The Ordination of

Greta Muller Levis

to the Sacred Order of Deacons in Christ's Holy Catholic Church



Wednesday, December 13, 2023, 7:00pm

St. John's by the Campus
Ames, Iowa

Prelude

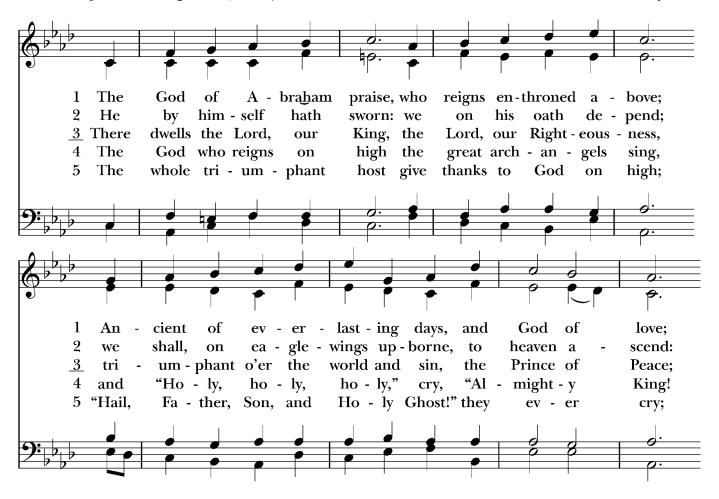
Jerusalem

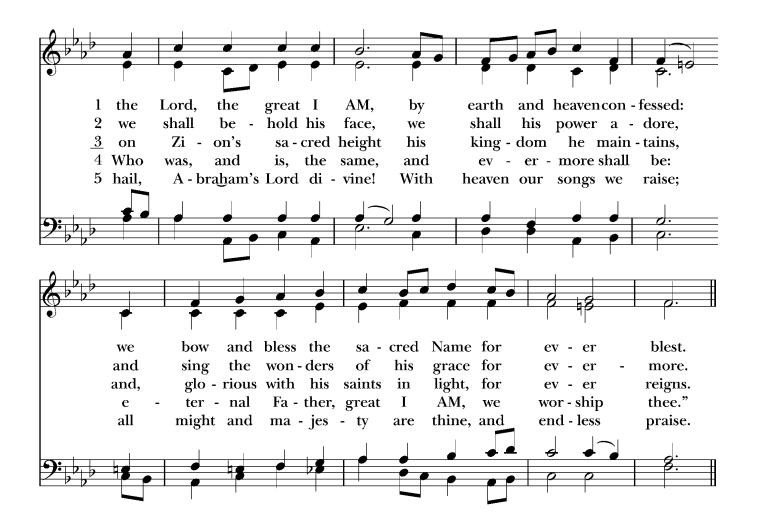
C. Hubert H. Parry (1848-1918)

Entrance Hymn*

The God of Abraham praise (Leoni)

The people standing as able Hymn 401





Bishop Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People You come to your people and set them free.

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.*

The Presentation

The Bishop and People sit.

A Priest and a Lay Person, and additional presenters if desired, standing before the bishop, present the ordinand saying:

Betsey, Bishop in the Church of God, on behalf of the clergy and people of the Diocese of Iowa, we present to you Greta Muller Levis to be ordained a deacon in Christ's holy catholic church.

Bishop: Has she been selected in accordance with the canons of this Church? And

do you believe her manner of life to be suitable to the exercise of this

ministry?

Presenters: We certify to you that she has satisfied the requirements of the canons, and

we believe her qualified for this order.

Declaration of the Ordinand for the Diaconate

The Bishop says to the ordinand:

Will you be loyal to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of Christ as this Church has received them? And will you, in accordance with the canons of this Church, obey your bishop and other ministers who may have authority over you and your work?

The Ordinand:

I am willing and ready to do so; and I solemnly declare that I do believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, and to contain all things necessary to salvation; and I do solemnly engage to conform to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Episcopal Church.

The Ordinand then signs the above Declaration in the sight of all present; the presenters signing as witnesses.

All standing as able, the Bishop says to the people:

Dear friends in Christ, you know the importance of this ministry, and the weight of your responsibility in presenting Greta Muller Levis for ordination to the sacred order of deacons. Therefore if any of you know any impediment or crime because of which we should not proceed, come forward now and make it known.

