

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
WITH THE RITE OF ORDINATION TO THE MINISTRY
OF WORD AND SACRAMENT



FOR ALEXANDER PAUL STALL, JR.
SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2022
2:00 PM

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH: THE MANGER PLACE
“STILL FED BY GOD; STILL FEEDING OTHERS”

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
8922 LITTLE RIVER TURNPIKE, FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA
703.978.3131 – BLCLIFE.ORG

Welcome!

Welcome to worship at
Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

We hope that your worship in our community
strengthens your faith and brings you peace and joy.

Bethlehem has adopted an affirmation of welcome to persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities and is recognized as Reconciling in Christ (reconcilingworks.org). We welcome everyone regardless of age, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental challenges, financial resources, or family status, and we invite everyone to **participate fully** in worship and all that is ours in Christ.

All are welcome to receive the sacrament. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. If you choose not to receive communion, you may come forward for a blessing. White grape juice is in the center of the communion tray. Gluten free wafers are also available. If coming forward is too difficult, please notify a worship leader and communion can come to you.

Candles are a visible sign of our prayers. Feel free to light a candle during the worship time or before the service. All candles may be extinguished after worship is concluded, signifying that our loving God has heard our prayers.

Children are always welcome! We love having children participate in worship and they are encouraged to sing and read along. This becomes a way that faith is passed on to the next generation. We also have Rainbow Bags in the narthex, filled with activities for little ones. After the second Scripture reading, kids may come forward for a "Children's Talk." We also have a sound-proof area in our lobby where the service can still be seen and heard through the glass doors. Changing tables are available in the family/all-gender restroom (across from the Fellowship Hall) and the Women's Room.



Everyone is welcome to join us in person on Sunday mornings, or
<https://www.facebook.com/BethlehemBLCLife>



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
A Reconciling in Christ Congregation
since December 3, 2017

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*From the liturgy "Sighs too Deep for Words," by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church,
Minneapolis, MN.*

✠ Praise our Wonderful Maker,
who wove our bodies from the depths of
the earth, hems us in, behind and before,
and will knit us back together.

Amen. (*Ps 139*)

Jesus said: Love God with all your heart, soul,
and mind. And love your neighbor as yourself.

**But we have sinned in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.**

Have mercy, O God.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us.

Silence for personal reflection.

Jesus said: the realm of God is like a woman baking bread. She adds a pinch of
yeast to flour and the dough rises and grows in ways we never imagined.

(*Lk 12, Mt 13*)

By this ever-expanding grace, God fills us with
new life. We are freed to love our neighbors as
God first loved us.

Alleluia! Amen.

GREETING

*The gathering minister and the assembly signal the gathering of God's people with the ancient
Trinitarian 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.

GATHERING HYMN

“God, We Gather as Your People”

ACS 1038



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -
2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be
3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and
4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.
free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,
shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.
wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we
that they nev - er have a rea - son to
May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your
As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they



trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.
doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.
love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.
join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.



Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



long. May that wel - come be our song.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and merciful God, you built your church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, and you instituted the office of the ministry of word and sacrament so that the apostolic and prophetic work might continue throughout the ages. Grant that Alex, now to be ordained, may carry out this ministry faithfully in the power of your Spirit; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

All of today's Scripture texts were the Lectionary texts on August 25, 2013, when Alex had his "Spiritual Awakening" at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Gaithersburg, MD as then Sr. Seminarian Lauren preached on the Gospel message. The message of freedom from bondage to sin and death has become dear to Alex, and he is eager to share it with you!

FIRST READING – ISAIAH 58:9B-14

God promises those who have returned from exile that where justice and mercy prevail, the ruins will be rebuilt and light will rise in the darkness. It is a day for new beginnings.

^{9b}If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;

and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.

¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

¹³If you refrain from trampling the sabbath,
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;
if you call the sabbath a delight
and the holy day of the LORD honorable;
if you honor it, not going your own ways,
serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs;
¹⁴then you shall take delight in the LORD,
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;
I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 103:1-8

The Psalm is read responsively.

