

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 09, 2023

Order of Worship: Holy Communion, Setting Four

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PRELUDE & BELLS *We observe a moment of silence for prayer and meditation.*

WELCOME *congregation responds* **and unto ages of ages. Amen.**

We stand OPENING HYMN

#893

“Before You, Lord, We Bow”

✠BRIEF RITE FOR CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS✠

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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

If we say 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

Silence is kept for reflection and personal confession.

Most merciful God... **we confess that we are born captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you- who believe and repent- of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

✠HOLY COMMUNION✠

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

SONG OF PRAISE

“Glory to God in the Highest”

p. 148 Luke 2:14



A Glo-ry to God in the high- est, and peace to his peo- ple on earth.



B Lord God, heav- en- ly king, al- might- y God and Fa - ther:



We wor- ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo- ry.



Lord Je- sus Christ, on- ly Son of the Fa- ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a- way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat- ed at the right hand of the Fa- ther; re- ceive our prayer.



For you a- lone are the Ho - ly One, you a- lone are the Lord,



you a- lone are the Most High, Je- sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir- it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa- ther. A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray... You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

Next Steps Weekly Memory Verse: MATTHEW 11:25

Blessed are you, Lord of heav'n and earth; you have revealed these things to infants.

We sit FIRST READING: ZECHARIAH 9:9-12

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war-horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. ¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

RESPONSE & MEDITATION: PSALM 145:8-15

⁸The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and of great kindness.

**⁹The LORD is loving to everyone
and his compassion is over all his works.**

¹⁰All your works praise you, O LORD,
and your faithful servants bless you.

**¹¹They make known the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power;**

¹²that the peoples may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

**¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;
your dominion endures throughout all ages.**

¹⁴The LORD is faithful in all his words
and merciful in all his deeds

**¹⁵The LORD upholds all those who fall;
he lifts up those who are bowed down.**

SECOND READING: ROMANS 7:15-25A

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a}Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

We stand. GOSPEL VERSE: JOHN 6:68

P151

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 11:25-30

Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁵At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The Gospel of the Lord **Praise to You, O Christ!**

HYMN OF THE DAY

#777

“Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty”

We sit. SERMON

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Reality Check
Reality of the Yoke

We stand. PROFESSION OF FAITH Nicene Creed

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. *means whole, entire Christian Church

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Let us lift our hearts, hands, and voices in prayer to God on behalf of all people.

A brief silence is kept.

Dear Father, thank you for Jesus, our friend and yokefellow. Thank you for soul's refreshment and heart's ease; for mind's nourishment and body's rest. Thank you for the countless blessings we so often take for granted.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant that your Church should always be as gentle and lowly of heart as its Savior. Use it to draw people who are burdened sin, suffering, and sorrow, to the One who will give them rest. Let the Church's mission – faith toward you and fervent love toward others – be a light and joyous burden to bear.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give encouragement and respite to your persecuted Church. Help us, who are richly supplied with your good gifts, to share generously with them. Teach us to pray for them and to speak and act on their behalf. Give us, and them, grace to pray for their tormentors to repent and believe the Good News.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Thank you for this congregation. We pray for our mission to develop fully devoted followers of Jesus; to support Solid Rock our mission in action; and that you send us adults for baptism. Help us to see others through Jesus' eyes. Some are carrying heavy burdens, known only to them and to you. Ease their load. Help us to refresh their spirits. Shape all we say and do, so that many find forgiveness, hope, and renewed joy in loving and serving you.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Thank you for this beautiful world, over which you have set us as your stewards. Let your Holy Spirit guide us to be wise, responsible, and compassionate as we tend the land and its creatures. Help us to enjoy the loveliness of creation, finding in it refreshment for our souls and relaxation for our bodies.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless, purify, and guide this nation. Let the words of the song be our prayer on its behalf. "America, America, God mend thine every flaw; confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law!" Grant to the people of every nation favorable weather, peaceful times, and respite from the burdens of sickness, poverty, and violence. Teach us all to eagerly seek and share your mercy, guidance, and blessings.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Ease the burdens borne by all who risk their lives to keep us safe, just, and free. Prosper all they do in accordance with your will. Heal those who are wounded, and comfort and strengthen their loved ones. Help us honor their service and value their skills when their duties are finished.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give rest and healing to everyone weighed down by sin, sorrow, or suffering, including: {List}. Ease the load of care and worry that their loved ones shoulder. Give to us all the joy of your saving help.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Thank you, dear Father, for our departed loved ones. Until we are reunited with them and with your children of every time and place, bless us with your steadfast mercy and loving-kindness. We pray for the families of {List}. Yoke us to our Savior, and guide us by his Spirit. Strengthen us to help each other bear the burdens of life. Lead us into the eternal rest and unending joy which you have promised to everyone redeemed by the work of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear our prayers, dear Father, as they touch your heart through the Spirit who searches our hearts. For the sake of your beloved Son, answer them as may be best for us and give you glory. **Amen**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also, with you.**

