

**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

4672 N Cedar Ave. Fresno, CA 93726

Rev. Michael N. Vernava

Rev. Khai N. Lee

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023

*The Mission of Peace Lutheran Church is to honor our Lord Jesus Christ through worship and ministering to all God's people equipping them for service to God and to each other.*

**DIVINE SERVICE – SETTING THREE**

**PRELUDE**

*Organist*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Peace Handbell Choir*

*"Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"*

*– arr. by Martha Lynn Thompson*

**OPENING HYMN**

*"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" LSB 790*

- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!  
Let all who hear  
Now to His temple draw near,  
Joining in glad adoration!
- 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning  
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.  
Have you not seen  
All that is needful has been  
Sent by His gracious ordaining?
- 3 Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,

And out of  
pity for him,  
the master of  
that servant  
released  
him and



**for**  
gave

him the debt.

MATTHEW 18:27, ESV



Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.

What need or grief

Ever has failed of relief?

Wings of His mercy did shade you.

4 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;

Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.

Ponder anew

What the Almighty can do

As with His love He befriends you.

5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!

All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!

Let the Amen

Sound from His people again;

Gladly forever adore Him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–80; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Text: Public domain

*Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.** Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. [Hebrews 10:22]

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C who made heaven and earth.** Psalms 124:8

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.** Psalms 32:5

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. [John 20:19-23]

**C Amen.**

Service of the Word

**INTROIT** Psalms 143:1–2; antiphon: v. 9

P Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!

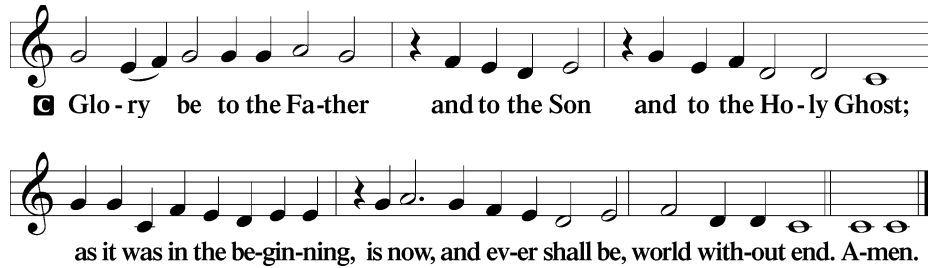
I have fled to you for refuge!

**C Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!**

P Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.

## GLORIA PATRI

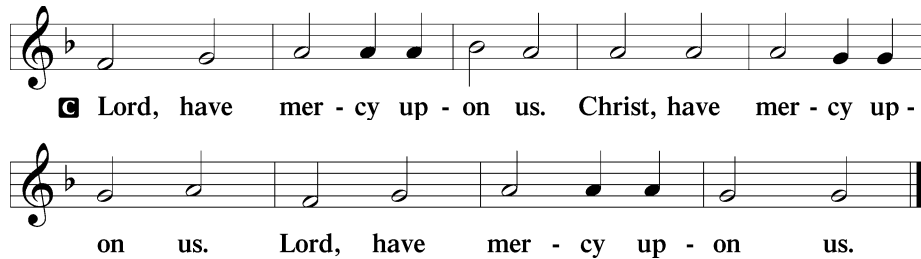
LSB 186



**C** Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;  
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

## KYRIE *Mark 10:47*

LSB 186



**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *Luke 2:14; John 1:29*

LSB 187



**P** Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward  
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,  
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.  
O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.  
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



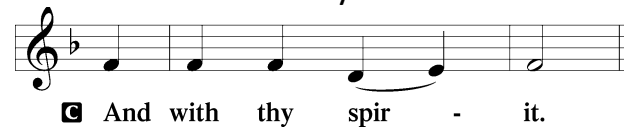
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.  
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -  
on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.  
Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,  
art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

LSB 189

**P** The Lord be with you.

*2 Timothy 4:22*



**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Let us pray.

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our

Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.



Sit

## OLD TESTAMENT

*Genesis 50:15–21*

<sup>15</sup>When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him.” <sup>16</sup>So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this command before he died, <sup>17</sup>‘Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.’ And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.” <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. <sup>21</sup>So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

*103:1–12*

P Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name!