If no objection is made, the Bishop continues:

Is it your will that Greta be ordained deacon?

The People: It is.

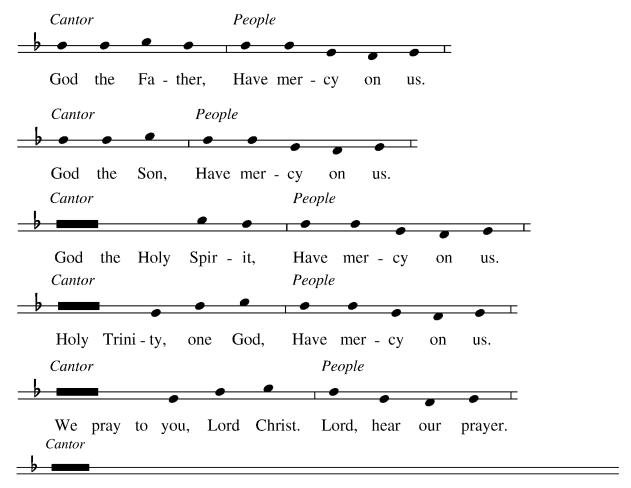
Bishop: Will you uphold her in this ministry?

The People: We will.

The Bishop then calls the people to prayer:

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

The Litany for Ordination*



For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the Day of your Coming,



Setting: Ver. *Hymnal 1982*. © 1985, The Church Pension Fund.

For all members of your Church in their vocation and ministry, that they may serve you in a true and godly life,

we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons, that they may be filled with your love, may hunger for truth, and may thirst after righteousness, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For Greta, chosen deacon in your Church, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That she may faithfully fulfill the duties of this ministry, build up your Church, and glorify your Name,

we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit she may be sustained and encouraged to persevere to the end,

we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For her family, that they may be adorned with all Christian virtues, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease and that all may be one as you and the Father are one,

we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth,

we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel,

we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples,

we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those in positions of public trust, that they may serve justice and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For a blessing upon all human labor, and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For ourselves; for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives,

we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal,

we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord our God **Lord, have mercy.** Christ, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Bishop The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Bishop Let us pray.

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*.

The Ministry of the Word

The people sit

A reading from Jeremiah 1:4-9

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you;

I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." But the Lord said to me,

"Do not say, I am only a boy,"

for you shall go to all to whom I send you,

and you shall speak whatever I command you.

Do not be afraid of them,

for I am with you to deliver you,

says the Lord."

Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 84 *BCP* page 707

¹How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts!*

My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;

my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

² The sparrow has found her a house

and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young;* by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

³Happy are they who dwell in your house!* they will always be praising you.

⁴Happy are the people whose strength is in you!* whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

⁵Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs,* for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

⁶They will climb from height to height,* and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

⁷LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;* hearken, O God of Jacob.

⁸Behold our defender, O God;*

and look upon the face of your Anointed.

⁹For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room,* and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

¹⁰For the Lord GOD is both sun and shield;* he will give grace and glory;

¹¹No good thing will the LORD withhold* from those who walk with integrity.

¹²O LORD of hosts,*

happy are those who trust in you!

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 6:2-7

²And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, ⁴while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." ⁵What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. ⁷The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

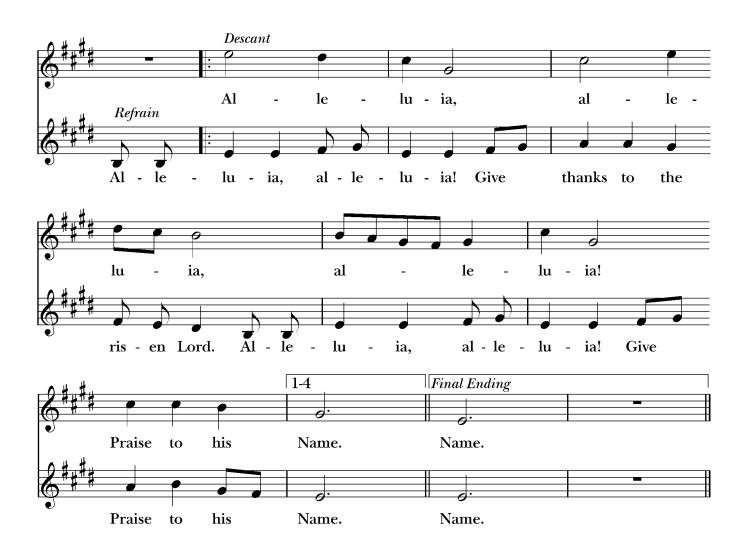
Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

