



ST. MARK
REFORMED CHURCH

*Morning Worship
13 Septemeber 2020
Fifteenth Sunday of Trinity*

GREETINGS TO OUR VISITORS!

If you are visiting St. Mark today, we welcome you to our worship service and Christian community. We are delighted the Lord has brought you to worship with us and look forward to meeting you. If you are baptized in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, you are welcome to partake of the Lord's Supper.

Nursery: For families with young children or infants, please avail yourselves of the cry room adjacent to the sanctuary. A remote speaker is located there, enabling those within the room to hear the service.

ABOUT US:

St. Mark Reformed Church is a member church of the Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches (CREC). Our congregation is centered on classical Christian worship that is robust, reverent, and joyful. We offer solid biblical preaching and teaching from a Reformed perspective. We are a family-friendly, welcoming congregation, desiring unity with all fellow believers. We believe and seek to embody the good news of the gospel—that salvation from sin is found in Christ alone, to be received by faith alone. We long to be a community that practices love, service, and mercy toward our community and the world.

CHURCH OFFICERS:

TJ Draper, Deacon
Abe Goolsby, Elder
Brian McLain, Deacon
Joe Thacker, Pastor

For more information you may contact:

Pastor Joe Thacker
pastor@stmarkreformed.com
(615) 438-3109

Or view our website: www.stmarkreformed.com

Meeting Address:
810 Del Rio Pike
Franklin, TN 37064

Mailing Address:
563 Brewer Dr.
Nashville, TN 37211

Music printed with permission under
CCLI# 2936389RN

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. **(Stand at the conclusion of the Prelude)**

The Lord Calls Us

Pastor: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed!

Pastor: Christ is ascended!

People: That He might fill all things. Hallelujah!

Pastor: The Spirit has been given!

People: The promised Gift of gifts!

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Psalm 138:1-5

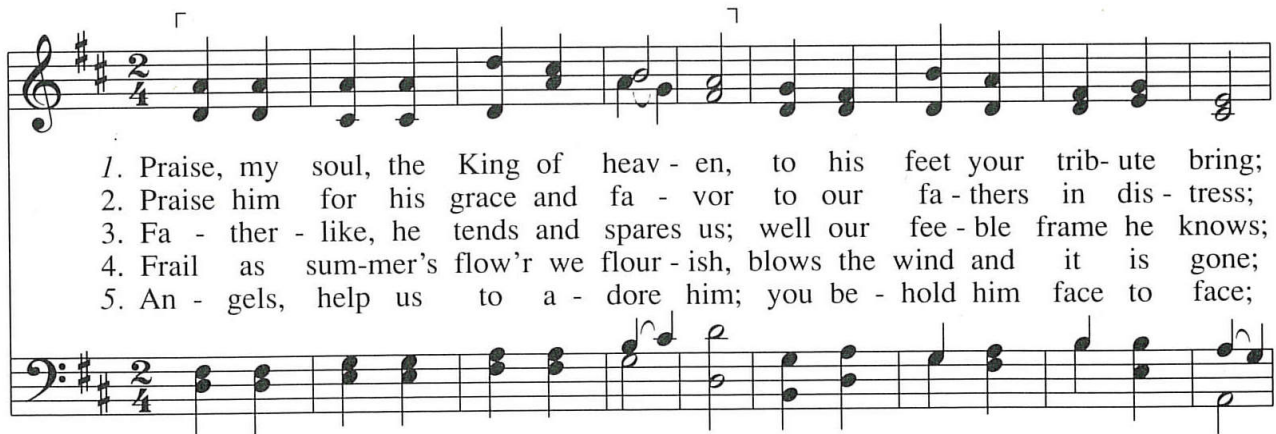
Pastor: Amen!

People: Amen!