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.
²**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—**
³who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;
⁴**who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**
⁵who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
⁶**O LORD, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**
⁷You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.
⁸**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

SECOND READING – HEBREWS 12:18-29

Using images of Moses, the writer presents a striking vision of the new covenant of God made possible in Christ. There is no longer fear; only awe in the new promise in Christ into which we are invited.

¹⁸You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, ¹⁹and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. ²⁰(For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.” ²¹Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.”) ²²But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

²⁵See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! ²⁶At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.” ²⁷This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; ²⁹for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

ELW 172

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional

GOSPEL – LUKE 13:10-17

Jesus heals a woman on the sabbath, offering her a new beginning for her life. When challenged by a narrow reading of the sabbath command, Jesus responds by expanding “sabbath work” to include setting people free from bondage.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 13th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁰Now Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. ¹¹And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹²When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” ¹³When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. ¹⁴But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on

the sabbath day.” ¹⁵But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? ¹⁶And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?” ¹⁷When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

ELW 172

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional

SERMON

Pr. Lauren Jenkins, Augustana Lutheran Church, Washington, DC.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Here I am, Lord”

ELW 574



1 “I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2 “I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple’s pain.
3 “I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

CREED

Together with the whole church, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles Creed:

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of all, the only begotten one;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, lived and loved among us,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
who descended into hell,
and on the third day rose from the dead;
Jesus, our Savior, ascended into heaven,
sits at the right hand of the loving God,
and will come again 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.

RITE OF ORDINATION TO THE MINISTRY OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

PRESENTATION

The assembly stands. The candidate for ordination stands with the presenters and participating ministers before the assembly.

P: We present for ordination to the ministry of word and sacrament Alexander Paul Stall, Jr., who has been prepared, examined, and approved for this ministry and who has been called by the church to this ministry through Advent Lutheran Church in Arlington, Virginia.

Thanks be to God.

The presenters move aside, and the assembly is seated.

ADDRESS AND QUESTIONS

The bishop addresses the ordinand.

All baptized Christians are called to share in Christ's ministry of love and service in the world, to the glory of God and for the sake of the human family and the whole creation.

Alex, according to apostolic usage you are now to be entrusted with the office of word and sacrament in the one holy catholic church by the laying on of hands and by prayer.

Rev. David Sonnenberg: *A reading from John:* Jesus said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." (*John 20:21-23*)

Rev. Daniel Roschke: *A reading from Matthew:* Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (*Matthew 28:18-20*)

Rev. Bishop Leila Ortiz: *A reading from First Corinthians:* I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (*1 Corinthians 11:23-26*)

The bishop questions the ordinand.

B: Before almighty God, to whom you must give account, and in the presence of this assembly, I ask: Will you assume this office, believing that the church's call is God's call to the ministry of word and sacrament?

O: I will, and I ask God to help me.

B: The church in which you are to be ordained confesses that the holy scriptures are the word of God and are the norm of its faith and life. We accept, teach, and confess the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds. We also acknowledge the Lutheran confessions as true witnesses and faithful expositions of the holy scriptures. Will you therefore preach and teach in accordance with the holy scriptures and these creeds and confessions?

O: I will, and I ask God to help me.

B: Will you be diligent in your study of the holy scriptures and faithful in your use of the means of grace? Will you pray for God's people, nourish them with the word and sacraments, and lead them by your own example in faithful service and holy living?

O: I will, and I ask God to help me.

B: Will you give faithful witness in the world, that God's love may be known in all that you do?

O: I will, and I ask God to help me.

B: Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

The assembly responds: Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The assembly stands for the prayers of intercession.

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. For the holy catholic church, that, filled with your love, it may hunger for truth and thirst after righteousness:

God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

For all members of the church, that they may serve you in true and godly lives:

God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

For Alexander, called to be a pastor in the church, that, sustained by your Holy Spirit, he may carry out this ministry with joy and a spirit of bold trust, serve your people, build up your church, and glorify your name:

God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

For all pastors; for all deaconesses, diaconal ministers, seminarians, and associates in ministry; for Rev. Leila Ortiz, our bishop; that, together with all those responsible for the care and nurture of your people, they may support one another in serving Christ:

God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the peace of the church, that our divisions may be overcome, so that, united in Christ, we may serve the world and bear witness to the good news:

God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the nations of the world and their leaders, that they may work for justice and promote the dignity and freedom of every person:

God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the whole creation, that everything you have made may fulfill your purpose and that we may exercise care for your diverse gifts:

God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, the lonely, the forgotten, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected:

God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

For what else and for whom shall the people of God pray?