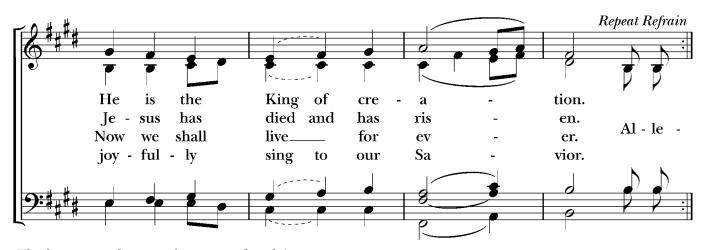
as able

Jesus is Lord of all the earth [Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord] (Alleluia No. 1)

Hymn 178







The descant may be sung after stanzas 3 and 4.

Then, all standing, the Deacon reads The Gospel, first saying:

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves."

Luke 22: 24-27

After the Gospel, the Deacon says:

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Congregation then says the 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.

The Examination

All are seated except the ordinand, who stands before the Bishop. The Bishop addresses the ordinand as follows:

My sister, every Christian is called to follow Jesus Christ, serving God the Father, through the power of the Holy Spirit. God now calls you to a special ministry of servanthood directly under your bishop. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are to serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely.

As a deacon in the Church, you are to study the Holy Scriptures, to seek nourishment from them, and to model your life upon them. You are to make Christ and his redemptive love known, by your word and example, to those among whom you live, and work, and worship. You are to interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world. You are to assist the bishop and priests in public worship and in the ministration of God's Word and Sacraments, and you are to carry out other duties assigned to you from time to time. At all times, your life and teaching are to show Christ's people that in serving the helpless they are serving Christ himself.

My sister, do you believe that you are truly called by God and God's Church to the life and work of a deacon?

Answer: I believe I am so called.

Bishop: Do you now in the presence of the Church commit yourself to this trust

and responsibility?

Answer: I do.

Bishop: Will you be guided by the pastoral direction and leadership of your bishop?

Answer: I will.

Bishop: Will you be faithful in prayer, and in the reading and study of the Holy

Scriptures?

Answer: I will.

Bishop: Will you look for Christ in all others, being ready to help and serve those in

need?

Answer: I will.

Bishop: Will you do your best to pattern your life (and that of your family) in

accordance with the teachings of Christ, so that you may be a wholesome

example to all people?

Answer: I will.

Bishop: Will you in all things seek not your glory but the glory of the Lord Christ?

Answer: I will.

Bishop: May the Lord by his grace uphold you in the service he lays upon you.

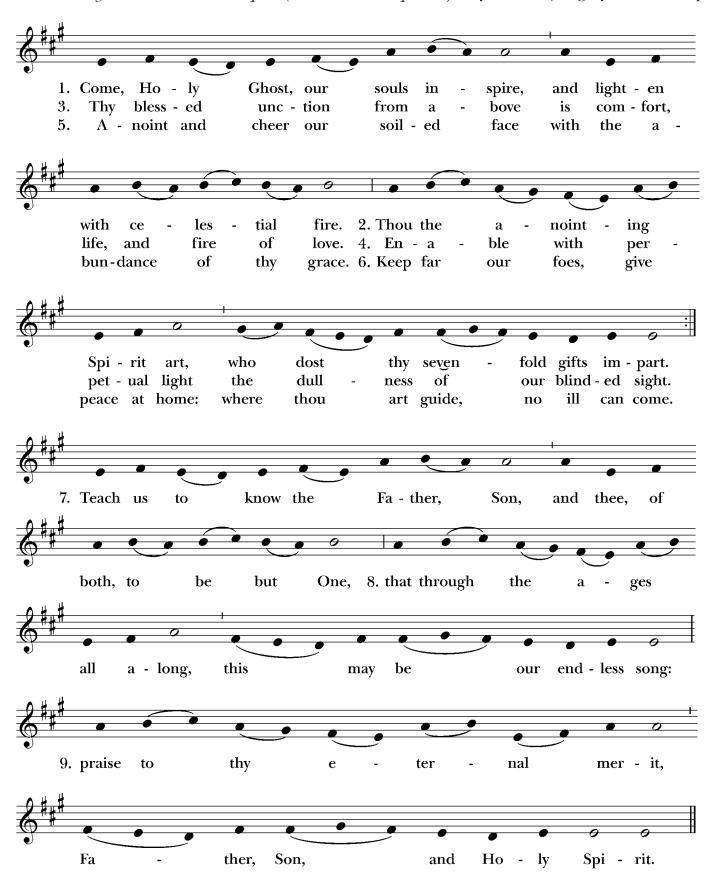
Answer: Amen.

