

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 20, 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 – at U.W. Hospital

Sharon Gust – continued health concerns

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- HAPPY BIRTHDAYS – Ann Olsen on Thursday the 24th.

NEXT SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 27TH

- Ushers – Hank Lipke and Marie Rasmussen-Hall
- Reader – Paul Anderson
- Communion Assistant – Marie Rasmussen-Hall
- Altar Guild – Donna Gilles
- Head Usher – Dale Molnar/Norm Harris

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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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!

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

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.

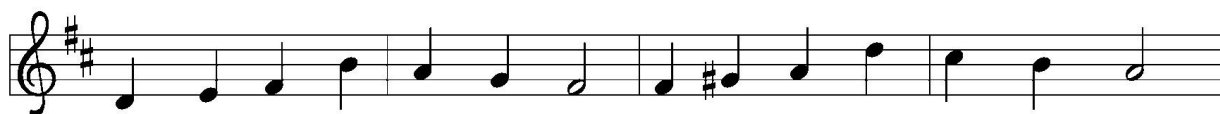
Amen.

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.**

Take My Life, That I May Be



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

- 5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.

Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

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*

Refrain



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



Refrain
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



Refrain
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



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



Refrain
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,

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

(Please be seated.)

WORD

FIRST READING

Jonah 3:10–4:11

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Nineveh] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴ And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰ Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?"

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 145:1–8

(Please read the bold text responsively)

- ¹ I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.
- ² **Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**
- ³ Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.
- ⁴ **One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.**
- ⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.
- ⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.**
- ⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.
- ⁸ **The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:21–30

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

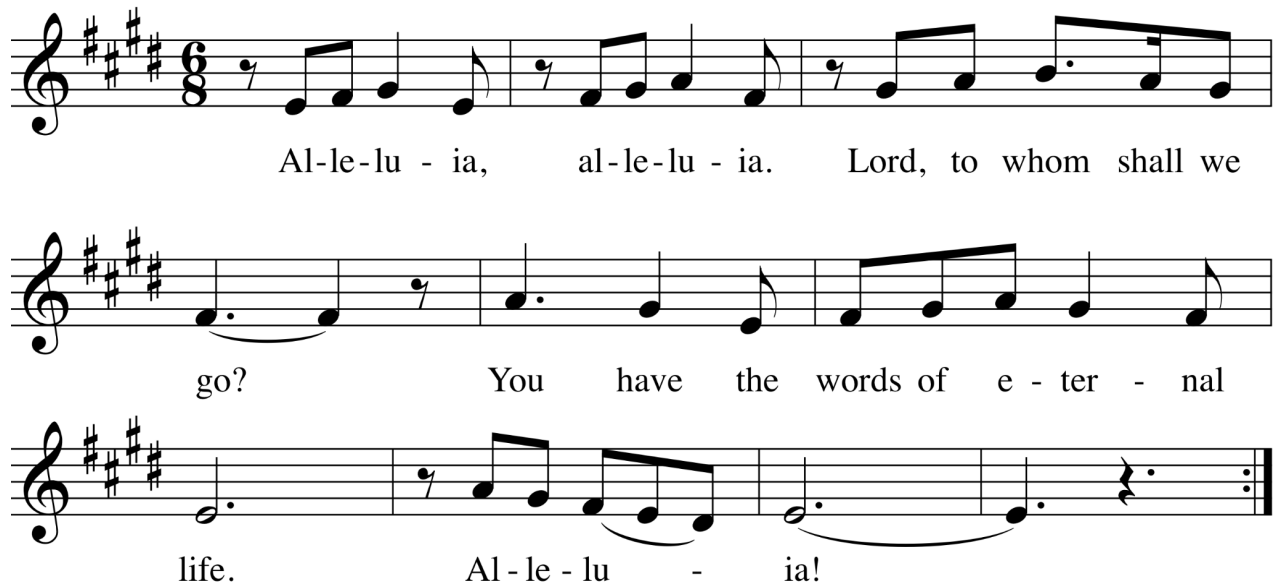
²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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 20:1-16

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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 765

Lord of All Hopefulness



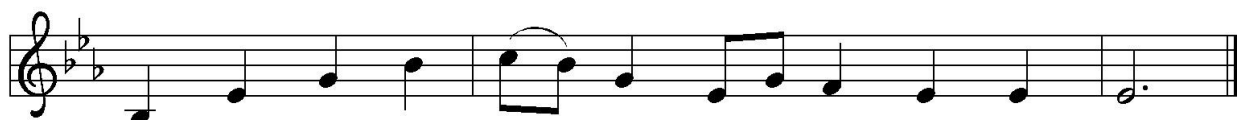
1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901–1953
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional
Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

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.

