

Prelude

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Hymn: Immortal, invisible, God only wise ~ *St. Denio*

Hymnal 423

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 To all life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry, thou rul - est in light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
 we blos - som and flour - ish, like leaves on the tree,  
 all laud we would ren - der: O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - tor - ious, thy great Name we praise.  
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 then with - er and per - ish; but nought chan - geth thee.  
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

Welcome

Opening Sentences

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Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Collect for Purity

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Gloria in excelsis

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**Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

**Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, who knowest our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion, we beseech thee, upon our infirmities, and those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask, mercifully give us for the worthiness of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

A Reading from Isaiah

44:6-8

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 86:11-17 ~ *Please feel free to quietly say the words while chant is played.*

**11 Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; \***

**knit my heart to you that I may fear your Name.**

**12 I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, \***

**and glorify your Name for evermore.**

**13 For great is your love toward me; \***

**you have delivered me from the nethermost Pit.**

**14 The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent men seeks my life; \***

**they have not set you before their eyes.**

**15 But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, \***

**slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.**

**16 Turn to me and have mercy upon me; \***

**give your strength to your servant; and save the child of your handmaid.**

**17 Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed; \***

**because you, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me.**

#### A Reading from Romans

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

1. We are \_\_\_\_\_ climb - ing \_\_\_\_\_ Ja - cob's \_\_\_\_\_ lad - der, \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. Ev' - ry \_\_\_\_\_ round goes \_\_\_\_\_ high - er, \_\_\_\_\_ high - er, \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. Sin - ner \_\_\_\_\_ do you \_\_\_\_\_ love your \_\_\_\_\_ Je - sus? \_\_\_\_\_  
 4. If you \_\_\_\_\_ love Him \_\_\_\_\_ why not \_\_\_\_\_ serve Him, \_\_\_\_\_

1. We are \_\_\_\_\_ climb - ing \_\_\_\_\_ Ja - cob's \_\_\_\_\_ lad - der; \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. Ev' - ry \_\_\_\_\_ round goes \_\_\_\_\_ high - er, \_\_\_\_\_ high - er; \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. Sin - ner \_\_\_\_\_ do you \_\_\_\_\_ love your \_\_\_\_\_ Je - sus? \_\_\_\_\_  
 4. If you \_\_\_\_\_ love Him \_\_\_\_\_ why not \_\_\_\_\_ serve Him; \_\_\_\_\_

1. We are \_\_\_\_\_ climb - ing \_\_\_\_\_ Ja - cob's \_\_\_\_\_ lad - der, \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. Ev' - ry \_\_\_\_\_ round goes \_\_\_\_\_ high - er, \_\_\_\_\_ high - er, \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. Sin - ner \_\_\_\_\_ do you \_\_\_\_\_ love your \_\_\_\_\_ Je - sus? \_\_\_\_\_  
 4. If you \_\_\_\_\_ love Him \_\_\_\_\_ why not \_\_\_\_\_ serve Him, \_\_\_\_\_

1. Sol - diers \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ cross. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. Sol - diers \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ cross. \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. Sol - diers \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ cross. \_\_\_\_\_  
 4. Sol - diers \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ cross. \_\_\_\_\_

*We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder is a spiritual. It was developed some time before 1825, and became one of the first slave spirituals to be widely sung by European-American Christians.*

*The spiritual utilizes the image of Jacob's ladder (Genesis Chapter 28) where Jacob, son of Isaac and Rebekah, dreams of a ladder to heaven. In that dream, the covenant of land, descendants and*

protection is given to Jacob. When he awakens from the dream he pronounces, "Surely the Lord is in this place – and I did not know" and anoints the stone used for his pillow as, "Bethel," meaning House of God." The ladder is interpreted as a symbol for the body of Christ.

"We are Climbing Jacob's Ladder" is found in the Lift Every Voice and Sing hymnal of the Episcopal Church. It is in the form of call and response, and although lyrics vary from place to place and over time, they generally emphasize spiritual growth, increasing one's knowledge about God, and a call to discipleship. The striving nature of this "climb" toward God is depicted as a series of tests, with imagery of the Christian as a warrior.

