy.**
- Reader** For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.
- People** **Lord, have mercy.**
- Reader** For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.
- People** **Lord, have mercy.**
- Reader** For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord.
- People** **Lord, have mercy.**
- Reader** That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.
- People** **Lord, have mercy.**
- Reader** Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.
- People** **Lord, have mercy.**
- Reader** In the communion of [_____ and of all the] saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.
- People** **To thee, O Lord our God.**

Silence. *The celebrant may add a concluding collect before the following.*

A TRANSITION PRAYER FOR HOLY COMFORTER

Ever-present God,
 You call us on a journey to a place we do not know.
 We are not where we started.

We have not reached our destination.
We are not sure where we are or who we are.
Transition is not a comfortable place.
May we continue to remind ourselves of the wonderful resources of this Church
Sanctuary and a warm and welcoming congregation.
Be among us, we pray.
Calm our fears, save us from discouragement.
Encourage us to care for one another.
And help us to stay on course.
Open our hearts to your guidance so that our journey toward calling a new Rector
continues as a journey of trust, and faith and love. **Amen**

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect, or the following Doxology
For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the
power and the glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

GENERAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

BCP 360

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Officiant and People

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought,
word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We
have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as
ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son
Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Celebrant concludes with an absolution or a suitable Collect.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus
Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in
eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

BCP 376

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O Splendor of God's Glory Bright

Brenda Portman

O Splendor of God's glory bright,
A living spring of light from light:
Come, very Sun of truth and love;
Come with your radiance from above.

Teach us to love with all our might;
Drive envy out, remove all spite;
Turn to the good each troubling care,
And give us grace your name to bear.

As dawn speeds on across the sky,
True Dawn, with haste come from on high.
O Word, through whom light came to be,
Come in your power, and set us free.

All glory be to God most high;
To God, the Son, let praises rise;
The Spirit blessed, let us adore,
Forever and forevermore.

DOXOLOGY | 380 V.3

Old 100th

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

The people remain standing.

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

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new
life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the
company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS | S-125

(Sanctus lyrics on next page)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Officiant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Officiant and People

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

BCP 364

The Officiant breaks the consecrated Bread.

The choir will immediately sing the fraction anthem.

FRACTION ANTHEM | S-155

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is

sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Facing the people, the Officiant says the following Invitation.
The Gifts of God for you, who are also gifts of God.

Persons wanting a blessing instead of receiving bread or wine at the Altar may cross their arms over their chest.

COMMUNION HYMNS

339 | Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness

1 Deck thy - self, my soul, with glad - ness, leave the
 2 Sun, who all my life dost bright - en; Light, who
 3 Je - sus, Bread of Life, I pray thee, let me

gloom - y haunts of sad - ness, come in - to the day - light's
 dost my soul en - light - en; Joy, the best that an - y
 glad - ly here o - bey thee; nev - er to my hurt in -

splen - dor, there with joy thy prais - es ren - der
 know - eth; Fount, whence all my be - ing flow - eth:
 vit - ed, be thy love with love re - quit - ed;

un - to him whose grace un - bound - ed hath this
 at thy feet I cry, my Ma - ker, let me
 from this ban - quet let me mea - sure, Lord, how

won - drous ban - quet found - ed - high o'er all the heavens he
 be a fit par - ta - ker of this bless - ed food from
 vast and deep its trea - sure; through the gifts thou here dost

reign - eth, yet to dwell with thee he deign - eth.
 hea - ven, for our good, thy glo - ry, giv - en.
 give me, as thy guest in heaven re - ceive me.

Descant (after stanzas 2 and 3)

God is love, God is love,

Refrain

God is love, and where true love is

1-3

Final Ending

God him - self is there. there.

God him - self is there. there.

1 Here in Christ we gath - er, love of Christ our call - ing.
 2 When we Chris - tians gath - er, mem - bers of one Bo - dy,
 3 Grant us love's ful - fill - ment, joy with all the bless - ed,

Christ, our love, is with us, glad - ness be his greet - ing.
 let there be in us no dis - cord but one spi - rit.
 when we see your face, O Sa - vior, in its glo - ry.

Let us fear and love him, ho - ly God e - ter - nal.
 Ban - ished now be an - ger, strife and ev - ery quar - rel.
 Shine on us, O pur - est Light of all cre - a - tion,

Repeat Refrain

Lov - ing him, let each love Christ in one an - oth - er.
 Christ, our God, be al - ways pres - ent here a - mong us.
 be our bliss while end - less a - ges sing your prais - es.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord, **Amen**

PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

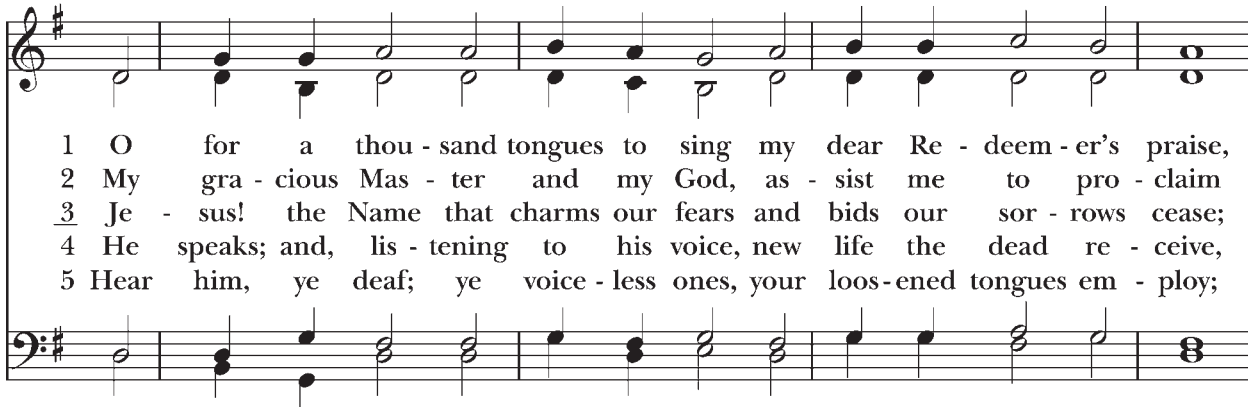
For those attending remotely.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

