Welcome to Luther Memorial Church of the Erie Lutheran Parish



17 SEPTEMBER 2017 The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

225 West Tenth Street • Erie, PA 16501 • 814-454-0106 THE REV. WILLIAM COLEMAN, Pastor

THE REV. J. DAVID MUMFORD Pastor Emeritus WALT GABER Cantor RON KING Pastoral Asst. ~ St. Matthew's/Holy Trinity THE REV. RICHARD SCHULTZ THE REV. ROY WASHILL THE REV. BRIAN MORAN Pastors in Residence LINDA GRAFFIUS, RN Director of Care & Health Ministries JAN MACINNES Care Ministry BETH KELLER Youth and Family Ministry SARAH PRYLINSKI Youth and Family Ministry CHRISTOPHER PAUL Academy Administrator

17 September 2017



THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Holy Communion • Setting I • 10:30

GATHERING - "The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God."

PRELUDE – "Little Prelude & Fugue in G Minor" "Little Prelude & Fugue in G Major"

J. S. Bach

REFLECTION ON OUR CHRISTIAN LITURGY

"The churchly or ecclesial context of liturgy is thus important. The story of liturgy is inseparable from the community that performs liturgical orders as its public work. The church is convened in an assembly by the public proclamation of the word of God, constituted as the priestly people of God in baptism, and manifested as the body of Christ in the world in the eucharist. The story of Christian liturgy is the story of the church in its public mode."

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS 1 John 1: 8-9

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

- Blessed be the + holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again.
- C Amen.

▶ Let us now confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

- **P** Source of all life,
- we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.
- **P** Our sins are forgiven,

+ God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ.

G Amen.

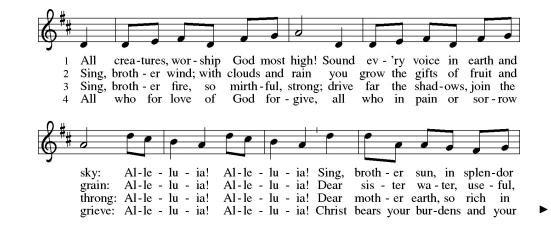
Please turn and reverence the cross of Christ. As the cross passes you, turn and face the cross as it is carried to the chancel.

This hymn text is a paraphrase of Francis of Assisi's "Canticle of the sun and hymn of creation," written in 1225. The paraphrase dates from the early 20th century, when it was written for a Pentecost festival for children. The tune may be based on an earlier one, perhaps a folk song, and appeared in The English Hymnal in 1906.

All Creatures, Worship God Most High!

ENTRANCE HYMN

ELW 835

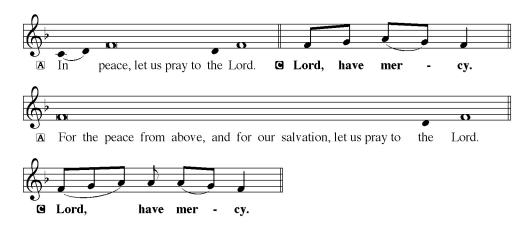


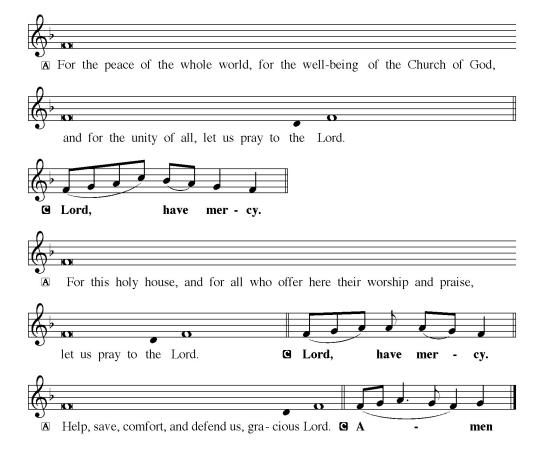


GREETING 2 Corinthians 13:14

- Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.
- **G** And also with you.

