



SAINT STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II
SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2025
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Opening Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #149 - Eternal Lord of Love, behold your Church*

Unison or harmony

1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your Church
2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,
3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,

walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,
so dai - ly liv - ing to your way of love,
you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;

led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,
and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,

moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:
know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:
glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flower,

far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.
so we are dead and live with you in God.
so in the Fa - ther's glo - ry shall we wake.

Words: Thomas H. Cain (b. 1931)
Music: *Old 124th*, melody *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551;
harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944)

10 10. 10 10 10

A Penitential Order: Rite Two

In Lent and on other penitential occasions

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People ***His mercy endures for ever.***

The Celebrant may read one of the following sentences

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8,9*

The Deacon or Celebrant then says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister 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.

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says

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 Word of God

Celebrant Lord, have mercy.

People ***Christ, have mercy.***

Celebrant Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.*** [You may be seated]

A reading from the Book of Exodus (3:1 – 15),

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, “I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.” When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then he said, “Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” He said further, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” He said, “I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.”

But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I am who I am.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'” God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the

Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 63:1-8

1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; *
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.

2 Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, *
that I might behold your power and your glory.

3 For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; *
my lips shall give you praise.

4 So will I bless you as long as I live *
and lift up my hands in your Name.

5 My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, *
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

6 When I remember you upon my bed, *
and meditate on you in the night watches.

7 For you have been my helper, *
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

8 My soul clings to you; *
your right hand holds me fast.

A reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians (10:1 – 13),

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in

the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God**

Sequence Hymn: *Hymnal 1982* #685 - Rock of ages, cleft for me

1 Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
 2 Should my tears for ev - er flow, should my zeal no lan - guor know,
 3 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,

let the wa - ter and the blood from thy wound - ed side that flowed,
 all for sin could not a - tone: thou must save, and thou a - lone;
 when I rise to worlds un - known and be - hold thee on thy throne,

be of sin the dou - ble cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.
 in my hand no price I bring, sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
 Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Words: Augustus Montague Toplady (1740-1778), alt. Music: *Toplady*, Thomas Hastings (1784-1872).

[Please stand for the proclamation of the Gospel]

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (13:1 - 9)

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them--do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Reader The Gospel of the Lord

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

Sermon

The Nicene Creed (from *Enriching Our Worship*) [Please stand, as you are able]

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,
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.*

The Prayers of the People – Form III [The people may be seated]

The Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

On the Anglican Cycle of Prayers, we pray for Anglican Church in Central America (Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America).

On the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. James, Dillon and the Rev. Theresa Kelley Bergmann, Rector. We also pray for Camp Marshall.

On our parish cycle of prayer, we pray for Bill and Lisa Speare and Sally Walton.

Within our parish family, we pray for Brian, Carolyn, Danielle, Darlene, Ellie, Joe, Justin, Katie, Laura, and Libby. We also pray for our hosts and partners - the staff and community members of Saint John's United.

Silence

Prayer In Times of Conflict

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen** (*Book of Common Prayer* pg. 824)

Silence

The Celebrant concludes with a suitable Collect

Lord, hear the prayers of thy people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people **[Please stand, as you are able]**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People *And also with you.*

