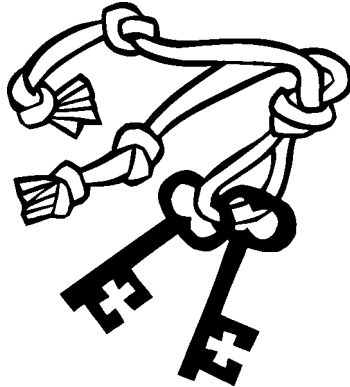




Proper 16, Year A
The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

205 North Seventh St., Stroudsburg, PA 18360

“A welcoming, compassionate and healing community in Christ”

August 23, 2026
10:00am Service - Rite 2

Links to the Sunday (10AM) Livestream Service
and Service Bulletin available weekly

**Welcome visitors and seasonal neighbors! We rejoice in your presence among us.
To get to know you better please sign our guest book kept in the narthex.**

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

205 North Seventh St., Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Office phone: (570)421-7481 | Open on Wed. and Thur. 1:30-6:30pm.

Fr. Bill's office hours: Wed. and Thur. 11:30am-3:30pm.

E-Mail: office@christchurchstroudsburg.org

“A welcoming, compassionate and healing community in Christ”

Diocese of the Susquehanna

Priest: The Rev. Bill Martin

Rt. Rev. Audrey Scanlan & Rt. Rev. Kevin D. Nichols, *Bishops*

VESTRY

Senior Warden – Carl A.

Jr. Warden – Cheryl C.

Clerk of Vestry – Chris S.

Patti A., Myra B., Debby C., Kevin F.,
Katina W., Sharon P.

LITURGY PARTICIPANTS

Celebrant: The Rev. Bill Martin

Lectors: Mike S. | Dave B.

Altar Assistant/Crucifer: Anthony P.

Chalice Bearers/Servers: Carl A.

Music Director: Bethann K.

Ushers/Greeters: Donna G. | Chris N.

Counters: Chris N. | Dave B.

CHURCH STAFF

Church Admin – Andrea C.

