

*The Holy Spirit
gathers us in unity on the
first day of the week.*

Not much is known about English organist John Bennett (c. 1735-1784) other than the fact that he was organist at several London churches during his professional lifetime. His "Ten Voluntaries for Organ," from which today's prelude is taken, was published in 1758. This particular work calls for use of the vox humana which today you hear in alternation with our lovely smaller cornet.



HOLY COMMUNION

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

God's Name is Revealed

Sunday, October 3, 2021
10:30 a.m. Choral Eucharist

Exploring the promise of God for all

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Voluntary in B Minor

John Bennett

(Please stand at the sound of the bell)

CALL TO WORSHIP

"I will Worship the Lord"

John Rutter

I will worship the Lord all the days of my life;

I will tell of God's glory and will show forth God's praise;

I will sing and rejoice, for the Lord is my stronghold. Alleluia!

OPENING DIALOGUE

P Moses hid his face,

A For he was afraid to look at God.

P Who am I that I should bring the Israelites out of Egypt?

A I will be with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

A And also with you.

P Let us pray.

God of all people, you remembered your children who were enslaved in Egypt, and by the power of your name you set them free. Remember us and free us from sin by your never failing love for us and all your people.

A Amen.

(Please be seated)

WORD

CHILDREN'S TIME

FIRST READING

Exodus 2:23-25; 3:1-15; 4:10-17

Today's narrative reading is from the book of Exodus:

^{2:23}After a long time the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned under their slavery, and cried out. Out of the slavery their cry for help rose up to

God. ²⁴God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. ²⁵God looked upon the Israelites, and God took notice of them.

^{3:1}Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." ⁴When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.



⁷Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." ¹¹But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" ¹²He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

¹³But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴God said to Moses, " I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ' I AM has sent me to you.'" ¹⁵God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations.

^{4:10}But Moses said to the Lord, "O my Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor even now that you have spoken to your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue." ¹¹Then the LORD said to him, "Who gives speech to mortals? Who makes them mute or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? ¹²Now go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you are to speak." ¹³But he said, "O my Lord, please send someone else." ¹⁴Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses and he said, "What of your brother Aaron the Levite? I know that he can speak fluently; even now he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you his heart will be glad. ¹⁵You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth; and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and will teach you what you shall do.



¹⁶He indeed shall speak for you to the people; he shall serve as a mouth for you, and you shall serve as God for him. ¹⁷Take in your hand this staff, with which you shall perform the signs."

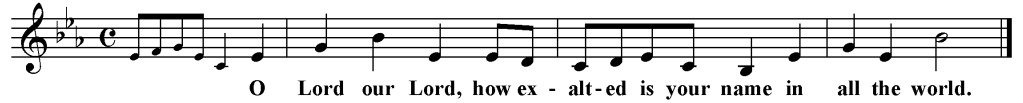
Word of God. Word of life.

AD Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 8

The initial refrain is sung by the choir. The congregation joins in singing the refrain after each solo verse:



Solo: Out of the mouths of infants and children your majesty is praised above the heavens. You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries to quell the enemy and the avenger.

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses; what are human beings that you are mindful of them? Mortals that you should seek them out?

ALL: REFRAIN

Solo: You have made them but little lower than the angels; you adorn them with glory and honor; you give them mastery over the work of your hands; and put all things under their feet.

All sheep and all oxen, even the wild beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.

ALL: REFRAIN

(Please stand)

GOSPEL READING

John 8:54-58

The Holy Gospel according to John.

AD Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵⁴Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, he of whom you say, 'He is our God,' ⁵⁵though you do not know him. But I know him; if I would say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you. But I do know him and I keep his word. ⁵⁶Your ancestor Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day; he saw it and was glad." ⁵⁷Then the authorities said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" ⁵⁸Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, before Abraham was, I am."

The Gospel of the Lord.

AD Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Like "As Newborn Stars," the hymn by Carl Daw we sang a few weeks ago, this hymn by English hymnwriter Brian Wren (b. 1936) helps us realize the continuity of God's gracious acts throughout scripture – from the setting of today's reading in Exodus through the birthday of the church at Pentecost. Wren's hymn texts appear in virtually every denominational hymnal in the English language.



