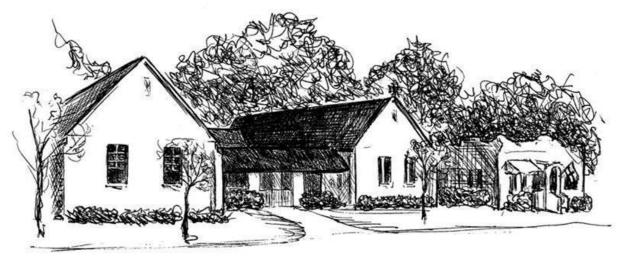
# St. Matthias Episcopal Church

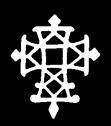


St. Matthias Church strives to love God with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength; and strives to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. (Mark 12:29-30)

# Sunday December 15, 2024

The Third Sunday of Advent & Holy Baptism

Holy Eucharist Rite II 9:30 AM



The Rt. Rev. Dr. Justin S. Holcomb, Bishop

The Rev. James M. Dorn III, Rector 352.460.9580 · jmdorn3@gmail.com

Mr. Hugh D. Dial Jr., M.M., Organist & Choir Master

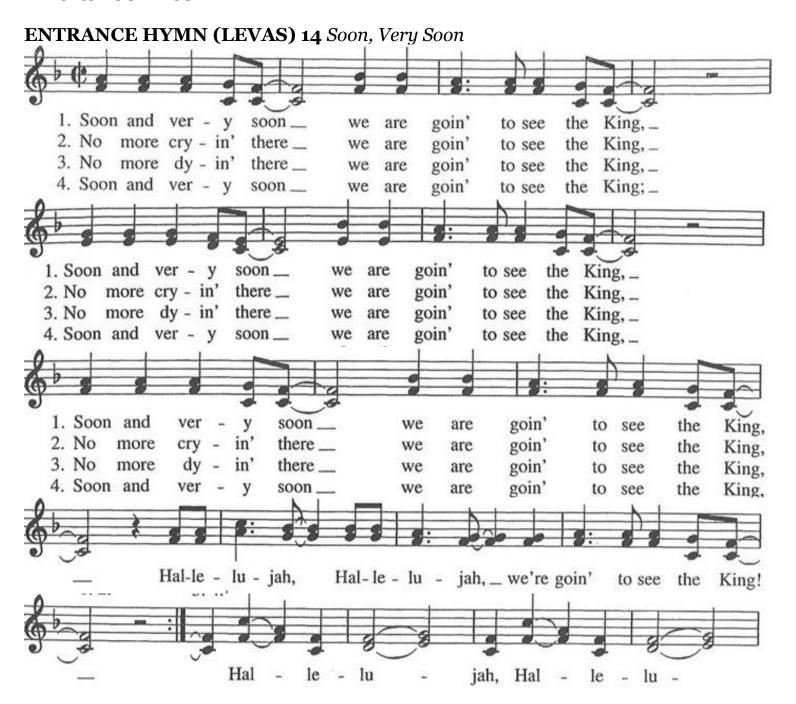
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# The Word of God

# **Entrance Rite**



#### ADVENT PRAYER

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

#### **OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 355)**

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

# **COLLECT FOR PURITY** (BCP p. 355)

#### The Celebrant may say

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.* 

# HYMN OF PRAISE 56 O come, O come, Emmanuel (Veni, veni, Emmanuel) (Verse 3)

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times didst give the law, in cloud, and majesty, and awe.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

# THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 357)

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

Celebrant Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen*.

# The Lessons

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

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

PSALM (SAID IN UNISON): Canticle 9: The First Song of Isaiah

Remain seated.

Surely, it is God who saves me;

I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say,

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples;

see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things,

and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy,

for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

# **SECOND READING:** Philippians 4:4-7

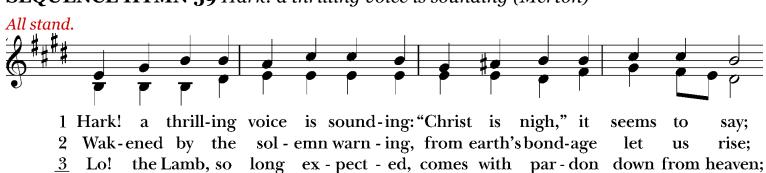
#### The people sit.

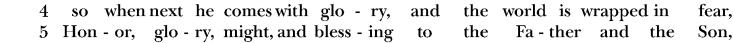
A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Philippi.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

**SEQUENCE HYMN 59** *Hark!* a thrilling voice is sounding (Merton)







- 1 "Cast a way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day."
- 2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis pel ling, shines up on the morn-ing skies.
- <u>3</u> let us haste, with tears of sor row, one and all to be for given;
- 4 may he with his mer-cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
- 5 with the ev er last-ing Spi rit while un end-ing a ges run.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18

Remain standing.

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

#### THE SERMON

**FATHER JIM DORN** 

To request a copy of the Sermon, please contact Fr. Jim at jmdorn3@gmail.com.

