



"Passover", stained glass in the parish church of St. Peter & Paul, Andelsbuch, Austria, 1880



THE 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
A Service of Word & Feast

September 6, 2020 ✦ 10:00 a.m.

The 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

“You never know how much you really believe anything until its truth or falsehood becomes a matter of life or death to you.”

— C. S. Lewis

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day, the day of Christ's resurrection

Prelude

Dr. Patricia Snyder

Welcome

Greeting

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Many: **And also with you.**

Call to Worship — *from Psalm 149:1-4*

One: Hallelujah! Sing to the LORD a new song,
God's praise in the assembly of the faithful.

Many: **Let the people rejoice in their maker;
let the children of Zion be joyful in their ruler.**

One: Let them praise their maker's name with dancing;
let them sing praise with tambourine and harp.

Many: **For the LORD takes pleasure in the people
and adorns the poor with victory.**

Hymn — “When Israel was in Egypt's Land”

this bulletin, pg. 8

Prayer of the Day

One: Let us pray.

Many: **God, you are the power of liberation,
calling your servant Moses
to lead your people into freedom,
and giving him the wisdom to proclaim your holy law.
Be our Passover from the land of injustice,
be the light that leads us to the perfect rule of love,
that we may be citizens of your unfettered reign;
we ask this through Jesus Christ,
the pioneer of our salvation. Amen.**

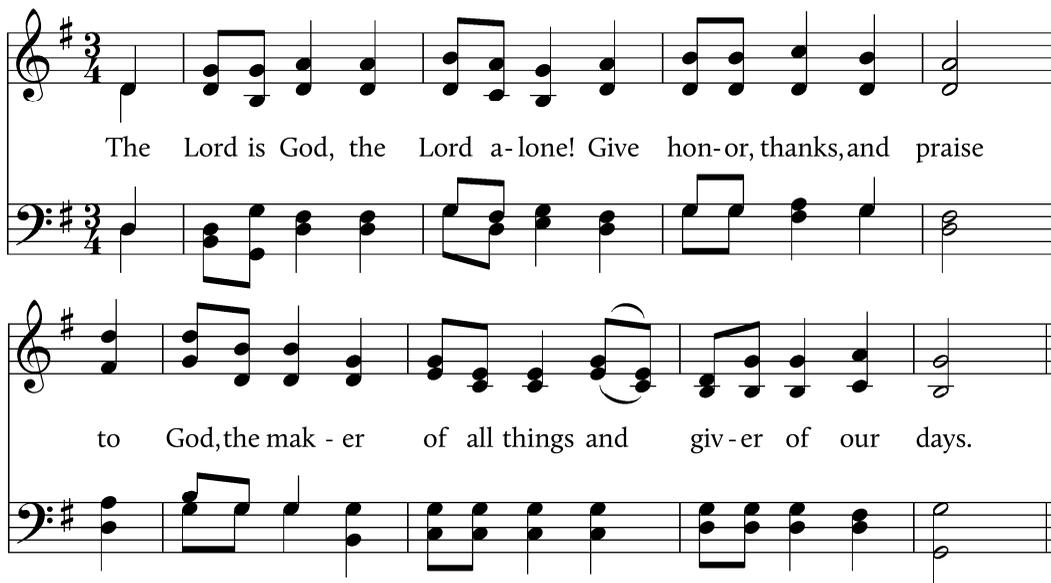
News from our Life Together

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

Refrain — “The Lord Is God”

AZMON



The Lord is God, the Lord a-lone! Give hon-or, thanks, and praise
to God, the mak - er of all things and giv - er of our days.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading — Exodus 12:1-14

Israel remembered its deliverance from slavery in Egypt by celebrating the festival of Passover. This festival featured the Passover lam, whose blood was used as a sign to protect God’s people from the threat of death. The early church described the Lord’s supper using imagery from the Passover, especially in portraying Jesus as the lamb who delivers God’s people from sin and death.

The refrain (“The Lord Is God” – music above) is repeated.

Sermon — “Feast of Freedom”

The Rev. Matthew Emery

Responding with our Gifts

Give online: Go to www.storrscongchurch.org and click the green “Give now...” button.

Text: Text “StorrsCongChurch” to 73256, followed by your gift amount (i.e. “StorrsCongChurch \$100”) to access online giving via text message.

Those participating via Zoom are welcome to submit prayer petitions (joys and concerns) during this time via the Chat feature in Zoom.

An Offering Thought

Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. — Romans 13:10

Striving to keep the twin commandments to love God with all our being and love our neighbors as ourselves, we naturally care for the common good. We learn that what affects one really affects us all.

OFFERTORY MUSIC — “En prière” by Fauré

Sarah Marze, Soprano

Si la voix d'un enfant peut monter jusqu'à Vous,

Ô mon Père,

Écoutez de Jésus, devant Vous à genoux,

La prière!

Si Vous m'avez choisi pour enseigner vos lois

Sur la terre,

Je saurai Vous servir, auguste Roi des rois,

Ô Lumière!

Sur mes lèvres, Seigneur, mettez la vérité

Salutaire,

Pour que celui qui doute, avec humilité

Vous révère!

Ne m'abandonnez pas, donnez-moi la douceur

Nécessaire,

Pour apaiser les maux, soulager la douleur,

La misère!

Révélez Vous à moi, Seigneur en qui je crois

Et j'espère:

Pour Vous je veux souffrir et mourir sur la croix,

Au calvaire!

If the voice of a child could reach up to you,

O my Father,

To be heard by Jesus... kneeling before You,

A prayer!

