

NICOLAUS COPERNICUS (d. 1543)

Remembering scientists such as Copernicus offers an opportunity to ponder the mysteries of the universe and the grandeur of God’s creation. Copernicus is an example of a renaissance person. He formally studied astronomy, mathematics, Greek, Plato, law, medicine, and canon law. He also had interests in theology, poetry, and the natural and social sciences. Copernicus is chiefly remembered for his work as an astronomer and his idea that the sun, not the earth, is the center of the solar system. Copernicus major work, *On the Revolutions of the Celestial Spheres*, is displayed by his heliocentric model, with the sun in the center. The Hymn of the Day is a 20th century hymn that praises God for the created universe.

Congregational Responses in Bold Print

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *O Lord, throughout These Forty Days/Lamb of God* SEDIO

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 #333 *Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land* WEARY LAND

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



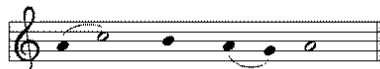
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



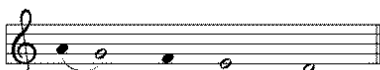
Lord, have mer - cy.



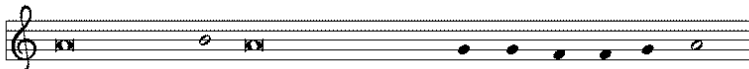
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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. Almighty God, beautiful in majesty, majestic in holiness: You have shown us the splendor of creation in the work of your servant, Copernicus. Teach us to drive from the world all chaos and disorder, that our eyes may behold your glory, and that at last everyone may know the inexhaustible richness of your new creation in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: Psalm 8

The Psalmist is in awe over God's creation, the universe and the crown of creation, humanity. We rejoice in knowing that it is neither humans, nor the sun or the earth that is in the center, but the Sovereign Lord himself.

¹O LORD, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
²Out of the mouths of babes and infants
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.
³When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
⁴what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?
⁵Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honor.
⁶You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,
⁷all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
⁸the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
⁹O LORD, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

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

SECOND READING: Hebrews 5: 5-10

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

⁶as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,

according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead-fast love.

HOLY GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to John the 12th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL John 12: 20-33

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very 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. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has

come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

SERMON *Nicolaus Copernicus*

HYMN OF THE DAY #771 *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens* HOLY MANNA

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 *Love Unknown* OSTERLAND
10:45 Senior Choir *Agnus Dei* POORMAN

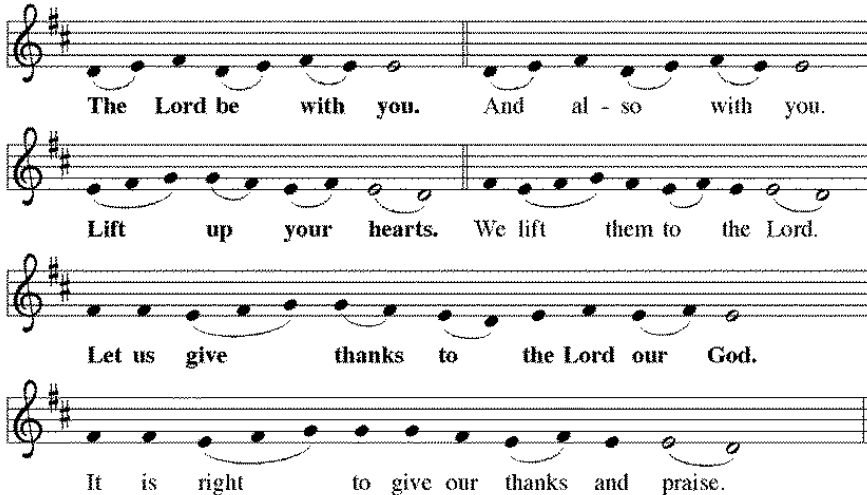
OFFERTORY # 188 *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

