

**The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Confirmation with Holy Communion
Eucharistic Prayer C (BCP)
Sunday, August 17, 2025**

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Opening Hymn

“Sweet Sweet Spirit”

LEVAS #120

(This hymn is used with permission from One License #A-727631).

1. There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, _____ And I
(2. There are) bless - ings you can - not re - ceive _____ Till you
(3. If you) say He saved you from your sin, _____ Now you're

1. know that it's the Spir - it of _____ the Lord. _____ There are
2. know Him in His full - ness, and _____ be - lieve. _____ You're the
3. weak, you're bound, and can - not en - ter in, _____ you can

1. sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, _____ And I
 2. one to pro - fit when you say, _____ "I am
 3. make it right if you will yield; _____ You'll en -

1. know they feel the pres - ence of _____ the Lord. _____
 2. going to walk with Je - sus all _____ the way." _____
 3. joy the Ho - ly Spir - it that _____ we feel. _____

Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, Sweet Heav - en - ly Dove,

Stay right here with us, — fill - ing us with your love.

And for these bless - ings — we lift our hearts in

praise; With - out a doubt we'll know — that we have

been re - vived when we shall leave this place. 1. 2. 3.

2. There are
3. If you place.

Opening Acclamation (BCP p. 413)

The people standing, the Bishop says

Bishop Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Bishop There is one Body and one Spirit;
People **There is one hope in God's call to us;**
Bishop One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People **One God and Father of all.**

The Collect of the Day (BCP p. 232)

Bishop The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Bishop Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

First Reading:

The people sit.

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah (5:1-7).

¹Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ²He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

³And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?

⁵And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. ⁶I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

Psalm 80:1-2, 8-18

Remain seated.

Turn now, O god of hosts, look down from heaven. (*Ps. 80:14*).

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, ***
stir up your strength and come to help us.

8 You have brought a vine out of Egypt; *
you cast out the nations and planted it.

9 **You prepared the ground for it; ***
it took root and filled the land.

10 The mountains were covered by its shadow *
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.

11 **You stretched out its tendrils to the Sea ***
and its branches to the River.

12 Why have you broken down its wall, *
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?

13 **The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, ***
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

14 Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;
behold and tend this vine; *
preserve what your right hand has planted.

15 **They burn it with fire like rubbish; ***
at the rebuke of your countenance let them perish.

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 **And so will we never turn away from you; ***
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Turn now, O god of hosts, look down from heaven. (*Ps. 80:14*).

Second Reading:

The people sit.

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews (11:29—12:2).

²⁹By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³²And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—³⁸of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1}Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

Sequence Hymn

“Before Thy Throne, O God, We Kneel”

Hymn #574

(This hymn is in the public domain).

All stand.

The musical score is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of D minor (two flats) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a steady rhythm. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves.

1 Be - fore thy throne, O God, we kneel: give us a con - science
2 Search out our hearts and make us true; help us to give to
3 For sins of heed - less word and deed, for pride am - bi - tious
4 Let the fierce fires which burn and try, our in - most spi - rits



quick to feel, a rea - dy mind to un - der - stand the
all their due. From love of plea - sure, lust of gold, from
to suc - ceed, for craft - y trade and sub - tle snare to
pu - ri - fy: con - sume the ill; purge out the shame; O

mean - ing of thy chas - tening hand; what - e'er the pain and
sins which make the heart grow cold, wean us and train us
catch the sim - ple un - a - ware, for lives be - reft of
God, be with us in the flame; a new - born peo - ple

shame may be, bring us, O Fa - ther, near - er thee.
with thy rod; teach us to know our faults, O God.
pur - pose high, for - give, for - give, O Lord, we cry.
may we rise, more pure, more true, more no - bly wise.

Gospel:

All stand

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (12:49-56).

(Glory to you, Lord Christ).

[Jesus said,] ⁴⁹“I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵²From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided:

father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain’; and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat’; and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon The Rt. Rev. Kevin D. Nichols Bishop, Diocese of Bethlehem

Presentation and Examination of the Candidates

Presentation (BCP p. 415)

Bishop The Candidates will now be presented.

Presenters I present *these persons* to be received into this Communion.
Diane Siebecker
Heather Romano
Paul Romano
Jack Wheeler

Examination (BCP p. 415)

Bishop Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

Candidate I do.

Bishop Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Candidate I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

After all have been presented, the Bishop addresses the congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support *these persons* in their life in Christ?

People **WE WILL.**

The Bishop then says these words.

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant (BCP p. 416)

Bishop

Do you believe in God the Father?

People

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Bishop

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Bishop

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting.

Bishop

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

People

I will, with God's help.

Bishop

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People

I will, with God's help.

Bishop

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People

I will, with God's help.

Bishop

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People

I will, with God's help.

Bishop

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People

I will, with God's help.

Prayers for the Candidates (BCP p. 417)

The Bishop then says to the congregation

Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

Margaret Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Margaret Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Margaret Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Margaret Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Margaret Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Margaret Send them into the world in witness to your love.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Margaret Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

A period of silence follows.

Then the Bishop says

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you have made with *them* at *their* Baptism. Send *them* forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Laying on of Hands (BCP p. 418)

The Bishop lays hands upon each one and says

Diane; Heather; Paul, and Jack; we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. *Amen.*

The Bishop concludes with this prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Peace (BCP p. 419)

The Peace is now exchanged

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence (BCP p. 377)

The Celebrant says

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Offertory Hymn

“Light Dawns on a Weary World”

ELW Hymn #726

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Light Dawns on a Weary World



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea-tures, once for -

see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a

wea - ry world: the prom-ised day of jus - tice comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom-ised feast of plen - ty comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom-ised green of E - den comes.