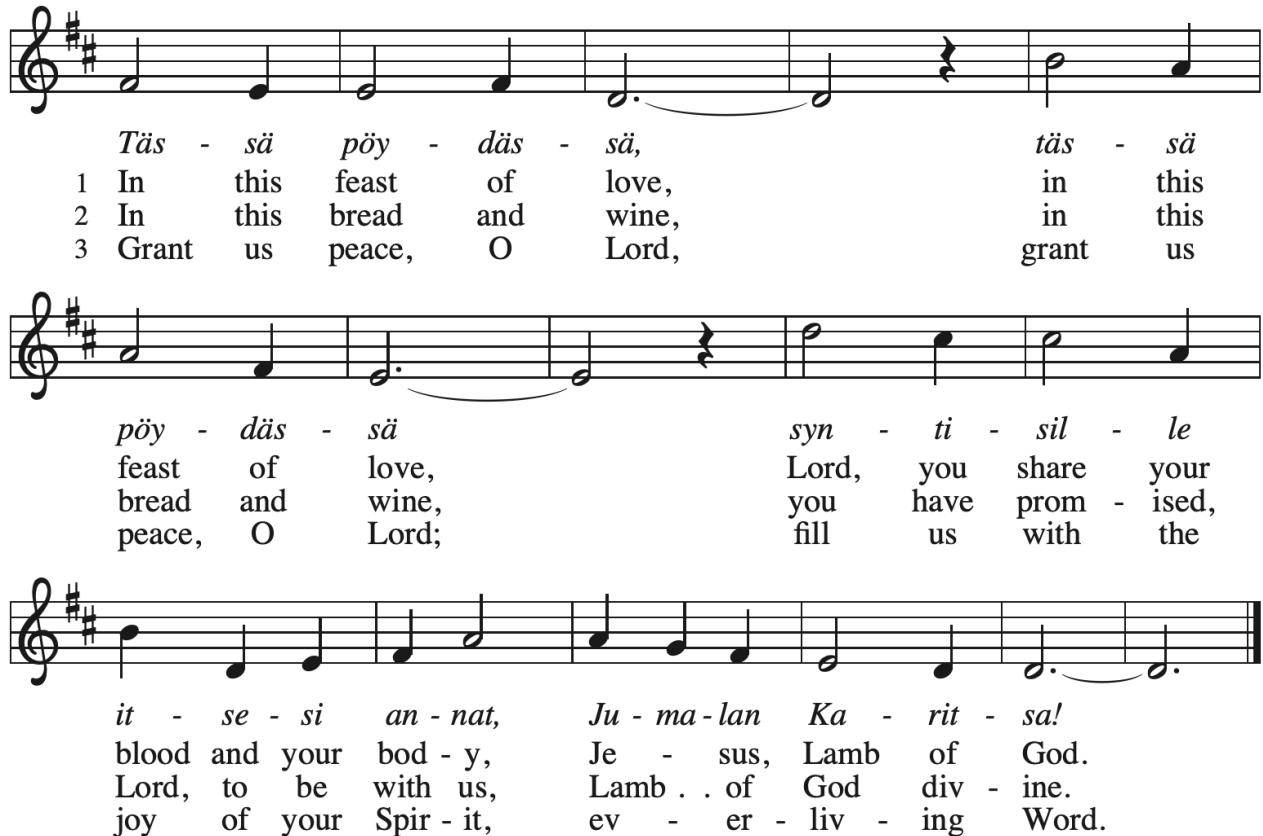
C: **And also with you.**

(Please stand as you are able.)

MEAL

OFFERTORY – ACS 962

In This Feast of Love



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
Text and music © 2017, 2020 Jarkko Maukonen, admin. Augsburg Fortress

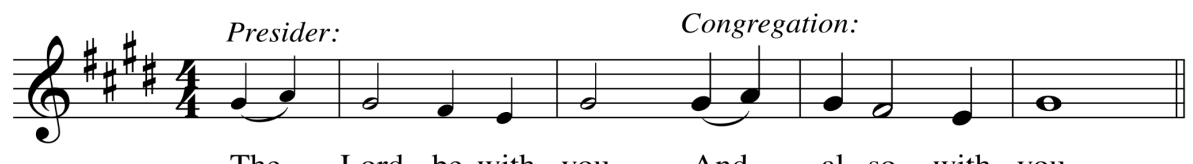
OFFERTORY PRAYER

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:*



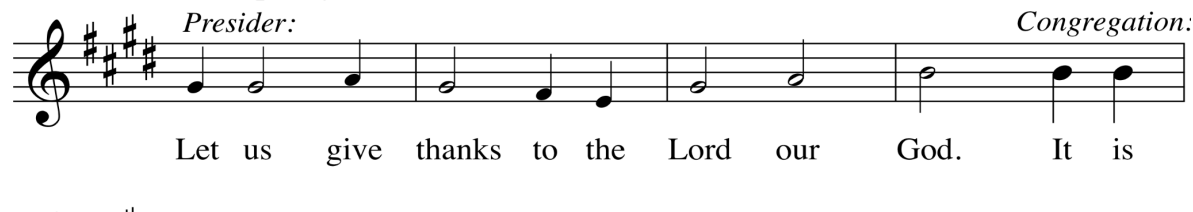
The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.