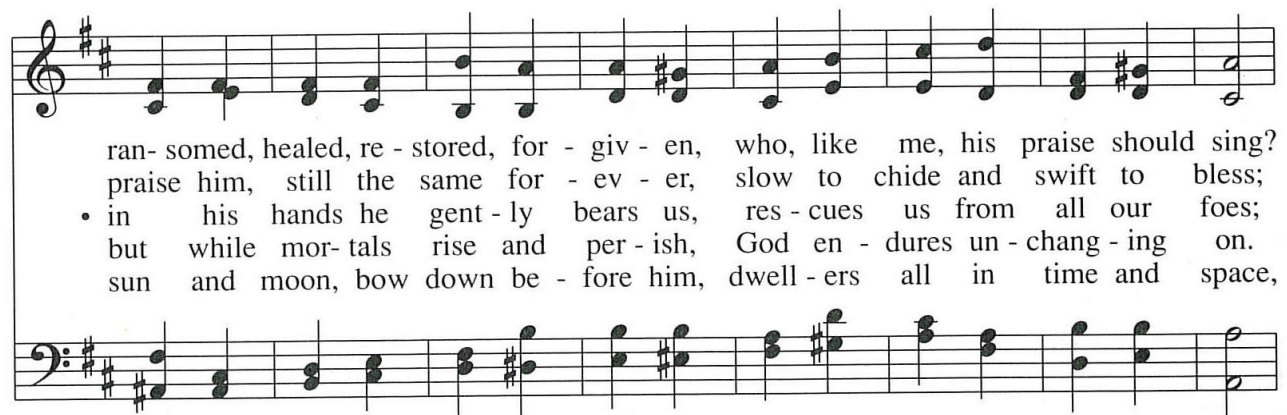
Hymn of Procession

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

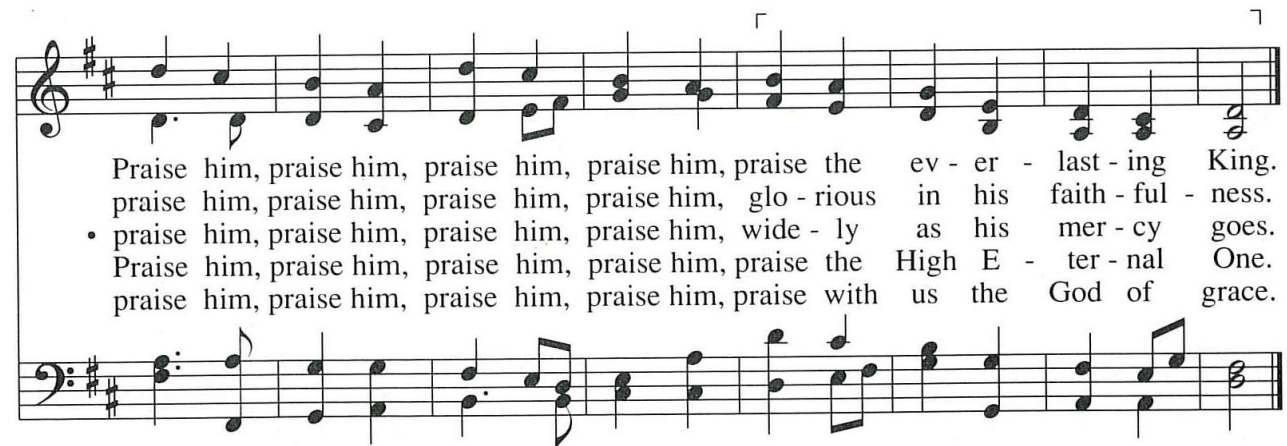
p. 4



1. Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en, to his feet your trib - ute bring;
 2. Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to our fa - thers in dis - tress;
 3. Fa - ther - like, he tends and spares us; well our fee - ble frame he knows;
 4. Frail as sum - mer's flow'r we flour - ish, blows the wind and it is gone;
 5. An - gels, help us to a - dore him; you be - hold him face to face;



ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, who, like me, his praise should sing?
 praise him, still the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless;
 • in his hands he gent - ly bears us, res - cues us from all our foes;
 but while mor - tals rise and per - ish, God en - dures un - chang - ing on.
 sun and moon, bow down be - fore him, dwell - ers all in time and space,



Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, praise the ev - er - last - ing King.
 praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness.
 • praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, wide - ly as his mer - cy goes.
 Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, praise the High E - ter - nal One.
 praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, praise with us the God of grace.

