

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

FEBRUARY 24, 2019

WELCOME

We welcome you in the name of Christ. **We love welcoming guests/visitors** and encourage you to complete one of the blue cards in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate or give it to an usher. We have a gift for you at our Welcome Desk – please stop by after worship. You are invited to join in all parts of worship. Everything you need is printed in this worship booklet except for hymns which are in the red hymnal in the pews/chairs.

All who desire to receive Holy Communion are welcome at the table. If you do not wish to receive, you may simply remain seated. For instructions on how to receive the bread and wine, see the Communion section later in this booklet. Portions of worship in **bold print** are to be spoken/sung by the whole congregation. **We stand** for portions of our worship service. Please feel free to remain seated, if you prefer.

CHILDREN AND NURSERY

We love having children in worship and welcome their active presence. Please also feel free at any time to make use of our fully equipped and professionally staffed nursery, located at the north end of the Gathering Area (main church entrance). **Our nursery is open and staffed during all regular morning services for children newborn to 5 years old.** Nursing mothers are welcome to use the Caring Corner (through the double doors opposite the Gathering Area). Special activity bags for children in worship are available next to the elevator in the Gathering Area.

Sunday Morning Christian Formation Groups (Sunday School) for all ages are held at 9:30 each Sunday morning. Class information is available at the Connection Center in the Gathering Area.

Children's Church for ages 3-7 is held the 1st & 3rd Sundays from 11:00-11:30. It begins in the Sanctuary with Children's Time and moves to the Nielsen Room (downstairs in the main church). Children rejoin parents in the Sanctuary during the Sharing of the Peace.

OUR WORSHIP

Our worship is rooted in the ancient pattern of the church – gathering, word, meal, sending. The shape of this liturgy and much of the actual words/prayers come directly from scripture. Though we make seasonal shifts, the constancy of our worship reflects God's constant love and promises through forgiveness, scripture, and the sacraments of baptism and communion. Following this liturgical pattern, as well as the Revised Common Lectionary, a three-year cycle of scripture readings, we are connected through our worship with Christians around the world and throughout time.

OTHER NOTES

- **Amplification devices** for the hearing impaired are available from ushers or at the welcome desk.
- **Large print worship booklets** are available from the ushers.
- A **restroom** is located at the north end of the Gathering Area (additional restrooms downstairs).

MUHLENBERG LUTHERAN CHURCH: A WELLSPRING OF GOD'S GRACE

Open + Authentic + Relational + Serving

Pastor Lauren Miller

281 E. Market Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

(540) 434-3496
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If you're interested in why we do what we do, follow the notes in this column.

+ All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins, but no one should feel compelled.

Both our confession of sin and God's promise of mercy are rooted in our baptism. We come before God recalling our brokenness, but even more God's great grace.

WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

GATHERING

We come from our homes, our labor, our struggles, and our joys – which we share in fellowship as a Christian community. We are gathered together as God's people to worship. In this first part of our worship, we share together honestly – our sins in confession, our joy in forgiveness.

WELCOME

CHILDREN'S TIME Children are invited forward for a brief message with the pastor.

PRELUDE

8:00 *Lord, Be Glorified* (arr. D. Wagner, 2017)

9:30 *Christ Alone* (W. Beckstrand, 2018)

11:00 *Love Your Neighbor* (S. Eltringham)

Organ
Women's Chorus
Cherub Choir

(We stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The congregation turns and faces the baptismal font.

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 thoughts 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.**

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

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are 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 therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

We sing as the Spirit gathers us for worship. This hymn sets the tone for the day.

GATHERING HYMN

615 In All Our Grief

FREDERICKTOWN

The congregation turns and faces the cross as the procession approaches the altar, reminding us that Christ leads us into the presence and love of God.

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.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

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



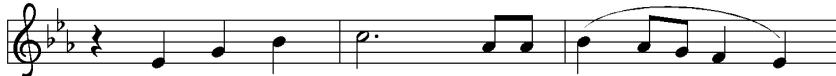
lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,



Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of



God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

This prayer collects the themes from today's scripture readings.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray . . .

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

(We sit)

WORD

The first half of our liturgy focuses on the Word of God through the reading of scripture and preaching. The pattern of reading, singing, reading, singing is an ancient one, which comes from Christianity's roots in Jewish synagogue worship.

