# St. Paul Lutheran Church, ELCA

## Pontiac, IL

**September 4, 2022**

13th Sunday after Pentecost



*Flowers on the altar were donated by Jean Harrison in memory of loved ones.*

**Introduction**

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul’s request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God’s grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to “choose life”—to choose life in God as our own.

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Announcements**

**Gathering Hymns “Who You Say I Am” (Words only)**

**“Who You Say I Am” by Reuben Morgan and Ben Fielding**

Who am I that the highest King would welcome me?

I was lost, but He brought me in, Oh His love for me, Oh, His love for me!

Who the Son sets free, oh, is free indeed.

I’m a child of God, yes, I am.

Free at last, He has ransomed me; His grace runs deep.

While I was a slave to sin, Jesus died for me. Yes, He died for me.

Who the Son sets free, oh, is free indeed.

I’m a child of God, yes, I am.

In my Father’s house there’s a place for me. I’m a child of God, yes I am.

I am chosen, not forsaken. I am who You say I am.

You are for me, not against me. I am who you say I am.

I am chosen, not forsaken. I am who You say I am.

You are for me, not against me. I am who you say I am. I am who You say I am.

Who the Son sets free, oh, is free indeed.

I’m a child of God, yes, I am.

In my Father’s house there’s a place for me. I’m a child of God, yes I am.

In my Father’s house there’s a place for me. I’m a child of God, yes I am.

**“Come Thou Font of Every Blessing” ELW 807**

Diagram

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**Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

L: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

**A: Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

L: Merciful God,

**we confess that we have not followed your path**

**but have chosen our own way.**

**instead of putting others before ourselves,**

**we long to take the best seats at the table.**

**when met by those in need,**

**we have too often passed by on the other side.**

**Set us again on the path of life.**

**Save us from ourselves**

**and free us to love our neighbors.**

**Amen.**

L: Hear the good news!

God does not deal with us according to our sins

but delights in granting pardon and mercy.

In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

You are free to love as God loves.

**A: Amen.**

**Greeting**

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**A: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the

Holy Spirit be with you all**.**

**A: And also with you.**

**Song of Praise Chicago Folk Service – page 5**

**Prayer of the Day**

L: Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

###### Children’s Message

**HEARING THE WORD OF GOD**

**First Reading-Deuteronomy 30: 15-20**

L: A reading from Deuteronomy

15See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. 16If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. 17But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, 18I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. 19I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, 20loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

L:Word of God, word of life.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

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**Psalm 1**

L: A reading from Psalm.

1Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,  
  nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!  
 2**Their delight is in the law of the Lord,**  
  **and they meditate on God’s teaching day and night.**  
 3They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do

not wither;  
  everything they do shall prosper.  
 4**It is not so with the wicked;**  
  **they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**  
 5Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,  
  nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.  
 6**For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,**  
  **but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

L: Holy wisdom; Holy Word.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading** – **Philemon 1-21**

L: A reading from Philemon.

1Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,  
  To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, 2to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:  
 3Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
  
 4When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God 5because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. 6I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. 7I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.  
  
 8For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, 9yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. 10I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. 11Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. 12I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. 13I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; 14but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. 15Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, 16no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.  
 17So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. 18If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. 19I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. 20Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. 21Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

L: Word of God, word of life.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise, as you are able, for the reading of the Holy Gospel.*

**Gospel Acclamation Halle, Halle, Hallelujah**

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**Gospel- Luke 14: 25-33**

L: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**A: Glory to you, O Lord.**

5Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] and he turned and said to them, 26“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. 27Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. 28For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? 29Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, 30saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ 31Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. 33So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

L: The gospel of the Lord.

**A: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon Pastor Wayne Shelksohn**

*Baptismal Party comes forward to Baptism font*

**Hymn of the Day “Borning Cry ” ELW 732**



**Baptism**

ELW Holy Baptism

**PRESENTATION**

*Candidates for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather at the font. The assembly is seated.*

In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

*Sponsors I* present *Hadley Kay Harms*, for baptism.

*The presiding minister addresses parents*

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have *Hadley Kay Harms* baptized into Christ?

*Response:*I do.

As you bring *Hadley*, to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with *her* among God's faithful people,

bring *her* to the word of God and the holy supper,

teach *her* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,

place in *her* hands the holy scriptures,

and nurture *her* in faith and prayer,

so that *Hadley*, may learn to trust God,

proclaim Christ through word and deed,

care for others and the world God made,

and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help *Hadley* grow in the Christian faith and life?

