



September 6, 2026
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St Stephen's is called, with God's help, to follow Jesus, and to be a source of transformation and Christian hope and inspiration to those within our community and those in our respective neighborhoods.



THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR HOLY EUCHARIST

WELCOME

Preceding the service, a singing bowl will be rung as we prepare ourselves interiorly for worship.

GATHERING HYMN

Gather Us In



1 Here in this place, the new light is stream-ing, shad-ows of doubt are
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery; we are the old, who
3 Here we re-ceive new life in the wa-ters; here we re-ceive the
4 Not just in build-ings, small and con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,

van-ished a-way. See in this space our fears and our dream-ings,
yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a-way, here in this place the new light is shin-ing;

brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
now is God pres-ent, and now is the day.

Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en; gath - er us in; our
 Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty; gath - er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion; give us to eat the
 Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er; gath - er us in and

spir - its in - flame. Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low - ly;
 bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,

we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

OPENING BLESSING

Celebrant: Blessed be the One who creates all things.

People: The Holy One's love is new every morning.

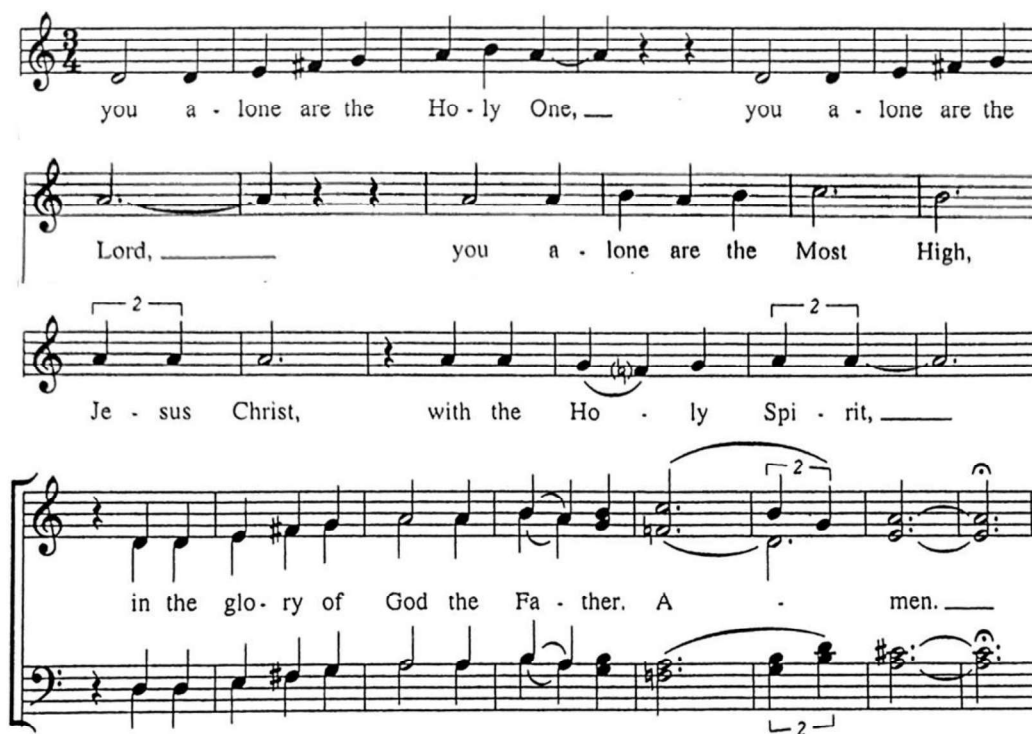
COLLECT FOR PURITY

The Kenyan Anglican Church

Almighty God, You bring to light things hidden in darkness, and know the shadows of our hearts; Cleanse and renew us by your Spirit, that we may walk in the light and glorify your name, through Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. Amen.

