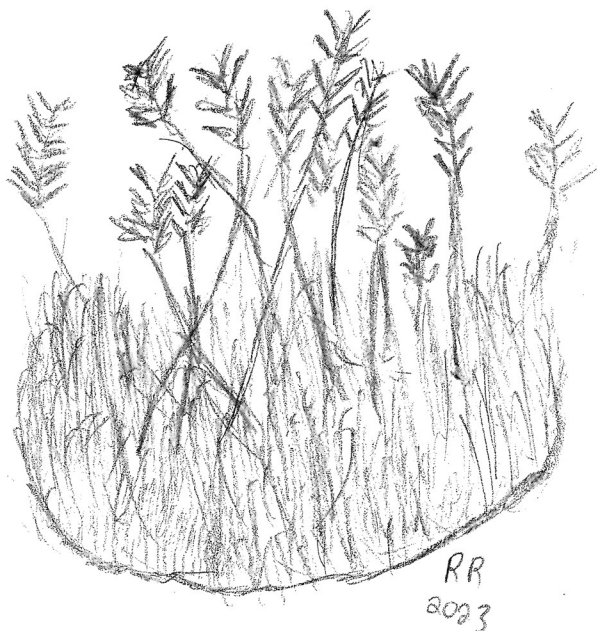




**Christ  
Lutheran**  
CHURCH

2610 Campbell Street • Valparaiso,  
Indiana 46385 • (219) 462-6660  
clcvalpo.org • office@clcvalpo.org



Season of Creation  
*Land and Prairie Sunday*  
September 10, 2023

## **YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!**

At Christ Lutheran people of all backgrounds and experiences gather to worship because we all share a common hope: the life, death, and resurrection of Christ makes all things new, even us.

You will find everything that happens in worship printed in this bulletin, with hymns found in the red hymnals (“ELW”) in the seats in front on you.

If you have a prayer request, the yellow cards in the seatback holders have a place for them; the other side is for any information you would like about Christ Lutheran. Please feel welcome to remain seated as necessary during the service.

## **CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN CHURCH!**

God’s people come in all shapes and sizes – it is a gift to the whole community when the smallest of us are present! Sitting with parents and learning to treasure times of worship is the foundation for helping build a growing faith in a child’s life. There’s some noise and movement that we expect from little ones - feel free to make use of the **activity bags, doodle pads, bookshelf in the overflow area and cry room at the back of the sanctuary** as needed. Whatever sacrifice of energy and effort you make to include your children in worship is multiplied as the good news of God’s love takes root in their lives!

## **WHEN NURSERY CARE IS NEEDED DURING WORSHIP**

A fully equipped and staffed Nursery is available for both infants and toddlers during all services. The Nursery is located west of our gathering area in **Room 110**.

## **RESTROOMS**

Men’s and women’s restrooms off the Gathering Area and Church Hall have changing tables, as does the all-gender restroom near the nursery. A second all-gender restroom is through the Vestry off the East hallway, past the Welcome Center.

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

**Holy Communion** is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.

**In-person distribution:** When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. **WINE** is lighter-colored, and **GRAPE JUICE** is dark; they are received via individual cups in the trays. The **COMMON CUP** is available for anyone who wishes. **USED GLASSES** are placed in the basket located near the ramp. **GLUTEN-FREE BREAD IS AVAILABLE**, please indicate to the server that you require this. Also, if you unable to come up to the altar, let the usher know so that pastor can bring communion to you.

## **COVID Procedure Update**

**Masks are encouraged but optional during worship.** Naturally if you prefer to stay masked throughout the service, you are of course welcome to do so. Masks are not required for singing but suggested.

Our services are on video, and occasional photographs are taken for our website and e-mail news. If you have concerns, please speak to a church staff member.

*Hearing assistance devices are available to those who need help with listening to the service and are located at the entrance to the sanctuary, or please see an Usher for assistance.*

**A Reminder: Please turn off all cell phones during worship services.**

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

### PRELUDE

*St. Anthony Chorale*

arr. Maggs

### WELCOME

*If you are joining us for the first time, welcome! We'd love to meet you, or if there's anything you'd like to know about the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church, please consider [filling out a Connection Card online](#) (you can point your phone at the graphic to the right) or using a yellow Connection Card in the pew holders.*



*Prayer requests can be posted to the livechat or use a yellow Prayer Request (on the backside of the Connection Card) and give them to an usher.*

*If you are worshipping with us via livestream, consider **preparing your space for Communion**: light a candle (if appropriate and safe), and have a plate with bread/cracker/tortilla and a cup for wine or grape juice (or an empty cup as a sign Jesus is sufficient in one or both elements).*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, worship the God of all Creation.

