



St. Luke's Episcopal Church – Stephenville, TX
Visitation of The Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle
The Ninth Bishop of Texas, for the Sixth Sunday of Easter
Holy Eucharist with Confirmation and Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows
May 10, 2026
10:00 am

To All Who Are Joyful And Thankful, To All Who Mourn And Need Comfort
To All Who Are Weary And Need Rest, To All Who Are Friendless And Wish Friendship
To All Who Pray And Who Do Not But Ought, To All Who Sin And Need A Savior.
And To Whoever Will, The Church Opens Wide The Door
And In The Name Of Christ, The Lord Says Welcome.

The Processional Hymn

Wonder, Love, and Praise #780 Lord, you give the great commission

1. Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the
 2. Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my
 3. Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my
 4. Lord, you show us love's true mea - sure: "Fa - ther,
 5. Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing; "I am

sick and preach the word." Lest the church ne -
 name bap - tize and teach." That the world may
 bod - y, this my blood." Let us all, for
 what they do, for - give." Yet we hoard as
 with you to the end." Faith and hope and

glect its mis - sion, and the gos - pel go un -
 trust your prom - ise, life a - bun - dant meant for
 earth's true glo - ry, dai - ly lift life heav - en -
 pri - vate trea - sure, all that you so free - ly in -
 love re - stor - ing, may we serve as you in -

heard, help us wit - ness to your pur - pose
 each, give us all new fer - vor, draw us
 ward, ask - ing that the world a - round us
 give. May your care and mer - cy lead us
 tend and, a - mid the cares that claim us,

Refrain

with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty.
 clos - er in com - mun - i - ty.
 share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty.
 to a just so - ci - e - ty.
 hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty. } With the Spir - it's

gifts em - power us for the work of min - is - try.

Words: Jeffrey Rowthorn (b. 1934). Music: *Abbot's Leigh*, Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907-1991).

The people standing, the Bishop says

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Bishop

There is one Body and one Spirit;

People

There is one hope in God's call to us;

Bishop

One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

People

One God and Father of all.

The Gloria

The Hymnal 1982, Service Music - #280 Canticle 20, Glory to God: Gloria in excelsis

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -

ceive our prayer. 6. For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One,
 you a-lone are the Lord, 7. you a-lone are the Most
 High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the
 glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Readings

All are seated.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 17:22-31)

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find

him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 66:7-18 *Jubilate Deo (Read responsively by half verse)*

7 Bless our God, you peoples;

make the voice of his praise to be heard;

8 Who holds our souls in life,

and will not allow our feet to slip.

9 For you, O God, have proved us;

you have tried us just as silver is tried.

10 You brought us into the snare;

you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

11 You let enemies ride over our heads;

we went through fire and water;

but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

12 I will enter your house with burnt-offerings

and will pay you my vows,

which I promised with my lips

and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

13 I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts

with the smoke of rams;

I will give you oxen and goats.

14 Come and listen, all you who fear God,

and I will tell you what he has done for me.

15 I called out to him with my mouth,
and his praise was on my tongue.

16 If I had found evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me;

17 But in truth God has heard me;
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld his love from me.

A reading from the first letter of Peter (1 Peter 3:13-22)

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

People The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

Lift Every Voice and Sing II #12 We're Marching to Zion



1. Come, we that love__ the Lord, And let our joys__ be known;__ Join
2. Let those re - fuse__ to sing Who nev - er knew__ our God;__ But
3. The hill of Zi - on yields A thou-sand sa - cred sweets__ Be -
4. Then let our songs__ a-bound, And ev - 'ry tear__ be dry;__ We're



1. in a song with sweet ac - cord, Join in a song with sweet ac -
2. chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King, But chil - dren of the heav'n - ly
3. fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields, Be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly
4. march - ing through Im - man - uel's ground, We're march - ing thro' Im - man - uel's



1. cord, And thus sur - round the throne, And thus sur - round the throne.__
2. King, May speak their joys a - broad, May speak their joys a - broad.__
3. fields, Or walk the gold - en streets, Or walk the gold - en streets.__
4. ground, To fair - er worlds on high, To fair - er worlds on high.__



We're march - ing to Zi - on, Beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful



Zi - on; We're march - ing up - ward to Zi - on,



The beau - ti - ful cit - y__ of God.____

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748). Music: Robert S. Lowry (1826-1899).