GLORIA

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, —
 — and peace to his peo-ple on earth. — Lord God,
 heav'n - ly King, al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther, — we wor - ship
 you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry. —
 Fa - ther, —
 Lord Je - sus Christ, — on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
 Fa - ther, —
 Fa - ther, —
 Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world: — have mer - cy on us; — you are seat - ed at the right
 hand of the Fa - ther: — re - ceive our prayer. — For
 Fa - ther: re - ceive
 Fa - ther: re - ceive



COLLECT FOR THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the powerful who oppress and dominate Creation, so you never forsake your creatures who live in harmony with nature's order; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING

Ezekiel 33:7-11

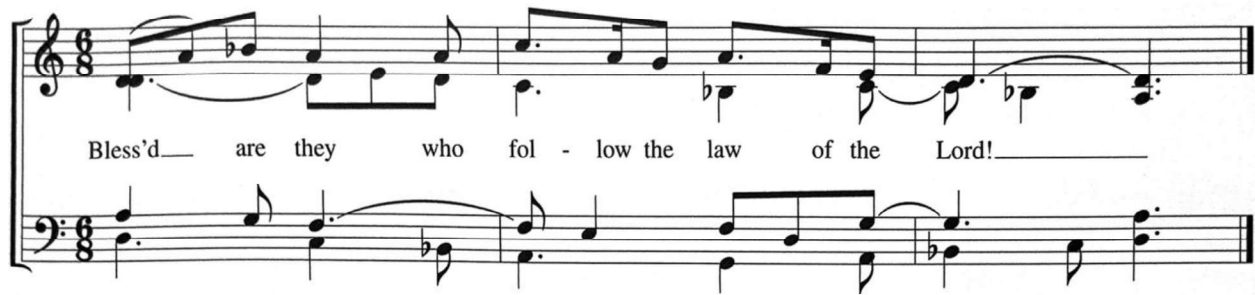
So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSORY

Psalm 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34



Blessed are they whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.

Blessed are they who observe his decrees, who seek him with all their heart. **R.**

You have demanded that your precepts be diligently kept.

Oh, that I might be firm in the ways of keeping your statutes! **R.**

Be good to your servant, that I may live and keep your words.

Open my eyes, that I may consider the wonders of your law. **R.**

Instruct me, O Lord, in the way of your statutes, that I may exactly observe them.

Give me discernment, that I may observe your law and keep it with all my heart. **R.**

THE SECOND LESSON

A Reading from *Everything that Breathes Praises God*, by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

“Responding to the environmental crisis is a matter of truthfulness to God, humanity, and the created order. It is not too far-fetched to speak of environmental damage as being a contemporary heresy or natural terrorism. We have repeatedly condemned this behavior as nothing less than sinful. For beings to cause species to become extinct and to destroy the biological diversity of God’s creation; for humans to degrade the integrity of the earth by causing changes in its climate; by stripping the Earth of its natural forests, or by destroying its wetlands; for humans to injure other humans with disease by contaminating the earth’s waters, its land, its air, and its life with poisonous substances—all these are sins before God, humanity, and the world. We have tended to restrict the notion of sin to the individual sense of guilt or the social sense of wrongdoing. Yet sin also contains a cosmic dimension, and repentance from environmental sin demands a radical transformation of the way we perceive the natural world and a tangible change in the way we choose to live.”

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

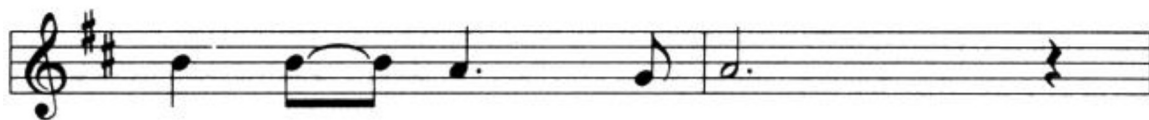
People: Thanks be to God.

Bartholomew is the 270th Archbishop of Constantinople and Ecumenical Patriarch, regarded as first among equals in the Eastern Orthodox Church. His efforts to promote religious freedom and human rights, his initiatives to advance religious tolerance among the world’s religions, as well as his efforts to promote ecology and the protection of the environment, have earned him the title “The Green Patriarch”.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



1. As the deer pant - eth for the wa - ter, so my
 2. You're my friend and You are my broth - er e - ven
 3. I want You more than gold or sil - ver, on - ly



soul long - eth af - ter Thee.
 though You are a King.
 You can sat - is - fy.



You a - lone are my heart's de - sire, — and I
 I love You more than an - y oth - er, so much
 You a - lone are the real joy - giv - er and the



long to wor - ship Thee.
 more than an - y - thing.
 ap - ple of my eye.



You a - lone are my strength, my shield; To



You a - lone may my spir - it yield. You a - lone are my



heart's de - sire, — and I long to wor - ship Thee.

Clergy: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 18:15-20

“If your brother and sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Clergy: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH

We believe in God, who creates all things,
who embraces all things, who celebrates all things,
who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.