**We gather to praise the Creator, the continuous source of all living things.**

Come, worship our God who breathes life into being.

**We praise the Creator who fashions the forests, whose trees clean the air of this world.**

Come, worship our God who forms life out of soil.

**We praise the Creator whose land brings nourishment.**

Come, worship our God who receives our lament in the wilderness.

**We praise the Creator whose Son brings healing to all Creation.**

Come, worship our God who sends waters flowing with life.

**We praise the Creator whose baptism unites us to be one in the Body of Christ with all Creation.**

### CONFESSION

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who so loves the world and all who live in it.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God, one another, and all of creation.

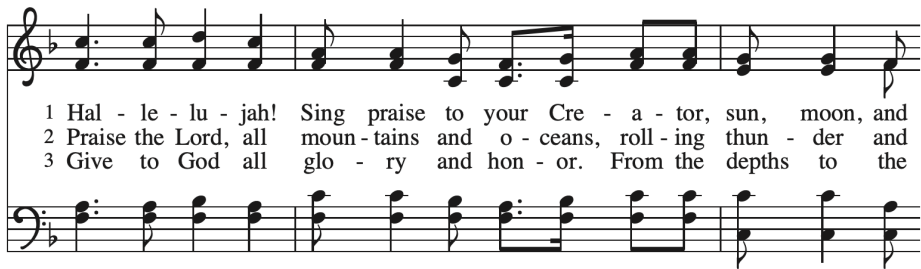
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Reconciling God,  
 we harm ourselves, one another, and your creation with our sin and selfishness. We  
 treat others and all of nature as if they exist only to serve our wants and needs. We  
 trample your people and your wild places, and pollute your waters. Forgive us,  
 loving God. Remind us of the covenant you made with the whole Earth, and teach  
 us to trust your promise to make all things new. Amen.

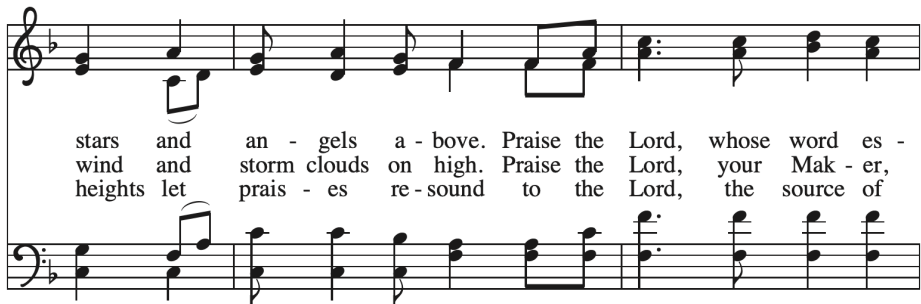
Christ, who was buried into the soil of the Earth and raised up to new life, + forgives  
 you all your sin. Freed from your burdens, the Holy Spirit equips you to join God's  
 healing work in the world.  
**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN ACS #1091**

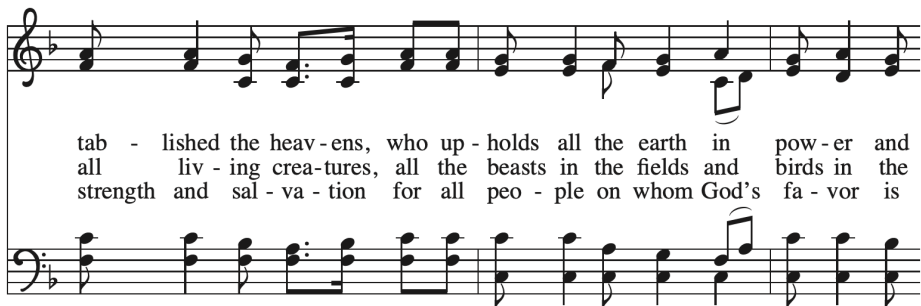
*Hallelujah! Sing Praise to Your Creator*