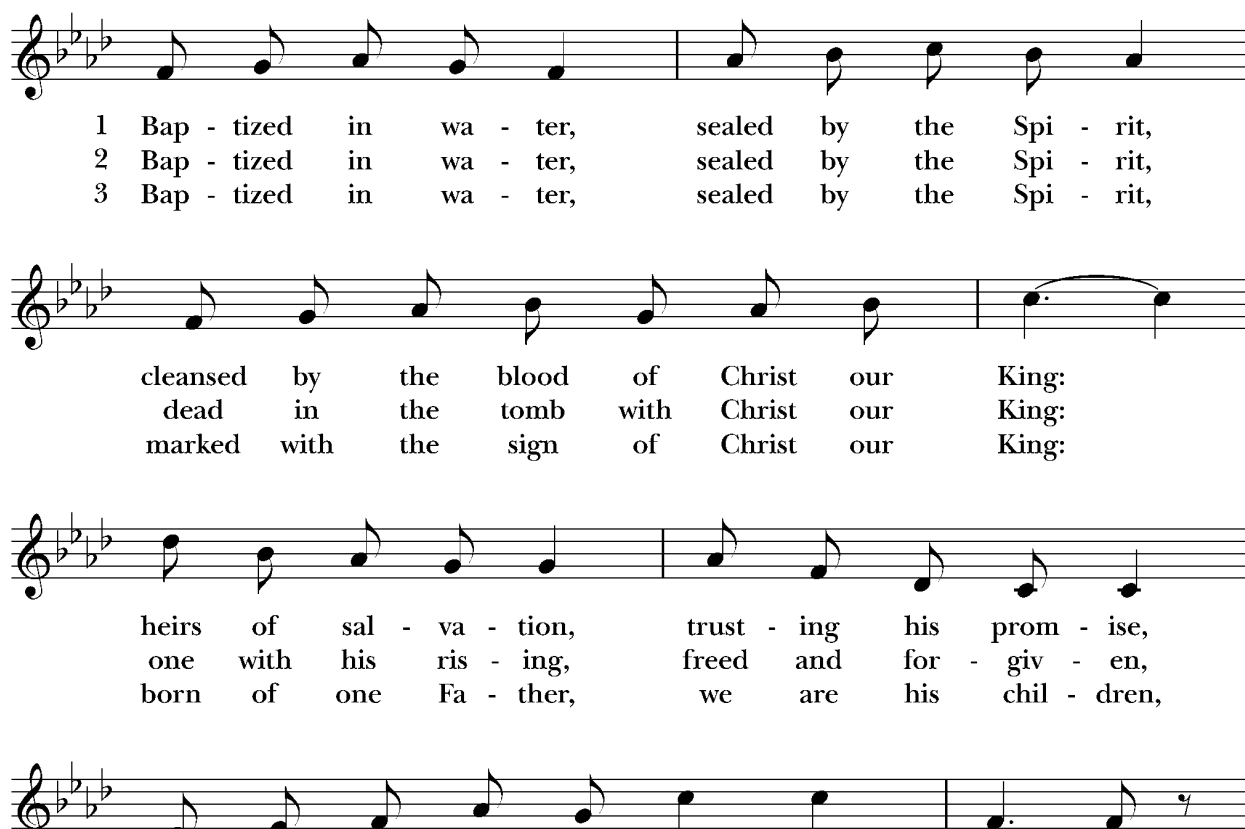
Books in the Pews for Service

BCP – The Book of Common Prayer (**RED** book)

H – Hymnal (**BLUE** book)

WLP – Wonder, Love & Praise (**GREEN** book)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: : *Baptized in Water (H 294)*



1 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spi - rit,
2 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spi - rit,
3 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spi - rit,

cleansed by the blood of Christ our King:
dead in the tomb with Christ our King:
marked with the sign of Christ our King:

heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing his prom - ise,
one with his ris - ing, freed and for - giv - en,
born of one Fa - ther, we are his chil - dren,

faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 355)

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY (BCP p. 355)

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.**

OPENING ANTHEM - *Glory to God* (WLP 821)

Glory to God;

Praise to the Son;

Love to the Spirit;

Three and yet One.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 51:1-6

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

¹Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,
you that seek the Lord.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

²Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

³For the Lord will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places,
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the Lord;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation;
for a teaching will go out from me,
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,
my salvation has gone out
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;

for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats;
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

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

PSALM: Psalm 138

Remain seated.

¹I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; *
before the gods I will sing your praise.

²I will bow down toward your holy temple
and praise your Name, *
because of your love and faithfulness;

³for you have glorified your Name *
and your word above all things.

⁴When I called, you answered me; *
you increased my strength within me.

⁵All the kings of the earth will praise you, O Lord, *
when they have heard the words of your mouth.

⁶They will sing of the ways of the Lord, *
that great is the glory of the Lord.

⁷Though the Lord be high, he cares for the lowly; *
he perceives the haughty from afar.

⁸Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; *
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand shall save me.

⁹The Lord will make good his purpose for me; *
O Lord, your love endures for ever;
do not abandon the works of your hands.

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8

The people sit.

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome.

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN: *Spirit of God Unseen (VF 53) Verse 1*

Chorus:

Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,
Gentle as is the dove;
Teach us the truth and help us believe,
Show us the Saviour's love!

Verse 1:

You spoke to us long, long ago,
Gave us the written word;
We read it still, needing its truth
Through it God's voice is heard

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

All stand.

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SEQUENCE HYMN: *Spirit of God Unseen (VF 53)*

Chorus:

Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,
Gentle as is the dove;
Teach us the truth and help us believe,
Show us the Saviour's love!

Verse 2:

Without your help, we fail our Lord,
We cannot live His way;
We need Your power, we need Your strength,
Following Christ each day.

THE SERMON

PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATE

The Celebrant says

The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Then the candidates who are unable to answer for themselves are presented individually by their Parents and Godparents, as follows

Parents and Godparents says: I present **Evan Alexander**, to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

When all have been presented the Celebrant asks the parents and godparents

Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Godparents: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant

Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and Godparents: I will, with God's help.

*Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the candidates who can speak for themselves, and of the **parents and godparents** who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children*

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer **I renounce them.**

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer **I renounce them.**

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer **I renounce them.**

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer **I do.**

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer **I do.**

Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer **I do.**

After all have been presented, the Celebrant addresses the congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support this person in his life in Christ?

People **We will.**

The Celebrant then says these or similar words

Let us join with he who is committing himself to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

People **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People I will, with God's help.

