

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026



United in Christ
Lutheran Church

MORRISONVILLE, WI

Sharing the Hope of Jesus in a Troubled World

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar have been given by the congregation.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Rev. Yehiel Curry, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

Rev. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe, Bishop of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin – ELCA

The **Evangelical Lutheran Church of America**

For the **people of United in Christ Lutheran Church**

Geno Lainberger – at Madison Health & Rehab Center

Donna Colby – at the Legacy in DeForest

Linda Peterson – at Waunakee Manor

Kathy Olsen – sister-in-law of Ann Olsen – continued health concerns

Trey Tollefson – grand nephew of Chet Gabris – continued health concerns

Sharon Gust – continued health concerns

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- HAPPY BIRTHDAYS – Ron Millard on Tuesday the 15th. Brenda Paske on Tuesday the 15th.
- THANK YOU – Joanne Quam would like to thank everyone for helping to celebrate her 95th birthday. Your presence and cards were all appreciated.
- REMINDER – Pastor Rolf Olson's funeral is this Saturday, September 19th at 11:00am. Spring Prairie Lutheran Church

NEXT SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 20TH

- Ushers – Karen and Ron Millard
- Reader – Rona Anderson
- Communion Assistant – Ann Olsen
- Altar Guild – Donna Gilles
- Head Usher – Dale Molnar/Norm Harris

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Now the Feast and Celebration text and music by Marty Haugen. Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission under ONE LICENSE #A-742073.

Call to Worship written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, *Hold Fast to What Is Good*. Used with permission.

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Welcome to Worship!

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

GATHERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

(Please stand as you are able.)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

C: **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

Creation groans from overuse.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.

Turn our hearts back to you.

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

P: Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C: **Amen.**

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death



- 1 A - wake, O sleep-er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
- 2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
- 3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,
- 4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
- 5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.



so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829

Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

GREETING

- P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C: **And also with you.**

KYRIE – Now the Feast & Celebration

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. For your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de - fend us, O God.

mer - cy. A - men.

CALL TO WORSHIP

- P: We thank you, O God, for the gift of this day.
- C: **For this beautiful space, for the warm hearts that greet us.**
- P: We thank you, O God, for the ability to come together to worship.
- C: **For songs and prayers that sustain us not only in this hour, but in the days that unfold.**
- P: We thank you, O God, for the blessings in our lives and in our world.
- C: **May we lift our voices in thanks, even as we worship You.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE – *Now the Feast & Celebration*



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray,

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

(Please be seated.)

WORD

FIRST READING

Genesis 50:15-21

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13

(Please read the bold text responsively)

[¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

² **Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—**

³ who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;

⁴ **who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

- ⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- ⁶ **O LORD, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**
- ⁷ You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.
-] ⁸ **LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**
- ⁹ you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.
- ¹⁰ **You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**
- ¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.
- ¹² **As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**
- ¹³ As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

SECOND READING

Romans 14:1-12

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

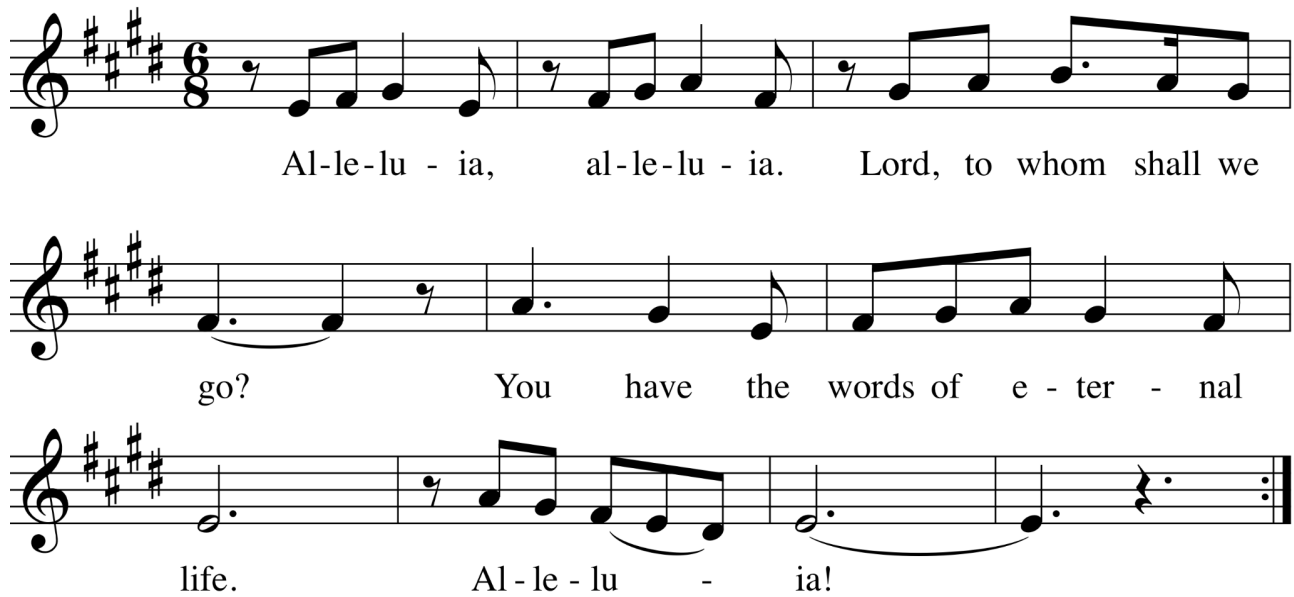
¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand as you are able.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – *Now the Feast & Celebration*



GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

(Please be seated.)