From Psalm 103
 Henry F. Lyte, 1834; mod.

LAUDA ANIMA 8.7.8.7.8.7.
 John Goss, 1869

Congregation: AMEN!

Pastor: I rejoiced when they said unto me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord!"

People: Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!

(Psalm 122:1-2)

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord!

People: The Maker of heaven and earth!

(Psalm 124:8)

Pastor: Let us pray . . .

The Lord Cleanses Us

THE PURIFICATION OFFERING

Pastor: Dearly beloved brethren, the Scriptures teach us that whoever covers his sins shall not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them shall find mercy.

Hymn of Confession

Holy God, Holy and Mighty

Trisagion

Alexander Archangelsky, 1846-1924

Ho - - - ly God, ho - ly and might - y,

ho - ly im - mor - tal One, have mer - cy up - on us.

Pastor: The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him. Let us humbly kneel and confess our sins together . . . (kneeling, if able)

We confess to You, **Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**; that we have grievously sinned in thought, word, and deed. Make us truly contrite. Fill us with holy fear; and give us grace to amend our lives according to Your word. **Almighty and merciful Father**, restore our souls in **Jesus Christ**, that we may be merciful and kind, even as You are. Let your forgiveness make us willing to forgive all wrong which we have suffered, and to ask forgiveness for every wrong which we have done. Give us the spirit of our Lord **Jesus Christ** who dwelt among men in great humility, and was meek and lowly of heart. Let the same mind be in us which was also in Him. Let our love and charity be abundant as our joy, that our hearts may be tender to all need, and our hands give freely for His sake. And grant that, being rooted and grounded in the mystery of the **Son of God** being made flesh for us, we may receive power to overcome the world and gain life eternal through the same **Jesus Christ** our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Arise and hear the good news of God's forgiveness!

DECLARATION OF ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in the Lord **Jesus Christ**: Know surely, your sins are forgiven! Believe the gospel and rejoice in the hope of eternal life. Amen!

People: Amen!

The Lord Consecrates Us

THE ASCENSION OFFERING

Hymn of Ascent

Lord, with Glowing Heart I'd Praise Thee

1. Lord, with glow - ing heart I'd praise thee for the bliss thy love be - stows,
2. Praise, my soul, the God that sought thee, wretch-ed wan-d'rer far a - stray;
3. Praise thy Sav - ior God that drew thee to that cross, new life to give,
4. Lord, this bo - som's ar - dent feel - ing vain - ly would my lips ex - press:

for the par-d'ning grace that saves me, and the peace that from it flows.
found thee lost, and kind - ly brought thee from the paths of death a - way.
held a blood - sealed par - don to thee, bade thee look to him and live.
low be - fore thy foot-stool kneel - ing, deign thy sup - pliant's pray'r to bless.

Help, O God, my weak en - deav - or; this dull soul to rap - ture raise:
Praise, with love's de - vout - est feel - ing, him who saw thy guilt - born fear,
Praise the grace whose threats a - larmed thee, roused thee from thy fa - tal ease;
Let thy love, my soul's chief trea - sure, love's pure flame with - in me raise;

thou must light the flame, or nev - er can my love be warmed to praise.
and, the light of hope re - veal - ing, bade the blood-stained cross ap - pear.
praise the grace whose prom - ise warmed thee, praise the grace that whis - pered peace.
and, since words can nev - er mea - sure, let my life show forth thy praise.

Francis Scott Key, 1817

RIPLEY 8.7.8.7.D.
Gregorian chant
Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1839

Congregation: AMEN!