KYRIE Luke 17:13





PRAYER OF THE DAY Ruth 2:4



- **P** Let us pray.
- O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON AND DISMISSAL FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

(Children 2 years old through sixth grade may join their teachers at the pulpit doorway to exit for Children's Church.)

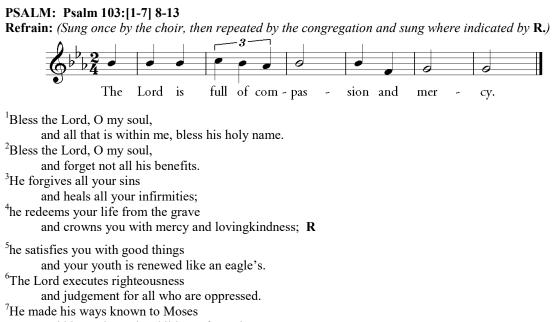
WORD – "God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching and song."

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



and his works to the children of Israel. R

⁸The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger, and of great kindness;
⁹He will not always accuse us, nor will he keep his anger forever.
¹⁰He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,

so is his mercy great for those who fear him.

¹²As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our sins from us.
¹³As a father cares for his children, so does the Lord care for those who fear him. **R**

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If 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. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

G Thanks be to God.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,

and every tongue shall give praise to God."

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

L The word of the Lord.

Please stand as you are able.





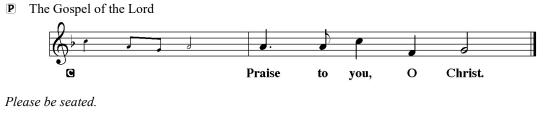
P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.



GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared with a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought before him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him sold, with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported this to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do with every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."



SERMON

Please stand as you are able.



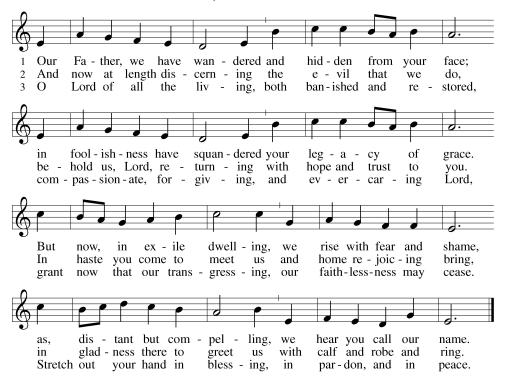
Pastor Coleman

The author, who wrote this text in relation to the parable of the Prodigal Son, was a Roman Catholic priest in England. He wrote extensively, and is remembered as a faithful teacher, priest, and wordsmith. The familiar melody has a rich and varied history. Probably originating as a secular tune, it was used for a funeral hymn text and a penitential psalm, as well as the familiar text, "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded." It remains in secular culture, however -- Paul Simon employed it for his "American Tune" after Art Garfunkel introduced it to him via one of Bach's harmonizations.

HYMN OF THE DAY

WOV 733

Our Father, We Have Wandered



Text: Kevin Nichols, b. 1929 Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612

Please be seated.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us into the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience of the will of God.

A sponsor presents the candidate with these words:

B We present Cameron Jax Durian to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

▶ In Christian love you have presented Cameron for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring him into the services of God's house, and teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and also the Ten Commandments. As he grows in years, you should place in his hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for his instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the promise of his Baptism and in fellowship with the Church, he may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ.

Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?

🕅 We do.

THE PRAYERS 1 Timothy 2:1

A With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

A Holy and faithful God, teach your people to walk in ways of trust and obedience. We pray for your strength so we can forgive those people in our lives we have not been able to forgive, and when we do forgive them, feel more deeply your presence and love. Hear us, O God.

G Your mercy is great.

▲ Grant that all who are imprisoned would know the freedom that you alone can give. We pray today for those in prisons in Erie County and those members of Kairos Prison Ministry who bring the light of Jesus into dark places. Hear us, O God.