1 Hal - le - lu - jah! Sing praise to your Cre - a - tor, sun, moon, and  
 2 Praise the Lord, all moun - tains and o - ceans, roll - ing thun - der and  
 3 Give to God all glo - ry and hon - or. From the depths to the



stars and an - gels a - bove. Praise the Lord, whose word es -  
 wind and storm clouds on high. Praise the Lord, your Mak - er,  
 heights let prais - es re - sound to the Lord, the source of



tab - lished the heav - ens, who up - holds all the earth in pow - er and  
 all liv - ing crea - tures, all the beasts in the fields and birds in the  
 strength and sal - va - tion for all peo - ple on whom God's fa - vor is

love. God reigns on high, let the heav - ens re - joice! (Oh,  
 sky. Both young and old, come and join in the song! (Oh,  
 found. Praise God, you saints who are claimed as God's own! (Oh,)

God reigns on high, let the heav - ens re - joice!  
 Both young and old, come and join in the song!  
 Praise God, you saints who are claimed as God's own!

Text: Tilly Lubis, 1925–2002, based on Psalm 148; tr. David Diephouse, b. 1947  
 Music: NYANYIKANLAH NYANYIAN BARU, Batak melody; arr. H. A. Pandopo, b. 1935  
 Text © 2009 Faith Alive Christian Resources  
 Arr. © 1999 H. A. Pandopo

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*Children: This is the day that the Lord has made.*

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Gracious God, sculptor of the land, we in our brokenness have damaged your Earth.  
 Restore our relationship with the land, as Christ heals all of Creation. In the name of  
 Christ the Redeemer who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now  
 and forever. **Amen.**

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.  
When children read, they may read a version that is appropriate to their reading level  
and voice, which may vary from the printed texts.*

### **CHILDREN'S TIME**

*The assembly is seated as children come forward for a time together.*

### **HANDBELL ANTHEM**

*This Little Light of Mine*

arr. Stephenson

### **READING: Genesis 3:14-19; 4: 8-16**

*In addition to Adam and Eve being cursed because of their sin, the land also suffers the consequences of human brokenness. In the story of Cain and Abel, humanity and the Earth continue to be deeply interconnected to each other and to God as the land cries out with Abel's blood.*

<sup>14</sup>The Lord GOD said to the serpent,  
"Because you have done this,  
cursed are you among all animals  
and among all wild creatures;  
upon your belly you shall go,  
and dust you shall eat  
all the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup>I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and hers;  
he will strike your head,  
and you will strike his heel."

<sup>16</sup>To the woman he said,  
"I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing;  
in pain you shall bring forth children,  
yet your desire shall be for your husband,  
and he shall rule over you."

<sup>17</sup>And to the man he said,  
"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife,  
and have eaten of the tree  
about which I commanded you,  
'You shall not eat of it,'  
cursed is the ground because of you;  
in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;  
<sup>18</sup>thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;  
and you shall eat the plants of the field.

<sup>19</sup>By the sweat of your face  
you shall eat bread  
until you return to the ground,

for out of it you were taken;  
you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return."

<sup>8</sup>Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let us go out to the field." And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel, and killed him. <sup>9</sup>Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" <sup>10</sup>And the LORD said, "What have you done? Listen; your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground! <sup>11</sup>And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. <sup>12</sup>When you till the ground, it will no longer yield to you its strength; you will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." <sup>13</sup>Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear! <sup>14</sup>Today you have driven me away from the soil, and I shall be hidden from your face; I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and anyone who meets me may kill me." <sup>15</sup>Then the LORD said to him, "Not so! Whoever kills Cain will suffer a sevenfold vengeance." And the LORD put a mark on Cain, so that no one who came upon him would kill him. <sup>16</sup>Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **RESPONSIVE PSALM 139: 1-18**

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

<sup>2</sup>**You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.**

<sup>3</sup>You search out my path and my lying down,  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

<sup>4</sup>**Even before a word is on my tongue,  
O LORD, you know it completely.**

<sup>5</sup>You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.

<sup>6</sup>**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

<sup>7</sup>Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?

