



The Stories Jesus Tells

Poor Lazarus & The Rich Man

"If I were rich, I would . . ."

Pentecost 15

September 21, 2025

Prelude

Confession & Absolution

P: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

C: Amen

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us gather with true hearts that confess our sins to God, that earnestly ask for forgiveness and that trust in our renewal through the work of our Savior Jesus the Christ.

A: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth. [Psalm 124:8]

A: I said I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

C: And you forgave the iniquity of my sin. [Psalm 32:5]

A: Almighty God, merciful Father:

C: I confess to you all my sins with which I have offended you and my neighbors. I am sorry for them. I devote myself to repentance and pray for your mercy. In your boundless grace and compassion send me your Holy Spirit that I may be strengthened in my faith and made ready for a life obedient to your will and your way.

P: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and full of steadfast love. [Exodus 34:6] Therefore, in obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I declare the entire forgiveness of all your sin in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Entrance Hymn

Gather Us In

532



- 1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through-out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Greeting

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

C: And also with you

Kyrie

ELW Setting 2

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

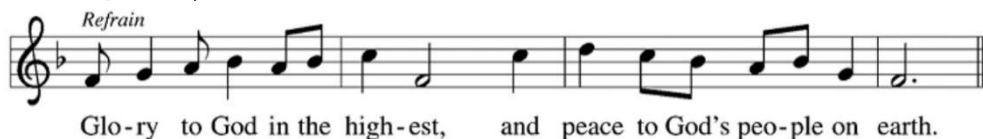


P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



Hymn of Praise

ELW Setting 2





1 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.



Refrain
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 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.



Refrain
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



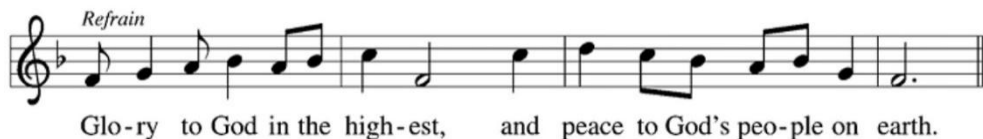
3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



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

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray:

C: Gracious God of the living and the dead, we give you thanks for the promise of welcoming us into the blessed rest of Christ where we will await our call to arise and take our place in your Kingdom on that last day. Open our ears, our minds, and our hearts that we will listen to this word of promise and respond to your grace to us with lives of faithfulness. In the name of the one who is our hope and our salvation, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

First Lesson

Amos 6

Amos, a great prophet of God, spoke the Word of God to God's people who had become unfaithful in their striving to succeed in business, saying
...

Woe for those who are at ease in the Holy City, Jerusalem, and for those who feel secure on Holy Mount Samaria - those who are the notables of the first of the nations, on whom the whole people of God rely! Cross over to the foreign lands of Calneh and observe them carefully, then go from there to the foreign lands of Hamath the Great, then go down to the foreign land of Gath of the Philistines and see - are you really any better than these kingdoms? Is your territory greater than their territory? When, by your own schemes and plans, you attempt to be pushing away the inevitable day of disaster, you are actually only bringing nearer a seat of violence.

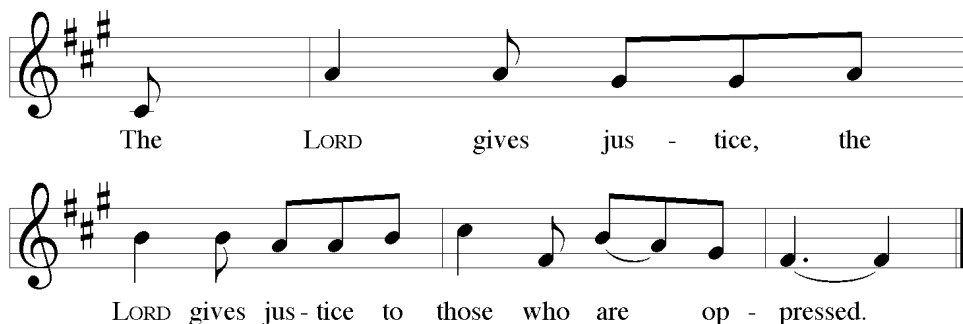
Woe for those who lie on beds of ivory, sprawling on their couches, eating lambs from the flock and calves from the stall - who sing songs to the sound of stringed instruments, and like the former King, David, improvise on instruments of music - who drink wine not from cups but from sacrificial bowls, and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but then are not absolutely sick over the ruin of God's people! Therefore, now they will be the first

