

St. Gregory's Episcopal Church
The First Sunday of the Season of Creation
September 1, 2024

PRELUDE.....Ann Klein, Music Director

THE ANGELUS

The Angelus is a traditional Christian devotion offered before Holy Eucharist and Morning and Evening Prayer in honor of the Incarnation. It is usually accompanied by the ringing of the church bell (in three sets of three for each versicle, response, and Hail Mary, followed by one set of nine for the concluding prayer). You may pray it as the bell rings, or use the silence to prepare for worship in your own way.

The first three bells



*V. The angel of the Lord announced unto Mary,
R. And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

The second three bells

*V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
R. Be it unto me according to your word.*

Hail Mary, full of grace...

The third three bells

*V. And the Word was made flesh.
R. And dwelled among us.*

Hail Mary, full of grace...

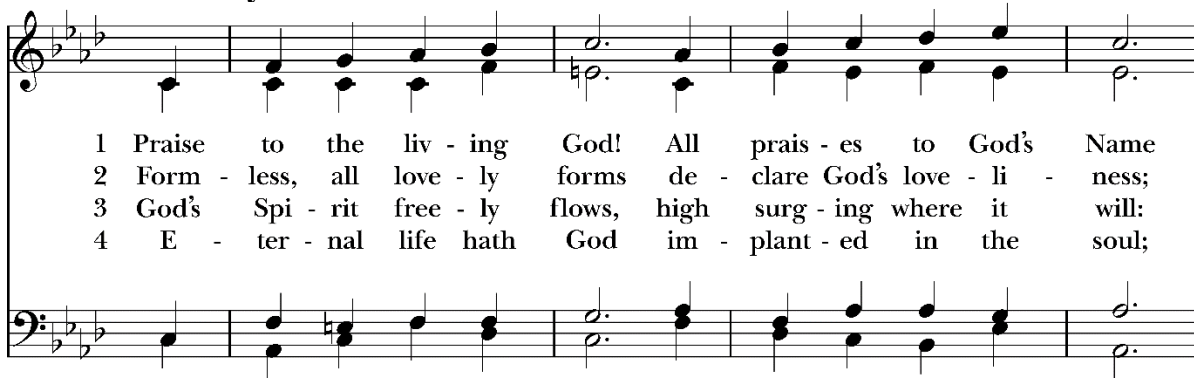
The nine bells



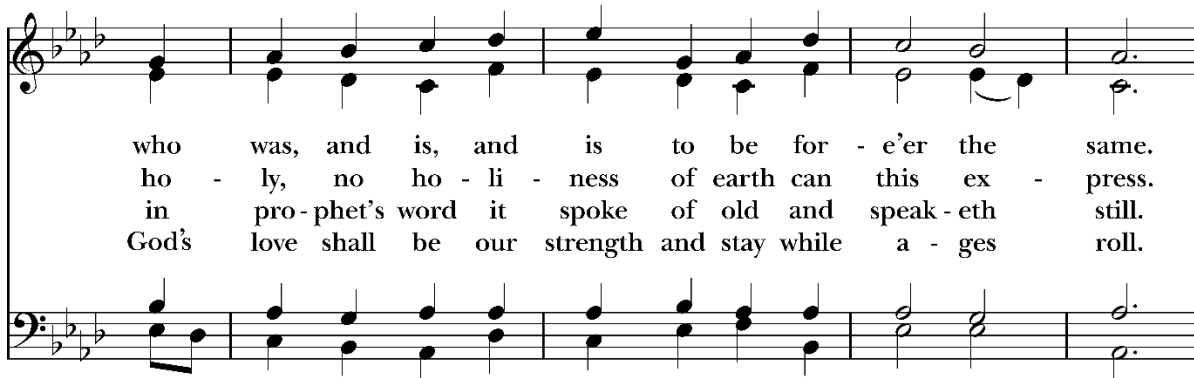
*V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Processional Hymn