THE SURSUM CORDA

Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord!

Pastor: O Lord, open our lips!

People: And our mouths will declare your praise!

The Doxology (with hands upraised - 1 Timothy 2:8)

OLD HUNDREDTH (L.M.)

Genevan Psalter, 1551

Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561

Thomas Ken, 1709

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

(The congregation may be seated)

Pastor: For the word of God is living and active,

People: sharper than any two-edged sword,

Pastor: piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and marrow,

People: and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

(Hebrews 4:12)

THE LESSON:
Lector: The Word of the Lord!
People: Thanks be to God!

Genesis 50:15-21

THE PSALM:

Psalm 103:1-12



- [1] Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his | holy name!
- [2] Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and forget not all his | benefits,
- [3] who forgives all your in - | iquity,
who heals all your dis- | eases,
- [4] who redeems your life | from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and | mercy,
- [5] who satisfies | you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the | eagle's.
- [6] The LORD works | righteousness
and justice for all who | are oppressed.
- [7] He made known his ways to | Moses,
his acts to the people of | Israel.
- [8] The LORD is merciful and | gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.
- [9] He will not | always chide,
nor will he keep his anger for- | ever.
- [10] He does not deal with us according | to our sins,
nor repay us according to our in- | iquities.
- [11] For as high as the heavens are a- | bove the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who | fear him;
- [12] as far as the east is | from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions | from us.

Congregation: AMEN!

THE EPISTLE

Romans 14:1-12

Lector: The Word of the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

(Please stand)

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

Pastor: The Gospel of Christ!

People: Praise be to Christ!

Gloria Patri (with hands upraised - 1 Timothy 2:8)

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, a - men.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

Pastor: Let us confess our faith together. Christian, in whom do you believe?

Unison: 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 the 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 on the right hand of the Father;

and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead;

whose kingdom shall 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 worshipped and glorified;

who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe one holy catholic 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.

(The congregation may be seated)

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Malachi 2:1-9; Numbers 25:1-13

Pastor: The Word of the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON

“The Covenant on Trial: Ministers of the Word”
Sermon Notes, p. 20

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

The Lord Collects Our Gifts

THE TRIBUTE OFFERING

COLLECTION OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

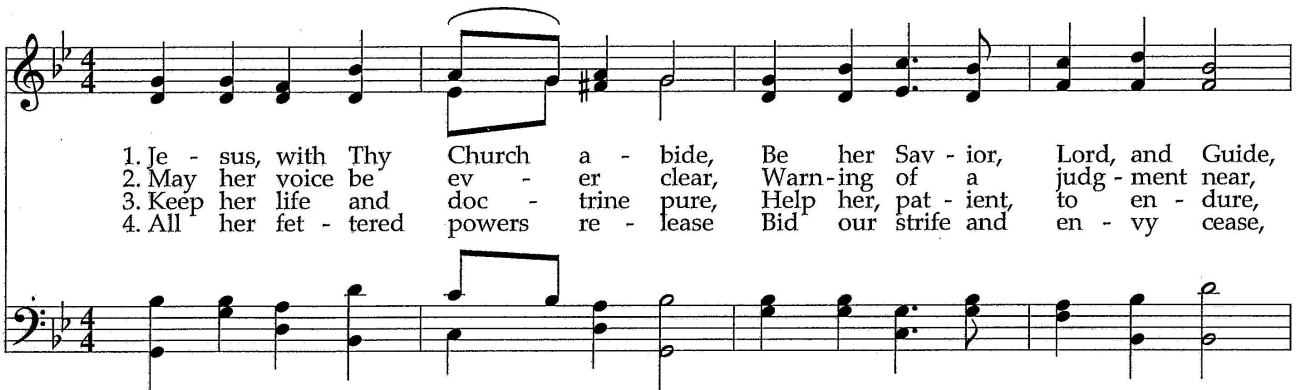
(Please stand.)

