

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Santa Clarita

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost — Proper 13

10:30am — August 4, 2024

*The Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Miriam and Marv Aardahl
In thanksgiving for their 50th wedding anniversary on August 3rd.*

Before the service begins, we encourage you to use the following for meditation.

Each and every one of us can know and worship God as no one else can. And for each one of us, God has a different response. There is no one else in the world like you. You are precious. God knows, and God uniquely loves you. Jesus says very intimately, "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me." "...I call every sheep by name." Jesus has your name. Jesus knows your story.

Br. Curtis Almquist, SSJE

Prelude

I Am the Bread of Life

Suzanne Toolan
arr. by Jon Sarta

Please stand as you are able.

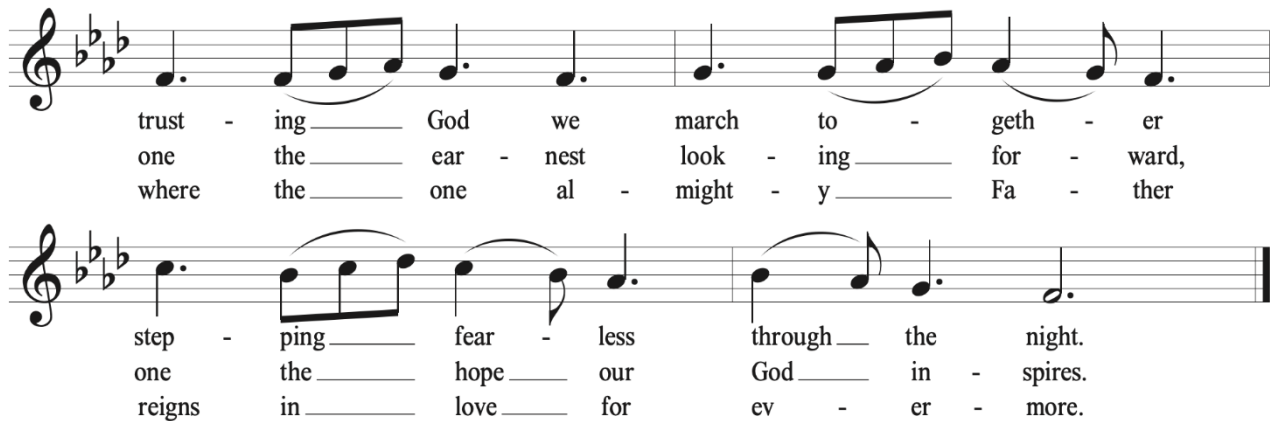
Entrance Hymn #527

"Singing songs of expectation"

Ton-y-Botel

$\text{♩} = 76$

1. Sing - ing ___ songs of ex - pec - ta - tion, on - ward goes ___ the
2. One the ___ light of God's own ___ pres - sence, o'er his ___ ran - somed
3. One the ___ strain the lips of ___ thou - sands lift as ___ from the
pil - grim band, through the ___ night of
peo - ple shed, chas - ing ___ far the
heart ___ of one; one the ___ con - flict,
doubt and ___ sor - row, march - ing ___ to ___ the prom - ised land.
gloom and ___ ter - ror, bright - ening ___ all ___ the path ___ we tread:
one the ___ per - il, one the ___ march in God ___ be - gun:
Clear be - fore us through the ___ dark - ness
one the ___ ob - ject of our ___ jour - ney,
one the ___ glad - ness of re - joic - ing
gleams and ___ burns the guid - ing ___ light:
one the ___ faith which nev - er ___ tires,
on the ___ far e - ter - nal ___ shore,



trust - ing God we march to - geth - er
 one the ear - nest look - ing for - ward,
 where the one al - might - y Fa - ther
 step - ping fear - less through the night.
 one the hope our God in - spires.
 reigns in love for ev - er - more.

THE WORD OF GOD

Priest: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People: Glory to God for ever and ever.