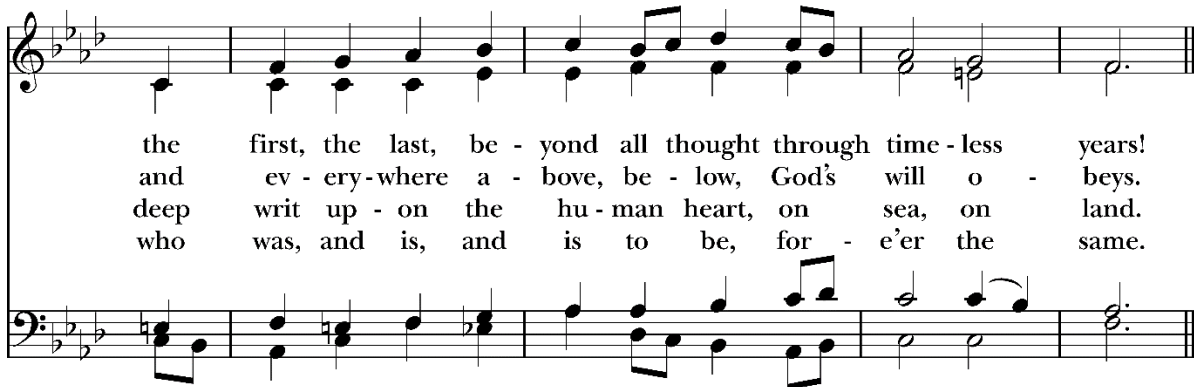
1 Praise to the liv - ing God! All prais - es to God's Name
 2 Form - less, all love - ly forms de - clare God's love - li - ness;
 3 God's Spi - rit free - ly flows, high surg - ing where it will:
 4 E - ter - nal life hath God im - plant - ed in the soul;



who was, and is, and is to be for - e'er the same.
 ho - ly, no ho - li - ness of earth can this ex - press.
 in pro - phet's word it spoke of old and speak - eth still.
 God's love shall be our strength and stay while a - ges roll.



The one e - ter - nal God ere aught that now ap - pears:
 God is the life of all. Cre - a - tion speaks God's praise,
 Es - tab - lished is God's law, and change - less it shall stand,
 Praise to the liv - ing God! All prais - es to God's Name



the first, the last, be - yond all thought through time - less years!
 and ev - ery - where a - bove, be - low, God's will o - beys.
 deep writ up - on the hu - man heart, on sea, on land.
 who was, and is, and is to be, for - e'er the same.

Words: Medieval Jewish liturgy; tr. Max Landsberg (1845-1928) and Newton M. Mann (1836-1926). Music: *Leoni*, Hebrew melody; harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1985, alt.

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant This is the day the Creator has made.

People **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

The Collect for Purity (*BCP*, p. 355)

Song of Praise (*Voices Found*, 52)

Come, Great Cre - a - tor! Come, Life Giv - er!

Come to this sa - cred place! Come, and be with us!

The Collect of the Day (*BCP*, pp. 211-236)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect. The people respond, Amen.

The First Reading

from *The Mystic Treatises*, St. Isaac the Syrian

What is a charitable heart? It is a heart burning with love for the whole of creation, for humans, for the birds, for the beasts, for the demons—for all creatures. One who has such a heart cannot see or call to mind a creature without having eyes being filled with tears by reason of the immense compassion which seizes the heart; a heart which is softened and can no longer bear to see or learn from others of any suffering, even the smallest pain, being inflicted on any creature. That is why such a person never ceases to pray also for the animals, that they may be preserved and purified. This person will even pray for the reptiles, moved by the infinite pity which reigns in the hearts of those who are becoming united with God.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 15 (*chanted in unison*)

- 1 Lord, who may dwell in your | **tabernacle**; *
who may abide upon your holy | **hill**?
- 2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is | **right**, *
who speaks the truth from their heart | **heart**.

- 3 There is no guile upon their tongue;
they do no evil to their | **friends**; *
they do not heap contempt upon their | **neighbors**.
- 4 In their sight the wicked are re|jected, *
but they honor those who revere the | **Lord**.
- 5 They have sworn to do no | **wrong** *
and do not take back their | **word**.
- 6 They do not give their money in hope of | **gain**, *
nor do they take a bribe against the | **innocent**.
- 7 Whoever does these | **things** *
shall never be over|thrown.