Offertory Hymn

Jesus, with Thy Church Abide

Thomas Benson Pollock, 1871
Alt. in *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1875

Nun Komm
Adapted from *Geistliches Gesangbuchlein*, Wittenberg, 1524



1. Je - sus, with Thy Church a - bide, Be her Sav - ior, Lord, and Guide,
2. May her voice be ev - er clear, Warn - ing of a judg - ment near,
3. Keep her life and doc - trine pure, Help her, pat - ient, to en - dure,
4. All her fet - tered powers re - lease Bid our strife and en - vy cease,



While on earth her faith is tried: We be - seech Thee, hear us.
Tell - ing of a Sav - ior dear: We be - seech Thee, hear us.
Trust - ing in Thy pro - mise sure: We be - seech Thee, hear us.
Grant the heav'n - ly gift of peace: We be - seech Thee, hear us.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 5. May she one in doctrine be,
One in truth and charity,
Winning all to faith in Thee;
We beseech Thee, hear us! | 7. May her priests Thy people feed,
Shepherds of the flock indeed;
Ready, where Thou call'st, to lead,
We beseech Thee, hear us! |
| 6. May she guide the poor and blind,
Seek the lost until she find,
And the broken-hearted bind:
We beseech Thee, hear us! | 8. Judge her not for work undone,
Judge her not for fields unwon;
Bless her works in Thee begun,
We beseech Thee, hear us! |

Congregation: AMEN!

Pastor: What gifts have you brought for your Lord?

People: We give only what the Lord has first given to us. We offer ourselves in Christ through confession, praise and thanksgiving; we give our prayers and alms for the sake of the world; and we participate in the Lord's Supper as a memorial of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor: Father, receive now these gifts offered to you in and through the Lord Jesus Christ, as we return to you a portion of that which you have freely given us. Use these tithes and offerings to support the work of the church, to care for the poor and needy, to promote the spread of the gospel to the ends of the earth, and to build up your kingdom. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

People: Amen.

The Lord Communes with Us

THE PEACE OFFERING

Agnus Dei

JOHN MERBECKE, 1549

In unison

O Lamb of God, that ta-kest a-way the sins of the world,
have mer-cy up-on us. O Lamb of God, that ta-kest a-way the
sins of the world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Lamb of God,
that ta-kest a-way the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

(Standing if able.)

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church, that our Lord God would defend her against all the assaults and temptations of the adversary and keep her perpetually on the true foundation, Jesus Christ:

Save and defend your Church universal, purchased with the precious Blood of Christ. Give to her pastors and ministers according to your Spirit, and strengthen her through the Word and the sacraments. Make her perfect in love and in good works, and establish her in the faith once delivered to the saints. Sanctify and unite your people in all the world, that one holy Church may bear witness to you, the God and Father of all. Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray for our missionaries:

Send forth your light and your truth into all the earth, O Lord. Raise up, we pray, faithful servants to Christ to labor in the Gospel at home and in distant lands. Grant strength and perseverance to all of our missionaries. Grant that they may rejoice in a rich harvest of souls for your kingdom. Support them in times of trial and weakness, and make them steadfast, abounding in the work of the Lord. Bring the nations into your fold, pour out your Spirit on all flesh, and hasten the coming of the fullness of the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray for all those in authority that we may live quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty:

O merciful Father in heaven, because you hold in your hand all the might of man and because you have ordained, for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do well, all the powers that exist in all the nations of the world, we humbly pray you graciously to regard your servants, especially the President and the Congress of the United States, the Governor of Tennessee, the Mayor of Nashville, and all those who make, administer, and judge our laws, that all who receive the sword as your ministers may bear it according to your Word; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray for those who are in any way afflicted, oppressed, or troubled in body or soul:

God of mercies, we pray that you would comfort with the grace of your Holy Spirit all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity, especially those whom we name in our hearts before you....

Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith.