<pause>

God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the glorious company of all the saints, those who have died in faith and those who live in certain hope, we praise you. That their witness may give us courage until the day of Jesus Christ:

God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

The bishop concludes the prayers with these or similar words.

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

Amen.

HYMN OF INVOCATION

The ordinand kneels.

“Wade in the Water”

ELW 459

Refrain
All

Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren,

wade in the wa - ter, God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

Leader All

- 1 See that host all dressed in white,
2 See that band all dressed in red, God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the
3 Look o - ver yon - der, what do I see?
4 If you don't be - lieve I've been re - deemed,

Leader

wa - ter. the lead - er looks like the Is - rael - ite.
looks like the band that . . Mo - ses led.
the Ho - ly Ghost a - com - ing on me.
just fol - low me down to . . . Jor - dan's stream.

All *Refrain*

God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

THANKSGIVING

The bishop leads the assembly in giving thanks.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
we bless you for your infinite love in Christ our Lord,
in whom we have redemption and forgiveness of sins
according to the riches of his grace.

We thank you that by his death your Son overcame death,
and that, raised by your mighty power, he gives us new life.

We praise you that, having ascended into heaven,
Christ pours out his gifts abundantly on the church,
making some apostles, some prophets, some pastors and teachers,
to equip your people for their work of ministry for building up the body of
Christ.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

The bishop lays both hands on the head of the ordinand. Other ordained ministers who are participating in the laying on of hands place one hand on the ordinand.

Following a time of silent prayer, the bishop continues, praying for the ordinand.

Eternal God, through your Son, Jesus Christ,
pour out your Holy Spirit upon Alex and fill him with the gifts of grace for the
ministry of word and sacrament. Bless his proclamation of your word and
administration of your sacraments, so that your church may be gathered for
praise and strengthened for service. Make him a faithful pastor, patient teacher,
and wise counselor. Grant that in all things he may serve without reproach, that
your people may be renewed and your name be glorified in the church; through
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

GIVING OF A STOLE

Alex's spouse Shelley, and their children Alex, Eddie, and Laura join the bishop for the giving of the stole.

The ordinand may remain kneeling. A stole is placed over the ordinand's shoulders as the bishop says:

Receive this stole as a sign of your work, and live in obedience to the Lord Jesus, serving his people and remembering his promise: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

(Matthew 11:28-30)

CHARGES

The ordinand stands. The following scripture passages are addressed to the ordinand. Additional appropriate scripture passages may be used.

Rev. David Slagle-Peck: *Hear the words of the apostles:* Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called. *(1 Timothy 6:11-12)*

Rev. Kate Costa: *And again:* Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you guardians, to feed the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son. *(Acts 20:28)*

Rev. Ashlin Marchese: *And again:* Tend the flock of God that is in your charge, not under compulsion but willingly, not for sordid gain but eagerly. Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock. And when the chief shepherd appears, you will win the crown of glory that never fades away. *(1 Peter 5:2-4)*

Rev. Patricia Johnson: *And again:* Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. *(1 Corinthians 4:1-2)*

The bishop continues.

Alex, care for God's people, bear their burdens, and do not betray their confidence. So discipline yourself in life and teaching that you preserve the truth, giving no occasion for false security or illusory hope. Witness faithfully in word and deed to all people. Give and receive comfort as you serve within the church. And be of good courage, for God has called you, and your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

BLESSING

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working in you that which is pleasing in God's sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

Amen.

The assembly stands.

ACCLAMATION BY THE ASSEMBLY

The ministers and the ordinand face the assembly. The bishop addresses the assembly.

Will you, assembled as the people of God and speaking for the whole church, receive Alexander Stall as *a messenger* of Jesus Christ, sent by God to serve all people with the gospel of hope and salvation? Will you regard him as *a servant* of Christ?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Will you pray for him, help and honor him for his work's sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

The bishop presents the newly ordained to the assembly.