#### A MOMENT OF SILENCE

# **Holy Baptism**

#### PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATES

All Stand. The Celebrant says

The Candidate(s) for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

The Candidates, with their Parents and Godparents, come to the place of the baptisms.

Then the candidates unable to answer for themselves are presented individually by their Parents and Godparents, as follows

#### Parents and Godparents

# I present Elizabeth Callamaye Giddens to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

# When all have been presented the Celebrant asks the parents and godparents

Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

#### Parents and Godparents

# I will, with God's help.

#### Celebrant

Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

#### Parents and Godparents

# I will, with God's help.

Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the candidates who can speak for themselves, and of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children.

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against

God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the

creatures of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer I do.

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer I do

Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer I do.

# After all have been presented, the Celebrant addresses the congregation, saying

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

People We will.

# The Celebrant 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

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Celebrant 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.

Celebrant 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.

Celebrant 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.

Celebrant 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.

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

People I will, with God's help.

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

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant 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 Celebrant then says to the congregation

Let us now pray for *this person* who *is* to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

#### A Person appointed leads the following petitions

Leader Deliver *her*, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Open *her* heart to your grace and truth.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Fill *her* with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Keep *her* in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Teach *her* to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Send *her* into the world in witness to your love.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Bring *her* to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

#### The Celebrant says

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.** 

#### THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

#### The Celebrant blesses the water, first saying

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

#### Celebrant

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life. We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection.

Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.* 

#### THE BAPTISM

Each candidate is presented by name to the Celebrant, or to an assisting priest or deacon, who then immerses, or pours water upon, the candidate, saying

Elizabeth, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

Then the Priest places a hand on the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross , using Chrism and saying to each one

Elizabeth, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.** 

When this action has been completed for all candidates, the Bishop or Priest, at a place in full sight of the congregation, prays over them, saying

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon *this* your *servant* the forgiveness of sin, and have raised *her* to the new life of grace. Sustain *her*, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give *her* an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. *Amen*.

When all have been baptized, the Celebrant says

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

#### Celebrant and People

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

#### **THE PEACE** (BCP p. 360)

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

# The Holy Communion

#### **OFFERTORY SENTENCE** (BCP p. 376)

The Celebrant says

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Options for Giving:

- 1. Checks can be made payable to St. Matthias Church. All offerings can be placed in the offertory plate or wooden boxes at the back of the Church and the East Door.
- 2. Credit or Debit Card via the giving tab on our website stmatthiasfl.com/online-giving/.
- 3. Text-to-Give via your smart phone to 73256 with matthias & amount in body of text. Example: matthias \$25

#### **OFFERTORY HYMN** Down by the riverside

Arr. Moses Hogan | The Singing Saints

#### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Celebrant and People

Heavenly Father, thank you for all the good things you continue to provide for us. Don't let us take your gifts for granted or abuse them. Instead, help us always to rely on you in faith. Use us and what you have given us for your good purposes. *Amen*.

# The Great Thanksgiving

# SURSUM CORDA (BCP p. 367)

The People remain standing.

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

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

#### PROPER PREFACE (BCP p. 367)

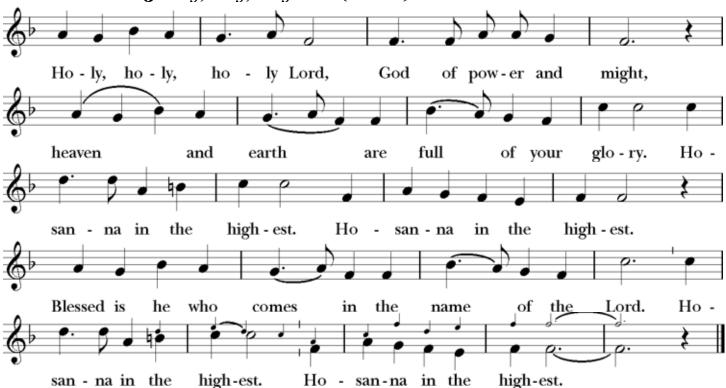
#### Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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

For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

## **SANCTUS S-125** *Holy, holy, holy Lord (Proulx)*



# WORDS OF INSTITUTION (BCP p. 368)

#### The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

#### Celebrant and People

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

# EPICLESIS (BCP p. 369)

#### The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [\_\_\_\_\_\_ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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*.

# THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 363)

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

#### People and Celebrant

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,
forever and ever. Amen.

# The Breaking of the Bread

#### FRACTION ANTHEM (BCP p. 364)

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

# Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

# **INVITATION** (BCP p. 364)

#### The Celebrant says

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.

# **DISTRIBUTION** (BCP p. 365)

In the Episcopal Church, all baptized Christians, regardless of denomination or age, are welcome to receive the real and living presence of Christ in this Holy Communion. When it is your turn, please extend your hands upward, palms crossed to receive the bread (also called a wafer or host). When the cup of wine comes to you, either dip (also called intinction) the bread into the cup of wine and consume the bread or leave the bread in the palm of your hands, and the Eucharistic Minister will dip the bread into the cup of wine for you and place on your tongue. You may also choose to consume the bread without dipping it into the cup of wine.