The call-and-response style of "We are Climbing" asks both the singing respondents and the listener for greater sacrifice to reach the next level with the final request, "If you love Him why not serve Him (Jesus), Soldiers of the Cross."

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew

13:24-30, 36-43

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

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Anita Louise Schell

The Nicene Creed

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**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

As we reach out our thoughts and our energies beyond the walls of this gathering space, hoping that God's reign may be the deepest desire of every human heart, let us pray, saying: **In the Spirit we plead, hear us, O God.**

O God, may your dominion grasp us and ravish the hearts of all who claim Christ as Lord. **In the Spirit we plead, hear us, O God.**

O God, make your justice grow in our land, that the victims of this age will find shelter in its branches. **In the Spirit we plead, hear us, O God.**

To you, Abba, we raise our eyes in hope. Inspire those whose decisions influence the lives of others, that they may discern wisely and act compassionately. **In the Spirit we plead, hear us, O God.**

O God, imaginative Creator, bless artists, poets, and writers with the creative touch of your word. Make them avenues of your vision. **In the Spirit we plead, hear us, O God.**

O God, we pray for all the oppressed, all the needy, all in terror, all the sick. Give health and peace to all. **In the Spirit we plead, hear us, O God.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

O God, we pray for the dead. On the last day gather us all into your heavenly realm. **In the Spirit we plead, hear us, O God.**

O Master of might and merciful Judge, in our weakness we turn to you for help. Hear us, and come to our rescue. You have promised to hear our prayers if we raise them in the name of Jesus, and so we do. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

*from Intercessions for the Christian People  
edited by Gail Ramshaw*

## The Confession and Absolution

BCP p. 330

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

## The Exchange of Peace

## Announcements

Offertory Anthem: Drop, Drop Slow Tears ~ *Orlando Gibbons*

*Virtually sung and mixed by Saint Ann's Choir*

The Doxology

The Lord's Prayer

p. 336

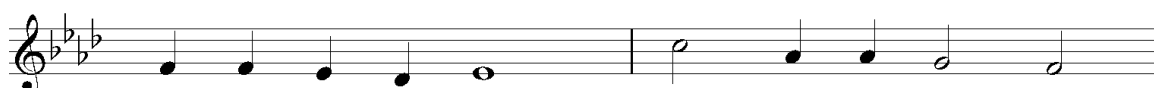
The Blessing

Hymn: Come, labor on ~ *Ora Labora*

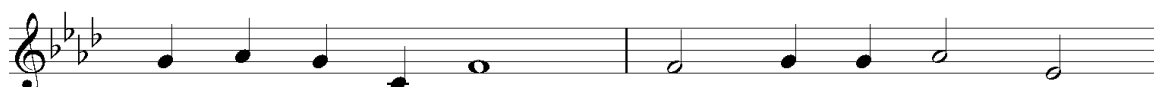
Hymnal 541



1	Come,	la - bor	on.	Who	dares	stand	i - dle
2	Come,	la - bor	on.	The	en - e - my	is	
3	Come,	la - bor	on.	A -	way	with	gloom - y
4	Come,	la - bor	on.	Claim	the	high	call - ing
5	Come,	la - bor	on.	No	time	for	rest, till



1	on	the	har - vest	plain,	while	all	a - round	us
2	watch - ing	night	and	day,	to	sow	the	tares, to
3	doubts	and	faith - less	fear!	No	arm	so	weak but
4	an - gels	can - not	share—		to	young	and	old the
5	glows	the	west - ern	sky,	till	the	long	sha - dows



1	waves	the	gold - en	grain?	And	to	each	ser - vant
2	snatch	the	seed	a - way;	while	we	in	sleep our
3	may	do	ser - vice	here:	by	feeb - lest	a - gents	
4	Gos - pel	glad - ness	bear:		re - deem	the	time;	its
5	o'er	our	path - way	lie,	and	a	glad	sound comes



1	does	the	Mas - ter	say, "Go	work	to	-	day."
2	du - ty	have	for - got,	he	slum - bered			not.
3	may	our	God	ful - fill	his	right - eous		will.
4	hours	too	swift - ly	fly. The	night	draws		nigh.
5	with	the	set - ting	sun,_____	"Ser - vants,	well		done."

Dismissal

Postlude