Have mercy upon those to whom death draws near. Bring consolation to those in sorrow or mourning. And to all your people grant a message of your love, taking them into your tender care. Amen.

Pastor: Finally, let us offer the prayer that our Lord has taught us.

The Lord's Prayer
p. 14

Our Fa-ther, who art in hea-ven, hal-low-ed be Thy Name, Thy King - dom come,

Thy will be done on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our dai-ly bread,

and for - give us our debts, as we for - give our debt - ors,

and lead us not in-to temp-ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil.

For Thine is the king-dom, and the pow-er and the glo-ry For - ev-er! A-men.

PREFACE AND SANCTUS

Pastor: The love of God the Father, the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Holy things for holy people!

People: The gifts of God for the people of God!

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

People: It is good and right to do so!

Pastor: It is very good and right that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O Holy Lord, Father Almighty, Everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we praise and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and singing:

The Sanctus

The musical score for 'The Sanctus' is written in G major and 3/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Lord, God of Hosts. Hea - ven and earth are full of Your glo - ry! Ho - san - na in the High - - - est! Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the High - - - est!' The score includes dynamic markings such as *fff* and *ff*, and articulation marks like slurs and accents. There are also triplets indicated by a '3' over the notes.

(The congregation may be seated).

[Note to Visitors: If you are baptized in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit you are welcome to partake of the Lord's Supper.]

THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE BREAD: Prayer of thanksgiving, breaking the bread, distribution, eating together.


THE WINE: Prayer of thanksgiving, distribution, drink after you have taken your cup.