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Priest and People:

Glory to God in the highest,
 and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
 almighty God and Father,
 we worship you, we give you thanks,
 we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
 Lord God, Lamb of God,
 you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;
 you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
 receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
 you alone are the Lord,
 you alone are the Most High,
 Jesus Christ,
 with the Holy Spirit,
 in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

Priest: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Priest: Let us pray.

Let your continual mercy, O God, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.
THE LESSONS

The First Reading Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

Reader: Cheryl Sena

A Reading from the Book of Exodus.

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not." Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'" In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat."

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 78:23-29

Reader: John Fortman

- 23 So he commanded the clouds above *
and opened the doors of heaven.
- 24 He rained down manna upon them to eat *
and gave them grain from heaven.
- 25 So mortals ate the bread of angels; *
he provided for them food enough.
- 26 He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens *
and led out the south wind by his might.
- 27 He rained down flesh upon them like dust *
and winged birds like the sand of the sea.
- 28 He let it fall in the midst of their camp *
and round about their dwellings.
- 29 So they ate and were well filled, *
for he gave them what they craved.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." (When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

Gradual Hymn #306 "Come risen Lord and deign to be our guest"

Sursum Corda

1. Come, ris - en Lord, and deign to be our guest;
 2. We meet, as in that up - per room they met;
 3. One bo - dy we, one Bo - dy who par - take,
 4. One with each o - ther, Lord, for one on thee,

nay, let us be thy guests; the feast is thine;
 thou at the ta - ble, bless - ing, yet dost stand:
 one Church u - nit - ed in com - mun - ion blest;
 who art one Sa - vior and one liv - ing Head;

thy - self at thine own board make man - i - fest
 "This is my Bo - dy"; so thou giv - est yet:
 one Name we bear, one Bread of life we break,
 then o - pen thou our eyes, that we may see;

in thine own Sac - ra - ment of Bread and Wine.
 faith still re - ceives the cup as from thy hand.
 with all thy saints on earth and saints at rest.
 be known to us in break - ing of the Bread.

The Gospel Reading John 6:24-35

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

People: **Glory to you, O Christ.**

The next day, when the people who remained after the feeding of the five thousand saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Priest: The Gospel of the Savior.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

The Sermon

The Very Rev. Christopher Montella
Rector

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

Please stand as you are able.

Nicene Creed

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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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.

Prayers of the People

Reader: Kelsey Raub

Dearly beloved, bear with one another in love. And cry out to God in one voice: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."

Loving God, you have blessed us with all we need to do the work to which we have been called. Bless those in our midst who are gifted to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. Build up the body of Christ.

Silence

Intercessor: Create in me a clean heart, O God,
People: **And renew a right spirit within me.**

Bless the hungry with good things, Generous God. Sustain our bodies and our souls. Show yourself to be the God who provides for the needy and cares for the poor.

Silence

Intercessor: Create in me a clean heart, O God,
People: **And renew a right spirit within me.**

You are good to us, O God. We thank you for this planet. We thank you that you continue to cause new life to grow and thrive.

The congregation may add their own thanksgivings.

Silence

Intercessor: Create in me a clean heart, O God,
People: **And renew a right spirit within me.**

Fill our communities with humility and gentleness. We pray, O God, that neighbors might live together in love and respect. Give us the grace to build peaceful neighborhoods, peaceful cities, peaceful nations, and a peaceful world.

Silence

Intercessor: Create in me a clean heart, O God,
People: **And renew a right spirit within me.**

When we are frustrated and scared, when we are desperate and in need, you, Loving God, hear our prayers. Hear them again today. We pray for all those on the prayer list, especially Gavin, Patrick, Eliza, Susan, Steven, Linda, Laura, Emily, and Bonnie.

The congregation may add their own petitions.

Silence

Intercessor: Create in me a clean heart, O God,
People: **And renew a right spirit within me.**

You are a God of mercy; you judge us according to your loving-kindness. Look at us through your eyes of mercy, now and in the hour of our death, especially Geni Tanner, Sonya Massey, Trish Cotugno and Helen LeBlanc.

