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**JOHN DONNE (d. 1631)**

John Donne, dean of St. Paul's Cathedral in London, was an eloquent preacher. He is honored especially for his poetry, which exemplified the 17th century style of complex syntax and eloquent metaphors. The symbol is the bell, this one being Great Tom, the hour bell in the southwest tower at St. Paul's. One cannot help but remember Donne's words, "Therefore, send not to know for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee." The Hymn of the Day is a 17<sup>th</sup> century hymn that develops a complex metaphor—Christ as the tree of life—to praise the passion of Christ.

*Congregational Responses in Bold Print*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS****PRELUDE***There in God's Garden*

FARLEE

**CONFESSION OF SINS**

*In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

*God of heaven and earth, you come in close and make us yours. Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace your forgiveness, and seek the way you set before us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.*

***Merciful God, forgive us. Our will is handcuffed to sin, and we cannot break free. We have spoken when we should have kept quiet. Silence.***

***We were silent when we should have said something. Silence.***

***We acted when we knew better. Silence.***

***We were still when we know we should have moved. Silence.***

***For the wrong we have done, for the good we have failed to do, have mercy on us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

*People of God, look to the ✠ Son, given to heal you and set you free because God loved the world so much. Take hold of life—eternal life! Amen.*

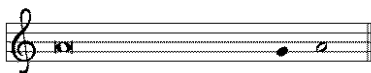
**GATHERING HYMN # 335*****Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross***

NEAR THE CROSS

**GREETING**

*The grace of Jesus Christ, the mercy of the Holy One, and the Spirit of the living God be with you all. And also with you.*

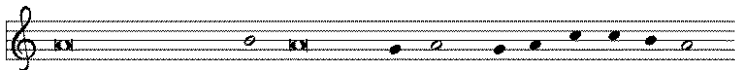
## KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



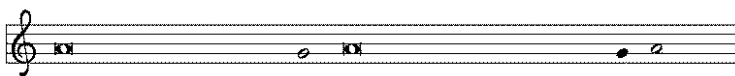
Lord, have mer - cy.



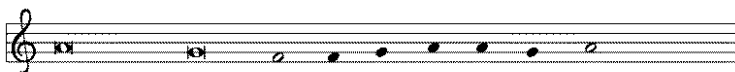
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



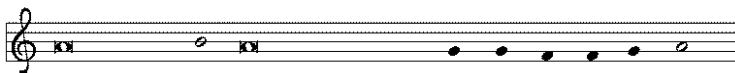
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



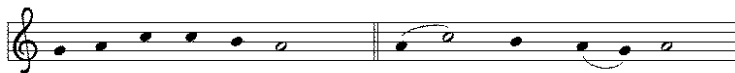
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Let us pray together. God of all grace and might, we praise you for your servant, John, to whom you gave gifts to make the good news known. Raise up, we pray, in every place, heralds and evangelists of your kingdom, so that the world may know the immeasurable riches of our Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## WORD

### KIDS OF THE KINGDOM

*It Is Written*

#### FIRST READING: Isaiah 62: 1-7

*The people's return to Judah after the exile was marred by economic and political troubles. Nevertheless, the prophet declares, Jerusalem and Judah will be restored. God will rejoice over Jerusalem as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride; and the people are called to the celebration. The symbolism of these verses is reminiscent of Donne's poetry.*

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. <sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. <sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. <sup>4</sup>You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married. <sup>5</sup>For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you. <sup>6</sup>Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest, <sup>7</sup>and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

**The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

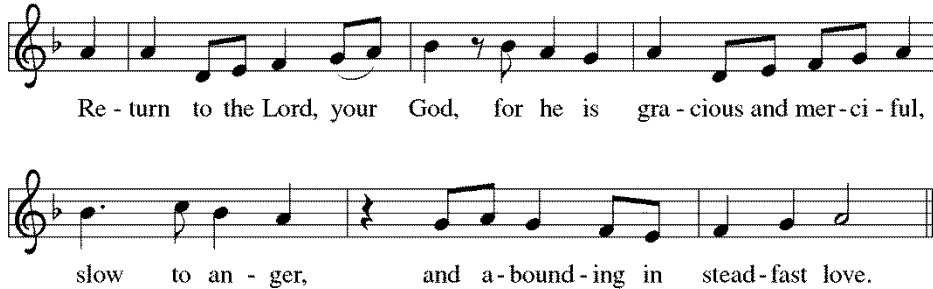
#### SECOND READING: Ephesians 2: 1-10

*While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.*

<sup>1</sup>You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. <sup>4</sup>But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—<sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

**The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## HOLY GOSPEL

*The Holy Gospel according to John the 3rd Chapter.      Glory to you, O Lord.*

### GOSPEL      John 3:14-21

*To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>14</sup>“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup>Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