<sup>8</sup>**If I ascend to heaven, you are there;  
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.**

<sup>9</sup>If I take the wings of the morning  
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

<sup>10</sup>**even there your hand shall lead me,  
and your right hand shall hold me fast.**

<sup>11</sup>If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
and the light around me become night,"

<sup>12</sup>**even the darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is as bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.**

<sup>13</sup>For it was you who formed my inward parts;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

<sup>14</sup>**I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works;  
that I know very well.**

<sup>15</sup>My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

<sup>16</sup>**Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.  
In your book were written  
all the days that were formed for me,  
when none of them as yet existed.**

<sup>17</sup>How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!

<sup>18</sup>**I try to count them — they are more than the sand;  
I come to the end — I am still with you.**

### **READING: Romans 5: 12-17**

*Paul tells us that sin comes into the world through humanity and that salvation for the world comes through Christ.*

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned — <sup>13</sup>sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup>Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. <sup>15</sup>But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup>And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. <sup>17</sup>If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.*



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 12: 38-40

*Jesus proclaims that he will go into the heart of the Earth to redeem the sin of all the world.*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>38</sup>Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to him, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." <sup>39</sup>But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. <sup>40</sup>For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so for three days and three nights the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

*The assembly is seated. Time for reflection follows the sermon.*

# HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #679 *For the Fruit of All Creation*

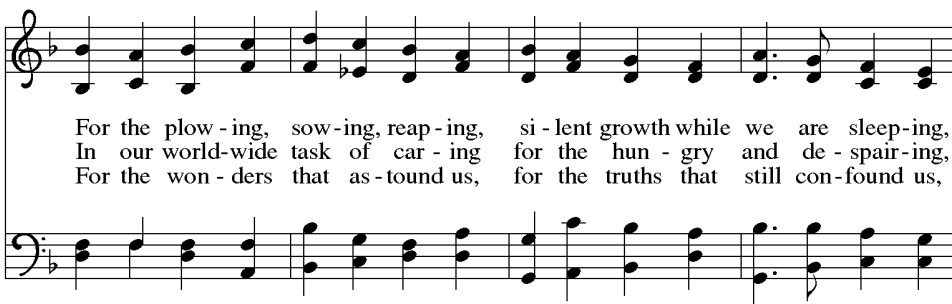
*The assembly stands to proclaim the Word of God in song.*



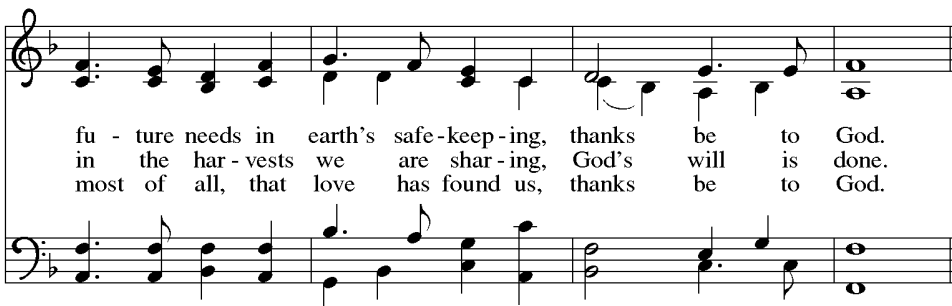
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.  
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

## APOSTLES' CREED

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.

*\*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

## PRAYERS

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

*A brief silence.*

Hold us accountable, O God. Show your church where repentance is needed and lead us in paths of intentional compassion and listening. Help us extend hands of reconciliation and care, especially in relationships with other Christians and people of other faiths.

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Reveal your miracles to us, O God. Move us to cherish you as we behold the wonders of creation. Open our eyes to the lands and soil around us, help us notice how we are one of many creatures who depend on them. Turn us to ways of living that seek Earth's thriving.