Then, all standing, as are able, the Celebrant reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

John 14:15-21

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle

A brief time of reflection follows the sermon

Presentation of Candidates being Confirmed and Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

The congregation remains seated as the following candidates are presented for Confirmation or Reaffirmation
Katie Smith, Sheridan Barry, Rita Cook, Gerald Cook, Les Miller

Bishop The Candidates will now be presented.

Presenter I present these persons for Confirmation and this person who desires to reaffirm their baptismal vows.

Bishop Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

Candidates I do.

Bishop Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Candidates I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

After all have been presented, the congregation stands, as are able, and the Bishop addresses the congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

People **We will.**

The Bishop then says these or similar words

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

Bishop Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Bishop Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Bishop Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **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.**

Bishop Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Prayers for the Candidates

The Bishop then says to the congregation

Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

A Person appointed leads the following petitions

Leader Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Open their hearts to your grace and truth.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Send them into the world in witness to your love.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Then the Bishop says

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Bishop lays hands upon each one of the candidates and says

Defend, O Lord, your servant **Katie** with your heavenly grace, that she may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until she comes to your everlasting kingdom. **Amen.**

Defend, O Lord, your servant **Sheridan** with your heavenly grace, that she may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until she comes to your everlasting kingdom. **Amen.**

Defend, O Lord, your servant **Rita** with your heavenly grace, that she may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until she comes to your everlasting kingdom. **Amen.**

Defend, O Lord, your servant **Gerald** with your heavenly grace, that he may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until he comes to your everlasting kingdom. **Amen.**

Les, may the Holy Spirit, who has begun a good work in you, direct and uphold you in the service of Christ and his kingdom. **Amen.**

The Bishop concludes with this prayer

Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

All stand, as are able. The Celebrant says to the people

People The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Announcements

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Mark & Julie Blackburn 11th, Courtney Thom 15th, John Collier 15th, Duncan McMahan 17th, Billy Williams 17th, Taber & Suzanne Meyers 18th

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may the peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Gifts may be placed in the offering plate, given by text by sending an amount to (254) 282-0706, or given online. Mailed checks may be sent to the address printed at the end of the bulletin.

The Offertory Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #488 Be thou my vision

The Doxology

(sung to The Hymnal 618)

***Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye Heavenly Host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen. Alleluia (5x)***

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

The people remain standing, as are able. The Celebrant says

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 the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

