



*I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.*

## **DOVE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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**Sunday, September 13, 2020**

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**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

Pastor Stephen Springer

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**PROLOGUE**

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

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*Christ lag in Todesbanden* (Christ lay in death's bonds)  
Samuel Scheidt (1587-1654)

*Today, the theme for worship is centered around the parable of the grain of wheat, and our own rebirth through Christ. For our organ music today, our focus is on music written for the principal Christian celebration of rebirth and resurrection: Easter. Christ lag in Todesbanden is a seminal Lutheran Easter chorale. Both the text and the tune are Martin Luther's adaptation of Victimae Paschali Laudes, one of the oldest and most important Christian Easter hymns. Samuel Scheidt, an early Lutheran church musician, wrote a series of variations on the tune, and in today's prologue we hear variations one and five, with the tune appearing first in the soprano, and then in the pedal.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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In the name of the Father,  
and of the † Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;**

**we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**

**so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the 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 you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

## **GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:16-21**

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A reading from Isaiah.

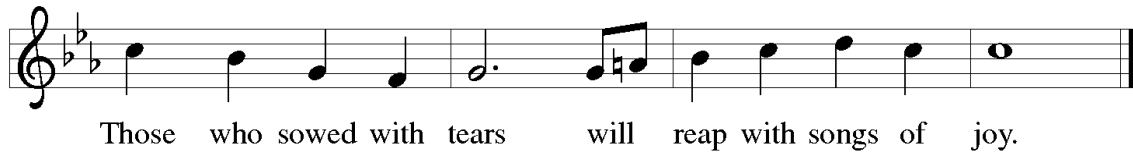
<sup>16</sup> Thus says the Lord,  
    who makes a way in the sea,  
    a path in the mighty waters,  
<sup>17</sup> who brings out chariot and horse,  
    army and warrior;  
they lie down, they cannot rise,  
    they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:  
<sup>18</sup> Do not remember the former things,  
    or consider the things of old.  
<sup>19</sup> I am about to do a new thing;  
    now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
    and rivers in the desert.  
<sup>20</sup> The wild animals will honor me,  
    the jackals and the ostriches;  
for I give water in the wilderness,  
    rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to my chosen people,  
<sup>21</sup> the people whom I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALMODY (ELW): Psalm 126**

*The refrain is first introduced by the leader, then repeated by the assembly.*



Psalm 126:5

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<sup>1</sup>When the Lord restored the for- | tunes of Zion,  
then were we like | those who dream.

<sup>2</sup>**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts of joy.  
Then they said among the nations,  
“The Lord has done great | things for them.”**

<sup>3</sup>The Lord has done great | things for us,  
and we are | glad indeed.

<sup>4</sup>**Restore our for- | tunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses | of the Negeb. REFRAIN**

<sup>5</sup>Those who | sowed with tears  
will reap with | songs of joy.

<sup>6</sup>**Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,  
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves. REFRAIN**

## **SECOND READING: Romans 8:18-25**

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A reading from Romans.

<sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL: John 12:23-26**

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The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**


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*Pastor Steve Springer*


***Renewal of Strength  
With Eagles' Wings in Times of Crisis***

***Part 4: "Out of Death, Life"***






1 Seed that in earth is dy - ing grows in - to ears of  
 2 We were bap - tized in Je - sus, in - to his death and  
 3 Seed that in earth is dy - ing ris - es to bear much



grain. Grapes that are crushed in the ves - sel  
 grave, to res - ur - rec - tion's prom - ise:  
 fruit. Christ, as we meet at your ta - ble,



turn in - to gold - en wine. God, through this mys - ter - y grant us  
 praise and e - ter - nal life. Heav - en's own prais - es be - gin here  
 give us the bread of life. Lord, we do thank and a - dore you!



faith in our deep - est dark - ness, life in our night and death.  
 where you your - self are near us, deep in our night and death.  
 Un - ceas - ing praise of the a - ges ris - es from night and death.

Text: Svein Ellingsen, b. 1929; tr. Hedwig T. Durnbaugh, b. 1929  
 Music: Harald Herresthal, b. 1944  
 Tr. © Hedwig T. Durnbaugh  
 Music © Norsk Musikforlag

SÅKORN SOM DØR I JORDEN  
 7 6 7 6 8 7 6

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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*After each petition: "Lord in your mercy," the assembly responds "Hear our prayer."*

Let us pray for the life of the church, the world, and those in need.