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Inspire us to lead with honor, O God. Guide judges and legislators, police, and government officials to create and uphold just laws. Move us to treat all people with dignity and guide our conversations with one another. In Ghana and Nigeria, bless the witness of churches, and the work of all for justice, peace, and interreligious cooperation. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Help us comfort those who suffer, O God. Reassure any who are harmed by the wicked acts of others. Bring peace to all who are vulnerable, frightened, despairing, or sick. Guard their waking and their sleeping. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Awaken us, O God. Challenge and encourage your people to value the vocation to which each is called. We pray for all discerning new possibilities, changing employment, or seeking meaningful work. In all our diverse callings, teach us to love our neighbor above all else. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Be our hope, O God. We remember with thanksgiving your disciples who died in faith, especially John Chrysostom and Cyprian. May their trust in your promise be our protection and our hope. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*We invite those worshipping by livestream to share a sign of peace in the chat, and for those in person we turn to offer them our greeting of peace before sharing a sign of peace with one another: **Peace be with you!***

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

## OFFERING

*This congregation serves our neighbors, community, and the world through the participation and support of its members and guests. Because offerings are never just about us, this month we are sharing a portion of your gifts with **Compass International Family Center**, Valparaiso <http://compassIFC.org> and **66<sup>th</sup> Synod Endowment Fund - “Lutherans for Black Lives”** <https://www.facebook.com/66thSynod>*



*If you wish to give electronically, browse to our secure on-line portal at [clcvalpo.org/give](http://clcvalpo.org/give) or use [our CLC app](#) (download at [clcvalpo.org/app](http://clcvalpo.org/app)).*

**OFFERTORY**

*Voluntary Air*

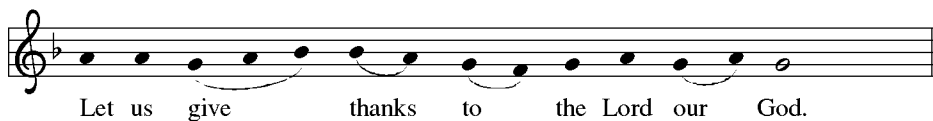
Pasquini

## OFFERING PRAYER

*The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.*

Loving Creator,  
all Creation comes from you – forests, lands and prairies, wild places, rivers and streams. As we bring our offerings to you, we ask that you bless them so that your kingdom comes on Earth as it is in heaven; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

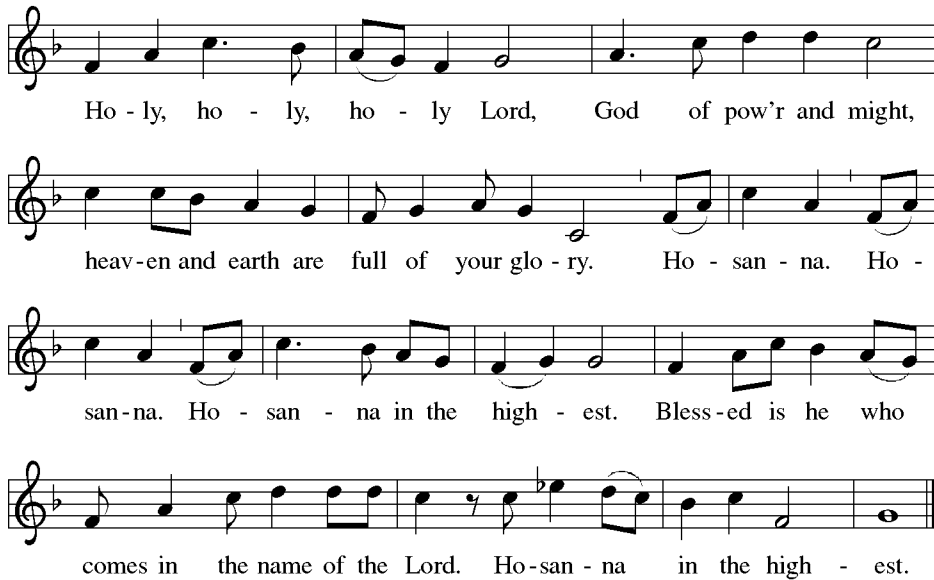
## GREAT THANKSGIVING



*The pastor continues the prayer then all join in singing:*

## **SANCTUS**

*(An ancient practice invites us to make the sign of the cross in honor of Jesus at the words "Blessed is he.")*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:  
you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.

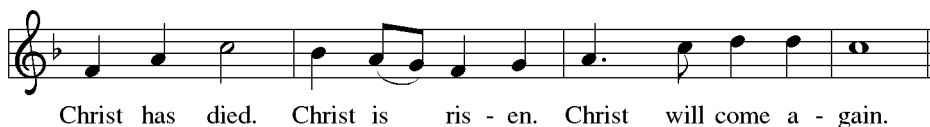
You formed the earth from chaos;  
you encircled the globe with air;  
you created fire for warmth and light;  
you nourish the lands with water.  
You molded us in your image,  
and with mercy higher than the mountains,  
with grace deeper than the seas,  
you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.