Anyone may come forward for a prayer for God's blessings in lieu of receiving Communion. Please indicate your desire for a blessing by crossing your arms across your chest.

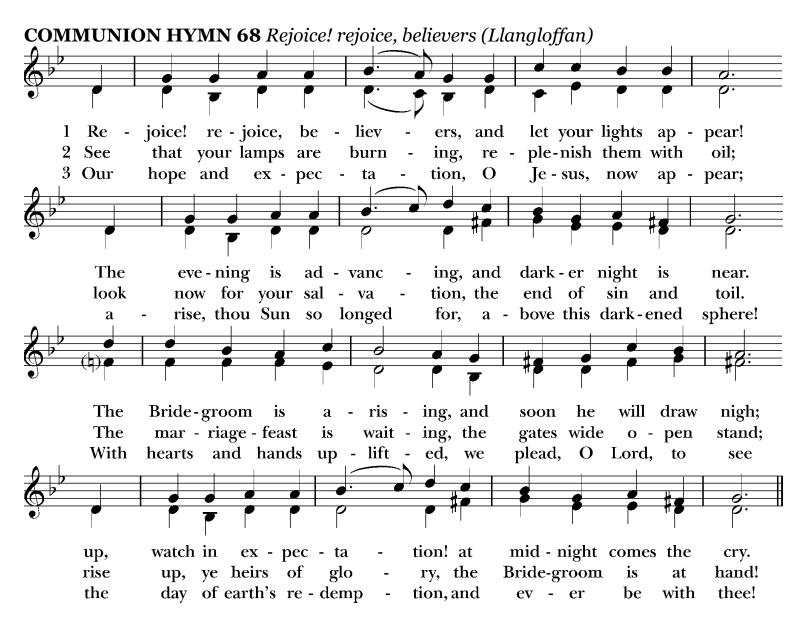
The Priest will gladly bring communion or provide a blessing to anyone unable to come forward for Communion, please, let one of the Ushers know if this is desired.

### Ushers will direct the congregation to receive Communion.

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. Amen.



# **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER** (BCP p. 365)

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*.

#### PRAYER FOR EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

We send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood. We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup. *Amen.* 

#### BIRTHDAY BLESSING (BCP p. 830)

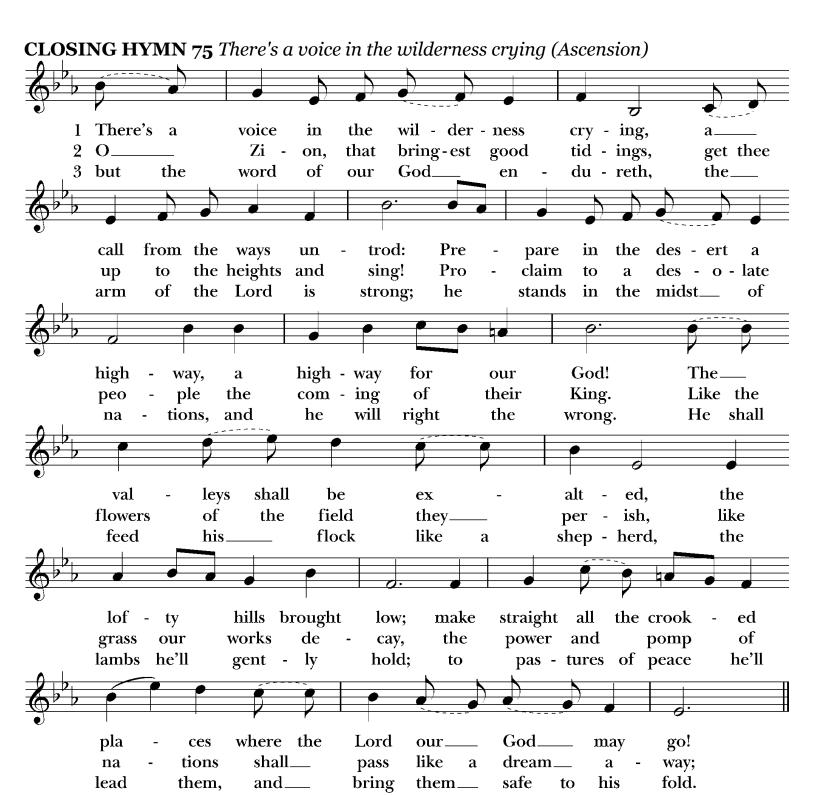
Watch over thy child, O Lord, as *his* days increase; bless and guide *him* wherever *he* may be. Strengthen *him* when *he* stands; comfort *him* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *him* up if *he* fall; and in *his* heart may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

#### ANNIVERSARY BLESSING (BCP p. 431)

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.* 

#### **BLESSING OF THE PEOPLE**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Pray for improvement. Mend your ways. Agree with one another. Live in peace. Greet one another in Holy Ways. And may the blessings, grace, and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all today and forever. *Amen*.



# **DISMISSAL** (BCP p. 366)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

At the end of the service, all are welcome to join us for Coffee & Fellowship in the Parish Hall.