Let it be acclaimed that Alexander Paul Stall, Jr. is a called and ordained minister in the church of Christ. He has Christ's authority to preach the word of God and administer the sacraments, serving God's people as together we bear God's creative and redeeming love to all the world.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

The assembly may offer acclamation with applause.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Peace be with you.

Offering the peace of Christ is far more than a quick hello and "How ya doin'?". It is a reflection of the power of God at work in the world – the embodiment of conflicts forgiven, wars ended, even death destroyed. Jesus' resurrection offers true peace.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God,
we joyfully release what you have entrusted to us – our selves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Offering is one of the “consequences of God's grace.” All are invited to respond to God with joyful hearts by giving today. This offering is gathered for the mission of the church and will be shared between Bethlehem and The Lamb Center of Fairfax, Virginia. The Lamb Center is a daytime drop-in shelter for individuals in the community experiencing homelessness. They provide a variety of services without cost, including breakfast, lunch, showers, laundry service, a mailing address, Bible studies, case management, AA meetings, a nurse practitioner clinic, a dental clinic, and much more.

OFFERING MUSIC

Pam Barbour

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING THE GIFTS

“As the Grains of Wheat”

ELW 465

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

The congregation stands and joins as the minister prays.

Let us pray. Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

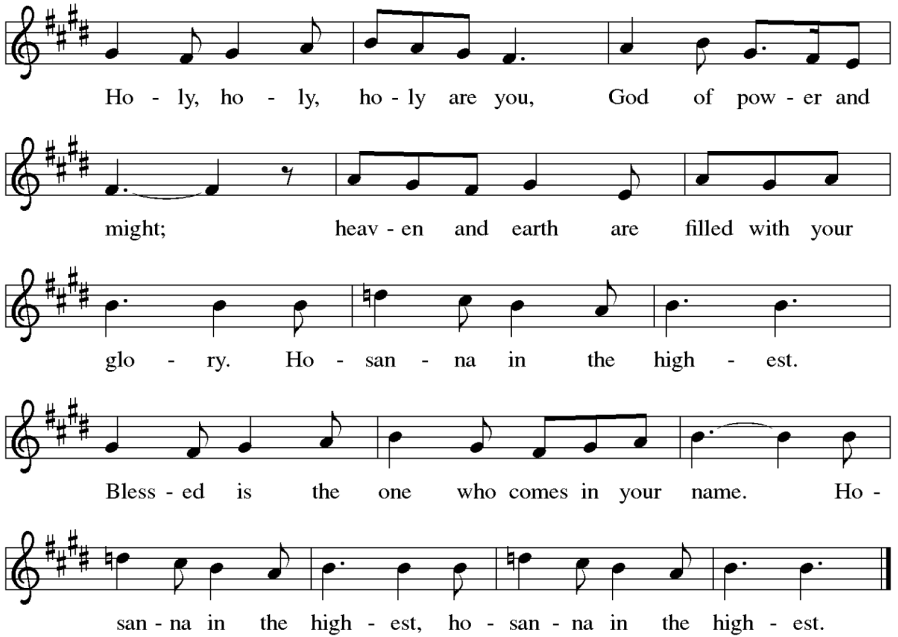
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases in bold. The lyrics are: "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."

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

○ God most mighty, ○ God most merciful, ○ God our rock and our salvation,
hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child; When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom. Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath, and the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he granted the people your 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.

Remembering Jesus's death, we cry out Amen. **Amen.**

Celebrating Jesus's resurrection, we shout Amen. **Amen.**

Trusting Jesus's presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. **Amen.**

○ God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.

○ God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.

○ God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.

○ God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

○ God most majestic, ○ God most motherly, ○ God our strength and our song, you show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations.

Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son, the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior, life in you, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your love, and teach us to pray.

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 THE LORD'S SUPPER

All are welcome to commune at Bethlehem, which means "house of bread." Those who would like may instead simply receive a blessing by crossing their arms over their heart.

The risen Christ dwells with us here. All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come to the table!

Please be seated.