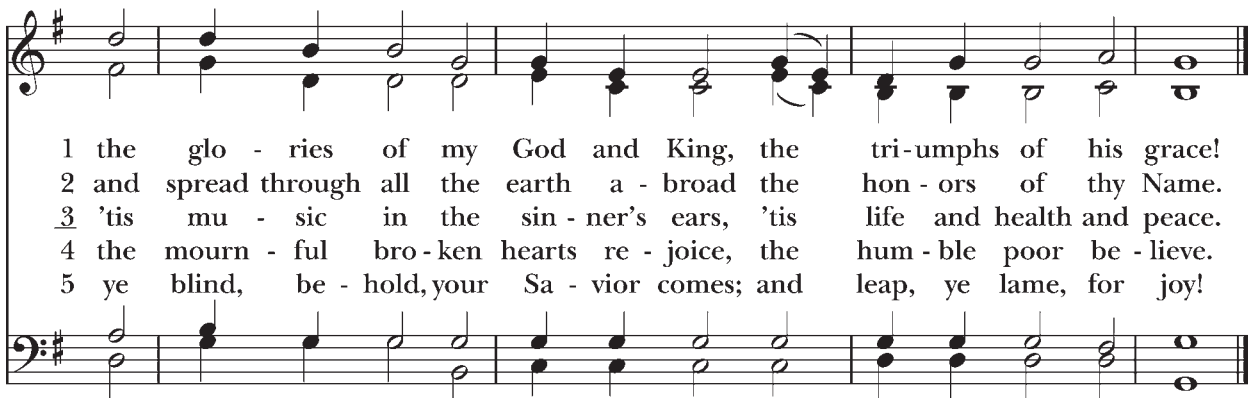
BLESSING

RECESSIONAL | 493

O for a thousand tongues to sing



1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my dear Re - deem - er's praise,
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim
3 Je - sus! the Name that charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease;
4 He speaks; and, lis - tening to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive,
5 Hear him, ye deaf; ye voice - less ones, your loos - ened tongues em - ploy;



1 the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace!
2 and spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy Name.
3 'tis mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
4 the mourn - ful bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.
5 ye blind, be - hold, your Sa - vior comes; and leap, ye lame, for joy!

6 Glory to God and praise and love
be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above,
the Church in earth and heaven.

DISMISSAL

Officiant
People

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers today are given to the Glory of God by Cherry Wrenn
in memory of my friend Ann Williams.

OFFICIANT

The Rev. Greg Farrand

LAY MINISTERS

VERGER

Steven Swanner

ORGANIST

Christin Baker

USHERS

8:15am - Paula Boyd
10:30am - Mary and Brad Collins

READERS

8:15am - Elizabeth Hansen
10:30am - Mary and Brad Collins

ACOLYTES

8:15am - Julie Smith
10:30am - Chalicist - Meredith Patterson
Crucifer - Paul Surratt
Left Torch Bearer - Wesley Swanner
Right Torch Bearer - William Swanner
Gospel Bearer - Millie Surratt

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Bea Swajkoski, Mary Carol Adams

VESTRY COUNTERS

Gary Schilke, Pat House

FLOWER GUILD

Jennell Harris, Margaret Egede-Nissen, Patsy Isley, Mary Telander

ALTAR GUILD

Janie Sellers, Betty Brown, Rene Burgess, Mary Collins, Lynn Dahl,
Beth Glidewell, Elizabeth Hansen, Debbie Nichols-Smith

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Susan Klopman, Betty Adams, Judy Driscoll,
Beth Glidewell, Julie Tighe

COMMITMENT TO MINISTRY | COMMITMENT TO FAITHFULNESS

JANUARY 7 SERVICE COUNT 8:15AM **11** | 10AM **70** | REMOTE **25**

MONDAY, JAN. 15 - SUNDAY, JAN. 21

GENERAL FUND.....	\$625.00
PLEDGED.....	\$10,892.67
OTHER.....	\$1,255.27
TOTAL.....	\$12,772.94

Each year on February 2, the church celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple, also known as the Feast of the Purification, and Candlemas. This feast commemorates the 40th day after Jesus' birth, when he was presented in the Jerusalem Temple and Mary was purified in accordance with Jewish Law.

The Book of Leviticus mandates that, after childbirth, a woman must go to the temple to offer "two turtle-doves or two pigeons, one for a burnt-offering and the other for a sin-offering; and the priest shall make atonement on her behalf, and she shall be clean" (Leviticus 12:8).

The Presentation of Jesus at the Temple is chronicled in the Gospel of Luke, when St. Simeon the Righteous saw Jesus in the temple and "took him in his arms and praised God," saying, "My eyes have seen your salvation" (Luke 2:30).

This blessing by Simeon is the basis for the canticle *Nunc dimittis* or "The Song of Simeon":

*Lord, you now have set your servant free
to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior,
whom you have prepared for all the world
to see:*

*A Light to enlighten the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.*

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen*
(Luke 2:29-32; Book of Common Prayer, p. 120).



An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church, edited by Don S. Armentrout and Robert Boak Slocum, explains that when the celebration of the Presentation was first introduced in Rome in the seventh century, it included a procession with candles and the singing of the *Nunc dimittis*, which is why this feast also became known as "Candlemas."

Collect for the Presentation

Almighty and everliving God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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