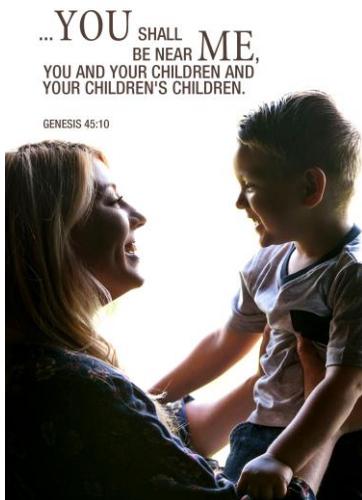
Liturgy, from the Greek, means "the work of the people." Our worship is designed so we all take part. We are far more than just spectators.

FIRST READING: Genesis 45:3-11, 15 (see back of bulletin)

Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good, to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.

The reading concludes:

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



The Psalms were the original Hymns in Holy Scripture, used by God's people for personal and corporate devotion. They continue to be prayed, sung and read by God's people all over the world as a rich and honest expression of faith.

PSALM 37:1-11, 39-40 *The congregation sings the Refrain after it is introduced by the Cantor, and thereafter as indicated. Psalm is sung responsively.*

The low-ly shall pos-sess the land; they will de-
light in a - bun - dance of peace.

- ¹Do not be provoked by | evildoers;
do not be jealous of those | who do wrong.
**²For they shall soon wither | like the grass,
and like the green grass | fade away.**
- ³Put your trust in the Lord | and do good;
dwell in the land and | find safe pasture.
**⁴Take delight | in the Lord,
who shall give you your | heart's desire. Refrain**
- ⁵Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust in the Lord,
and see what | God will do.
**⁶The Lord will make your vindication as clear | as the light
and the justice of your case like the | noonday sun.**
- ⁷Be still before the Lord and wait | patiently.
Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds
in | evil schemes.
**⁸Refrain from anger, leave | rage alone;
do not be provoked; it leads on- | ly to evil. Refrain**
- ⁹For evildoers shall | be cut off,
but those who hope in the Lord shall pos- | sess the land.
**¹⁰In a little while the wicked shall | be no more;
even if you search out their place, they will | not be there.**
- ¹¹But the lowly shall pos- | sess the land;
they will delight in abun- | dance of peace.

The scripture readings follow a three-year cycle, called a lectionary. We are connected with other Christians all over the world, in many denominations, reading the same texts.

We stand during the gospel because we believe our Lord is present with us in the reading.

39But the deliverance of the righteous comes from | you, O Lord;
you are their stronghold in | time of trouble.

40You, O Lord, will help them and | rescue them;
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in
you | they seek refuge. **Refrain**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 (see back of bulletin)

In the Apostles Creed, we speak of the “resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.” Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ’s perfect life into eternity.

The reading concludes: The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

(We stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

Verse sung by Cantor:

Love your enemies, and you will be children of the Most High; forgive, and you will be forgiven. (Luke 6: 35,37)

All - repeat Alleluia

GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38 (see back of bulletin)

Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even to enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God’s intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.

The Holy Gospel according to ... **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After the reading: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(We sit)

SERMON

Pastor Lauren Miller

Silence for reflection follows.

(We stand)

This hymn complements the day's scripture readings and sermon.

The creeds (statements of faith) date back to the 4th century and contain the basics of what Christians around the world hold to be true.

The use of the non-capitalized word "catholic" here means simply worldwide or universal.

We pray as a community. The assisting minister leads this time to gather the prayers of all, and at his/her invitation you may add others aloud or silently in your heart.

HYMN OF THE DAY

603 God, When Human Bonds Are Broken

MERTON

During the final verse of the hymn, new members and sponsors gather at the baptismal font.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM & RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (11:00)

ELW Page 234

APOSTLES' CREED

Let us confess our faith:

**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

After each petition:

. . . Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers:

**Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Have a prayer concern to share? Forms are available in the back cover of each hymnal.

Much more than a pleasant greeting – we do this to proclaim God’s promise of peace to one another.

Our offerings are collected and dedicated to our Lord’s service. They support the ministries of Christ’s church in this congregation, the Virginia Synod, ELCA, and our global mission partners.