The Second Reading

James 1:17-27

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act, they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Procession *(please stand in body or spirit)*

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

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

The Gospel

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

'This people honors me with their lips,
 but their hearts are far from me;
in vain do they worship me,
 teaching human precepts as doctrines.'

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

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

The Sermon follows. Afterwards, all stand for the recitation of the Creed.

The Nicene Creed (from *Enriching Our Worship*)

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,
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 of the People

During the silence after each bidding, the people offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

Intercessor

Let us pray for the revealing of the reign of God in the world, now and always.

Intercessor In the beginning,
People **God was.**

Intercessor Here and now,
People **God is.**

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

Intercessor

Creator of earth, sea, and sky, kindle the fire of your Spirit within us that we may be bold to heal
and defend the earth, and pour your blessing upon all who work for the good of the planet.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Breath of life, receive our thanks for the beauty of our local habitat and all who dwell in it, and grant us the wisdom and will to conserve it.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Source of life, heal and redeem the wounds of your creation, and visit the places and people who suffer from our indifference, neglect, and greed.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Author of the book of nature, receive our gratitude for places of restoration and healing, and continue to bless those places that feed our lives and spirits.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Divine Physician, heal our communities, especially those where neglect, greed, or violence inflict suffering upon people and other creatures.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Comforter of all the earth, sustain the people of this congregation who desire or need your presence and help, especially those on our Parish Prayer List, and any others we now name, silently or aloud.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Rock and refuge of all your creatures, receive into everlasting mercy all those who have died [especially _____].

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant concludes the Prayers with one of the following collects.

God of evolving diversity, made known in seed and soil, and the wonder of animal worlds: free our hearts from the anxiety which knows only domination; open our being to learn from the life with which we share this earth; through Jesus Christ, the Lord of the harvest. *Amen.*

source: Steven Shakespeare, Prayers for an Inclusive Church

or this

God of unchangeable power, when you fashioned the world the morning stars sang together and the host of heaven shouted for joy; open our eyes to the wonders of creation and teach us to use all things for good, to the honor of your glorious name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

source: A New Zealand Prayer Book, p. 569

or this

Bountiful God, you call us to labor with you in tending the earth: Where we lack love, open our hearts to the world; where we waste, give us discipline to conserve; where we neglect, awaken our minds and wills to insight and care. May we with all your creatures honor and serve you in all things for you live and reign with Christ, Redeemer of all, and with your Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

source: The Book of Occasional Services 2018, p. 339

or this

Holy God,
you alone are unutterable,
from the time you created all things that can be spoken of.
You alone are unknowable,
from the time you created all things that can be known.
All things cry out about you:
those that speak, and those that cannot speak.
All things honor you:
those that think, and those that cannot think.
For there is one longing, one groaning,
which all things have for you.
All things that comprehend your plan
pray to you and offer you a silent hymn.
In you, the One, all things abide,
and all things endlessly run to you who are the end of all. *Amen.*

source: Gregory of Nazianzus, 4th century

or this

Great Spirit God,
we give you thanks for another day on this earth.
We give you thanks for this day
to enjoy the compassionate goodness of you, our Creator.
We acknowledge with one mind
our respect and gratefulness to all the sacred cycle of life.
Bind us together in the circle of compassion
to embrace all living creatures and one another. *Amen.*

*source: Native American/Alaska Native
and Native Hawaiian Liturgies*

A Confession of Sin against God's Creation

The Celebrant introduces the Confession with these words

Let us confess our sin against God and God's creation.

The people may kneel. A brief silence may be kept.