Hymn of Distribution

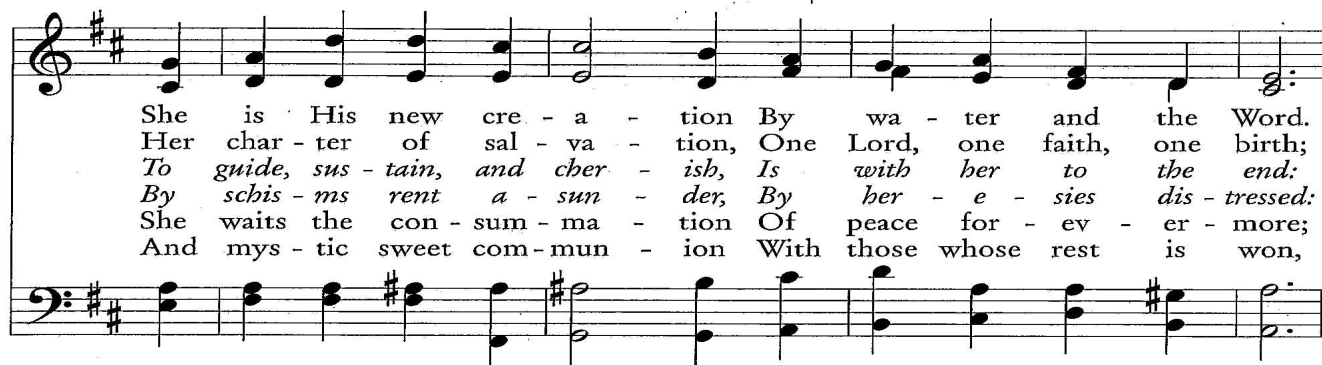
The Church's One Foundation

p. 17

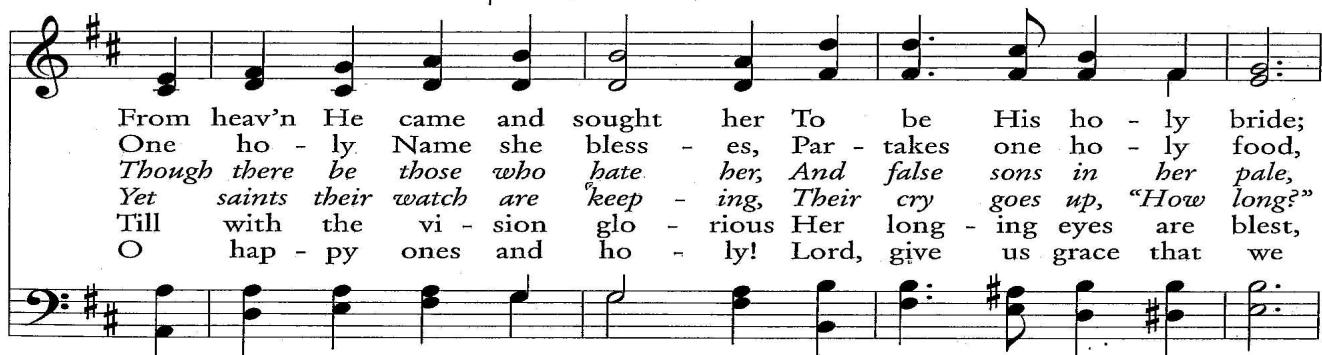
* We will sing vv. 1-3 during the distribution of the bread, and vv.4-6 during the distribution of the wine.



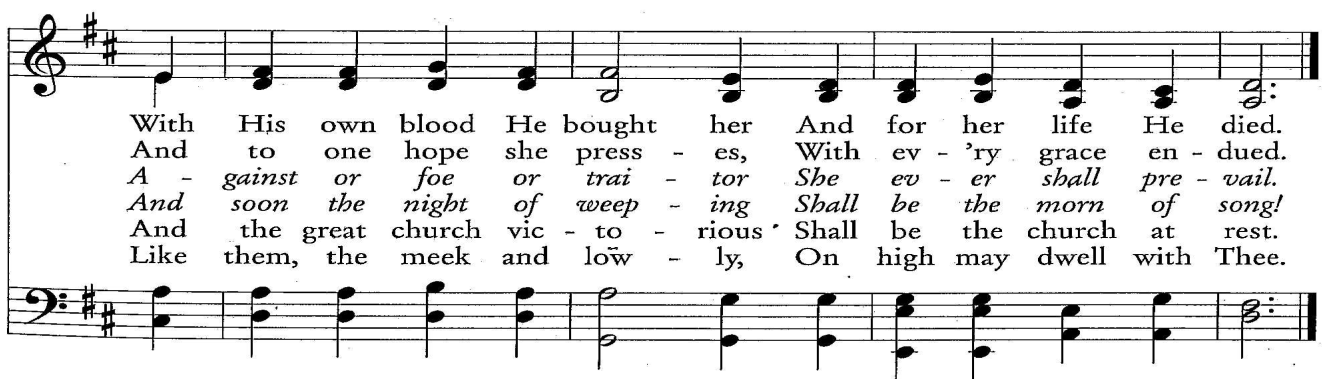
1. The church - 's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2. E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;
3. *The church shall nev - er per - ish!* Her dear Lord to de - fend,
4. *Though with a scorn - ful won - der Men see her sore op - pressed,*
5. 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, And tu - mult of her war,
6. Yet she on earth hath un - ion With God the Three in One,



She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion, One Lord, one faith, one birth;
To guide, sus - tain, and cher - ish, Is with her to the end:
By schis - ms rent a - sun - der, By her - e - sies dis - tressed:
She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more;
And mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion With those whose rest is won,



From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;
One ho - ly Name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,
Though there be those who hate her, And false sons in her pale,
Yet saints their watch are keep - ing, Their cry goes up, "How long?"
Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,
O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we



With His own blood He bought her And for her life He died.
And to one hope she press - es, With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
A - gainst or foe or trai - tor She ev - er shall pre - vail.
And soon the night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song!
And the great church vic - to - rious Shall be the church at rest.
Like them, the meek and low - ly, On high may dwell with Thee.

Congregation: AMEN!