The Consecration of the Deacon

All now stand as able except the ordinand, who kneels facing the bishop.

HYMN*

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire (Veni Creator Spiritus) Hymn 504 (sung by Good Company)



A period of silent prayer follows, the people still standing as able.

The Bishop then says this Prayer of Consecration:

O God, most merciful Father, we praise you for sending your Son Jesus Christ, who took on himself the form of a servant, and humbled himself, becoming obedient even to death on the cross. We praise you that you have highly exalted him, and made him Lord of all; and that, through him, we know that whoever would be great must be servant of all. We praise you for the many ministries in your Church, and for calling these your servants to the order of deacons.

Here the Bishop lays hands upon the head of the ordinand, and prays: Therefore, Father, through Jesus Christ your Son, give your Holy Spirit to Greta; fill her with grace and power, and make her a deacon in your Church.

The Bishop then continues in prayer:

Make her, O Lord, modest and humble, strong and constant, to observe the discipline of Christ. Let her life and teaching so reflect your commandments, that through her many may come to know you and love you. As your Son came not to be served but to serve, may this deacon share in Christ's service, and come to the unending glory of him who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

The People in a loud voice respond Amen.

The new deacon is now vested according to the order of deacons. The Bishop gives a Bible to the newly ordained, saying:

Receive this Bible as the sign of your authority to proclaim God's Word and to assist in the ministration of his holy Sacraments.

The Peace

Bishop: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Welcome and Announcements

The offering received at this liturgy will be contributed to the Anglican-run Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza with prayers for their work and their safety.

Offertory Sentence

Celebrant

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

Psalm 50:14

OFFERTORY ANTHEM*

What wondrous love is this (Wondrous Love)

Hymn 439

Sung by Good Company, The St. John's Singers, and Friends

What wondrous love is this,

O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this,

O my soul!

What wondrous love is this

that caused the Lord of bliss

to lay aside his crown

for my soul, for my soul,

to lay aside his crown

for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM, while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing, while millions join the theme I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.

And when from death I'm free I'll sing and joyful be, and through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on.

The family/friends of the ordinand bring the bread and wine to the altar.

The Great Thanksgiving

The People remain standing as able. The Bishop faces them and says

Holy Eucharist*

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 God our Creator.

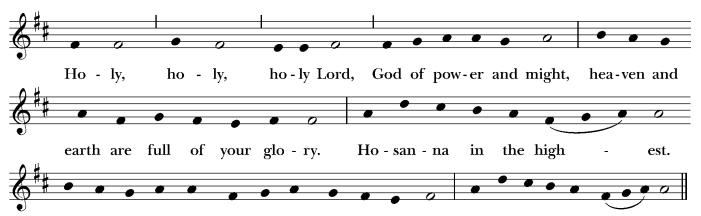
People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant: We should always remember to thank you, our Root and Source of life.

For you brought light and life into the world, you made the wind your messenger, and you commanded the sun. You have created the little blue stem and the blazing star, You made the monarch and the bald eagle. You made us to live upon the earth as neighbors to all living things. You yourself lived upon the earth as your Son Jesus Christ, who by becoming one of us, showed us the way of love. He is, for us, like the roots of your prairie grasses, deeply dug into the earth to be our foundation and anchor.