Prayers for the Candidates

The Celebrant then says to the congregation

Let us now pray for this person who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

A Person appointed leads the following petitions

Leader Deliver him, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Open his hearts to your grace and truth.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Fill him with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Keep him in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Teach him to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Send him into the world in witness to your love.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Bring him to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

The Celebrant says

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. Amen.

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Celebrant blesses the water, first saying

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Baptism

The candidate is presented by name to the Celebrant, or to an assisting priest or deacon, who then immerses, or pours water upon, the candidate, saying

Evan Alexander, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

When this action has been completed for all candidates, the Bishop or Priest, at a place in full sight of the congregation, prays over them, saying Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised him to the new life of grace. Sustain him, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give him an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. Amen.

Then the Bishop or Priest places a hand on the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross [using Chrism if desired] and saying to each one

Evan Alexander, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. Amen.

Or this action may be done immediately after the administration of the water and before the preceding prayer. When all have been baptized, the Celebrant says Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Celebrant and People

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

THE PEACE (BCP p. 360)

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS: Birthdays, Anniversaries and Traveling.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Altar Flowers are given by Sharon Potter in celebration of Evan Alexander Potter. Jill T. hosting coffee hour. Please join us after the service. Choir and Bell Choir resumes in September. See Bethann K. for details.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE (BCP p. 376)

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalm 50:14*

OFFERTORY: *The Eyes Of All Wait Upon You (WLP 820)*

The eyes of all wait up - on you, O Lord, and you
give them their food in due sea - son. _____ You
o - pen wide your — gra - cious hand and
sat - is - fy the needs of ev - ery liv - ing crea - ture.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the second staff continues the melody. The third and fourth staves also end with double bar lines.

OFFERTORY HYMN *From all that dwell below the skies Verse 3 (H 380)*

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

Eucharistic Prayer C

Book of Common Prayer, 1979. Holy Eucharist: Rite II (369-372)

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

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 him thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus: *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord (WLP 858)*

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it, and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 364)

People and Celebrant

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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept. Then may be sung or said

***[Alleluia.] Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. [Alleluia.]***

FRACTION ANTHEM: (LEVAS 270) Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

Grant us peace.

INVITATION (BCP p. 364)

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.

DISTRIBUTION (BCP p. 365)

You can remain seated until you come forward to receive. When you receive the consecrated bread, you can consume it then drink from the first cup of consecrated wine. You can also hold the bread to “intinct” or touch the tip of the bread into the second cup of wine. You may also choose to receive Communion in only one kind. If you would like a blessing, come forward and cross your hands over your heart to indicate you would like to be blessed. Gluten free wafers are available. Please let the priest know as you come forward. The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words:

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [**Amen.**]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [**Amen.**]

COMMUNION HYMN: Jesus, Remember Me *Text: Luke 23:42; Taizé*

Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

Repeat

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 365)

Let us pray.

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.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: *Gracious Spirit Give Your Servant (WLP 782)*

1. Gra - cious Spir - it, give your ser - vants joy to set sin's
2. Word made flesh, who gave up glo - ry to be - come our
3. Lov - ing God, who birthed cre - a - tion from the noth - ing -
4. Tri - une God, e - ter - nal Be - ing, nev - er end - ing,

cap - tives free, hope to heal the bro - ken - heart - ed,
 great high priest, tak - ing on our hu - man na - ture
 ness of space, kin - dling life where all was emp - ty,
 un - be - gun, bound - less grace and per - fect jus - tice,

peace to share love's li - ber - ty. Through us bring your balm of
 to re - deem the last and least: let your cour - age and com -
 turn - ing cha - os in - to grace: when we feel con - fused and
 right - eous and for - giv - ing One: so en - fold us in you

glad - ness to the wound - ed and op - pressed; help us claim and
 pas - sion shape and guide our min - is - tries; as our Sav - ior
 fruit - less, dawn up - on our rest - less night; give us faith's im -
 mer - cy that our wills and yours u - nite; through us may the

show God's fa - vor as a peo - ple called and blessed.
 and our Shep - herd, lead us to the truth that frees.
 ag - i - na - tion, hope's re - new - ing, love's de - light.
 world be - hold you, find your love, your truth, your light.

DISMISSAL (BCP 340)

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.