G Your mercy is great.

A We ask for your blessing, O God, to be upon those people who are visitors within this congregation today and those searching for a church home. We pray that they, and we, will be your disciples and this ministry will always be a place of worship, learning, service, giving and witness. Hear us, O God.

G Your mercy is great.

A Strengthen those in this world who suffer today, especially those names on our prayer list and those names we offer to you now..... In the midst of so much pain and sickness, we beg you God to transform pain into purpose, sorrow into courage, fear into generosity, and loneliness into compassion. Hear us, O God.

G Your mercy is great.

Bless our Children's Church teachers and students, Adult Spiritual Growth participants, and all teaching ministries. Let your life-giving Word be freely shared among all who hunger for it. Hear us, O God.

G Your mercy is great.

- A We remember today our loved ones who have died, and we continue to miss them each day. Give meaning to all our days, then grant us peaceful deaths and unite us with those we love in praising your name. Hear us, O God.
- **G** Your mercy is great.
- Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

By the waters of the flood you judged the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage of sin and death, and has opened the way into the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of God's reign and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that he who is here baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of him who is cleansed by this water and bring him forth as an inheritor of your glorious kingdom.

To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

G Amen.

The minister addresses the baptismal group and the congregation.

- I ask you now, the children of God, to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and profess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.
- **G** I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

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 into hell.

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.

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. Amen.

- **P Cameron Jax**, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
- God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up into a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon Cameron Jax: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.
- G Amen.

The minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized.

Cameron Jax, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

The sponsor responds: "Amen." A lighted candle is given to the sponsor of the baptized.

- ▶ Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.
- ▶ O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon the parents and godparents of Cameron. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness for this child. Strengthen them in their own Baptism so they may share eternally with this child the salvation you have given them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- G Amen.

Please Stand as you are able.

- ▶ Through Baptism, God has made this child a member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear his creative and redeeming Word for all the world.
- **C** We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, child of the same heavenly Father, and a worker with us in the kingdom of God.
 - P The Peace of the Lord be with you always.C And also with you.

Please be seated.

MEAL – "God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ."

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED Psalm 116:12

An Individual Silent Prayer as We Prepare to Make our Offering: "Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved." Acts 2: 43-47

ANTHEM – "O Bless the Lord, My Soul" (Psalm 103:1-4)

Mikhail Ippolitov-Ivanov

O bless the Lord, my soul, and let all that is within me bless his holy name. O bless the Lord, my soul, and do not forget all of his generous acts: who forgives all of your wrongs, your iniquities, your sins, and who heals all your diseases, all of your ills; who redeems your life from destruction; who crowns you with loving kindness, compassion and steadfast love.

Please stand as you are able.





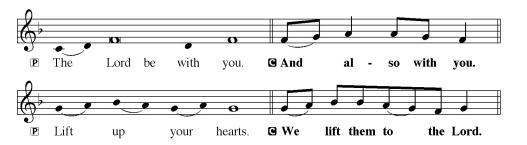
OFFERTORY PRAYER

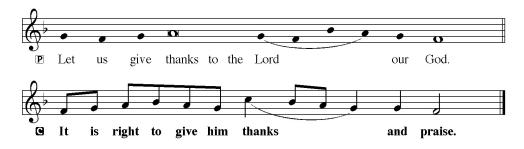
A God of life,

you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light.

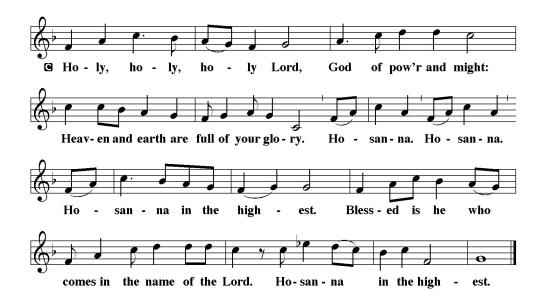
C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING Matthew 21:9





P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever living God; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.
 - We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son as our Redeemer.
 - We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Loving and life-giving God,

you have called us toward living faithfully by giving what we have received at your hand. Bless now this bread which we break, that as we receive it we may freely give ourselves as bread for the sake of all who hunger.