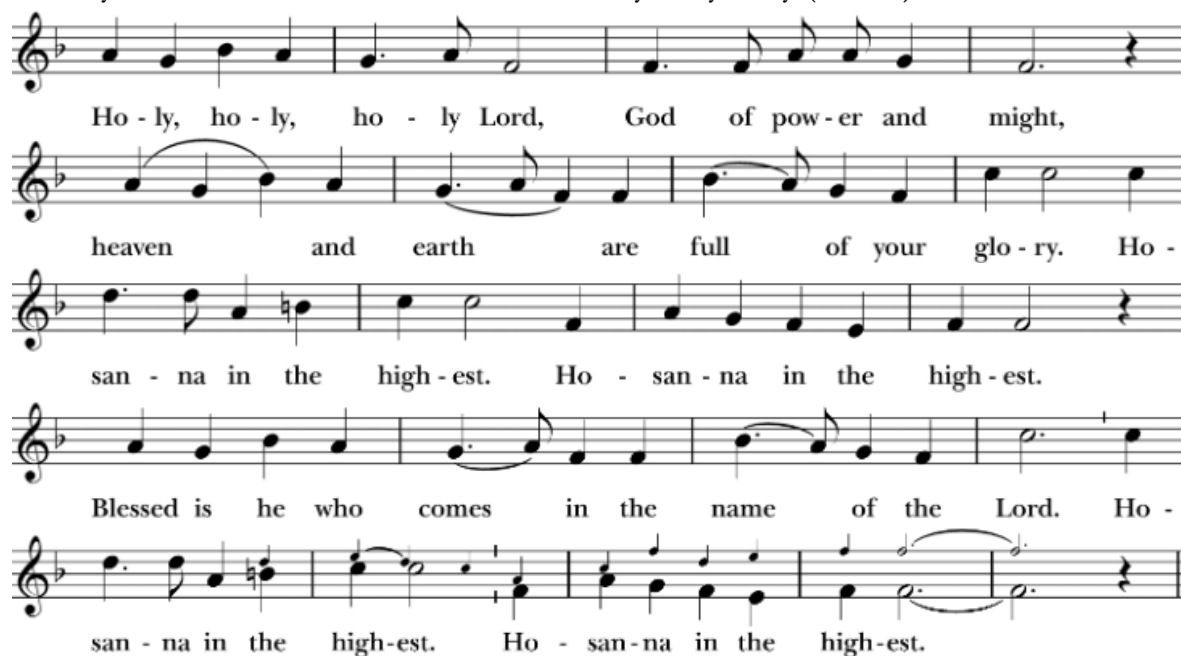
Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Hymnal 1982, Service Music - #S125 Holy, holy, holy (Proulx)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc.

The people kneel, as are able.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

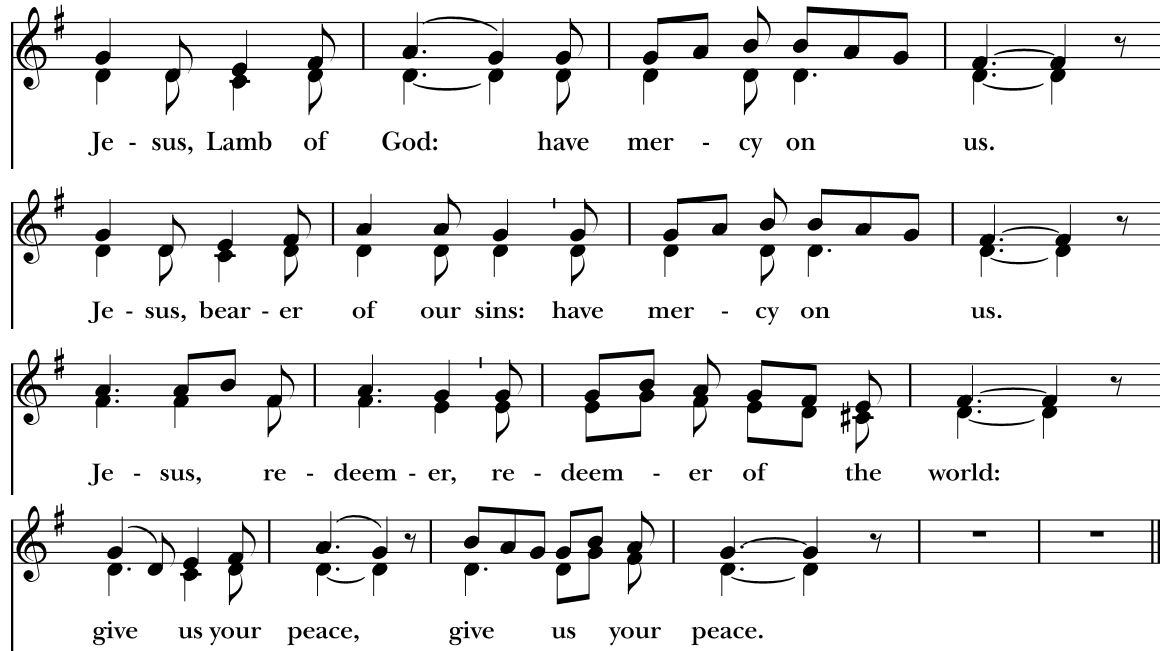
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Hymnal 1982 #S164 Jesus, Lamb of God: Agnus Dei



Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

Music: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Adaptation: Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Distribution of Holy Communion

Concerning Holy Communion

“This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord.