For all this we give thanks and praise, joining together with the voices of all your saints who have lived the way of love, singing this hymn that proclaims your power.

Presider and People



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

Celebrant: Creator and Source of life, we are grateful that in love you made us part of your creation, but like the branch that separates from the vine, we have turned away from you. We have forgotten to live in the way of love, as neighbors to your people and the natural world. In faithful love you sent your son, Jesus, to teach us the way back to you. Just as fire in the prairie restores new life, Jesus brought fire to the earth and offered his own body on the cross to be the one and only sacrifice for all of creation, to show us the way to new life in you.

On the night before he died, Jesus taught his disciples, saying, "This is my commandment, 'that you love one another as I have loved you." He took bread, broke it, gave thanks, and shared it with them saying, "Take and eat, this is my Body, given for you and for all. Do this to remember me."

Then he took the cup of wine, and said "I am the vine and you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit." He gave thanks and shared it with his friends, saying, "Take and drink, this is my Blood, shed for you and for all. Do this to remember me."

Together, let us tell of the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People say: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Celebrant: Remembering Jesus' life and death, and celebrating our place in salvation, we offer these gifts of bread and wine, as a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. They were made with human hands from the gifts of your creation. We also offer ourselves, a living sacrifice, to be your people. Let us bear fruit as the branches of the vine.

Send your Spirit on these gifts, to be a Holy Sacrament. Make them for us the Body and Blood of your Son. Send your Spirit, also, on us, your people, so that we may be a Sacrament to the world. Let us be the hands of Christ in the world, to work towards healing of the earth and of your people, and give us hope in the promise that you will bring your creation to fulfillment through Jesus Christ.

We ask all of these things through your Son Jesus Christ. Through him, through the Holy Spirit which he sent for us as an advocate and ever present guide, and through you, Creator God, all honor and glory belong to you. **AMEN**.

The service continues with the Lord's Prayer Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

People and Celebrant:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

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

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People We who are many are one body,

for we all share in the one bread.

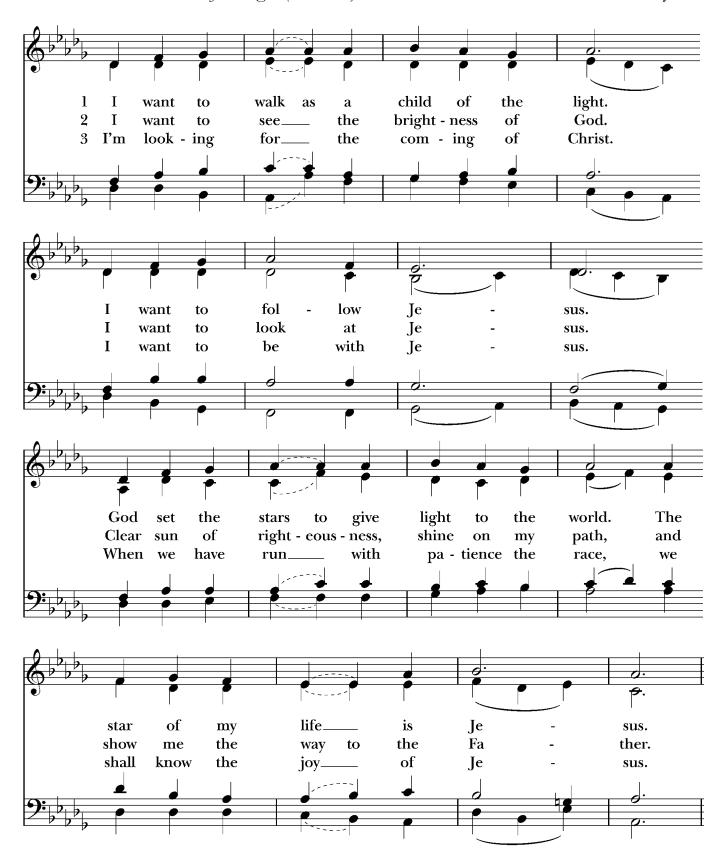
Celebrant The gifts of God for the People of God.

All who seek a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive the Body and Blood of Christ by participating in Holy Communion. When the usher indicates, please move forward to the altar rail. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please come forward and cross your arms over your chest. If you feel called to receive Holy Communion and are not yet baptized, please consider it a call to Holy Baptism and speak with a priest after worship.