**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

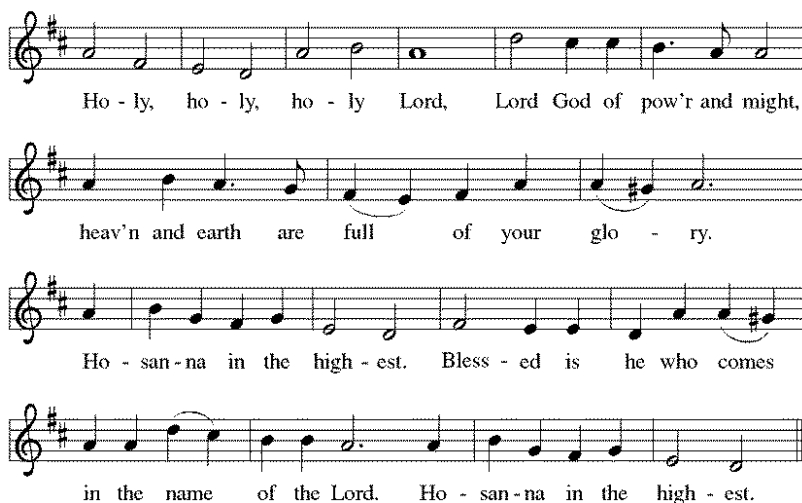
Let us pray. Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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

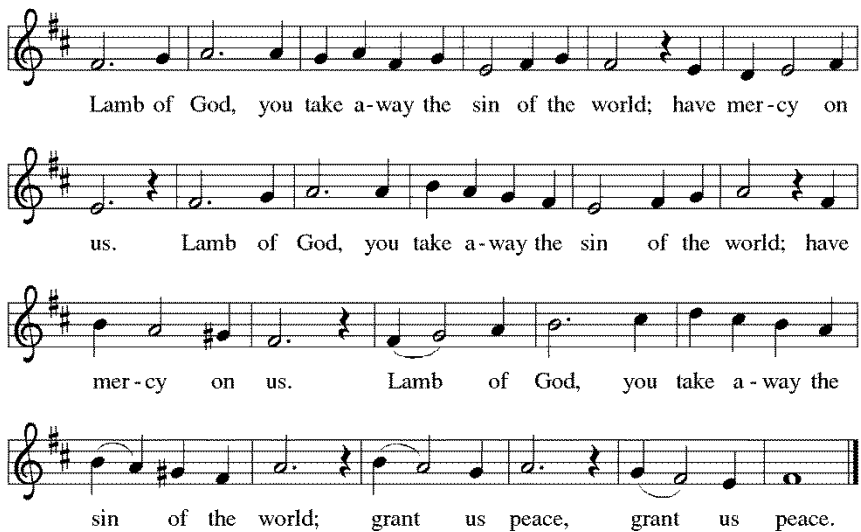
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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
 Senior Choir: *Invitation to Communion*
 #759 *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*
 #770 *Give Me Jesus*

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 voic-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 (Page 10) *O When the Saint Go Marching In* NEW BRITAIN

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE *Meditation on Ellers* THEWES

Moving One Step Closer to God.

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Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In



1 Oh, when the saints go march-ing in, oh, when the
 2 Oh, when the Lord in glo - ry comes, oh, when the
 3 Oh, when the new world is re - vealed, oh, when the
 4 Oh, when they gath - er round the throne, oh, when they



saints go march-ing in, O Lord, I want to be in that
 Lord in glo - ry comes, O Lord, I want to be in that
 new world is re - vealed, O Lord, I want to be in that
 gath - er round the throne, O Lord, I want to be in that



num - ber when the saints go march - ing in.
 num - ber when the Lord in glo - ry comes.
 num - ber when the new world is re - vealed.
 num - ber when they gath - er round the throne.

5 Oh, when they crown him King of kings,
 oh, when they crown him King of kings,
 O Lord, I want to be in that number
 when they crown him King of kings.

6 And on that hallelujah day,
 and on that hallelujah day,
 O Lord, I want to be in that number
 on that hallelujah day.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: WHEN THE SAINTS, African American spiritual