It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more.

*So come, you who have much faith, and you who have little,
you who have been here often and you who have not been here long,
you who have tried to follow and you who have failed.*

Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.

It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.”



If you do not wish to receive the sacrament, we invite you to come forward for a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest and the priest will bless you.



Gluten free wafers are available upon request.



If after receiving Communion or a blessing you would like special prayers for healing, you are invited to go to the votive stand at the rear of the church where someone will pray with you.

Communion Hymn
Lift Every Voice and Sing II #191



1. Why should I feel dis - cour - aged, — Why should the shad - ows come, —
2. "Let not your heart be trou - bled," — His ten - der word I hear, —
3. When ev - er I am tempt - ed, — When ev - er clouds a - rise, —



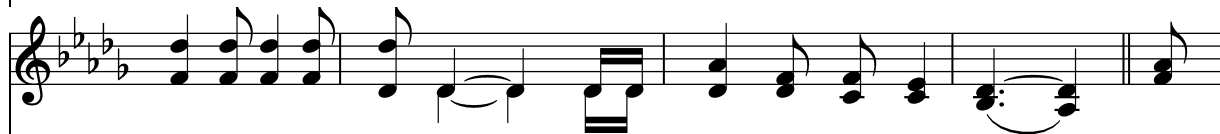
1. Why should my heart be lone - ly, — And long for heav' n and home; — When
2. And rest - ing on His good - ness, — I lose my doubts and fears; — Though
3. When songs give place to sigh - ing, — When hope with - in me dies, — I



1. Je - sus is — my por - tion? — My con - stant friend — is He: — His
2. by the path — He lead - eth, — But one step I — may see; — His
3. draw the clos - er to Him, — From care He sets — me free; — His



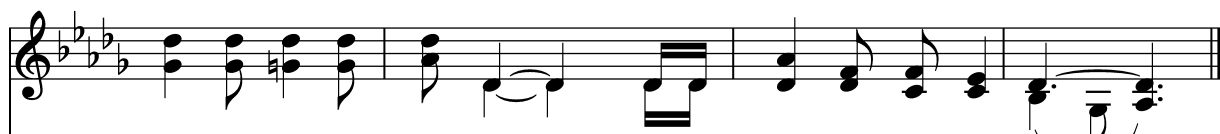
eye is on — the spar - row, — And I know He watch - es me; — His



eye is on the spar - row, — and I know He watch - es me. — I



sing be - cause I'm hap - py, — I sing be - cause I'm free; — For His



eye is on the spar - row, — And I know He watch - es me. —

After Communion, the Celebrant says
Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Bishop gives the blessing

Blessing

Processional Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #376 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

The Celebrant, dismisses them with these words

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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Clergy

The Rev. Bradley C. Dyche – Rector
The Rev. Mark Witte – Curate
The Rev. Leslie Guinn - Assisting

Staff

Lexi McLemore – Parish Administrator
Duncan McMahan – Organist
Gail Johnson & Kelly Barbee – Altar Guild Directresses
The Rev. Mark Witte – ECM Missioner
Neely Carter – Vestry Secretary
Emma Gomez – Technology Minister

Vestry

Term Ending 2026 – Kelly Barbee, Malcolm Cross, & Ian Wilson
Term Ending 2027 – Doug McLemore & Allison Haynes
Term Ending 2028 – Gail Johnson & Dylan Dowell