*The Gospel of the Lord.      Praise to you, O Christ.*

### SERMON      John Donne

### HYMN OF THE DAY #342      *There in God's Garden*      SHADES MOUNTAIN

### NICENE CREED

*God has made us his people through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust, hope, and love we confess our faith:*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS**

*Renewed in the promises of baptism, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. (A brief silence.)*

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

*Trusting in your covenant of mercy, O God, we lift our prayers to you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.*

## **MEAL**

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE PEACE**

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

*We share a sign of God's peace with one another!*

**OFFERING** 8:15 Miriam Gibson *Abide with Me, Fast Falls the Eventide* HOFLAND  
10:45 Brass Ensemble *Amazing Grace*

**OFFERTORY** # 188 *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

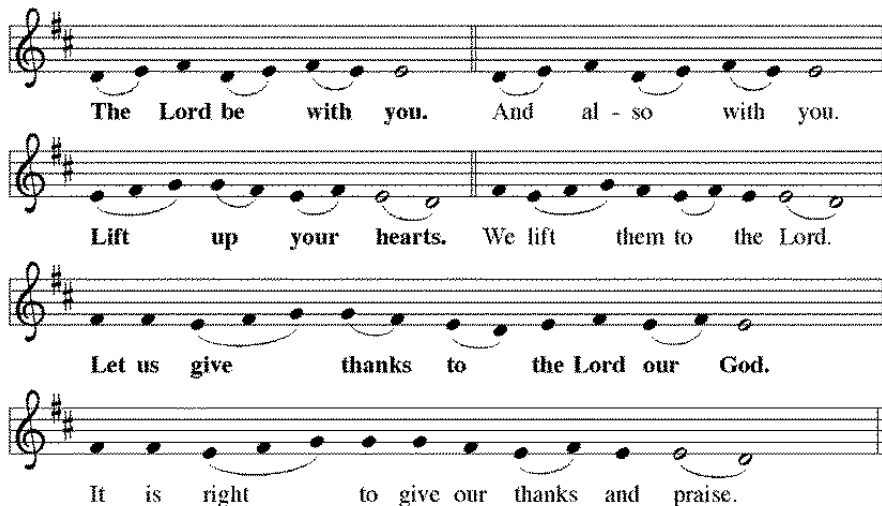
**Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

**Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free spirit.**

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

*Let us pray. Merciful God,* receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

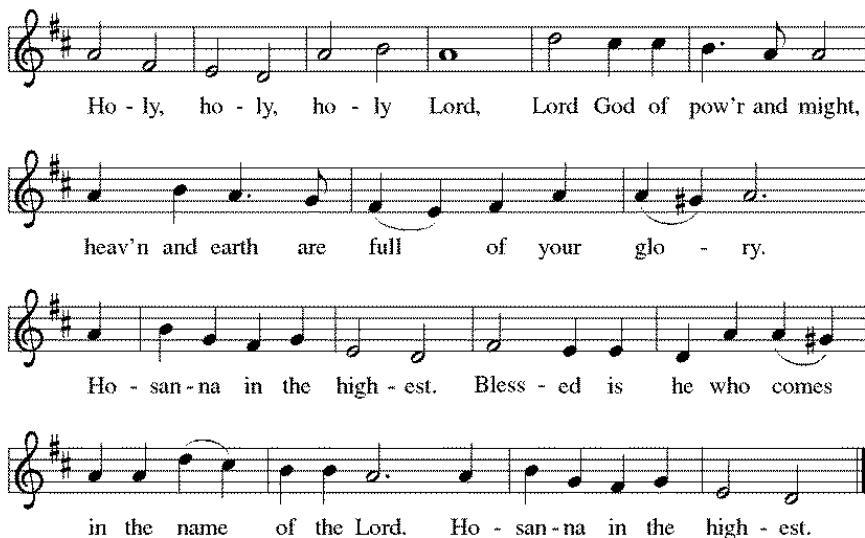
## GREAT THANKSGIVING



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.

*It is indeed right.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

*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.*

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:*

**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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*Return to God with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.*

## LAMB OF GOD



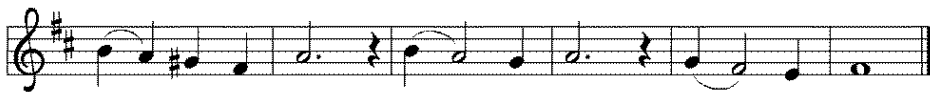
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



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.

## SONGS DURING COMMUNION

#863 *My God, How Wonderful Thou Art*

#464 *Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal*

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

## POST-COMMUNION HYMN

Thank-ful hearts and voice-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let  
ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.  
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with  
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*Let us pray. Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## SENDING

### BLESSING

*May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you ☩ peace. Amen.*

**SENDING HYMN** # 779 *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* NEW BRITAIN

## DISMISSAL

*Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

## POSTLUDE

*Martyrdom*

FARLEE