This song becomes our prayer as our gifts are collected and dedicated to our Lord’s service.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

The congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words:
“Peace be with you.”

(We sit)

MEAL

In the second half of our liturgy, we gather around the table, following Jesus’ invitation. Here in this meal we encounter the risen Lord who gives himself for the forgiveness of sins and strengthening the Body of Christ.

OFFERING

8:00 *When Love Is Found* (arr. S. B. Oines, 2005)

9:30 *Guide My Feet* (African - Amer. Spiritual; arr. H. Hopson, 2000)

11:00 *Love Is Little* (Trad. Shaker; arr. M. Schweizer)

Piano Solo
Celebration Singers
Sanctuary Choir

(We stand)

OFFERING SONG: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling we sing vs 1 only

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less

earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

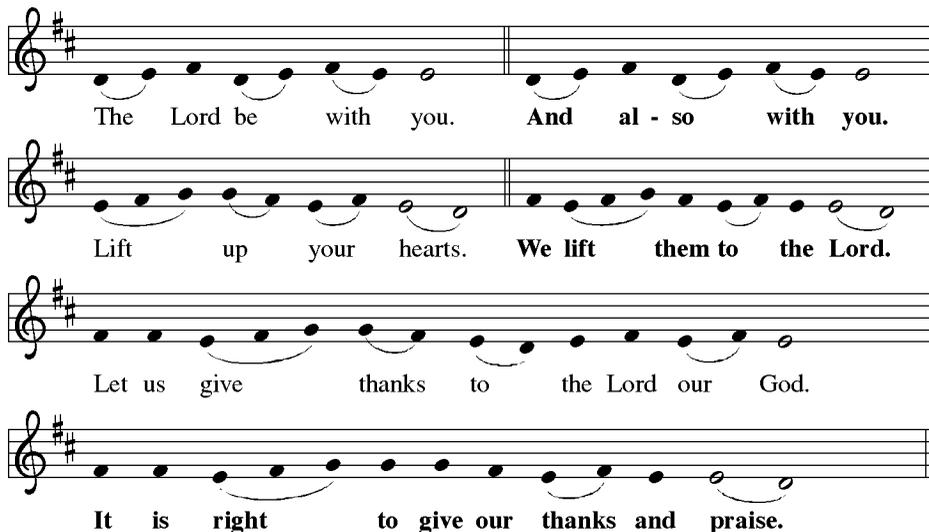
thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Loving God, you sent your only Son to live among us, bringing us your grace and truth. As we prepare to receive the gift of Christ's presence once again, all we have to offer is what you have given us. Receive all that we have and all that we are to your glory and for your service, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

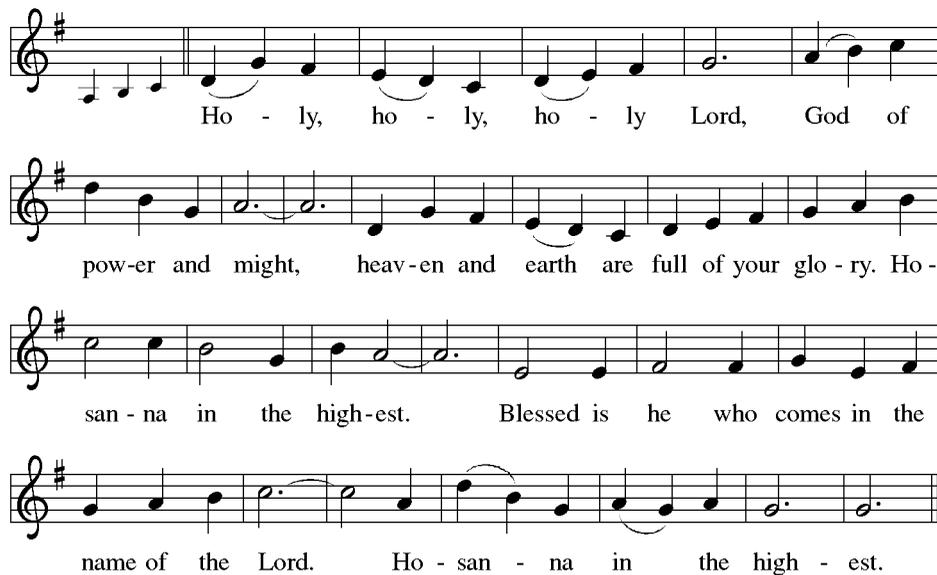
The Great Thanksgiving is an ancient part of the worship that proclaims our thanks for the gifts of God in the meal.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The "Holy, Holy, Holy" echoes the heavenly chorus in Isaiah 6:3 and the crowds of Mark 11:9 as Jesus enters Jerusalem. This reminds us that we are in the presence of a God identified both by holiness and humility. Some will make the sign of the cross at the announcement of God's presence: "Blessed is He..." Eucharist is the Greek word for thanks.