We believe in God as the source of all life,
who baptizes this planet with living water.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the suffering one, the poor one,
the malnourished one, the climate refugee,
who loves and cares for this world and who suffers with it.

And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life,
who came to reconcile and renew this world and everything in it.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God,
who moves with God and who moves among and with us today.

We believe in everlasting life in God.

And we believe in the hope that one day
God will put an end to death and all destructive forces.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In the beginning, **God was.**

Here and now, **God is.**

In the future, **God will be.**

V. God, Giver of life, R. **Hear our prayer.**

Those in need of healing and support:

Jaki, Josh, Noah, Kris, Randy, Peyton, London, John, Kathie, Tabitha, Nancy, Esther, Samson, Ann, Tom, Garry, Jacki, Linda, Kay, Shannon, Tiffany, Colin, Karin, Libby, Terry, Russell, Jessica, Kim, Andrew, Jessica, Casey, Vera, Michael, Kadie, Vance, Steve, Tonya, Stephanie, Nathan, Judy, Greg, Mary, Thea, Jill, Bishop Gretchen

CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Merciful and sustaining God, we have sinned against you.

We confess our lack of gratitude for the beauty and bounty of your creation:

teach us to see that your earth sustains us and all that lives.

We confess that we have misused your earth:

grant us amendment of life.

We confess that we have been intemperate in our appetites:

strengthen us in self-control.

We confess that we have taken the abundance of your world for granted:

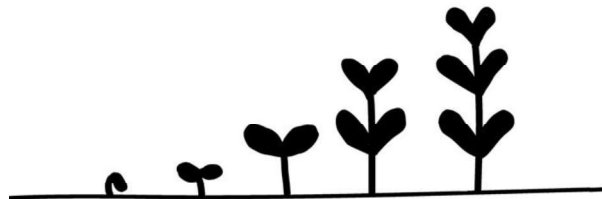
make us urgent now for its protection.

Forgive and renew us now through our Savior Jesus Christ,

by the power of the Holy Spirit, with whom you live

and reign, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE PEACE



WELCOME SONG

All Are Welcome



Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions
live. A place where saints and chil - dren and tell how
heard And loved and treas - ured, taught and claimed as
hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions, rock of
words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter, prayers of
faith and vault of grace. Here the love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
faith and songs of grace. Let this house pro - claim from floor to raft - er:
All are wel - come, all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