As you approach the communion rail, take a small empty cup from the tray at the end of the aisle with you. The minister will give you a piece of bread, and the assisting minister will fill your cup with your choice of wine (the grey vessel) or grape juice (from the reddish vessel) – simply indicate which you prefer to receive. If you need help, just ask! Empty cups are placed in the baskets on the sides of the church as you return to your seat.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion minister says:

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond, **Amen.**

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

(John 1:29)

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.



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
 2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
 3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
 4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
 where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
 Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
 Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
 For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
 When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
 So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
 Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
 Christ tears down our fenc - es; all are wel - come here.
 None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The presiding minister offers the after-meal blessing.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in God's grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, almighty and gracious God, that you have fed us with heavenly food, the body and blood of your Son, uniting us through him in the communion of the Holy Spirit. As you have again raised up among us a faithful servant for the ministry of word and sacrament, grant that we, with Alex, may joyfully serve you all our days and finally rejoice in your glory; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Go out among the rich, the poor, the powerful, and the outcast and speak the word of life and hope.

Do not fear, but trust in God's word.

Watch for the Lord in eager expectation and be generous with all God has given you.

And may God respond to your every cry with mercy;

May Christ Jesus take you by the hand and lift you to life;

And may the Holy Spirit build you up in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in passion, and in love.

May the living God bless you, ✚ Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"We Are Marching in the Light of God"

ELW 866



Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
 We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the



nyen' kwen - khos'. *Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',*
 light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo
 We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo
 We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib.:

We are dancing ...

We are praying ...

We are singing ...

DISMISSAL

The assembly is sent into mission.

Fed and forgiven, our feet now follow our prayers.

This service is ended. Let our service begin.

Go in peace, share the Good News everywhere!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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A WORD OF THANKS FROM ALEX

Rev. Alexander P. Stall, Jr.

I am grateful for those of you who are present – physically or virtually. I love you for sharing the journey and the day with me.

There are so many to thank – I will miss some, and I am sorry. To my late stepmother, Judith Detts Stall, I owe so much – your insistence that we Stall kids needed to go to church when you came into the family began my lifelong engagement with faith (good and bad), that ultimately could only lead to this. I only wish you could be physically present to share this moment. To my father, Alex, Sr. – you gave me a crazy idea that I should stick to my dreams – once I paid the bills, anyway. I especially thank my children – Alex J., Eddie, and Laura. You all put up with all-consuming work and study, yet you stood by me and believed. Finally, to my partner and best friend Shelley – I could not have done this without your unwavering support and belief that I should become a pastor; or at least once you got over the shock of “Honey, I think I might be called.”

I stand on the shoulders of some giants in faith. First up is the late Msgr. John J. Daum who asked me at age 13 if I’d ever thought of being a priest – some ideas *don’t* die! Others include Pr. Dave Sonnenberg, pastor at my home congregation Good Shepherd Lutheran in Gaithersburg, MD, who listened and supported my journey; Bishop Leila Ortiz, who as “Pastor Leila” kindled a fire in my heart that blazed until I had to say, “Okay, God! Here I am!”; Pr. Kate Costa, who has shown such love and support to my whole family; Pr. Julie Bringman, who patiently and wisely guided me on my first “ministerial steps;” Pr. Dan Roschke – the best internship supervisor I could have had and a good friend; Rev. Patricia Johnson – you recognized the call long before I did. Finally, my late mother-in-law, Rev. Carol Steinhart – you exemplified a passionate, caring heart.

I am forever grateful to the faculty, staff, alumni, students, and dear friends from United Lutheran Seminary. My first day of class was marked by a total solar eclipse, and I had no idea if I even belonged in seminary. You were supportive, patient, and most importantly, honest throughout my time as a student. And now, here I am!

To the people of Good Shepherd Lutheran in Gaithersburg, Hope Lutheran Church and Student Center in College Park, Bethlehem Lutheran in Fairfax, and now Advent Lutheran in Arlington, I say **thank you** for a love that shapes my faith and my ministry – and for seeing that I was worth your time!

In 1987, I had a dream where a New York taxi cab driver turned to me as I sat in his cab, and said, “Hey! You can’t fight God,” and never said another word. I tried for years to fight God. The funny thing is that God lets you fight – but God *never* turns away. God bless you all!

Thanks to all who have supported me on this journey!

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since December 3, 2017