We briefly greet those in our row with the words "Peace be with you."

We sit. OFFERING, OFFERTORY SONG & PRAYER- *Giving back to God*



First- and second-time guests are not expected to give a monetary offering; your Connection Card and your presence this morning are your gifts. Safe, secure & easy electronic giving is available on our website stpeterhallettsville.org/giving or by scanning this code.

We stand #184

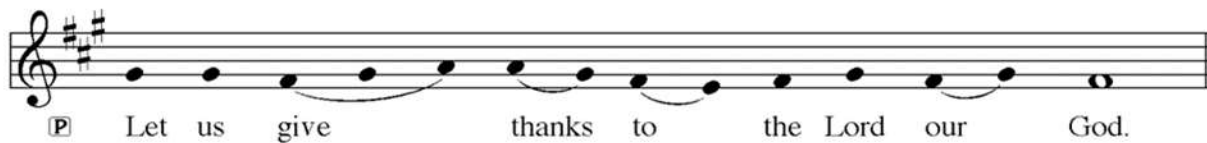
“Let the Vineyards”

Isaiah 5:1, Psalm 23:5, others

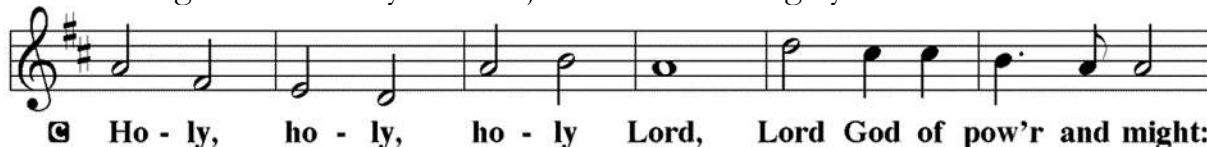
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Blessed are you, O Lord, our God, king of the universe. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right and salutary . . . and join their unending hymn:



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

You are indeed holy...

In the night in which he was betrayed, ... Do this for the remembrance of me.

All honor and glory are yours...now and forever. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

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.

We sit. INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Communion is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ present and received in, with, and under the bread and wine. All who are baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and who believe the Lord's words "This is my body given for you" and "This is my blood poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins" may receive Communion. Young children, not yet receiving Communion, may receive a blessing.

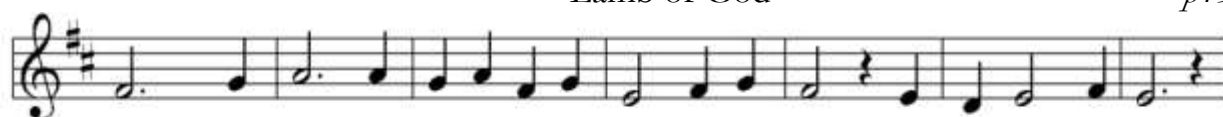
(Matt 26:26ff, Mark 14:22ff, Luke 22:19ff, 1 Cor. 11:24ff)