Pastor: The body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you all steadfast in the true faith and in unity unto life everlasting, in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

People: Amen! (Please stand)

The Lord Commissions Us

Hymn of Dismissal

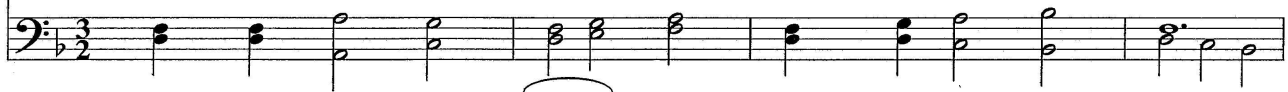
At the Name of Jesus

Caroline M. Noel, 1870, alt.

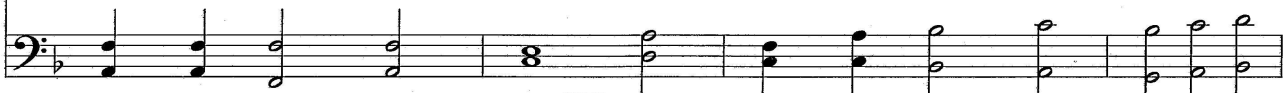
King's Weston
Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1925



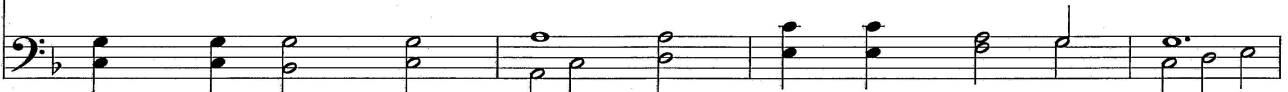
1. At the name of Je - sus ev - 'ry knee shall bow,
2. At his voice cre - a - tion sprang at once to sight,
3. Hum - bled for a sea - son to re - ceive a name
4. In your heart en - throne him; there let him sub - due
5. Broth - ers, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain,



ev - 'ry tongue con - fess him King of glo - ry now.
all the an - gel fac - es, all the hosts of light,
from the lips of sin - ners un - to whom he came,
all that is not ho - ly, all that is not true;
with his Fa - ther's glo - ry, with his an - gel train;



'Tis the Fa - ther's plea - sure we should call him Lord,
thrones and dom - i - na - tions, stars up - on their way,
faith - ful - ly he bore it spot - less to the last,
crown him as your Cap - tain in temp - ta - tion's hour;
for all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on his brow,



who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.
all the heav'n - ly or - ders in their great ar - ray.
brought it back vic - to - rious, when from death he passed.
let his will en - fold you in its light and pow'r.
and our hearts con - fess him King of glo - ry now.



Congregation: AMEN!

Pastor: And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." - Matthew 28:18-20

Pastor: And now look up to receive the Lord's blessing ...

THE BENEDICTION

THREEFOLD AMEN

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in the key of D major (one sharp). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The piece consists of four measures. The lyrics 'A - men.' are written below the treble staff. The first measure contains the notes D4, E4, and F#4. The second measure contains the notes G4, A4, and B4. The third measure contains the notes C5, B4, A4, and G4. The fourth measure contains the notes F#4, E4, and D4. The bass line consists of a series of chords: D2-F#2-A2 in the first measure, G2-B2-D3 in the second, C3-B2-A2 in the third, and F#2-E2-D2 in the fourth.

POSTLUDE

Malachi 2:1-9
“The Covenant on Trial: Ministers of the Word”

- 1) Yahweh is speaking to the _____.
- 2) He calls them to repentance for the condition of their _____.
- 3) God will curse their _____.
- 4) Consider how far God will go for the sake of His _____.
- 5) In vv. 5-7, Malachi gives the priests a _____ to follow.
- 6) Malachi is referring to the covenant made with _____.
- 7) There's a _____ of the fear of God in the church today.
- 8) A blueprint for ministry: _____ and _____.
- 9) The lips of the priest _____ knowledge.
- 10) The Accusation (vv. 8-9):
 - i. They have turned aside from the _____.
 - ii. Charged with causing many to _____ in the law.