

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please use the welcome pad in the blue folder at the end of the pew. Record your presence. Pass it back, noticing who is worshipping with you. When the pad has been returned, please tear off the sheet and place it in the offering plate.)

MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP

Paul Platek

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess that we feel an emptiness that sends us searching for still more, but we often search away from You. Our desire for greener pastures easily fills us with envy. Our trust in the promises of the world turns us away from the shelter You offer. But You gave shape and meaning to the ancient image of Yourself as shepherd through the person of Jesus Christ. In Jesus, Your compassion has been eternally revealed, giving Your rod and staff the human face of love. Help us to take the time and make the space to hear Your call to us. Forgive us, merciful God. Call us back from our wayward lives, that we might find rest in Your heart, healing from Your hands, and unity in life together as disciples of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, in whose name we pray, Amen.

PRAYERS OF SILENT AND INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

* RESPONSE

Hymnal No. 106, Verse 1

Alleluia No. 1

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give praise to his name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.

He is the King of creation.

Alleluia...

* EXCHANGE OF PEACE

Leader: Let us open our hearts to one another as Christ has opened his heart to us, and God will be glorified.

People: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

(Exchange Signs of Reconciliation and the Peace of Christ with your neighbor - e.g., *“The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.”*)

Response - *“And also with you.”*)

+ *Children and Youth leave for their classes.*

* HYMN 172

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

Resignation

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 the glory, forever. Amen.

CHORAL PRAYER RESPONSE

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Acts 9:36-43

ANTHEM

The Lord is My Shepherd

John Rutter

The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing.

He shall feed me in a green pasture:

And lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.

He shall convert my soul:

And bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil:

For thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.

Thou shalt prepare a table for me against them that trouble me:

Thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.

But thy loving kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

SECOND LESSON

Revelation 7:9-17

SERMON

"The Ultimate Hope"

Rev. Richard S. Hong

OFFERTORY

Worthy is the Lamb (Messiah)

G. F. Handel

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and hath redeemed us to God by His blood, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. Blessing and honour, glory and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever.

* THE DOXOLOGY WITH ALLELUIAS

Lasst uns erfreuen

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Creator, Son and Holy Ghost, Alleluia, Alleluia
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SENDING OUT

* HYMN 111 Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing! Gelobt Sei Gott

* BENEDICTION

* CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE Postlude on "Lasst uns erfreuen" Barbara Harbach

(Our worship ends with the conclusion of the Postlude. It is the custom of our church to remain seated. Those who wish to leave may do so.)

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TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 9:1-6 (NRSV)

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid

her in a room upstairs. ³⁸Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.' ³⁹So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴²This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Revelation 7:9-17 (NRSV)

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!' ¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, ¹²singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.' ¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' ¹⁴I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. ¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; ¹⁷for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'