HYMN OF THE DAY

"Deep in the Shadows of the Past"

Choir: 1. Deep in the shadows of the past, far out from settled lands,
 Choir: 2. While others bowed to change-less gods, they met a mystery,
 All: 3. From Exodus to Pentecost, the promise changed and grew,

some nomads traveled with their God across the desert sands.
 in - visible, with - out a name: "I AM WHAT I WILL BE";
 while some, remembering the past, recorded what they knew,

The dawning hope of human-kind by them was sensed and shown:
 and by their tents, around their fires in story song, and law,
 or with their letters and laments, their proph - e - cy and praise,

a promise calling them ahead, a future yet unknown.
 they praised, remembered, handed on a past that promised more.
 recovered, kindled, and expressed new hope for changing days.

Text: Brian Wren, 1973/1994
 © 1975/1995, Hope Publishing Company
 Music: *Shepherds' Pipes*, Annabeth McClelland Gay, 1952
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(Please stand)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A Let us pray for the church and for the world giving thanks for God's goodness.

(Brief Silence)

Each petition concludes:
 For your love and goodness:
We give you thanks O God.

P Having gathered our prayers, we offer them to you O God, confident that they are received and held in your holy name.

A Amen.



MEAL

PEACE

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

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

- P** Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord . . .
. . . be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Al **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

"Thee We Adore, O Savior"

Gregorian plainsong

(Please stand)

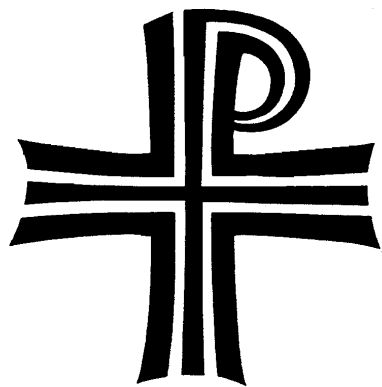
POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- A** Let us pray.
O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord.
Al **Amen.**

SENDING

*God blesses us
and sends us in mission to
the world.*

John Rutter (b. 1945) is, perhaps, one of the most well-known of all living English composers. His many choral and organ works are widely performed throughout the world. After serving as Director of Music at Clare College, Cambridge, he founded his own group – the Cambridge Singers – which has recorded nearly all of his sacred choral works.



BENEDICTION

- ☩ The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you
with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor
and ☩ give you peace.
- ☩ Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Hymn 886
Stanzas 1 & 2 – choir;
3 – all in harmony; (4 & 5 omitted);
6 – all in unison

DISMISSAL

- ☩ Go in peace, serve the Lord.
☩ **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

"Toccatina in Seven"

John Rutter

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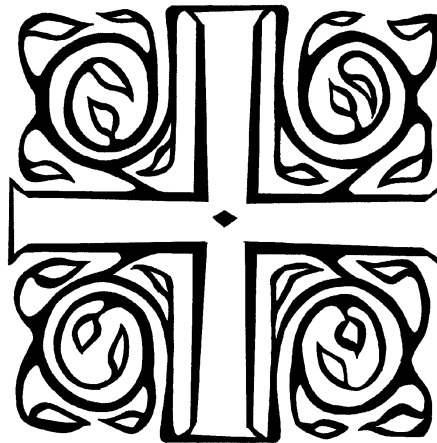
Opening Dialogue, Prayer of the Day © 2021 Central Lutheran Church

SERVING TODAY

Pastor Melissa Pohlman	<i>presiding</i>
Pastor Stephanie Friesen	<i>preaching</i>
Jack Friesen	<i>assisting minister</i>
Emilie Anderson	<i>reading</i>
Deacon Cantor Mark Sedio	
Isaac Drewes	<i>organists</i>
Central Choir	<i>choir</i>
Mark Kieffer	<i>sound operator</i>
Richard Stegall, Diane Olson, Bill Masche	<i>sacristans</i>

This service is being streamed live on the internet at www.centralmpls.org.

Chancel flowers this weekend are given with love and in memory of James L. Adams, October 2, 1921 – August 6, 2014. Happy 100th birthday, Dad and Grandpa. If you wish to donate flowers, contact Judy Korogi at 612-788-1288.





Central Lutheran
MINNEAPOLIS

Exploring the promise of God for all
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