*Parents Response:*I do.

*The presiding minister addresses sponsors:*

Sponsors**,** do you promise to nurture *Hadley,* in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

*Sponsors Response:*I do.

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly:*

People of God, do you promise to support *Hadley*, and pray for *her* in *her* new life in Christ?

**We do.**

*The assembly stands.*

**PROFESSION OF FAITH Congregation Stands**

*The presiding minister addresses the parents and sponsors and congregation.*

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

***Three Renunciation Questions***

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

*Response:*

**I renounce them**.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

*Response:*

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

*Response:*

**I renounce them.**

*The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.*

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary,**

**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,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

\**Or,* “he descended into hell,” *another translation of this text in widespread use.*

**THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT**

The Lord be with you.

**C. And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that *Hadley*, who is washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly may be seated.*

**BAPTISM**

*Hadley*, I baptize you in the name of the Father,

and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*After baptism, the assembly respond with.*

**You belong to Christ,** **in whom you have been baptized.**

**Alleluia**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

*Laying both hands on the head of each of the newly baptized, the minister prays for each:*

Sustain *Hadley*,with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of each of the baptized. Oil prepared for this purpose may be used.*

*Hadley*, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**Amen.**

**WELCOME**

*A lighted candle is given to each of the newly baptized by a representative of the congregation*

Let your light so shine before others

that they may see your good works

and glorify your Father in heaven.

*A representative of the congregation leads the assembly in the welcome.*

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:**

**join us in giving thanks and praise to God**

**and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

*Those who have gathered at the font may return to their places. The service continues with the Prayers of Intercession*

**Prayers of Intercession**

*Each petition will end “Merciful God,” and the congregation will respond* ***“receive our prayer.”***

**Sharing the Peace**

L:The peace of Christ be with you always.

**A: And also with you.**

*You are invited to share a sign of God’s peace with your neighbors by turning to the people near you saying, “Peace be with you.”*

**Offering**

*Offerings can also be sent by mail or given online. You can send a check to St. Paul Lutheran Church 210 Deerfield Rd Pontiac, IL 61764 or give online at* [*stpaulpontiac.org*](http://www.stpaulpontiac.org/)

**Offering Special Music**

**Offering Prayer**

L: God of abundance;

you have set before us a plentiful harvest.

As we feast on your goodness,

strengthen us to labor in your field,

and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all,

in the name of Jesus.

**A: Amen.**

**MEAL**

*All are welcome at Christ’s table.*

*Communion is distributed in front of the altar. The individual cups are filled with wine. The prepackaged cups are juice. If you prefer not to receive communion you may come forward with your hands crossed over your chest to receive a blessing or you may remain in your seat.*

#### Great Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

**A: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**A: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Preface**

L:  It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord,

holy Father, almighty and ever living God.

But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious

Resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb

Who gave himself to take away our sin,

Who by his death has destroyed death;

And by his rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so with Mary Magdalene and Peter and

