

Prelude
Announcements
Opening Hymn



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry, thou rul - est in light,



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
we blos - som and flour - ish, like leaves on the tree,
all laud we would ren - der: O help us to see



al - might - y, vic - tor - ious, thy great Name we praise,
thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
then with - er and per - ish; but nought chan - geth thee.
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

Words: Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908), alt.
Music: St. David, Welsh hymn, from *Caniadaw y Cystwrte* 1839; adapt. John Roberts (1822-1877); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906, alt.

Celebrant: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People: Glory to God for ever and ever.

Celebrant: 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.

Trisagion (sung by a cantor)

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One
Have Mercy on Us.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One
Have Mercy on Us.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One
Have Mercy on Us.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

People: Amen.

The First Lesson

Lector: A Reading from Genesis

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 139: 1-11, 22-23 *Domine, probasti*

- 1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me; *
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- 4 You press upon me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- 6 Where can I go then from your Spirit? *
where can I flee from your presence?
- 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- 8 If I take the wings of the morning *
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 9 Even there your hand will lead me *
and your right hand hold me fast.
- 10 If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, *
and the light around me turn to night,"
- 11 Darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day; *
darkness and light to you are both alike.
- 22 Search me out, O God, and know my heart; *
try me and know my restless thoughts.
- 23 Look well whether there be any wickedness in me *
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

The Second Lesson

Lector: A Reading from Romans

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very

Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn



1 As Ja - cob with tra - vel was wea - ry one day,
2 The lad - der is long, it is strong and well - made,
3 Come, let us a - scend! All may climb it who will,
4 And when we ar - rive at the ha - ven of rest,



at night on a stone for a pil - low he lay;
has stood hun - dreds of years and is not yet de - cayed;
for the an - gels of Ja - cob are guard - ing it still;
we shall hear the glad words, "Come to me all the blest,



that its foot was on earth and its top in the sky:
man - y mil - lions by faith now are climb - ing it still:
man - y pro - phets and mar - tyrs have trod it be - fore:
Who would not want to climb such a lad - der as this:



he saw in a vi - sion a lad - der so high,
man - y mil - lions have climbed it and reached Zi - on's hill,
and re - mem - ber, each step that by faith we pass o'er,
here are re - gions of light, here are man - sions of bliss."

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia to Je - sus, who died on the tree
 and has raised up a lad - der of mer - cy for me.
 and has raised up a lad - der of mer - cy for me.

Words: English carol, ca. 18th cent. Music: *Jacob's Ladder*, English folk melody; harm. Jack Noble White (b. 1938)
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The Gospel

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of Our Savior Jesus Christ According To Matthew

People: Glory to You, O Christ.

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

Deacon: The Gospel of Our Savior.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

The Homily

The Apostles' Creed

We give our hearts to you, God Beyond Us, creator of heaven and earth.

We give our hearts to you, Jesus Christ, God Among Us, our model and savior. You were conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, were crucified, died, and were buried; you descended to the dead. On the third day you rose again; you ascended into heaven, you are seated at the right hand of God Beyond Us, and you will come again to judge the living and the dead.

We give our hearts to you, Holy Spirit, God Within Us. We give our hearts to the community of the church, to the communion of saints, to the practice of forgiveness, to the hope of the resurrection, and to the promise of life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn



1 Come with us, O bless - ed Je - sus, with us ev - er -
*2 Come with us, O might - y Sa - vior, God from God, and
*3 Come with us, O King of glo - ry, by an - gel - ic



more to be; and though leav - ing now thine
Light from Light; thou art God, thy glo - ry
voic - es praised; in our hearts as in thy



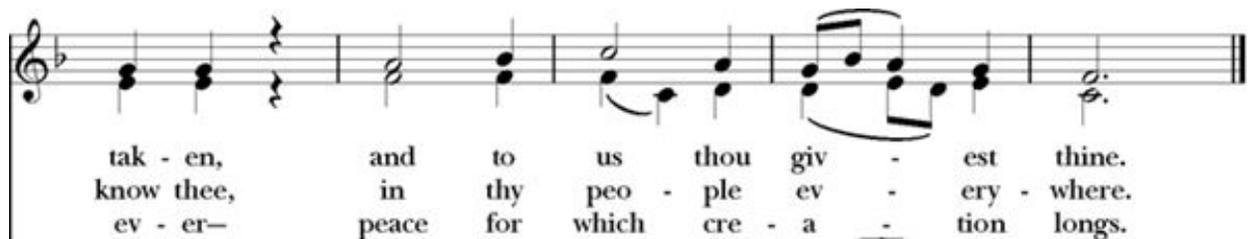
al - tar, let us nev - er - more leave thee.
veil - ing, so that we may bear the sight.
hea - ven, be en - rap - tured an - them raised.