**C Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits,**

P who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,

**C who redeems your life from the pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

P who satisfies you with good so that your youth is  
renewed like the eagle’s.

**C The LORD works righteousness  
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

P He made known his ways to Moses,  
his acts to the people of Israel.

**C The LORD is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

P He will not always chide,  
nor will he keep his anger forever.

**C He does not deal with us according to our sins,  
nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

P For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear  
him;

**C as far as the east is from the west, so far does he  
remove our transgressions from us.**

## EPISTLE

*Romans 14:1–12*

<sup>1</sup>As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. <sup>2</sup>One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his

own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

<sup>5</sup>One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. <sup>6</sup>The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

<sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; <sup>11</sup>for it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.”

<sup>12</sup>So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

### ALLELUIA

*LSB 190*



### HOLY GOSPEL

*Matthew 18:21–35*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.



<sup>21</sup>Peter came up and said to [Jesus], “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

<sup>23</sup>“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup>When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. <sup>25</sup>And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup>So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup>He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup>And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. <sup>35</sup>So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



## NICENE CREED

LSB 191

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down  
from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin  
Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius  
Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the  
Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both  
the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is  
worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic  
Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of  
sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

*Sit*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*“Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive” LSB 843 (Tune: LSB 526)*

- 1 “Forgive our sins as we forgive,”  
You taught us, Lord, to pray;  
But You alone can grant us grace  
To live the words we say.
- 2 How can Your pardon reach and bless  
The unforgiving heart  
That broods on wrongs and will not let  
Old bitterness depart?
- 3 In blazing light Your cross reveals  
The truth we dimly knew:  
What trivial debts are owed to us,  
How great our debt to You!

4 Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls  
 And bid resentment cease;  
 Then, bound to all in bonds of love,  
 Our lives will spread Your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905-87, alt.  
 Text: © Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000368

**SERMON**

**“All Debts Are Void in Jesus Christ”  
 St. Matthew 18:21-35**

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding,  
 keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 4:7*

**C Amen.**

*Stand*

**OFFERTORY** *Psalm 51:10-12* *LSB 192*



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
 way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*[1 Timothy 2:1-4]*

*Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “Peace be with you,” as a sign of reconciliation*

*and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3).*

**Service of the Sacrament**

**PREFACE**

*LSB 194*

P The Lord be with you.

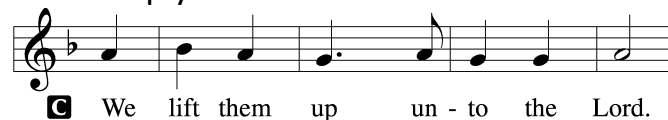
*2 Timothy 4:22*



And with thy spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.

*[Colossians 3:1]*



We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

*[Psalm 136]*

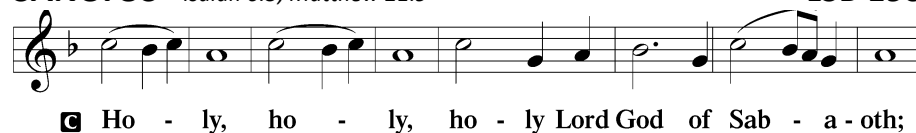


It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**SANCTUS** *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

*LSB 195*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;

heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,  
 ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,  
 bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.  
 Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9-13* LSB 196

**C** 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 WORDS OF OUR LORD** LSB 197

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was  
 betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks,

He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24  
 Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

**PAX DOMINI** *John 20:19* LSB 197

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**A** - men.

**AGNUS DEI** *John 1:29* LSB 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the  
 world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that  
 tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.  
 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the  
 world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.



Sit

## DISTRIBUTION

### COMMUNION HYMNS

*“As Surely as I Live, God Said” LSB 614 (Tune: LSB 563) (v. 1-6)*

- 1 “As surely as I live,” God said,  
“I would not see the sinner dead.  
I want him turned from error’s ways,  
Repentant, living endless days.”
- 2 And so our Lord gave this command:  
“Go forth and preach in ev’ry land;  
Bestow on all My pard’ning grace  
Who will repent and mend their ways.
- 3 “All those whose sins you thus remit  
I truly pardon and acquit,  
And those whose sins you will retain  
Condemned and guilty shall remain.
- 4 “What you will bind, that bound shall be;  
What you will loose, that shall be free;  
To My dear Church the keys are giv’n  
To open, close the gates of heav’n.”
- 5 The words which absolution give  
Are His who died that we might live;  
The minister whom Christ has sent  
Is but His humble instrument.
- 6 When ministers lay on their hands,  
Absolved by Christ the sinner stands;  
He who by grace the Word believes  
The purchase of His blood receives.