Minister and People

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 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 Priest alone says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

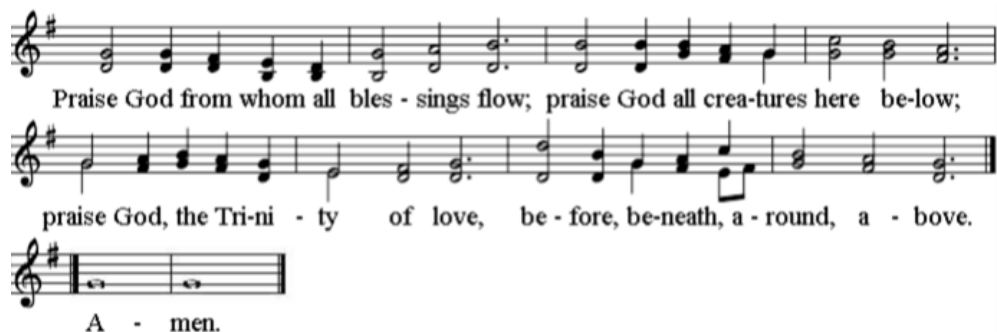
 The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The people greet one another with a sign of peace. Parish announcements may follow.

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem (*sung by choir*)

Doxology (*sung by all, standing in body or spirit*)



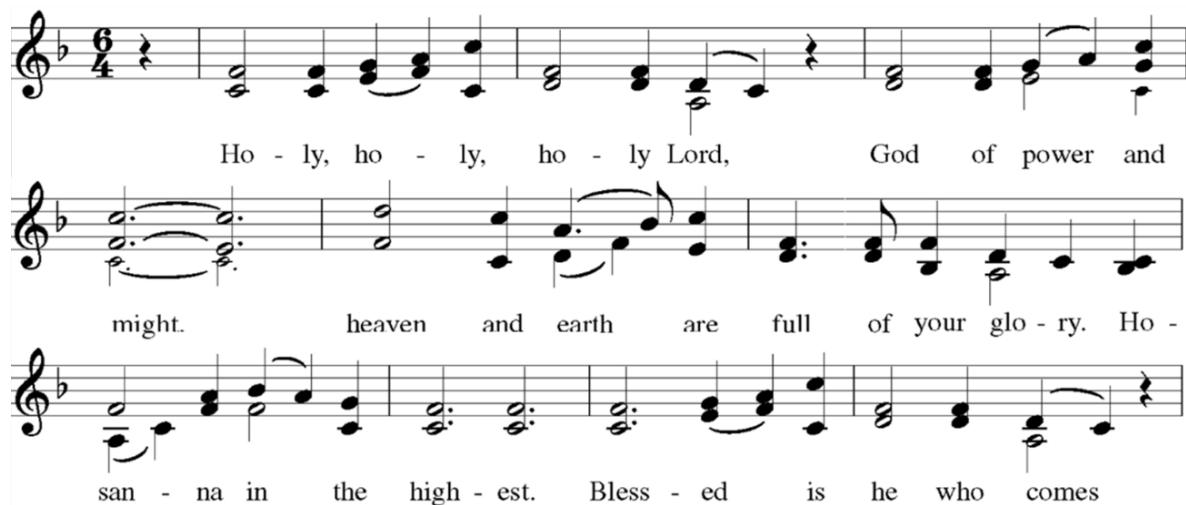
Praise God from whom all bles - sings flow; praise God all crea-tures here be-low;
praise God, the Tri-ni - ty of love, be - fore, be-neath, a - round, a - bove.
A - men.

The Great Thanksgiving (from *Enriching Our Worship*)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways.

But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might. heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you. On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. 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 for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with Blessed Mary the God-bearer, Blessed Gregory our patron, and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. *AMEN.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,