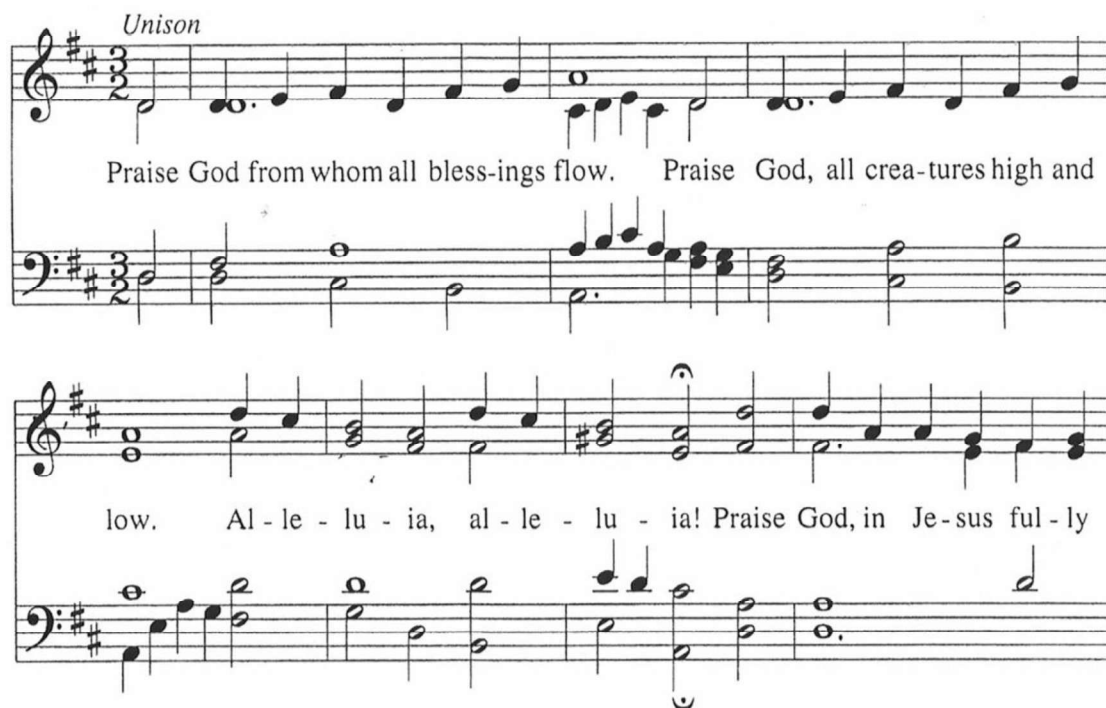
OFFERTORY

To give online, please see the QR code in the back of the bulletin

OFFERTORY HYMN

#11 Awake My Soul and With the Sun

DOXOLOGY



Unison
Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow. Praise God, all crea-tures high and
low. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise God, in Je - sus ful - ly

known: Cre - a - tor, Word, and Spir - it one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE PREFACE

God is with us. **God is present here.**

Rejoice! Lift up your hearts. **We lift our hearts to the Most High.**

Let us give thanks to the Holy One. **It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

We do praise you, our intimate God, the one who is with us, and with all of creation, the source of this magical, mystical, sensual, beautiful, earth. From microbes to whales you have created all of us. We are privileged to be a strand in all of your creation, including this strange and wonderful home, our earth, the open sky above, the dazzling array of stars and planets, and the unfathomable galaxies beyond us. You have blessed us with a world of infinite variety and beauty, a land of mountains and meadows, canyons and valleys, deserts and jungles. Over and through this land you have provided oceans teeming with life, streams and rivers, crystal clear lakes, and cascading waterfalls. We share this land with all of your creatures, from mosquito to mountain lion, from seal to scorpion. You have formed all of this, this land of such intense wildness and beauty. Therefore, we praise you, O Sacred One, joining our voices with the cry of your animals, the rocks, the stars, the Moon, the Sun, and all the universe as we shout with joy:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

We bless you and thank you Gracious God for all of these gifts, and for weaving us, the web of humanity, into this world. But instead of caring deeply for this most perfect of creations, the universe beyond our comprehension and this earth in which we live, we have rebelled against it, against ourselves, against You. We disregarded the interconnected web of life in which we live. Instead of loving it as a mother loves her child, we put ourselves above it, as if it was something we could own. It became something to control rather than a part of us and a part of you. Each time you have called us back, called us to understand that we are not masters of the earth, but instead a part of the earth. You continually remind us that caring for you means caring for your earth and for each other.

The People and Presider say together

Then, All-Holy God, you sent Jesus Christ to be among us.

Through His incarnation, You taught us that You are always with us and all of the world.

He showed us the way to grace and freedom,

and how to show compassion to each other and the world.

He gathered a people as your own

and filled us with longing for justice and peace for all of creation.

Keep us ever vigilant to follow his example

so that we may bring about Your reign that He opened for us,

through his life, his death, and his resurrection.

It is a reign where all your creation will be one.

On the night before he died, Jesus came to table with those he loved. Recalling his own actions of feeding the poor and eating with the outcast, he took bread, gave thanks to You, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in memory of me."

When supper was ended, he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to You, and passed the cup among his friends and said: "Take this all of you and drink from it, this is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant, do this in memory of me."

Therefore, let us pray:

All join in prayer

Gracious God among us, help us to feel your presence, and give us the strength to serve your creation and your people this day and every day.

Now gathered at your table, God of Creation, and remembering what Jesus Christ taught us, we offer to you this bread and this wine, a gift of your creation and work of human hands. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts, O Sacred One. May they become for us the Body and Blood of Christ, just as we, your people, are that same Body.

Breathe your Spirit upon us also and upon the entire earth. Make us one with your earth, so that all of Creation may become one with your Body.

The People and Presider say together

Bring all of us, from every clan, tribe, and nation together, to feast upon your abundant banquet, prepared from the fruits of your earth and made possible by the redemption of your Christ.

Through Jesus Christ, in the unity of the entire Universe, all glory and honor to God and Creator, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

As the Wisdom before Creation teaches us, we pray.

**Holy One, our only Home,
hallowed be your name.
May your day dawn,
your will be done,
here as in heaven.
Feed us today,
and forgive us as we forgive each other.
Do not forsake us at the test,
but deliver us from evil.
For the glory, the power,
and the mercy are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE FRACTION

This is Living Bread, given for all Creation.
All who eat this bread share in Christ's Body.