of God's people to be sent into exile, and the revelry of these sprawlers will pass away.

Reader: The Word of the Lord! C: Thanks be to God!

Psalm

146



O Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, Ó my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long á I live;

I will sing praises to my God all mý life long.

*Do not put your trust in princes,
in mortals, in whom there ís no help.*

**When their breath departs, they return í to the earth;
on that very day their plans perish. R**

*Happy are those whose help is the Ġod of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Ġord their God,*

**Who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that ís in them;**

*Who keeps faith forever;
who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.*

**The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. R**

*The Lord lifts up those who áre bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.*

**The Lord watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked the Lord brings to ruin.**

*The Lord will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
O, Praise the Lord! R.*

Second Lesson

James 5

Come now, you who are rich, weep and wail for the miseries that are coming to you. Your riches have rotted, and your clothes are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver have rusted, and their rust will be evidence against you, and it will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up the wrong kind of treasure for the last days. Listen! The wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on the earth in luxury and in pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. By your actions, you have condemned and murdered the righteous one, who does not resist you.

Be patient, therefore, my beloved, until the returning of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the returning of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, listen to the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Indeed, we call those who showed endurance, blessed. You know that this is so because you have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

Reader: The Word of the Lord! C: Thanks be to God!

Children's Sermon

Verse S124

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

Gospel Acclamation


P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 16th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

Gospel

Luke 16

One day Jesus told the Disciples this parable . . .

nce upon a time there was a rich man who dressed in royal purples and the finest linens and enjoyed life every day.

And there was a poor man, named Lazarus, who had been thrown to the foot of the rich man's gate. He had open sores erupting all over his body and desperately desired to be satisfied by whatever was falling from the rich man's table. Instead, the dogs would come and lick his sores.

And as it happened, that the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be held close in the heart of the great patriarch and father of God's people, Abraham.

The rich man also died and was buried.

In Hades, the rich man was existing in torment, and he lifted up his eyes and saw blessed Abraham far, far, away with Lazarus nestled in his heart.

And yelling out, the rich man said, 'Father Abraham, I command that you to have mercy on me, and I command that you send Lazarus to me so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and may cool my tongue - for this flame makes me suffer.'

But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you received what was 'good' in your life, and Lazarus, on the other hand, had it 'bad.'

But, now, here, Lazarus is being spoken to with encouragement and you are being made to suffer. And besides, between you and us a great chasm has been established in order that those wishing to come over from here to you do not have the power to do so. Nor can you cross over from there to us.'

But the rich man said, 'Then, I entreat you, father, to send Lazarus to my father's house-- for I have five brothers-- so that Lazarus may bear witness to them, so that my brothers will not also come into this place of torment.'

But Abraham said, 'Your brothers have Moses and the prophets; they are commanded to listen to them!'

But the rich man said, 'They will not listen to them, Father Abraham. But, if one may go to them from death, they will repent.'

But Abraham said to the rich man, 'If your brothers will not listen to Moses and the prophets, not even if one may have risen from death will they be persuaded.'