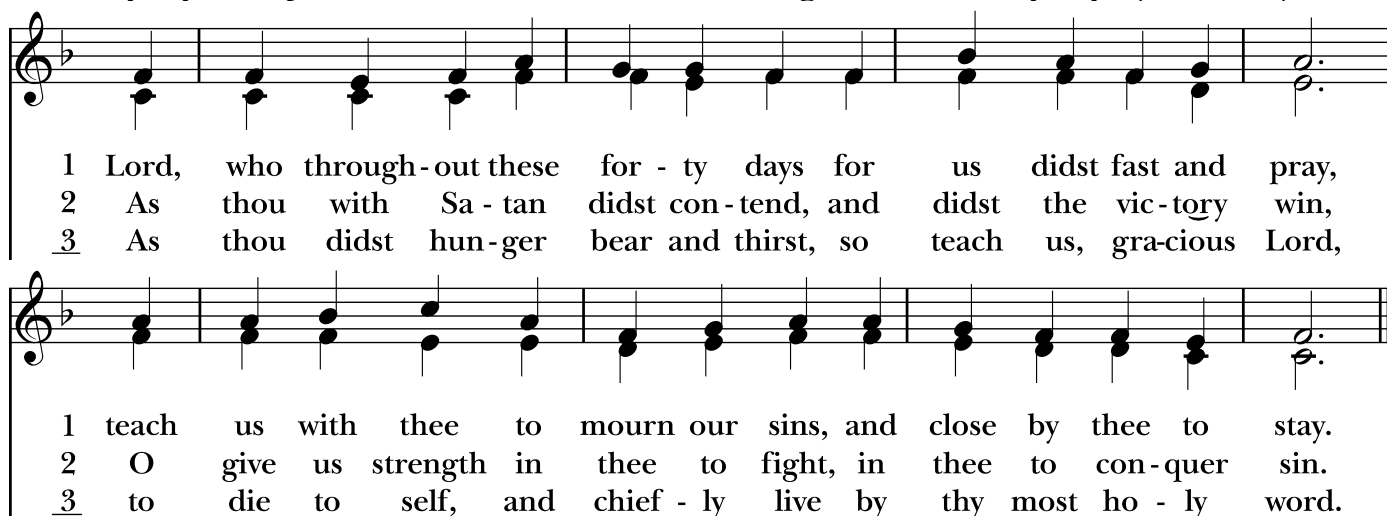
Offertory Sentences

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due His Name; bring offerings and come into His courts.

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Psalm 96:8, Ephesians 5:2*

If you need or prefer a gluten-free communion wafer, please let the usher or reader know at this time.

Offertory Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #142* - Lord, who throughout these forty days (verses 1-3)

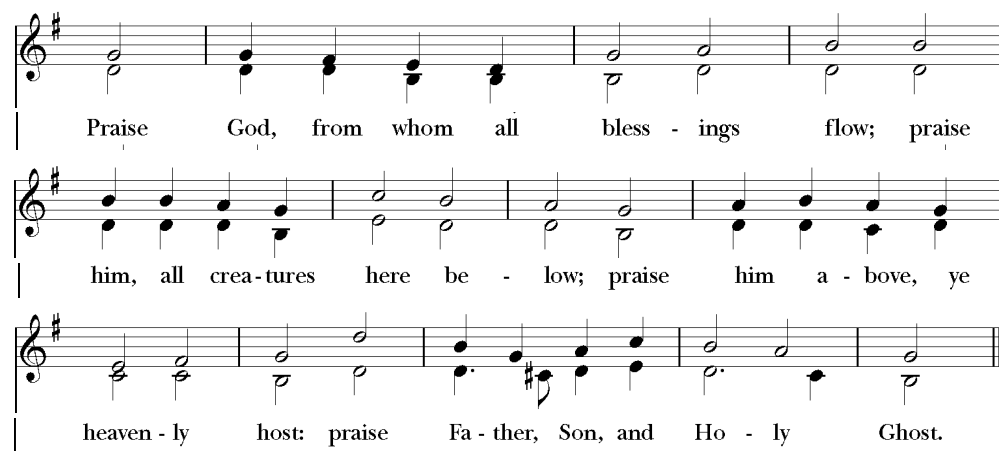


1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us didst fast and pray,
 2 As thou with Sa - tan didst con - tend, and didst the vic - tory win,
 3 As thou didst hun - ger bear and thirst, so teach us, gra - cious Lord,

1 teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.
 2 O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to con - quer sin.
 3 to die to self, and chief - ly live by thy most ho - ly word.

Words: Claudia Frances Hernaman (1838-1898). Music: *St. Flavian*, melody from *Day's Psalter*, 1562; adapt, and harm. Richard Redhead (1820-1901).

Anthem



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise
 him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
 heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), para. of Psalm 117. St. 3, Thomas Ken (1637-1711)
 Music: *Old 100th*, melody from *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?)

HOLY COMMUNION – RITE II - Eucharistic Prayer D

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.