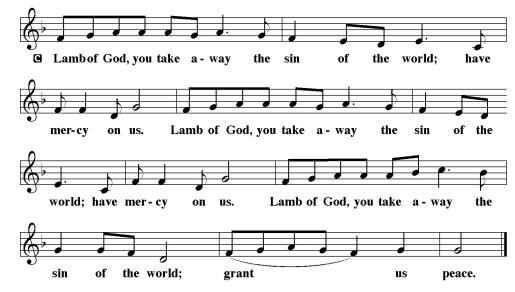
Pour out your Spirit, O God, upon this wine which we bless, that as we receive it from your hand we may be ever ready to pour out our lives for the sake of others who thirst for you, in the spirit of Christ our Lord.

G Amen.

 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. Matthew 6:9



AGNUS DEI



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- ▶ Come among us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, and make us one with you.
- **G** Amen.

The congregation is seated.

Today's service is a celebration of Holy Communion. We believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the gifts of bread and wine, bringing forgiveness of sins and new life to all who receive this sacrament. All baptized Christians who come at our Lord's invitation are welcome at His table of grace.

.....

Please come forward by the center aisle. The distribution of the elements is by the method of intinction (dipping). Receive the bread and dip it into the chalice (cup). Wine is in the metal chalice. Grape juice, for those who prefer it, is in the earthenware chalice. Return to your place by the side aisle.

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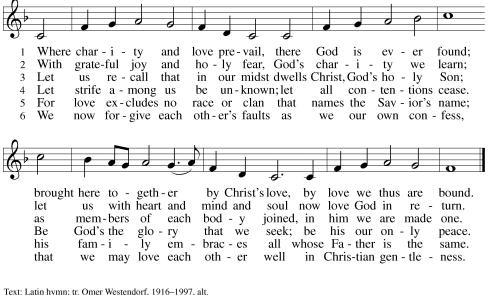
COMMUNION John 1:29

The origin of this Latin antiphon is uncertain but is believed to date back to Charlemagne or possibly earlier. For many years before Vatican II, it was the appointed hymn during the washing of the feet on Maundy Thursday's communion service. The tune, closely related to "Amazing Grace," is attributed to a frequent composer of shape-note music.

HYMNS FOR THE DISTRIBUTION

LBW 126

Where Charity and Love Prevail

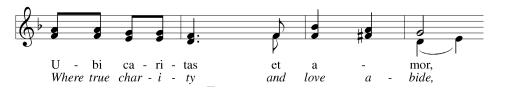


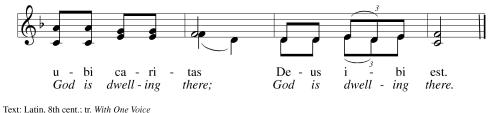
Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 176–1842

The composer of this short chorus wrote mainly liturgical music and is best known for writing much of the music used at Taizé, including this paraphrase of the above hymn.

WOV 665 (sung three times)

Ubi caritas et amor *Where True Charity and Love Abide*





Text: Latin, 8th cent.; tr. With One Voice Music: TAIZÉ UBI CARITAS, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

Because this Welsh melody usually sets evening texts, the author was asked to create one for use in daytime. His recasting of the Aaronic blessing in Numbers 6:22–27 imagines that passage as a benediction that might be spoken by God at the conclusion of a worship service.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

WOV 721



POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.
- G Amen.

SENDING - "God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world."

BLESSING Numbers 6:24-26

- God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being; Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead; Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church: Almighty God, Father, ± Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- G Amen.

DISMISSAL Luke 7:50

- **A** Go in peace. Share the good news.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – "Little Prelude & Fugue in D Minor"

J. S. Bach

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