It is
right
pra
na
jo
un
h

Eucharist is the Greek word for thanks.

*These are the words and actions, the commands and promises of Jesus at the last supper with his disciples as recorded in scripture:
1Cor. 11:23-26
Matt. 26:26-29
Luke 22:15-20*

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

Jesus taught his disciples this prayer. In this prayer, all our needs and concerns are addressed. See ELW page 1163 for Martin Luther's explanation of this prayer in the small catechism.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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 forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus said, "Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." **Amen.**

(We sit)

COMMUNION

Processional Communion:

*Come forward, first receive the **bread*** and then take a glass from the trays. You will be offered wine from the pouring chalice. Place your empty glass on the tray and return to your seat via the side aisle. For those who prefer grape juice, pre-filled cups of juice are available from the center of the serving trays. You may choose to receive only the bread. You may come forward for a blessing if you do not wish to receive.*

**Gluten free bread is located next to the communion glass trays. Take one if needed and present it to a pastor for blessing.*

As the ministers give the bread and cup to you, they say these words:

*"The body of Christ, given for you . . . The blood of Christ, shed for you." You may say:
"Amen."*

The "last supper" was a meal that Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion. He invited them to share this meal in the future to remember him and he promised to be present in a mysterious, but very real sense.

All who desire to participate are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Feel free to remain seated if you prefer.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Lamb of God

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.

783 Praise and Thanks and Adoration

716 Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace

(We stand)

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

Our worship does not end, but continues in the world. In our daily lives we are called to be ministers of God's love and mercy as we live and serve by the power of the risen Christ.

We gather once more in song as our worship concludes, and we prepare to take this good news into the world.

In this blessing we are reminded we bear God's name as we depart to live out our baptism, serving our neighbor and spreading the gospel.

Feel free to stay and listen to music.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

604 O Christ, Our Hope

LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN

The congregation turns & faces the cross reminding us that we follow Christ into the world & our daily lives.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✠Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Detroit (arr. W. Held, 1984)

After worship, Pastor Lauren invites you to greet her and each other in the Gathering Area.

Please leave this worship booklet in the basket at the sanctuary entrance for the next service and take *The Chimes* home with you.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICES

PREACHING & PRESIDING MINISTER: Pastor Lauren Miller

ACOLYTES	8:00 — Frank Lambert
	9:30 — Bill Whitmire
	11:00 — Owen Wells
CRUCIFERS	8:00 — Margie Miller
	9:30 — Oris Griffin
	11:00 — Linda Looney
LAY ASSISTING MINISTERS	8:00 — Tassie Pippert
	9:30 —
	11:00 — Gloria Goeres
SOUND TECHS	8:00 — Mark Byerly
	9:30 — Keith Baker
	11:00 — Dana Crittenden
LECTORS	8:00 — Larry Blade
	9:30 — Janine Miller
	11:00 — Sandy Harbin
USHERS/ GREETERS	8:00 — Eric Ryan, Asher Ryan, Buddy Jones, Susan Gallaher
	9:30 — Bonnie Stidley, John & Faye Sellers, Paul & Paula Caldwell
	11:00 — Alice Wightman, Liam Wightman, Chris Kyle, William Kyle
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	8:00 — Larry & Sandra Blade
	9:30 — Cheryl Hoak, Oris Griffin, Sue Koch
	11:00 — Terry & Linda Looney, Rion Looney
MUSICIANS	Elizabeth Williams, Music Minister Gianne Ghe Zhu, Music Ministry Accompanist Rachel Peters, Cherub Choir Director Cantors: Wylie Walton (8:00 & 9:30); Richard Miller (11:00) Emma Gibson, vocal soloist (11:00)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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