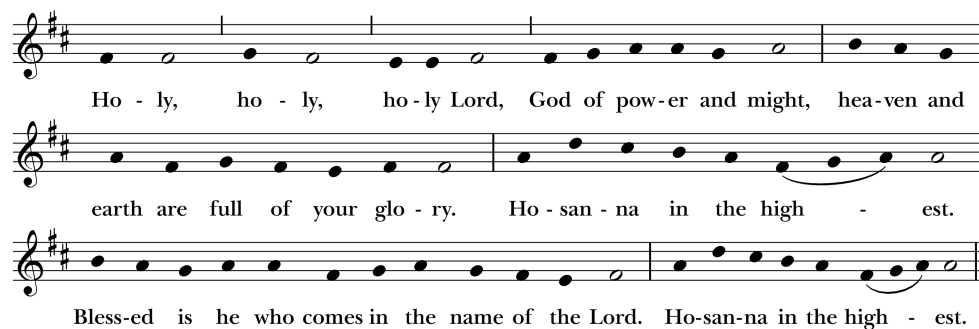
People ***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we say,

Celebrant and People



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven 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.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

Then the Celebrant continues

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again, you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, He lived as one of us, yet

without sin. To the poor He proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose, He gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for Him who died and rose for us, He sent the Holy Spirit, His own first gift for those who believe, to complete His work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for Him to be glorified by you, His heavenly Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end; at supper with them He 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and His descent among the dead, proclaiming His resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting His coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

***We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.***

The Celebrant continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

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.***

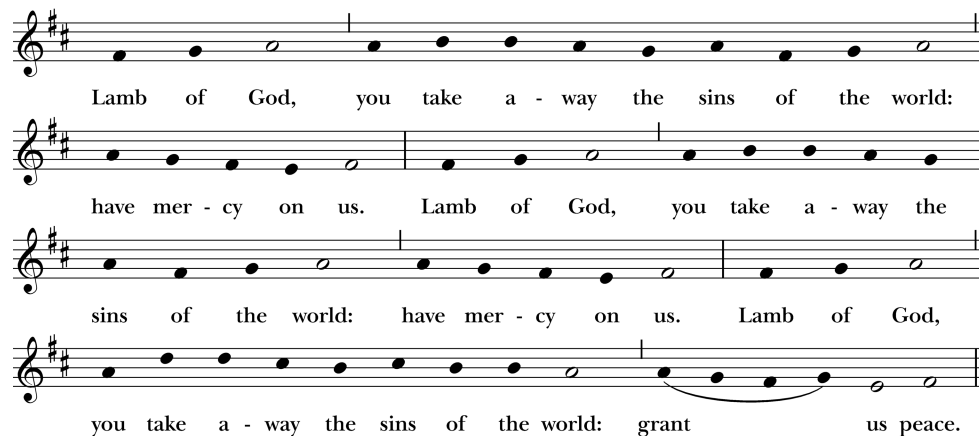
Give us this day our daily bread.

***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



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

Celebrant then says

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All are welcome at the Lord's Table.

Communion in one kind (the bread or the wine) is just as valid as communion in both kinds.

If you would like to receive a blessing instead of receiving communion, simply come forward with your arms crossed.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Post-Communion Prayer

Almighty and everliving God,

we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food

of the most precious Body and Blood

of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;

and for assuring us in these holy mysteries

that we are living members of the Body of your Son,

and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out

to do the work you have given us to do,

to love and serve you

as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.

To Him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,

be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. ***Amen.***

Announcements

Recessional Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #648 - When Israel was in Egypt's land*

1 When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land, let my peo-ple go;
 2 The Lord told Mo - ses what to do, let my peo-ple go;
 3 They jour - neyed on at his com - mand, let my peo-ple go;
 4 Oh, let us all from bond - age flee, let my peo-ple go;

op - pressed so hard they — could not stand, let my peo-ple go.
 to lead the chil - dren of Is - rael through, let my peo-ple go.
 and came at length to — Ca - naan's land, let my peo-ple go.
 and let us all in — Christ be free, let my peo-ple go.

Refrain

Go down, Mo - ses, way down in E - gypt's land;

tell old Pha - raoh to let my peo-ple go.

Words: African-American spiritual. Music: *Go Down, Moses*, Afro-American spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935).
 Arrangement Copyright © 1984, Horace Clarence Boyer.

Celebrant
People

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.



"Vine Dresser and the Fig Tree" by James Tissot, 1886-1894



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