P: The Gospel of the Lord! C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

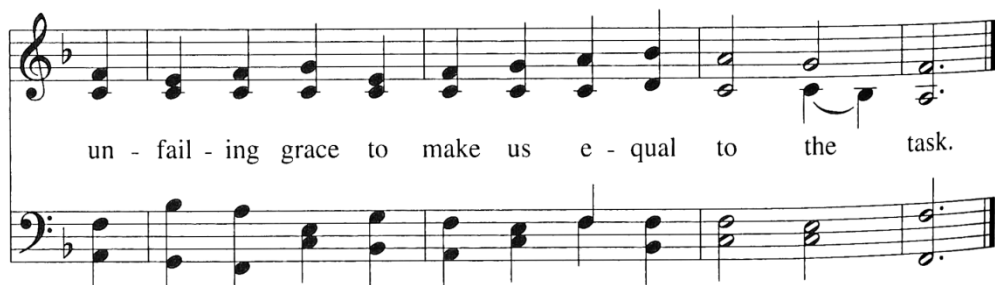
Hymn of the Day

You Call Us, Lord

1 You call us, Lord, to be a peo - ple set a - part,
2 You call us, Lord, to care for self and neigh - bor too,
3 You call us, Lord, to be good stew - ards of the earth;
4 You call us, Lord, to serve: to die that we may live,

to feel with thought - ful mind and think with ten - der heart.
to take the risk, and dare to show what love can do.
to tend it as a place of bless - ed - ness and worth.
to know we best re - ceive when joy - ful - ly we give.

Thus cho - sen, now, O Lord, we ask for faith in your



Apostles Creed (8:30) / Holy Baptism (11:00) / Affirmation of Baptism

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

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.

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. Amen.

Prayers & Passing of the Peace & Offering / Offertory 692

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an

of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our

lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,

all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.



A: Let us Pray

C: Living God, we praise you for the abundant blessings of this life. In humble recognition of the love you always show to us, we bring these gifts and ourselves as our thanks. Use them and us to bear the fruit of goodness and grace so that your glory will be known to all. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

ELW Setting 2

S 152



It is indeed . . .





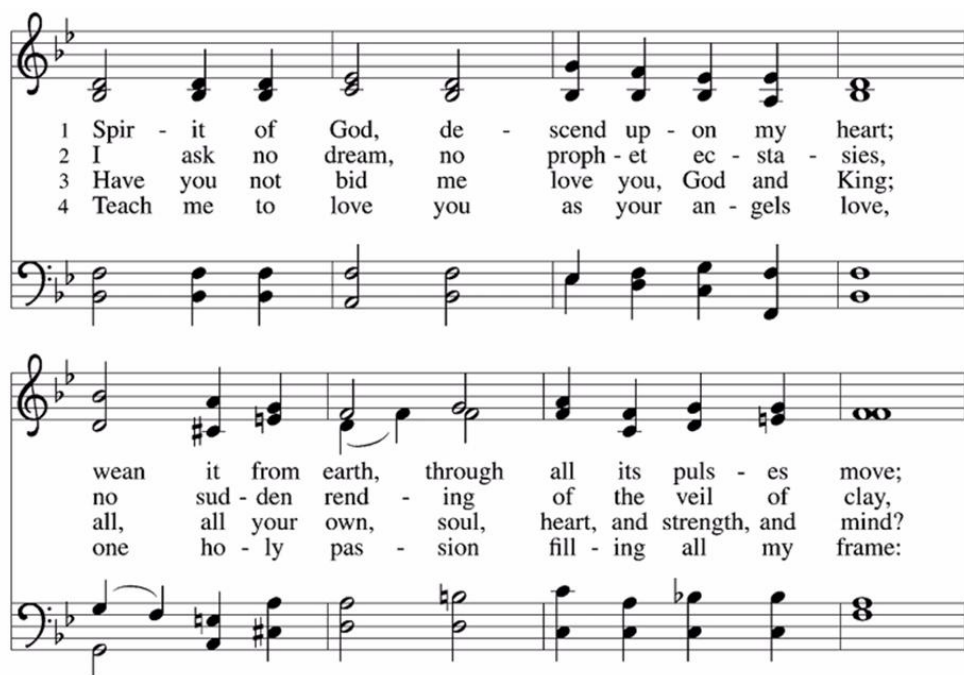
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

The Lord's Prayer

C: 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. 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 now and forever. Amen.