Silence

Intercessor: Create in me a clean heart, O God,

People: **And renew a right spirit within me.**

Priest:

O Gracious God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, the one, holy and undivided Trinity; God, Son & Spirit now and for ever. **Amen.**

Confession

Let us confess our sins to God.

God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

Absolution

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

The Peace

Priest: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Members of the congregation who are joining us via livestream are encouraged to post "Peace be with you" in the comments or to use the "like" or "love" reaction button to take part in the virtual exchange of God's peace with the rest of the congregation at this time.

Please be seated.

Welcome and Announcements

We are pleased to be celebrating the following birthdays: Kimberly Torres on August 3rd, Heather Bernabe & Eleanor O'Leary on Aug. 7th, Brett Schlaman on Aug. 8th, and Sara Tuck on Aug. 10th. We also celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of Miriam & Marv Aardahl on Aug. 3rd.

Offertory Prayer

The People remain seated and say together:

Loving God, you alone are the source of every good gift. Everything we have, and all that we are, comes from you. Now, help us to be grateful, accountable, and, with praise and thanksgiving, to give of ourselves generously, through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Offertory

Give Me Clean Heart
St. Stephen's Pickup Choir

Margaret Douroux

Please stand as you are able.

Presentation

Old 100th

G D Em Bm G D G D Em
 Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow, Praise God all crea - tures,
 C G D Em D G Am G/B C F#dim/A
 here be - low. Praise God, you hosts in heav'n a -
 Em D/F# G C#dim/ED C G/D D7 G G7 C G
 bove; Praise God the Trin - i - ty of Love. A - men.

Priest: God be with you.
 People: **And also with you.**
 Priest: Lift up your hearts.
 People: **We lift them to God.**
 Priest: Let us give thanks.
 People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we say:

Sanctus

Baity



Ho - ly Lord, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 Ho - ly Lord, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might... Heav'n and
 earth are full of your glo - ry, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho
 san-na, ho-san-na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!
 Blest is he, blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord,
 Blest is he, blest is he whocomes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho
 san-na, ho-san-na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high est. Ho
 san-na, ho-san-na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho
 san-na, ho-san-na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Standing or kneeling as you are able.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love.

You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, 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."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your beloved children, that with Stephen and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

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.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now 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 for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Please remain standing during the Fraction Anthem.

Fraction Hym #S 154

Hurd

Cantor will sing the refrain first, followed by the congregation.

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.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.
Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*All are welcome to receive communion. The table we set belongs to God.
Wherever you find yourself on your spiritual journey you are welcome to receive
the Bread and Wine made holy.*

*The church teaches that temporal isolation cannot constrain the sacrament's ineffable power.
Calling us to "massive, corporate, spiritual communion,"*

The Invitation to Holy Communion

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

Priest and People say together:

O Jesus Christ, you have instituted for us a great sacrament in your promise of life and love, which we remember now as we hear your words again: "This is my body; this is my blood — given for you." Feed us in our hearts with faith and trust, draw us closer to you and to each other, and strengthen us for service to our neighbor. We come before you now, with hearts you have fed all our lives with the promise that you have given yourself for us. Keep us strong in that faith until we can meet at your table again. Amen.

Please be seated.

Please follow usher instructions for taking communion.

Communion Music

LEVAS #154

Taste and See

James E. Moore

Refrain

Taste and see. Taste and see the good - ness of the Lord. _____ O

Taste and see. Taste and see the good - ness of the Lord, _____ of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times.
 God's praise shall always be on my lips;
 My soul shall glory in the Lord;
 for God has been so good to me.

2. Glorify the Lord with me.
 Together let us all praise God's name.
 I called the Lord and he answered me;
 From all my troubles God set me free.

3. Worship the Lord all you people.
 You'll want for nothing if you ask.
 Taste and see that God is good;
 in God we need put all our trust.