Be thou one with us for ev - er, in our life thy
Now we go to seek and serve thee, through our work as
Let the might - y cho - rus ev - er sing its glad ex -



love di - vine our own flesh and blood has
through our prayer; grant us light to see and
ul - tant songs; let its hymn be heard for



Words: John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891); sts. 2-3, Charles P. Price (b. 1920) Copyright ©1982, Charles P. Price. All rights reserved. Used with permission.
 Music: *Werde munter*, Johann Schop (d. 1665?); arr. and harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

The Prayers of the People

Intercessor: God, in whose image the whole human family was created, we pray for all whose lives have been forever altered by racial violence. In particular, today we remember George Floyd, beloved child of God. Let us pray.

People: Christ have mercy.

Intercessor: We remember George Floyd's family and friends, beloved children of God each one. Let us pray.

People: Christ have mercy.

Intercessor: We remember the protestors, beloved children of God, still gathering across the city, the state, and the country to demand justice and change. Let us pray.

People: Christ have mercy.

Intercessor: We remember our public officials, beloved children of God, managing a global pandemic and a nationwide cri de coeur at once. Let us pray.

People: Christ have mercy.

Intercessor: We remember our police officers, beloved children of God, whom we ask, often without appropriate training, to respond to human beings in their worst and most vulnerable moments. We remember the police officers who feel their loyalties divided or their cause unclear, who feel afraid for themselves, their brethren, their families, and their fellow citizens. Let us pray.

People: Christ have mercy.

Intercessor: We remember every person in Columbus, and in the nation, beloved children of God. We have been traumatized, grief-stricken, enraged, and heart-sickened by the video of one neighbor slowly snuffing the life out of another, by riots and looting, by the sounds of flash-bang grenades, the sting of tear gas, the scent of smoke, and by our own helplessness. Let us pray.

People: Christ have mercy.

Intercessor: We remember those who have pledged their lives to racist ideologies, beloved children of God. We acknowledge the pain they have caused to victims of violence, to their communities, to their families, and to their own souls. We acknowledge that each of us carries racist ideology within us, and we beg your mercy to free all your people from it. Let us pray.

People: Christ have mercy.

Intercessor: We know that the sickness of racism is in this nation's very bedrock. Today we acknowledge and repent of the twin original sins of this nation: the genocide of the indigenous people of this land and the institution of chattel slavery. We know that the shockwaves from these sins still reverberate today, that the trauma from these sins live in our bodies, and that the pain we suffer now has its origin in those first treacheries. Let us pray

People: Christ have mercy.

Intercessor: We repent of laws that codify or allow unequal treatment based on race, ethnicity, religion, or skin tone. We repent of promises broken again and again. We repent of foreign policy that sees more value in some human lives than in others. Let us pray.

People: Christ have mercy.

Intercessor: We repent of the role of the church, historically and presently, in supporting and emboldening these policies. We repent of the ways that we have made your church a home to oppression, exclusion, or indignity for any child of God. Let us pray.

People: Christ have mercy.

Intercessor: We repent of the ill-use of your bounty: we hoard land and wealth, manipulate plants and animals, abuse your creation, and your most vulnerable people suffer the consequences.

People: Christ have mercy.

Intercessor: We pray for the people on our prayer list, especially....let us pray.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Intercessor: Oh God of infinite affection, you looked at all that you had made and called it good. By your grace, help us to look upon your creation and to see, with your mothering eyes of love, how good, how good, how good it is. Holy God, Holy and Might, Holy Immortal One

People: Have mercy on us.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of God be with you.

People: And also with you.

After the service, please join us for Coffee Hour Questions: Growing as Disciples from Our Homes. Go to www.ststephens-columbus.org to get the link.