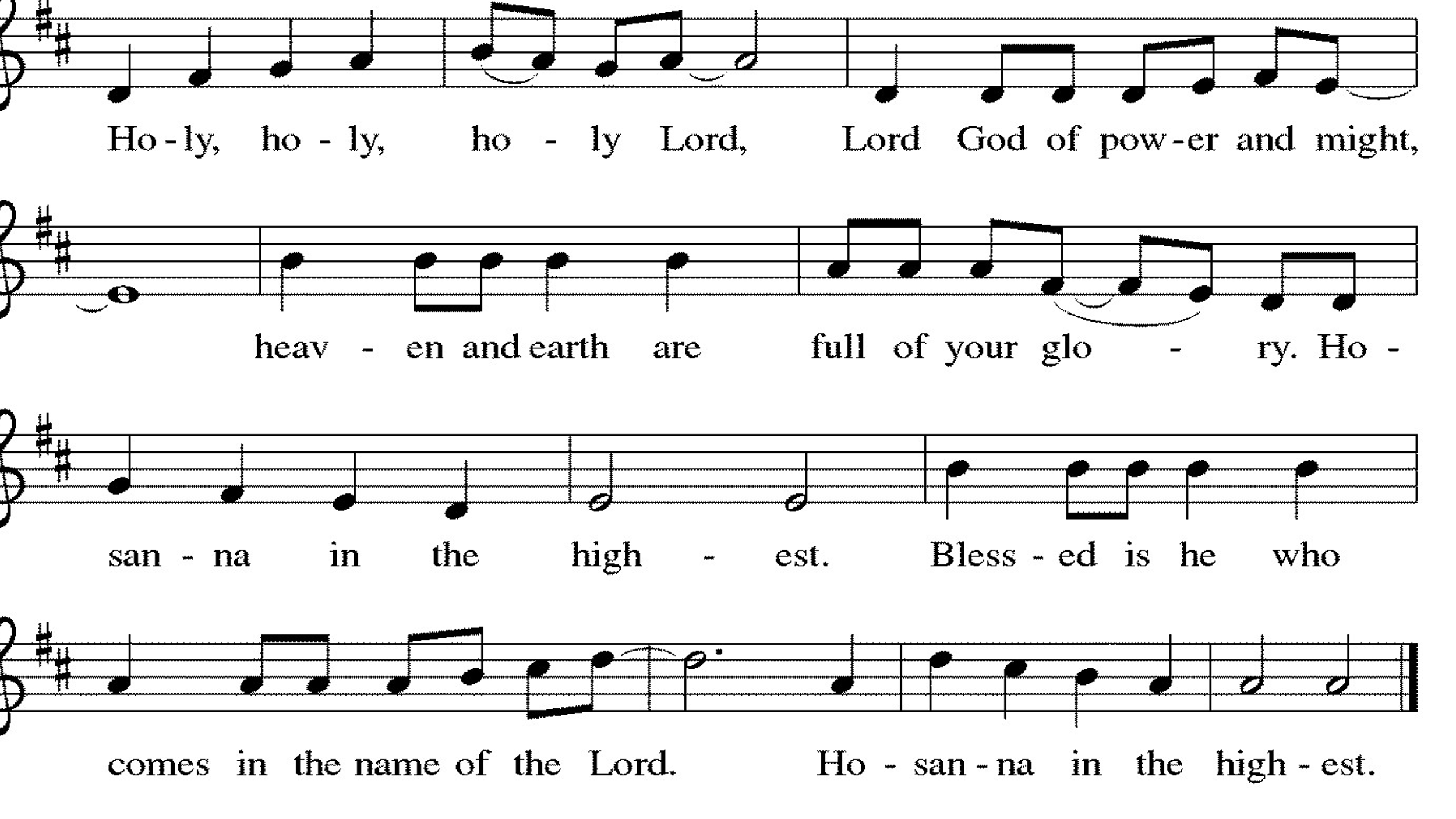
All the witnesses of the resurrection,

With earth and sea and all their

Creatures, and with angels and archangels,

Cherubim and seraphim,

We praise your name and join their unending hymn:



**Thanksgiving at the Table**

L:   Holy, living and loving God,

We praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us,

Healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger

Than death, gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life-

Giving death and glorious resurrection,

We await your promised life for all this

Dying world. Breathe your Spirit on us

And on this bread and cup:

Carry us in your arms from death to life,

That we may live as your chosen ones,

Clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

**A: Through him all glory and honor is yours,**

**Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,**

**In your holy church, both now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**Lord’s Prayer (see Chicago Folk Service book – page 14)**

Diagram, engineering drawing

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**Invitation to Communion**

L: In Christ’s presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet.

**Communion- Music Video “This is Amazing Grace” by Phil Wickham**

**Prayer after Communion**

L: Life-giving God,

through this meal you have bandaged our wounds

and fed us with your mercy.

Now send us forth to live for others,

both friend and stranger,

that all may come to know your love.

This we pray in the name of Jesus.

**A: Amen.**

### SENT FOR WORK AND WITNESS

**Blessing**

L: The God of peace,

Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you, comfort you,

and show you the path of life

this day and always.

**A: Amen**

**Sending Hymn “Go Make Disciples” ELW 540**



**Dismissal**

L:Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

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Worship Participants

**Presiding Minister:** Wayne Shelksohn

**Worship Steward**: John Mehlberg

**Musician:** Julie Mehlberg

**Lector:** Sandy Erickson

**Usher:** Brad Solberg

**Communion Prep:** Marian Brown & Jeanne Rapp

**Comm. Asst:** Nathan Joerndt & Marvin Miller

**Livestream:** Louis Kehinde

**Hospitality**: Gail Thorson & Ginger Bauknecht

**Counters:** Denny Leach & Marty Heller