Communion administration occurs in a continuous fashion at the Communion rail. The ushers will guide you to the rail. To receive the elements, extend your hand, palm up, to the ministers. White grape juice is available in the center of the trays. For those unable to consume either bread or wine, the Church affirms the Lord's full presence in each element alone. Once you have received the elements, return to your seat by the side aisles. If you do not desire to receive Holy Communion, you may remain seated.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Lamb of God"

p154 John 1:29



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

We stand POST-COMMUNION BLESSING, SONG, & PRAYER
May the true body and blood...keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

“Lord Now You Let Your Servant”

Luke 2:29-32



♩ Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful -
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -
pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re - veal you to the
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now,
and will be for - ev - er. A - men

Let us pray... Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn
#636

“How Small Our Span of Life”

ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH
100 North Promenade, Hallettsville, Texas 77964
(361) 798-2808 www.stpeterhallettsville.org

Our mission is Christ's mission – "I will build my church"
by developing fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Opening Hymn; "Before You, Lord, We Bow" (#893)

Text by Francis Scott Key; Music by John Darwall

1 Before you, Lord, we bow,
our God who reigns above
and rules the world below
with boundless pow'r and love.
Our thanks we bring
in joy and praise,
our hearts we raise,
to you we sing!

2 May ev'ry mountain height,
each vale and forest green,
shine forth in wisdom's light,
and its rich fruits be seen!
May ev'ry tongue
be tuned to praise
and join to raise
a grateful song.

3 Earth, hear your maker's voice;
your great redeemer own;
believe, obey, rejoice,
and worship God alone.
Cast down your pride,
your sin deplore,
and bow before
the Crucified.

4 And when in pow'r he comes,
oh, then may ev'ry land
from all its rending tombs
send forth a glorious band,
a countless throng,
with joy to sing
to heav'n's high king
salvation's song!

Hymn of the Day: "Come to Me, all Pilgrims Thirsty" (#777)

Text by Delores Dufner; Music by The Sacred Harp

1 "Come to me, all pilgrims thirsty;
drink the water I will give.
If you knew what gift I offer,
you would come to me and live."

Refrain

Jesus, ever flowing fountain,
give us water from your well.
In the gracious gift you offer
there is joy no tongue can tell.

2 "Come to me, all trav'lers weary;
come that I may give you rest.
Drink the cup of life I offer;
at this table be my guest." Refrain

3 "Come to me, believers burdened;
find refreshment in this place.
Come, receive the gift I offer,
turn to me and seek my face." Refrain

4 "Come to me, repentant sinners;
leave behind your guilt and shame.
Come and know divine compassion,
turn to me, I call your name." Refrain

5 "Come to me, distressed and needy;
I would be your trusted friend.
Come and seek the gift I offer,
come, your open hands extend." Refrain

6 "Come to me, abandoned, orphaned;
lonely ways no longer roam.
Come and take the gift I offer,
let me make in you my home." Refrain

Closing Hymn: “How Small Our Span of Life”(#636)

Text Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr; Music by English traditional

1 How small our span of life, O God,
our years from birth till death:
a single beat within the heart,
the catching of a breath,
a drop within the ocean's deep,
a grain upon the shore,
a flash of light before we sleep
to see the sun no more.

2 And yet our speck of life is spanned
by your infinity;
our tick of time on earth is caught
in your eternity.
While suns and stars spin endlessly
through depths of cosmic space,
while aeons roll and ages pass,
you hold us in your grace.

3 O Christ, you left eternity
to plunge in time's swift stream,
to share the shortness of our span,
our mortal lives redeem.
You filled your cross-closed years with love;
you loved us to the end
and touch us with your risen life
that ours may time transcend.

4 We thank you, God, for kindling faith
that lights our transient years,
illumining our pilgrimage
through mists of doubt and fears;
for hope that sees a life beyond
the swiftly passing days;
for love, both human and divine,
that lifts our hearts to praise.