Refrain

The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;
 the hills and moun-tains shall break forth with sing - ing!
 We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
 as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
 Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951
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The Great Thanksgiving

Sursum Corda (BCP p. 369)

The People remain standing.

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

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus S-125

Celebrant and People

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution (BCP p. 371)

The Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
***We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.***

Lord God of our Ancestors; God of Abraham & Sarah, Isaac & Rebecca, Jacob, Leah & Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. ***AMEN.***

The Lord's Prayer (BCP p. 363)

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

People and Celebrant

**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.**

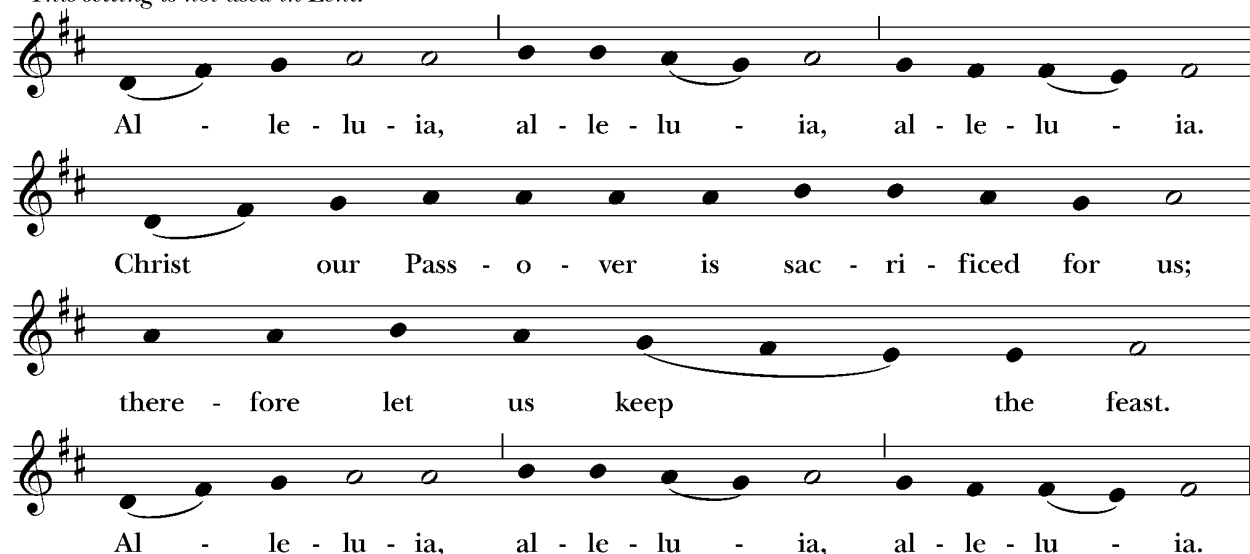
**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem S-154

This setting is not used in Lent.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Invitation (BCP p. 364)

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Distribution (BCP p. 365)

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [*Amen.*]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [*Amen.*]

Communion Hymn

“Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”

Hymn #711

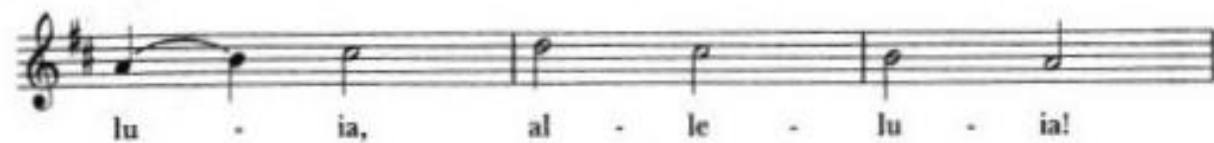
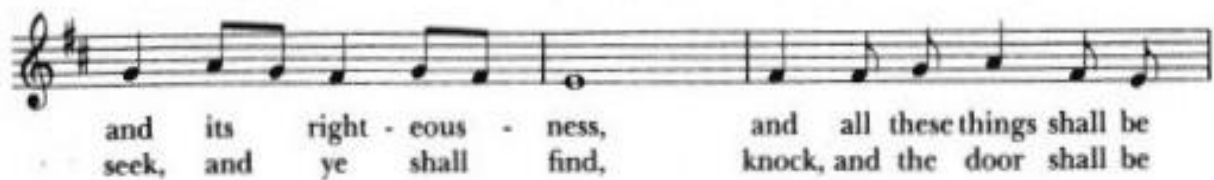
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711

Rounds and Canons



1 Seek ye — ' first the king - dom of God
2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you,



Words: St. 1, Matthew 6:33; adapt. Karen Lafferty (20th cent.). St. 2, Matthew 7:7.

Stanza 2 is not part of the hymn as originally written.

Music: *Seek Ye First*, Karen Lafferty (20th cent.)

13. 11. 7 with Alleluias

Post-Communion Prayer (BCP p. 365)

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Blessing (BCP p. 339)

The Priest blesses the people, saying

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

Hymn #490

(This hymn is used with permission from One License #A-727631).

The musical score is written for three voices (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor/Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a clear harmonic structure. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves, with some words hyphenated to fit the meter. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady bass line and a more active treble line, providing a harmonic foundation for the voices.

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
2 I want to see the bright - ness of God.
3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.

I want to fol - low Je - sus.
I want to look at Je - sus.
I want to be with Je - sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The
 Clear sun of right - eous - ness, shine on my path, and
 When we have run with pa - tience the race, we

star of my life — is Je - sus.
 show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 shall know the joy — of Je - sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark - ness at all. The

night and the day are both a - like. The

Lamb is the light of the ci - ty of God.

a tempo

Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Dismissal (BCP p. 366)

The service is done, but our work continues. Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

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