If you have chosen me to teach your laws

On Earth,

I would know how to serve you, august King of kings,

O Light!

On my lips, Lord, place the Truth

salutary,

So that those who doubt, with humility will

revere you!

Do not abandon me, but give me the Grace

necessary

to overcome evils, and to relieve pain

and misery!

Reveal yourself to me, Lord in whom I believe

and hope!

For You I want to suffer and die on the Cross,

on Calvary!

The Prayers of the People, ending with The Lord's Prayer

Many: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and glory forever. Amen.

Hymn — “This is the Feast of Victory”

this bulletin, pg. 9

Invitation to the Table

Giving Thanks

One: The Lord be with you.

***Many:* And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

***Many:* We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***Many:* It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
you have brought us this far along the way.
In times of bitterness
you did not abandon us,
but guided us into the path of love and light.
In every age you sent prophets
to make known your loving will
for all humanity.
The cry of the poor
has become your own cry;
our hunger and thirst for justice
is your own desire.
In the fullness of time,
you sent your chosen servant
to preach good news to the afflicted,
to break bread with the outcast and despised,
and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

***Many:* Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

One: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,
we await the day when Jesus shall return
to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.

Come, Lord Jesus!
And let the church say, Amen.

Many: Amen!

One: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,
to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup
with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice
in all the world.
Come, Spirit of freedom!
And let the church say, Amen.

Many: Amen!

One: Join our prayers and praise
with your prophets and martyrs of every age that,
rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection,
we might live in the freedom and hope of Christ.

Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours,
almighty God, now and forever.

Many: Amen!

Remembering the Stories & Sharing the Feast

The pastor will guide worshipers through the breaking of the bread and the sharing of communion.

An Open Table! When we celebrate Holy Communion we are all guests at the table, with Jesus himself as our host. We have not earned a place at the table, rather we are invited because of the amazing grace of God. For that reason, this celebration of the Holy Communion is open to all—including children—who wish to know the presence of Christ and the community of God's people, and not merely members of this congregation or denomination. This is a *joyful* feast for *all* the people of God.

Prayer after Communion

Many: Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence
in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal.
Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood
that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love
and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope
in an uncertain world;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us forth in mission for the world

Hymn — Psalm 149: “Give Praise to the Lord”

this bulletin, pg. 10

Benediction

Postlude

Dr. Patricia Snyder

Following the postlude, the Zoom Meeting will remain open for those who wish to connect and chat—a bring-your-own-coffee “coffee hour”! We look forward to connecting with you!

When Israel Was in Egypt's Land 52

1 When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land, let my peo - ple go;
 2 "Thus saith the Lord," bold Mo - ses said, "Let my peo - ple go!
 3 "No more shall they in bond - age toil: let my peo - ple go!
 4 O let us all from bond - age flee; let my peo - ple go!

op - pressed so hard they could not stand, let my peo - ple go!
 If not, I'll smite your first - born dead. Let my peo - ple go!"
 Let them come out with E - gypt's spoil: let my peo - ple go!"
 And let us all in Christ be free: let my peo - ple go!

Refrain

Go down, (go down,) Mo - ses, (Mo - ses,) way down in E - gypt's

land; tell old Pha - raoh: let my peo - ple go!

Nothing in Hebrew Scripture resonated more deeply with the experience of African Americans in North America than Israel's slavery in Egypt. In this spiritual's recurring line, "Let my people go," past and present became one, as they still do for all who are oppressed.

This Is the Feast of Victory 513

Refrain D Bm F#m G A7 Bm D/F#

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-

Em7 A7 D F Em A A7 Em A7 D

To stanzas Last time

lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! lu - ia!

D F#m Bm D Bm D G

- 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
- 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
- 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
- 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
- 5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

Em A7 Bm F#m G Em Asus A7
to Refrain

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion.
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
 gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia!

This exuberant unrhymed paraphrase is especially well suited for use at celebrations of the Lord's Supper in Easter Season. The stanzas are derived from several passages in Revelation (5:9–10, 12–14; 7:10b, 12), while the refrain possibly refers to 1 Corinthians 15:54b–56.

TEXT: John W. Arthur, 1970
 MUSIC: Richard Hillert, 1975, alt.
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SENDING

550

Give Praise to the Lord

(Psalm 149)

1 Give praise to the Lord, and sing a new song;
2 With tim-brel and harp and joy-ful ac-claim,
3 In glo-ry ex-ult, all saints of the Lord;
4 For this is God's word: the saints shall not fail,
a - mid all the saints God's prais - es pro - long;
with glad - ness, O God, we praise your great name;
with song in the night high prais - es ac - cord;
but o - ver the earth their power shall pre - vail;
a song to your Mak - er and Rul - er now raise,
for now in your peo - ple good plea - sure you seek;
go forth in God's ser - vice and strong in God's might
all king - doms and na - tions shall yield to their sway.
all chil - dren of Zi - on: re - joice and give praise.
with robes of sal - va - tion you cov - er the meek.
to con - quer all e - vil and stand for the right.
To God give the glo - ry; sing prais - es for aye.

This adaptation of Psalm 149 is organized by themes of praise and service, with a strong implication that they are not really separable but are two aspects of the same God-centered impulse. This text is set to a jubilant tune derived from a late 19th-century English anthem.

TEXT: *The New Metrical Version of the Psalms*, 1909, alt.
MUSIC: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1894

LAUDE DOMINUM
10.10.11.11

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STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*We share in God's love by growing in faith,
courageously seeking justice, and generously caring for all people.*

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