Distribution Hymns

800, 802, 806



1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:

stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;
 I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.
 the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,

and make me love you as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,
 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.
 3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,
 4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead

through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.
 Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.
 he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.
 that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,



On - ward in his foot-steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,
Though to - day we sow no laugh-ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy:
Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;
we are your own liv - ing mem-bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding.
all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.
and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heav - en.
in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.

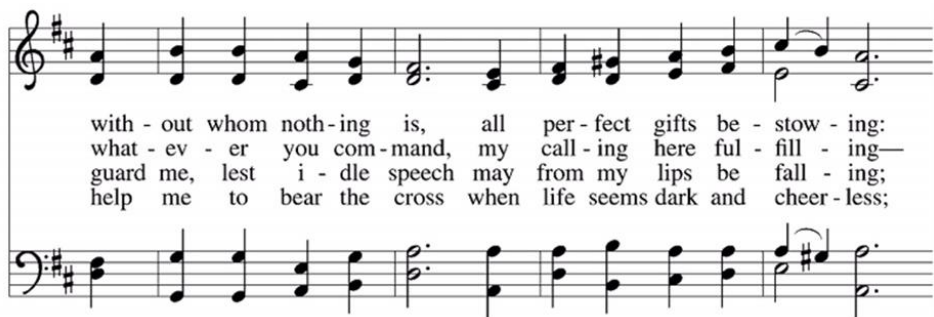


Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.
Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.
Je - sus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.
Je - sus, let me faith - ful be; life e - ter - nal grant to me.



- 1 O God, my faith - ful God, true foun - tain ev - er flow - ing,
- 2 Give me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing
- 3 Keep me from say - ing words that lat - er need re - call - ing;
- 4 When dan - gers gath - er round, oh, keep me calm and fear - less;

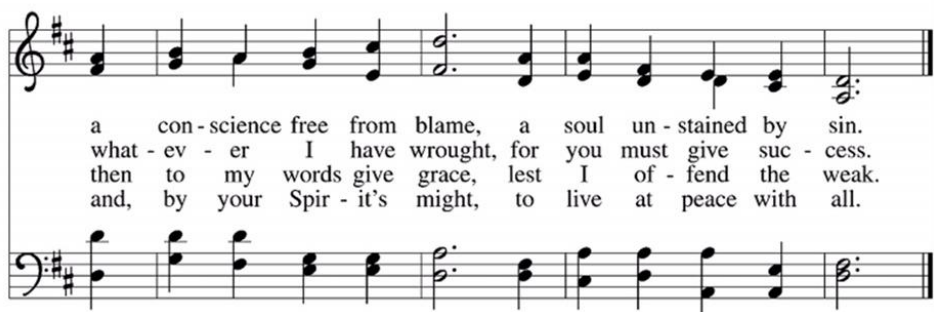




with - out whom noth - ing is, all per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:
 what - ev - er you com - mand, my call - ing here ful - fill - ing—
 guard me, lest i - dle speech may from my lips be fall - ing;
 help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheer - less;



give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in
 to do it when I ought, with all my might—and bless
 but when, with - in my place, I must and ought to speak,
 help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,