Gracious God, you have planted the seed of your word in the heart of your church, and you work to bring its message to all people. Make a way in the wilderness; let the voice of the church not be hindered in bringing the hope of the gospel to people of every race. Give courage to your witnesses who face unbelief and adversity, even physical danger.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our greatest need is your very self. For months we have been denied your meal of love and grace. As we share in the bread of life today, whether in person or vicariously on line, quench our thirst for your nearness. Let not the stress and strain we endure now break us, but strengthen us. Let us taste your mercy and declare your praise.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, we depend on your creation to sustain us. We pray today for those for whom natural disasters have brought devastation and loss. Send the gift of rain and calm the winds where wildfires burn; turn back flood waters, and bless the harvests that produce what is needed for life. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, you hold the universe in your palm. You have set all things to move in harmony. Do not permit the lust for power to disrupt that harmony among the nations. Bring order as you raise up leaders who do your will, that the nations may be obedient servants of your purpose. May those who work for peace bear much fruit.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, you call your people to honor those in authority. As we in this country face an upcoming election, help us elect trustworthy leaders and participate in wise decisions for our common life. Bless the leaders of our land, that we may be at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, bring a living faith to those who face the darkness of illness or any affliction. Close death's door and open a door of new life as you bring healing and restoration to the sick, the distressed, the abused and the addicted. Keep our families, friends and those we name before you in your care. Turn their weeping into songs of joy and thanksgiving.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Lord, with thanksgiving for all your faithful witnesses, let us wait with patience for your glory which will be revealed to us in the day we join the saints triumphant.  
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers:*

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,  
trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

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*In the sanctuary, the presiding minister and those physically present greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

To all the worshipers who are watching or listening safely online,  
we unite with you as one congregation, as we say to you:

**The peace of Christ be with you always.**

Members of the Chancel Choir:

*Lord, It Belongs Not to My Care*

Carl Schalk (b.1929)

*We welcome back to worship members of Dove's Chancel Choir, as we gradually and slowly add more worshippers. For a time, a portion of the choir will be involved in worship as part of our safe return to fuller congregational life. Today's anthem by the quintessential American Lutheran composer Carl Schalk speaks to our recent themes of God's love and care for us and the promise of new life in him.*

Lord, it belongs not to my care  
whether I die or live:  
to love and serve thee is my share,  
and this thy grace must give.

Christ leads me through no darker rooms  
than he went through before;  
he that into God's kingdom comes  
must enter by this door.

Come, Lord, when grace hath made me meet  
thy blessed face to see;  
for if thy work on earth be sweet,  
what will thy glory be!

Then shall I end my sad complaints  
and weary, sinful days,  
and join with the triumphant saints  
that sing my Saviour's praise.

My knowledge of that life is small,  
the eye of faith is dim;  
but 'tis enough that Christ knows all,  
and I shall be with him.

*Richard Baxter (1615-1691)*

## OFFERING PRAYER

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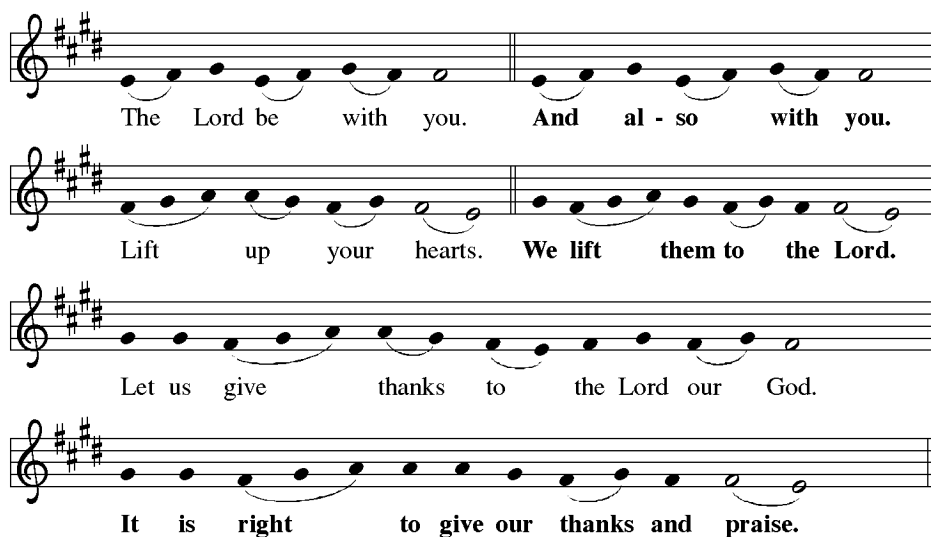
Let us pray.

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## EUCCHARIST: THE DIALOG

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The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## EUCCHARIST: THE PROPER PREFACE

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It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
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 all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## EUCCHARIST: SANCTUS

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Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n 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.

## EUCCHARIST: PRAYER AT THE TABLE

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Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:  
you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.  
You formed the earth from chaos;  
you encircled the globe with air;  
you created fire for warmth and light;  
you nourish the lands with water.  
You molded us in your image,  
and with mercy higher than the mountains,  
with grace deeper than the seas,  
you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.  
That also we, estranged and dying,  
might be adopted to live in your Spirit,  
you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

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.