If you prefer to remain in place and receive communion, please let an usher know and a Eucharistic Minister will serve you there.

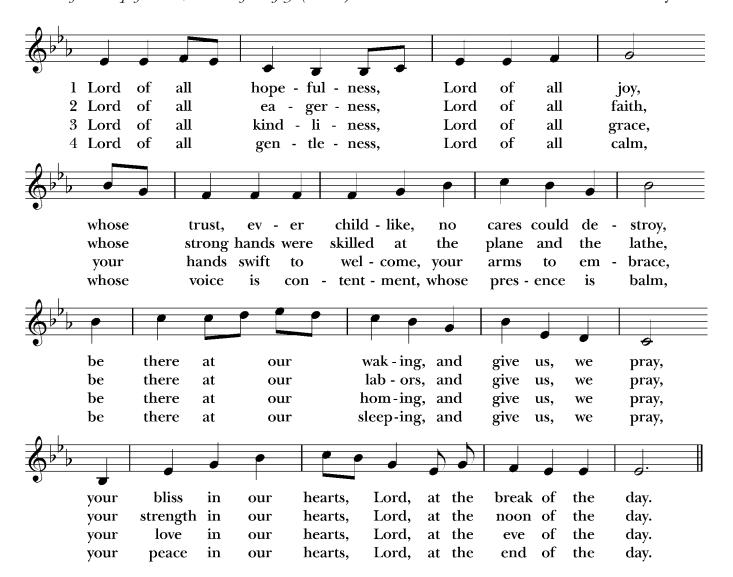
Gluten free hosts are available upon request. Please ask for one when receiving the bread.

I want to walk as a child of the light (Houston)





Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy (Slane)



Take my life, and let it be (Hollingside)



After Communion

All pray together:

Almighty Father, we thank you for feeding us with the holy food of the Body and Blood of your Son, and for uniting us through him in the fellowship of your Holy Spirit. We thank you for raising up among us faithful servants for the ministry of your Word and Sacraments. We pray that Greta may be to us an effective example in word and action, in love and patience, and in holiness of life. Grant that we, with her, may serve you now, and always rejoice in your glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

The Bishop blesses the People, after which the new Deacon dismisses them

Blessing

Bishop	Our help is in the Name of the Lord
People	The maker of heaven and earth.
Bishop	Blessed be the Name of the Lord.
People	From this time forth for evermore
Bishop	The blessing, mercy, and grace of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and
-	the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you for ever. Amen

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

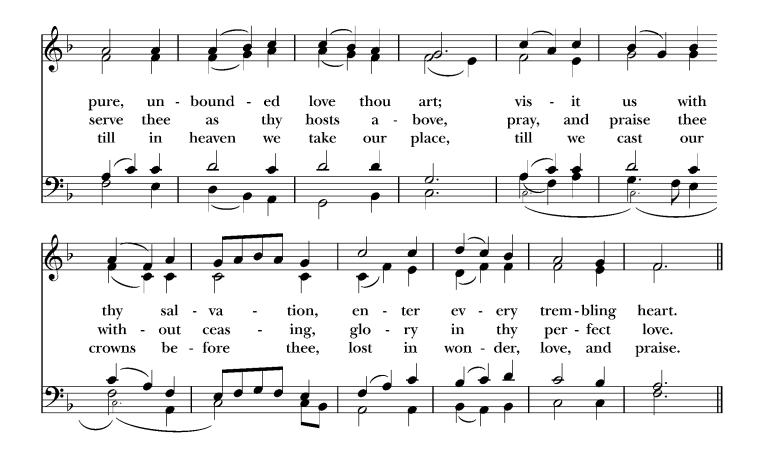
People Thanks be to God.

Processional into the world*

Love divine, all loves excelling (Hyfrydol)

Hymn 657





Postlude Fugue C-Dur

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

*Sources: Book of Common Prayer; The Hymnal 1982. Church Publishing. Used with permission.

Eucharistic Prayer, written by Jennifer Latham. Used with permission; in context of liturgy of The Book of Common Prayer. (for MDiv/liturgy coursework when an Iowa seminarian at Church Divinity School of the Pacific, an Episcopal seminary).

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