HOLY COMMUNION

Christ is the Host of this Holy Feast: All are welcome to receive God's blessing. You may choose to receive wine from the little cups or from the common chalice. To receive from the chalice, please help guide the cup by grasping the bottom of the cup. Please do not dip your wafer (intinct) into the cup. Gluten-free hosts are available—please mention your need for a gluten-free host to the clergy distributing the Body of Christ when you approach to receive Holy Communion.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

If With All Your Hearts

COMMUNION HYMN

As We Gather At Your Table

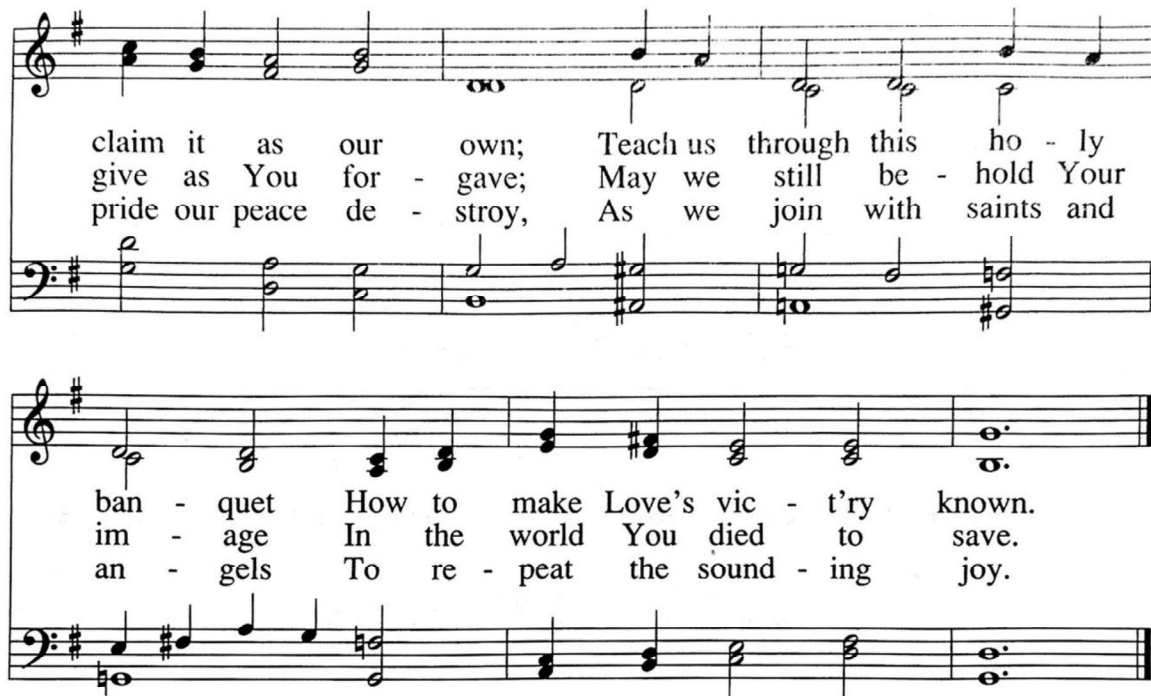
Unison

1. As we gath - er at Your
2. Turn our wor - ship in - to
3. Gra - cious Spir - it, help us

ta - ble, As we lis - ten to Your word, Help us
wit - ness In the sac - ra - ment of life; Send us
sum - mon Oth - er guests to share that feast Where tri -

know, O God, Your pres - ence; Let our hearts and minds be
forth to love and serve You, Bring - ing peace where there is
um - phant Love will wel - come Those who had been last and

stirred. Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry Till we
strife. Give us, Christ, Your great com - pas - sion To for -
least. There no more will en - vy blind us Nor will



claim it as our own; Teach us through this ho - ly
give as You for - gave; May we still be - hold Your
pride our peace de - stroy, As we join with saints and

ban - quet How to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
im - age In the world You died to save.
an - gels To re - peat the sound - ing joy.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Create in us a new heart and a new vision, O God,
that the gifts of your Spirit may work in us and renew the face of the earth.
May we be one with you so that our work is yours and your work is ours.
Lead us to transform our lives to reflect your glory in Creation;
through Jesus Christ our Savior who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever. Amen.

PARISH PRAYER CENTER

BLESSING



SENDING HYMN

For the Fruit of All Creation

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For his gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con -

sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
found us, most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

SENDING

The People's Response: Thanks be to God!