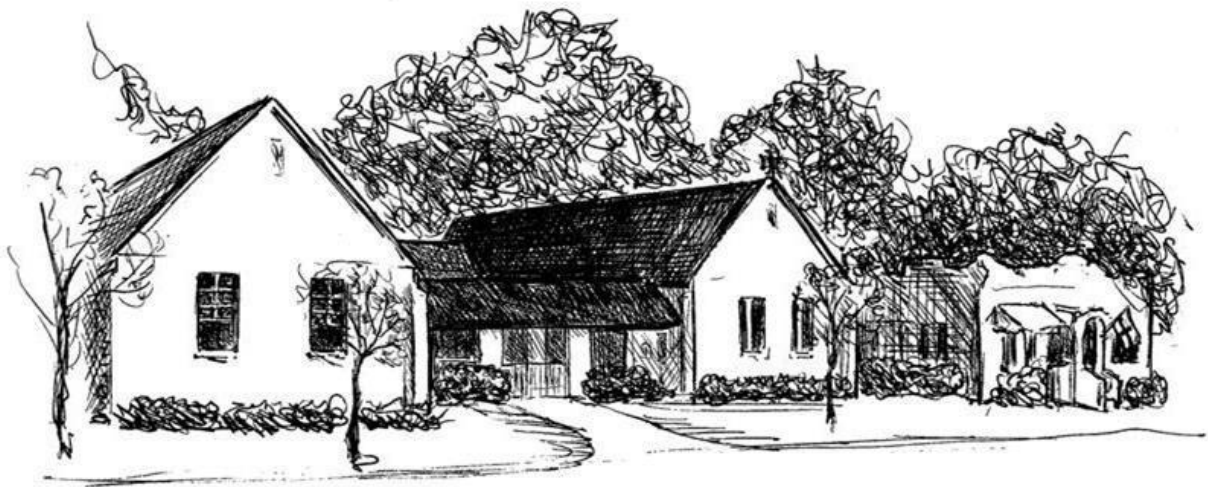


# St. Matthias

## Episcopal Church



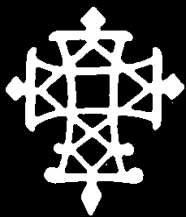
*St. Matthias Church strives to love God with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength; and strives to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. (Mark 12:29-30)*

**Sunday**  
**December 15, 2024**

The Third Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist Rite II

11:15 AM



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

**The Rev. James M. Dorn III, Rector**

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

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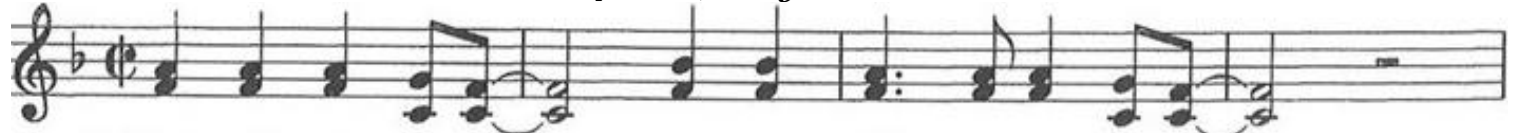
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Talk to God before Church. Listen to God during Church. Talk to each other after Church.

# The Word of God

## Entrance Rite

### ENTRANCE HYMN (LEVAS) 14 *Soon, Very Soon*



1. Soon and ver - y soon \_ we are goin' to see the King, \_
2. No more cry - in' there \_ we are goin' to see the King, \_
3. No more dy - in' there \_ we are goin' to see the King, \_
4. Soon and ver - y soon \_ we are goin' to see the King; \_



1. Soon and ver - y soon \_ we are goin' to see the King, \_
2. No more cry - in' there \_ we are goin' to see the King, \_
3. No more dy - in' there \_ we are goin' to see the King, \_
4. Soon and ver - y soon \_ we are goin' to see the King, \_



1. Soon and ver - y soon \_ we are goin' to see the King,
2. No more cry - in' there \_ we are goin' to see the King,
3. No more dy - in' there \_ we are goin' to see the King,
4. Soon and ver - y soon \_ we are goin' to see the King,



— Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, \_ we're goin' to see the King!



— Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu -

## 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)*

*All stand.*



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;  
2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;  
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with par - don down from heaven;  
4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,



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.  
3 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](mailto:jmdorn3@gmail.com).*

**A MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**THE NICENE CREED (BCP p. 358)**

*All stand.*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. *Amen.***

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FORM IV

*All remain standing.*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

For the doctors, nurses, and all who seek to heal. May they know your protection and peace.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, (especially \_\_\_\_\_) give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**



For peace in the world and in our lives. Heal, love, and bless the poorest, the refugees, and the victims of every war.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, \_\_\_\_\_.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those celebrating birthdays this week; (especially, \_\_\_\_\_) and for those celebrating anniversaries this week; (especially, \_\_\_\_\_).

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, (especially, \_\_\_\_\_) that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

## CONFESSION OF SIN (BCP p. 359)

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*The Priest stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## 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/](http://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 (LEVAS) 121 *Baptized in Water*



1. Bap - tized\_ in wa - ter, — sealed by the Spi - rit, — Cleansed by the
2. Bap - tized\_ in wa - ter, — sealed by the Spi - rit, — Dead in the
3. Bap - tized\_ in wa - ter, — sealed by the Spi - rit, — Marked with the



1. blood of Christ — our King: Heirs of sal - va - tion, —
2. tomb with Christ — our King: One with his ris - ing, —
3. sign of Christ — our King: Born of one Fa - ther, —



1. trust - ing his prom - ise, — Faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
2. freed and for - giv - en, — Thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
3. we are his child - ren, — Joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

## 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)*

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.

## 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.*

**COMMUNION HYMN 68** *Rejoice! rejoice, believers (Llangloffan)*



1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!  
2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple-nish them with oil;  
3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.  
a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark - ened sphere!



The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;  
The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.  
rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride - groom is at hand!  
the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

## **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.***



**CLOSING HYMN 75** *There's a voice in the wilderness crying (Ascension)*

1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a  
2 O ——— Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee  
3 but the word of our God — en - du - reth, the  
call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a  
up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late  
arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst — of  
high - way, a high - way for our God! The —  
peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the  
na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall  
val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the  
flowers of the field they — per - ish, like  
feed his — flock like a shep - herd, the  
lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed  
grass our works de - cay, the power and pomp of  
lambs he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll  
pla - ces where the Lord our — God — may go!  
na - tions shall — pass like a dream — a - way;  
lead them, and — bring them — safe to his fold.

**DISMISSAL** (BCP p. 366)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**People**      **Thanks be to God.**