SERMON

(Please stand as you are able.)

HYMN OF THE DAY – ELW 359

Where Charity and Love Prevail



- 1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
- 2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
- 3 Let us re-call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
- 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
- 5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris-tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

Text © 1960 World Library Publications. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

APOSTLES CREED

P: Together with the whole body of Christ gathered around the world,
let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles Creed:

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**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. Amen.**

(Please be seated.)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident
that God hears us. ...

P: Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: ...Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever
else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: **Amen.**

PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

(Please stand as you are able.)

MEAL

OFFERTORY – ACS 962

In This Feast of Love

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with a final half note. Below the staff, the lyrics are written in Finnish and English. The second staff continues the melody with a similar pattern of notes. The third staff concludes the piece with a final cadence. The lyrics are aligned with the notes, with some words spanning across measures.

Täs - sä pöy - däs - sä, *täs - sä*
1 In this feast of love, in this
2 In this bread and wine, in this
3 Grant us peace, O Lord, grant us

pöy - däs - sä *syn - ti - sil - le*
feast of love, Lord, you share your
bread and wine, you have prom - ised,
peace, O Lord; fill us with the

it - se - si an - nat, *Ju - ma - lan Ka - rit - sa!*
blood and your bod - y, Je - sus, Lamb of God.
Lord, to be with us, Lamb . . of God div - ine.
joy of your Spir - it, ev - er - liv - ing Word.

Text: Jarkko Maukonen; tr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954

Music: TÄSSÄ PÖYDÄSSÄ, Jarkko Maukonen; arr. Mark Sedio

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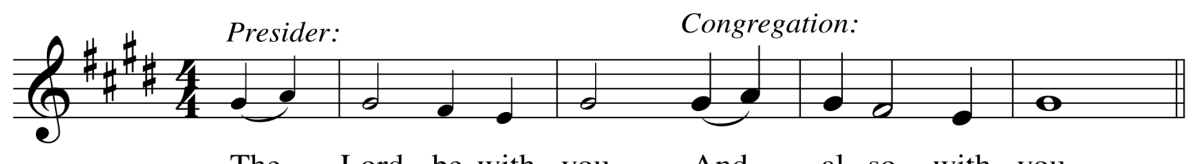
OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: God of creation,
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always.

C: **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING (May be spoken or sung.)

Presider: *Congregation:*



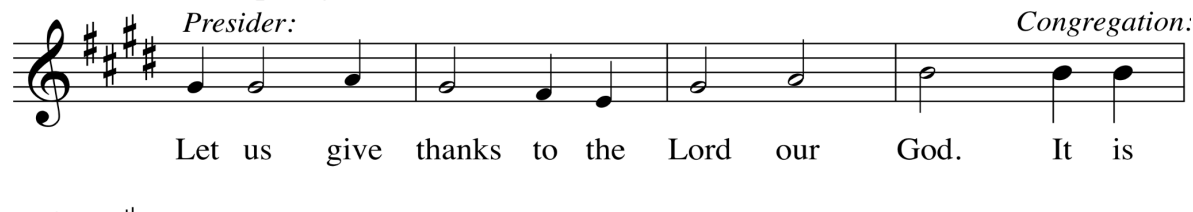
The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.

Presider: *Congregation:*

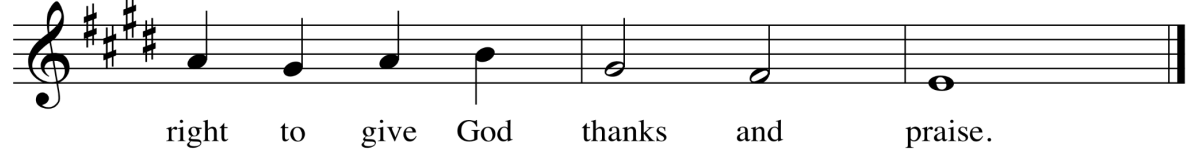


Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: *Congregation:*



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is

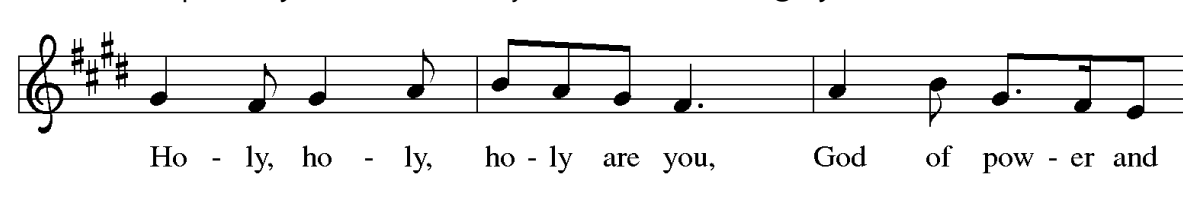


right to give God thanks and praise.