WLP #778

“We all are one in mission”

Nyland

1. We are all one in___ mis - sion, we are all one in call,
 2. We all are called for___ ser - vice to wit - ness in God's name.
 3. We all be - hold one___ vi - sion, a stark re - al - i - ty;
 4. Now let us be u - nit - ed and let our song be heard.

our var - ied gifts u - ni - ted by Christ, the___ Lord of all.
 Our min - is - tries are___ dif - frent, our pur - pose___ is___ the same:
 the stew - ard of sal - va - tion was nailed up - on___ a tree.
 Now let us be a___ ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.

A sin - gle, great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
 to touch the lives of oth - ers by God's sur - pris - ing grace,
 Yet res - ur - rect - ed Jus - tice gives rise that we may share
 We all are one in mis - sion, we all are one in call,

to plan and work to - geth - er that all may___ know___ Christ's love.
 so peo - ple of all___ na - tions may feel God's warm___ em - brace.
 free re - con - cil - i - a - tion and hope a - mid___ des - pair.
 our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the___ Lord___ of all.

Please stand as you are able.
Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

God of abundance,
you have fed us
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us
with Christ and one another,
and you have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth
in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever
in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

Support one another, encourage one another,
Wait for the weak, pick up the fallen.
When you are together, remember what it is like to travel alone.
When you are alone, remember what it is like to travel together.
And wherever you are, may you remember the God who always goes
before you and with you; God Almighty, the one holy and undivided Trinity. Amen.

Closing Hymn #521

“Put forth, O God, thy Spirit’s might”

Chelsea Square

1. Put forth, O God, thy Spirit's might and bid thy Church increase,
2. Let works of darkness disappear before thy conquering light;
3. Let what apostles learned of thee be ours from age to age;
4. O Judge divine of human strife! O Vanquisher of pain!

in breadth and length, in depth and height, her unity and peace.
let hatred and tormenting fear pass with the passing night.
their steadfast faith our unity, their peace our heritage.
To know thee is eternal life, to serve thee is to reign.

Dismissal

Priest: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
People: Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the People taken from *Praying the Scriptures* by Jeremiah D. Williamson, ©2014 by Jeremiah D. Williamson. All Rights Reserved.
Spiritual Communion: St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787
From: *The Hymnal 1982 #527* "Singing songs of expectation", Words: Bernard Severin Ingemann (1789—1862) tr. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834—1924), alt. Music: *Ton-y Botel*, Thomas John Williams (1869—1944) S 154 Title: The Holy Eucharist, Fraction Anthem: Christ our Passover Music: From *New Plainsong*, David Hurd (b. 1950) Copyright: Copyright © 1981, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. #306 "Come risen Lord and deign to be our guest" Words: George Wallace Briggs (1875—1959), alt. Music: *Sursum Corda*, Alfred Morton Smith (1879—1971) Copyright: Words: By permission of Oxford University Press. Music: © 1941, Mrs. Alfred M. Smith. #521 "Put forth, O God", Words: Howard Chandler Robbins (1876—1952) Music: Chelsea Square, Howard Chandler Robbins (1876—1952); harm. Ray Francis Brown (1897—1964); desc. Lois Fyfe (b. 1927) Copyright: Music: Melody by permission of the Estate of Howard C. Robbins. Harmonization copyright © 1940 Estate of Ray F. Brown. Used by permission. Descant © 1944, The Cumberland Press. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.
From *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* #154 *Taste and See*, Words: Psalm 34 Music: James E. Moore, Jr. Copyright: © 1992 G.I.A. Publications, Inc. Chicago, IL All Rights Reserved.
From *Wonder, Love and Praise* #778 "We all are one in mission" Words: Rusty Edwards (b. 1955) Music: *Nyland*, Finnish folk melody; adapt. and harm. David Evans (1874—1948) Copyright: Words: © 1986 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music: Harm. © Oxford University Press.
Sanctus #4—Judith M. Baity. Copyright ©2009—Celestial Melodies Publishing Company. All Rights Reserved.
Doxology—Music: Old 100th, melody from *Pseumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. After Louis Bourgeois (1510?–1561?).