**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
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

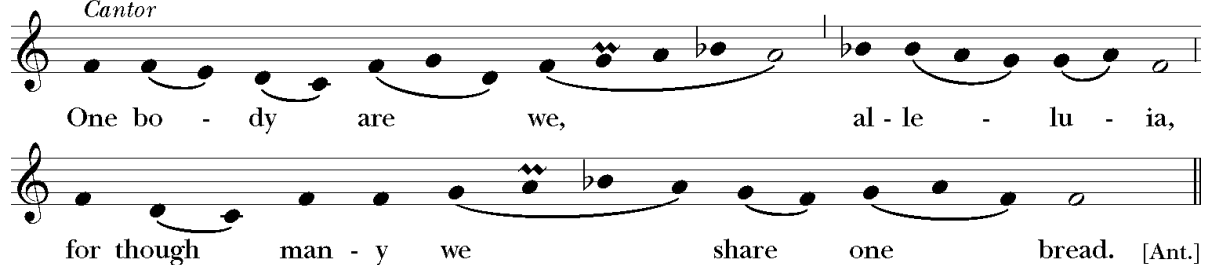
The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A brief silence is kept. The cantor then sings the antiphon once, followed by the congregation

Antiphon:



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

Cantor



One bo - dy are we, al - le - lu - ia,
for though man - y we share one bread. [Ant.]

The Celebrant says the following Invitation


The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Chants

During the ministration of the Sacrament, one of the following is sung



Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.



Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!

TEXT and MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1982
Text and Music © 1991 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

or

St. Columba

You are be - loved for God is love, You are be -
 - loved of God. You are be - loved for
 God is love, for God is love.

Setting: Ana Hernández © 2002 Ana Hernández.
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After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Holy One,

you feed us with bread from heaven
 and the gifts of Mother Earth.

In this communion, you have drawn us into your embrace
 and you call us to friendship with one another.

You have given us the gift of reconciliation.

May we who have tasted that gift from you,
 offer ourselves in peace and humility to one another,
 and may you always walk among us as friend. Amen.

The Priest gives a blessing.

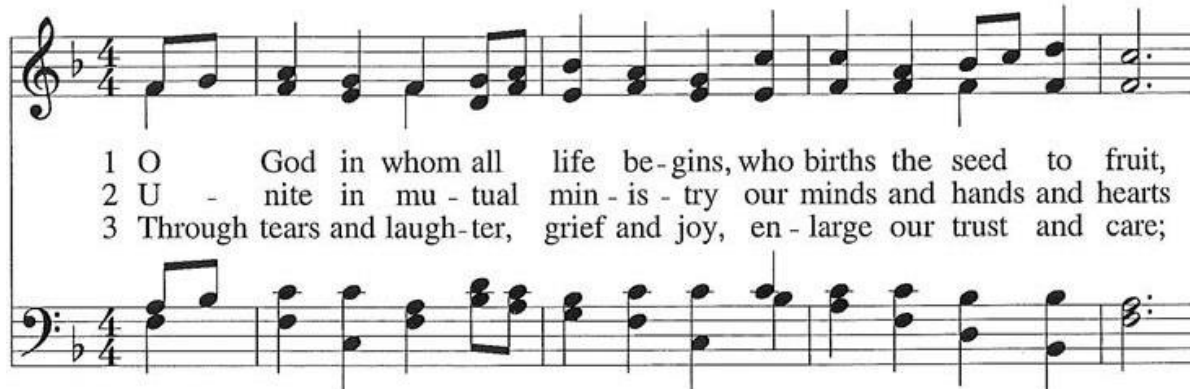
Recessional Hymn (*see following page*)

The Dismissal

The Celebrant or Deacon dismisses the people with the following words

Tend the earth, care for God's good Creation;
 as you have received freely, so give freely.
 Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
 Alleluia, alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**



1 O God in whom all life be-gins, who births the seed to fruit,
 2 U - nite in mu - tual min - is - try our minds and hands and hearts
 3 Through tears and laugh-ter, grief and joy, en - large our trust and care;



be - stow your bless - ing on our lives; here let your love find root.
 that we may have the grace to seek the power your peace im - parts.
 so bind us in com - mu - ni - ty that we may risk and dare.



Bring forth in us the Spir - it's gifts of pa-tience, joy, and peace;
 So let our var - ied gifts com-bine to glo - ri - fy your Name
 Be with us when we gath - er here to wor-ship, sing, and pray,



de - liv - er us from numb - ing fear, and grant our faith in - crease.
 that in all things by word and deed we may your love pro - claim.
 then send us forth in power and faith to live the words we say.