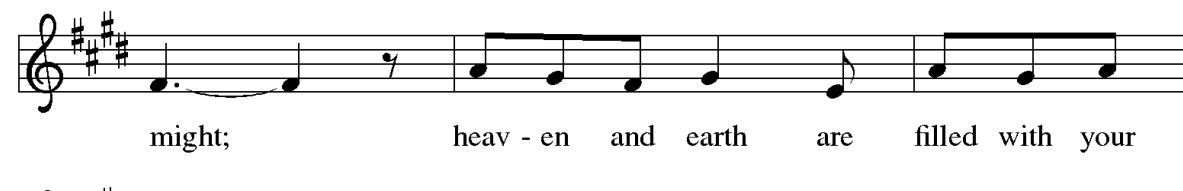
PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...
...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

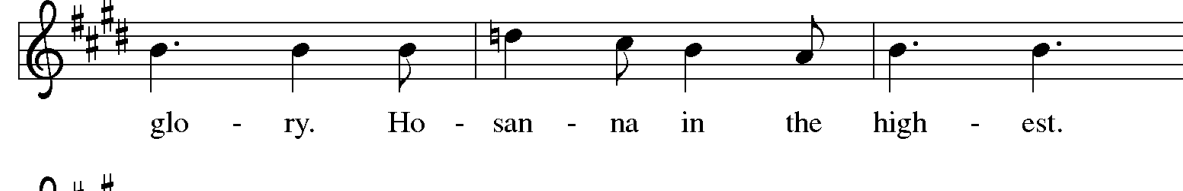
C:



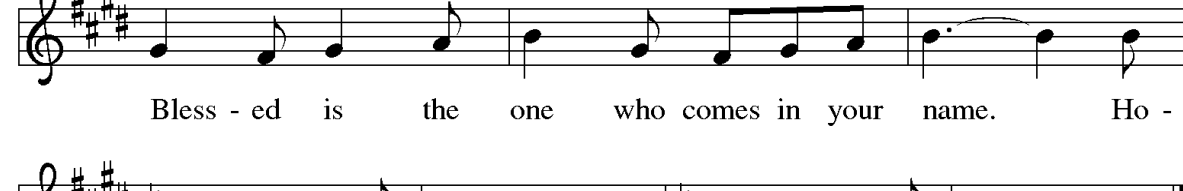
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and



might; heav - en and earth are filled with your



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



Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray,
C: **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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!
C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please be seated.)

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion. The Presiding Pastor will provide verbal instructions for communion. If you are unable to come forward, we will bring communion to you. Gluten free bread is available. Children or those who wish not to receive communion may come forward for a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN – *ELW 461* – All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

(Hymn is played while congregation takes communion)

(Please stand as you are able.)

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

P: Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

P: The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

C: **Amen.**

P: The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: The God of grace
⌞ bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

My God, How Wonderful Thou Art



- 1 My God, how won - der - ful thou art, thy maj - es - ty how bright!
- 2 How won - der - ful, how beau - ti - ful the sight of thee must be—
- 3 No earth - ly fa - ther loves like thee; no moth - er, e'er so mild,
- 4 Yet I may love thee too, O Lord, al - might - y as thou art,
- 5 My God, how won - der - ful thou art, thou ev - er - last - ing friend!



How beau - ti - ful thy mer - cy seat in depths of burn - ing light!
thine end - less wis - dom, bound - less pow'r, and awe - some pu - ri - ty!
bears and for - bears as thou hast done with me, thy sin - ful child.
for thou hast stooped to ask of me the love of my poor heart.
On thee I stay my trust - ing heart till faith in vi - sion end.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863
Music: DUNDEE, *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1615

DISMISSAL

P: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister – Rev. Gina Sterk

Music – Ava Holliday – Pre-recorded by Ivy McLaughlin

Reader – Paul Anderson

Communion Assistant – Chet Gabris

Ushers – Rona and Paul Anderson

Altar Guild – Donna Gilles

Head Usher – Dale Molnar/Norm Harris

OFFERING

Any offerings (financial gifts) may be placed in the offering plate at the entrance to the worship space anytime before or after the service. Your contributions to the congregation help us make a difference in our community by enabling us to share the Gospel and serve in areas of need. You may also make a donation online on our website or by scanning the QR code on the right.



United in Christ Lutheran Church

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A congregation of the



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Regular Office Hours: By Appointment
Weekly Worship: Sundays @ 8:30 a.m.