- 7 All praise to You, O Christ, shall be  
For absolution full and free,  
In which You show Your richest grace;  
From false indulgence guard our race.

- △ 8 Praise God the Father and the Son  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One,  
As was, is now, and so shall be  
World without end, eternally!

Text: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt. Text: Public domain

*“My Faith Looks Up to Thee” LSB 702*

- 1 My faith looks up to Thee,  
Thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Savior divine.  
Now hear me while I pray;  
Take all my guilt away;  
O let me from this day  
Be wholly Thine!
- 2 May Thy rich grace impart  
Strength to my fainting heart;  
My zeal inspire!  
As Thou hast died for me,  
Oh, may my love to Thee  
Pure, warm, and changeless be,  
A living fire!
- 3 While life’s dark maze I tread  
And griefs around me spread,  
Be Thou my guide;  
Bid darkness turn to day,  
Wipe sorrow’s tears away,

Nor let me ever stray  
From Thee aside.

- 4 When ends life's transient dream,  
When death's cold, sullen stream  
Shall o'er me roll,  
Blest Savior, then, in love,  
Fear and distrust remove;  
O bear me safe above,  
A ransomed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-87 Text: Public domain

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee" LSB 729

- 1 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,  
Trusting only Thee;  
Trusting Thee for full salvation,  
Great and free.
- 2 I am trusting Thee for pardon;  
At Thy feet I bow,  
For Thy grace and tender mercy  
Trusting now.
- 3 I am trusting Thee for cleansing  
In the crimson flood;  
Trusting Thee to make me holy  
By Thy blood.
- 4 I am trusting Thee to guide me;  
Thou alone shalt lead,  
Ev'ry day and hour supplying  
All my need.
- 5 I am trusting Thee for power;  
Thine can never fail.

Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me  
Must prevail.

- 6 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;  
Never let me fall.  
I am trusting Thee forever  
And for all.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-79 Text: Public domain

Stand

**NUNC DIMITTIS** Luke 2:29-32 LSB 199

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -  
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy  
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

**THANKSGIVING** *Psalm 107:1* LSB 200

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

☐ and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

A Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☐ A - men.

**SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS** LSB 201

P The Lord be with you.

*2 Timothy 4:22*

☐ And with thy spir - it.

A Bless we the Lord.

*[Psalm 103:1]*

☐ Thanks be to God.

**BENEDICTION** *Numbers 6:24-26* LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

☐ A - men, a - men, a - men.

**CLOSING HYMN**

*"Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"* LSB 851

- 1 Lord of glory, You have bought us  
With Your lifeblood as the price,  
Never grudging for the lost ones  
That tremendous sacrifice;  
And with that have freely given  
Blessings countless as the sand  
To the\_unthankful and the evil  
With Your own unsparing hand.
- 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You  
Gladly, freely of Your own.  
With the sunshine of Your goodness  
Melt our thankless hearts of stone  
Till our cold and selfish natures,  
Warmed by You, at length believe  
That more happy and more blessed  
'Tis to give than to receive.
- 3 Wondrous honor You have given  
To our humblest charity  
In Your own mysterious sentence,  
"You have done it all to Me."  
Can it be, O gracious Master,

That You deign for alms to sue,  
Saying by Your poor and needy,  
“Give as I have giv’n to you”?

- 4 Lord of glory, You have bought us  
With Your lifeblood as the price,  
Never grudging for the lost ones  
That tremendous sacrifice.  
Give us faith to trust You boldly,  
Hope, to stay our souls on You;  
But, oh, best of all Your graces,  
With Your love our love renew.

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–89, alt. Text: Public domain

## CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### POSTLUDE

*Organist*

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