Together as the body of Christ,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:



With this bread and cup we remember your Son,  
the first-born of your new creation.  
We remember his life lived for others,  
and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth.  
We await his coming,  
when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom,  
all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate,  
send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit,  
whose breath revives us for life,  
whose fire rouses us to love.  
Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food.  
Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit,  
that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Holy and benevolent God,  
receive our praise and petitions,  
as Jesus received the cry of the needy,  
and fill us with your blessing,  
until, needy no longer and bound to you in love,  
we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb:

through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One,  
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.



### **EUCHARIST: THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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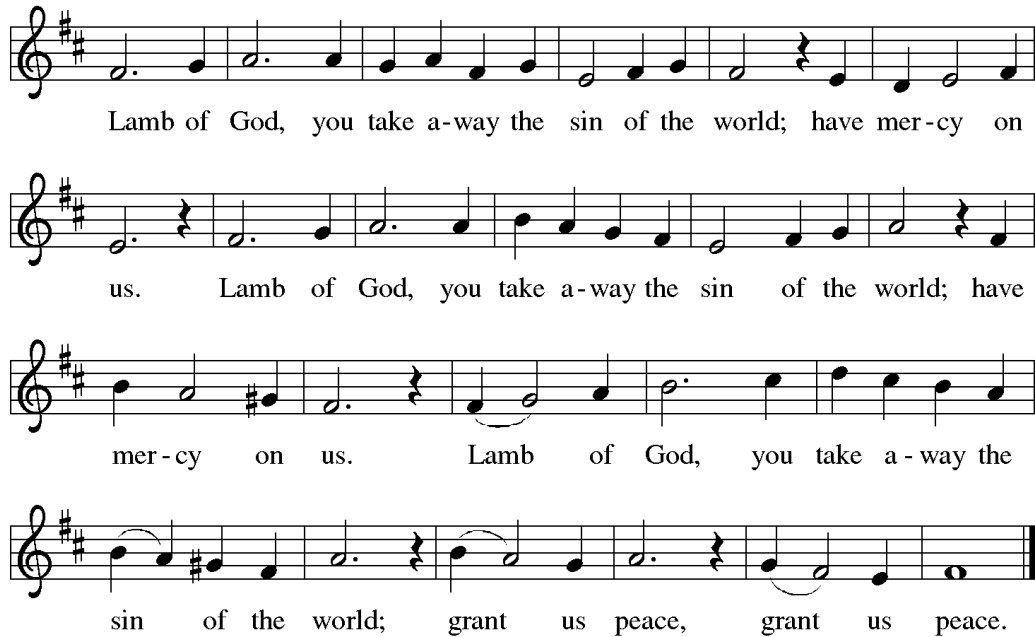
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**



## EUCHARIST: LAMB OF GOD

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Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## EUCHARIST: SHARING BREAD AND WINE

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Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

*Improvisation*

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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Let us pray.

O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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Go forth into the world in peace. Be of good courage.  
Hold fast that which is good. Render to no one evil for evil.  
Strengthen the fainthearted. Support the weak.  
Help the afflicted. Show love to everyone.  
Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**



1 Rise, O church, like Christ a - ris - en,  
 2 Rise, trans - formed, and choose to fol - low  
 3 Rise, re - mem - ber well the fu - ture  
 4 Ser - vice be our sure vo - ca - tion;



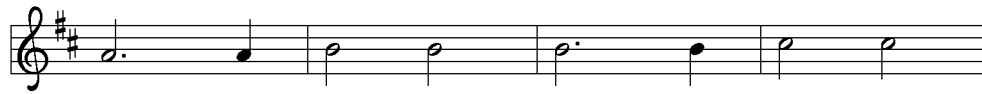
from this meal of love and grace;  
 af - ter Christ, though wound - ed, whole;  
 God has called us to re - ceive;  
 cour - age be our dai - ly breath;



may we through such love en - vi - sion  
 bro - ken, shared, our lives are hal - lowed  
 pres - ent by God's lov - ing nur - ture,  
 mer - cy be our des - ti - na - tion



whose we are, and whose, our praise.  
 to re - lease and to con - sole.  
 Spir - it - ed then let us live.  
 from this day and un - to death.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia;  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia;  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia;  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



God, the won - der of our days.  
 Christ, our pres - ent, past, and goal.  
 Spir - it, grace by whom we live.  
 Rise, O church, a liv - ing faith.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953  
 Music: SURGE ECCLESIA, Timothy J. Strand, b. 1958  
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*Saraband (For the morning of Easter)*  
Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

*A sarabande is a French courtly dance from the Baroque period. It is a slower, often somber dance in triple time with the emphasis on the second beat of each measure. Many composers from the Baroque to present day have used the dance form in their musical compositions. This particular sarabande, by English composer Herbert Howells and labelled "For the morning of Easter," is equal parts regal and joyful, beginning declamatory and bold, then moving towards quiet contemplation before building to a thrilling conclusion.*

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**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

Assisting Minister: Dianne Huston  
Lector: John Hoelter  
Cantor: Eric Holtan