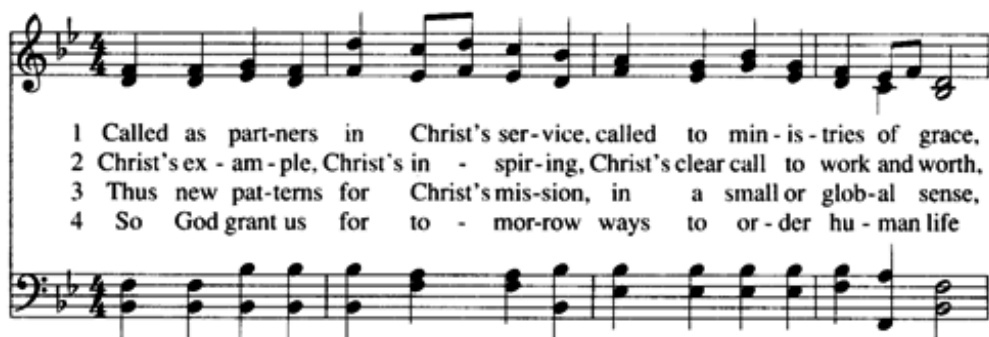


a con - science free from blame, a soul un - stained by sin.
 what - ev - er I have wrought, for you must give suc - cess.
 then to my words give grace, lest I of - fend the weak.
 and, by your Spir - it's might, to live at peace with all.

Post Communion Blessing & Prayer & Benediction

Recessional

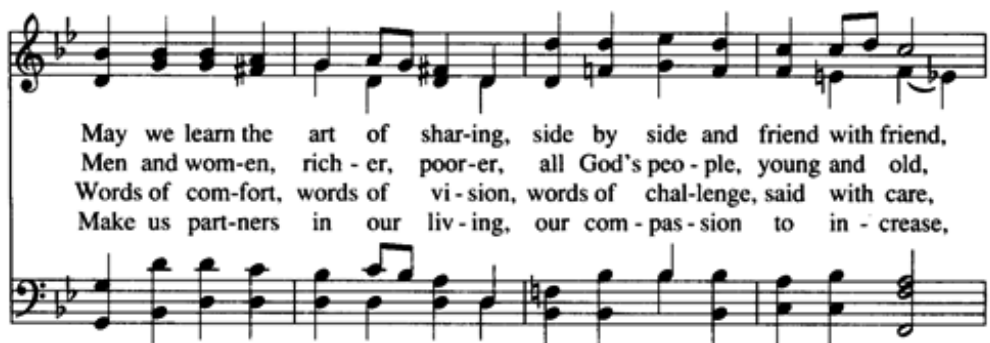
Called as Partners in Christ's Service



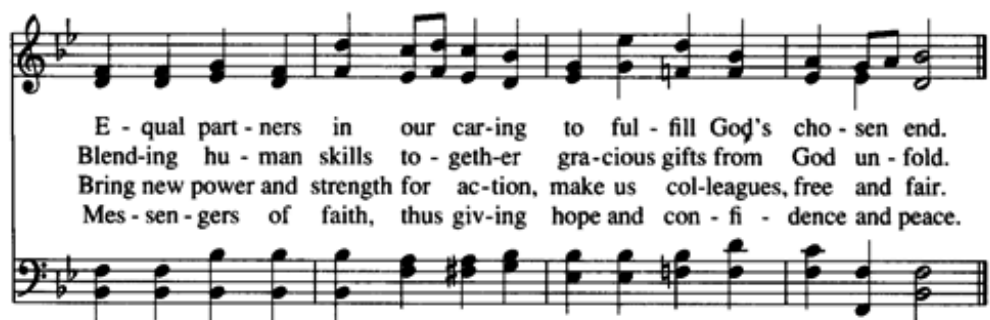
1 Called as part - ners in Christ's ser - vice, called to min - is - tries of grace,
 2 Christ's ex - am - ple, Christ's in - spir - ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3 Thus new pat - terns for Christ's mis - sion, in a small or glob - al sense,
 4 So God grant us for to - mor - row ways to or - der hu - man life



We re-spond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 Let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
 Help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 That sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



E-qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
 Blend-ing hu-man skills to-gether gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
 Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
 Mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.

Postlude & Dismissal

The flowers placed on the altar today are in honor of John McClure's birthday and his and his wife Karen's service to Grace and its members.

Today we welcome into the Christian faith through the sacrament of Baptism, Jace Quinn Zitzmann, son of Caitlin and Dylan Zitzmann and grandson of Susan & William Prazenka.