Presider: *Congregation:*

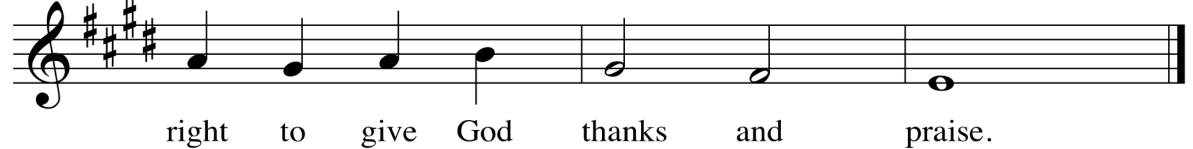


Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: *Congregation:*



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

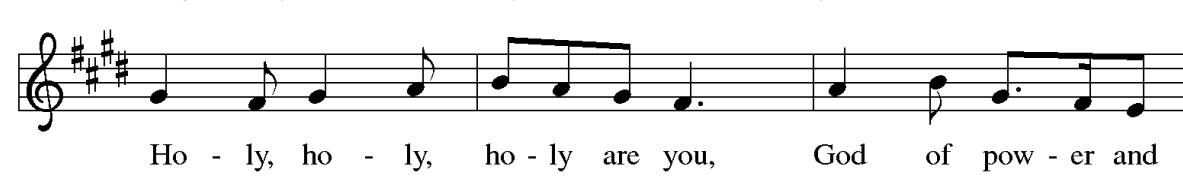


right to give God thanks and praise.

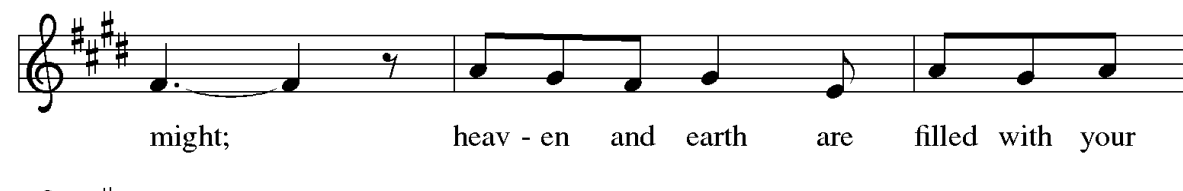
PREFACE

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

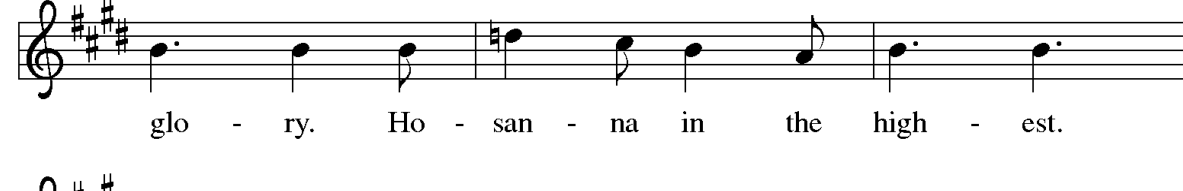
C:



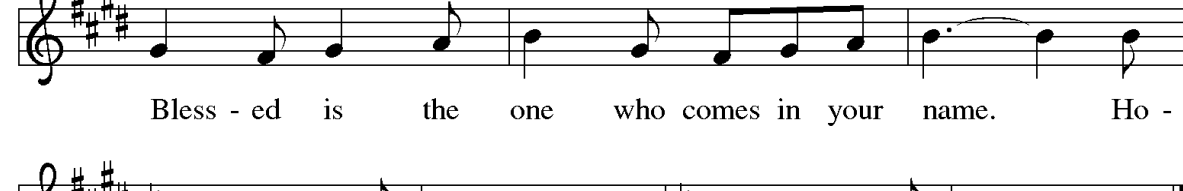
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and



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.**

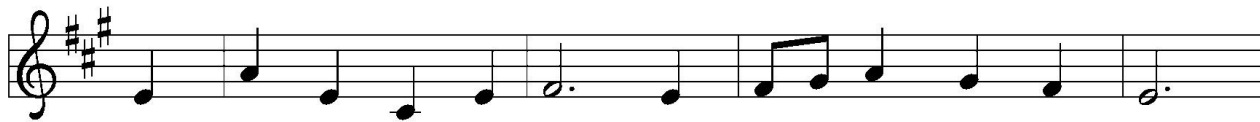
P: The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

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

C: **Amen.**

Rise Up, O Saints of God!



- 1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
- 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulfs earth's frame;
- 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king-dom's task em - brace;
- 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
- 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress

DISMISSAL

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

C: **Thanks be to God.**



SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister – Rev. Bruce Engebretson

Music – Pre-recorded by Ivy McLaughlin

Reader – Rona Anderson

Communion Assistant – Ann Olsen

Ushers – Karen and Ron Millard

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.