

**Prelude**

**Welcome/Announcements**

**Watchword for the Week:** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. Psalm 111:10

(Standing)

**Call to Worship:**

(L) Praise the Lord!

**(A) I will praise the Lord with my whole heart**

(L) The works of the Lord are great

**(A) His work is honorable and glorious, and his righteousness endures forever.**

**Gathering Hymn: "Glorious Things of You Are Spoken"**

**MBW Page 522**

**Glorious things of you are spoken, Zion, city of our God; he whose word cannot be broken formed you for his own abode; on the rock of ages founded, what can shake your sure repose? With salvation's walls surrounded you may smile at all your foes.**

**Blessed inhabitants of Zion, washed in the Redeemer's blood! Jesus, whom their souls rely on, makes them kings and priests to God; 'tis his love his people raises in his courts to reign as kings, and as priests, his solemn praises each for a thank of-f'ring brings.**

**Savior, since of Zion's city I through grace a member am, let the world deride or pity, I will glory in your name. Fading are the worldling's pleasures, all their boasted pomp and show; solid joys and lasting treasures none but Zion's children know.**

(Please remain Standing if able)

**Liturgy: Evangelism**

**MBW Page 133**

Holy! Holy! Holy!

The Lord Almighty is holy!

**God's glory fills the world!**

**NICAEA**

**Holy, holy , holy Lord God almighty!  
All your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

God of creation, whose love invites all people to receive the blessing reserved for us since before time began,

**Grant ears of faith, that each one may clearly hear your gracious call.**

God of salvation, whose love encompasses all humanity, who assumed flesh and blood and died that all might live,

**Give eyes of faith, Lord Jesus, that everyone may plainly see you among us.**

God of inspiration, whose love initiates new ways of reaching out to all who risk believing,

**Guide our lives in faith, that we may willingly become your instruments of love and truth.**

**LASST UNS ERFREUEN**

**All people of each time and place receive the promise of God's grace.**

**O praise God! Alleluia! And all who have not heard God's voice,  
we now invite you, "Come! Rejoice!" O praise God! Alleluia!  
O praise God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

(sitting)

With gratitude to the Lord we remember our rich heritage of committed servants, who carried the good news to their neighbors throughout the world, who followed Jesus' command: Go to all people and make them my disciples.

**We thank you, Eternal God, for those who have gone before us, faithful to the great commission. We praise you for imparting to us the same mission to reach others for Christ.**

With humility before the Lord, we confess our sin:

When we fail to communicate Jesus' promise of new life,

When we have not reached Beyond ourselves with the word entrusted to us,

When we retreat into comfortable sanctuaries and do not seek to be a light to the nations,

When we become preoccupied with church involvement for its own sake, and do not labor to proclaim salvation to the ends of the earth,

**Forgive us, we pray.**

When we fail to recognize that the measure of success is not only in the number of constituents, but also in the sincerity of conversion,

When we are too timid or afraid to speak the gospel message to those you want to hear it,

When we allow a life of ease to divert us from those who need your love through us,

**Forgive us, we pray.**

Touch our lips with the burning coals of your forgiveness,

**And purify our hearts.**

The Lord your Redeemer says: Now your guilt is gone and your sins are forgiven.

#### ASH GROVE

**With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living, the task of our ev'ry-day life we will face. Our faith ev-er sharing, in love ever caring, embracing God's children of each tribe and race. God's grace did invite us, God's love shall unite us to work for the kingdom and answer its call. The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching, shall blossom in action for God and for all.**

(Standing)

Throughout the ages God's call to mission summons a response.

**We affirm our heartfelt yearning to reply.**

God asks. Whom shall I send? Who will be my messenger?

**And like Isaiah, the answer flows from our soul and forms on our lips, "I will go. Send me."**

God, our Redeemer, we share a longing to minister as partners, together with you and each other. Our desire is shaped by your will, our commitment molded by your covenant.

**We dedicate ourselves again this day. We accept the challenge joyfully to proclaim Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.**

We covenant with you to be loving instruments of understanding and forgiveness among those to whom you send us.

**We promise anew to be living invitations for others to meet you as Lord and Savior.**

We press on with resolve so that your word may spread rapidly and you may be glorified everywhere. We must work the works of him who sends us while it is day; night is coming when no one can work.

**We will go. Send us.**

#### FESTAL SONG

**Good news is ours to tell! Let no one fail to hear! God gives us life; God conquers death! There's nothing we must fear.**

**Proclaim the gracious word: God loves the whole wide earth, to lift, to save, to reconcile, to grant essential worth!**

(Sitting)

## Offering Our Gifts To God

### Offertory:

(Please stand if able)

**Doxology: "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

**MBW Page 817**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen**

**Prayer of Blessing:(All) Dear Father God; We thank you for the blessings that you have bestowed upon us. Receive these gifts as a symbol of our gratefulness. Help us to remember, O Lord, that life is a more precious testimony than words, and that deeds are more effective than arguments. Help us to use all the gifts that you have given us to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and that we live it to your Glory. Amen.**

### God's Words for us Today:

**1st Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20**

**Pew Bible Page 202**

**2nd Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (*responsive*)**

**Pew Bible Page 1198**

Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that "We all possess knowledge." But knowledge puffs up while love builds up. **2 Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know.** 3 But whoever loves God is known by God. **4 So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that "An idol is nothing at all in the world" and that "There is no God but one."** 5 For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"), **6 yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.** 7 But not everyone possesses this knowledge. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat sacrificial food they think of it as having been sacrificed to a god, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. **8 But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.** 9 Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak. **10 For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol's temple, won't that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols?** 11 So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. **12 When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.** 13 Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.

**Ascription of Praise: (All Sing) Glory Be to You O Lord!**

**MBW Page 846**

**The Gospel: Mark 1:21-28**

**Pew Bible Page 1045**

**Ascription of Praise:(All Sing) Praise, praise, praise, praise be to you. To you O Christ!**

**MBW Page 846**

**The Sermon: The Authority of the Teaching**

**Pastor Blondel Jones-Grant**

**Hymn of Response: "God of Grace and God of Glory"**

**MBW Page 751 vs.1**

**God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your power; crown your ancient Church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower. Grant us wis-dom, grant us cour-age for the fac-ing of this hour, for the fac-ing of this hour.**

(Please Stand if able.)

### Benediction

**Musical Response: In the name of Jesus'. Amen**

**Parting Hymn:**

**"Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer"**

**MBW Page 790**

Guide me, O my great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land. I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your pow'r-ful hand. Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore, feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain where the healing waters flow; let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through. Strong de-liv-'rer, strong de-liv-'rer, ever be my strength and shield; ever be my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside; death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side. Songs and praises, songs and praises, I will sing for-ev-er-more; I will sing for-ev-er-more.

*(Please be seated in quiet meditation during the postlude.)*

#### Postlude

**Annual Church Council meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2024 following worship service.** All members of the Great Kills Moravian Church are encouraged to attend to review 2023, to elect Congregational leaders and pass a budget for the coming year. *A quorum is required for voting, please make every effort to attend this important meeting.*

Next Sunday, February 4, 2024, we will be celebrating Holy Communion and installing our Elders and Trustees for the coming year. Please come and join us in the Lord's Supper. We are looking forward to seeing everyone then.

## Upcoming Pysanky Egg Workshops at Great Kills Moravian Church

Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am

Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am

Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm

Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am

Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm

Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00am

Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00am



To register contact Janice Hermansen, Nancy Walker or the church office at 718-317-7788. *Cost of each class is \$25.*