That also we, estranged and dying,  
might be adopted to live in your Spirit,  
you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Together as the body of Christ,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:



With this bread and cup we remember your Son,  
the first-born of your new creation.  
We remember his life lived for others,  
and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth.  
We await his coming,  
when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom,  
all our sins and sorrows will be no more.  
**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate,  
send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit,  
whose breath revives us for life,  
whose fire rouses us to love.  
Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food.  
Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit,  
that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.  
**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Holy and benevolent God,  
receive our praise and petitions,  
as Jesus received the cry of the needy,  
and fill us with your blessing,  
until, needy no longer and bound to you in love,  
we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb:  
through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One,  
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.



## LORD'S PRAYER

*Children: The Spirit makes us one. We pray as Jesus taught us:*

**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

Jesus comes to us in bread from the earth and fruit from the vine - come take your place  
at the table of God's creation!

**Thanks be to God!**

## DISTRIBUTION

*The assembly is seated.*



***Holy Communion** is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.*

*The pastor invites those worshipping via **livestream** to commune:*

The body of Christ, given for you.

**Amen (receive the bread)**

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**Amen (receive the cup)**

**In-person distribution:** When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. WINE is lighter-colored, and GRAPE JUICE is dark; they are received via individual cups in the trays. The COMMON CUP is available for anyone who wishes. USED GLASSES are placed in the basket located near the ramp. GLUTEN-FREE BREAD IS AVAILABLE, please indicate to the server that you require this. Also, if you unable to come up to the altar, let the usher know so that pastor can bring communion to you.

## LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



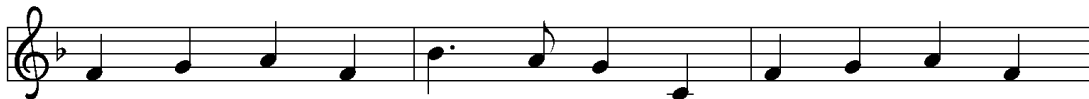
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

Text and music © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

ELW #734 *God, Whose Farm Is All Creation*



1 God, whose farm is all cre - a - tion, take the grat - i -  
2 Take our plow - ing, seed - ing, reap - ing, hopes and fears of  
3 All our la - bor, all our watch - ing, all our cal - en -



tude we give; take the fin - est of our har - vest,  
sun and rain, all our think - ing, plan - ning, wait - ing,  
dar of care in these crops of your cre - a - tion,



crops we grow that we may live.  
rip - ened in this fruit and grain.  
take, O God: they are our prayer.

Text: John Arlott, 1914–1991  
Music: HARVEST GIFTS, Larry J. Long, b. 1954  
Text © Trustees of the late John Arlott, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

*After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands as the minister continues.*  
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God, you never give up on us or any part of your creation, no matter how broken things may seem. Jesus was broken on the cross, and in the resurrection the Risen Lord encounters us with new life. Send us, who have received his body and blood, as signs of your redeeming power - restoring our relationship with all of Creation and uniting us with the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

### **INVITATIONS**

*Brief invitations are shared, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.*

### **BENEDICTION**

Almighty God, who breathes life into you and all living things,  
who heals all the world,  
and who sustains all Creation,  
give you peace and purpose,  
in the name of the Father, and the + Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*Children join the pastors to send us in mission.*

1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.  
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;

Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.  
un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;

Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;  
un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,

who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?  
on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

*Refrain*

On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,

hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for Creation.

**Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

*As worship concludes we move to the Gathering Place, where we are invited to greet one another and share in fellowship.*

### Worship Leaders

	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Acolyte	Luke Ridley	Olivia Magiera
Lector	Gail Mannington	Phil McGuire
Prayer Assistant	Lanie Steinwart	Erin Crill
Communion Assistants	Phyllis Schroeder Lisa Swayne	Amy Knauff Erin Crill
Ushers	Luke Venstrom	
Sound/Light	Lance Nolting	Jeff Peiffer
Video/Livestream	-----	John Buggeln
Pastors	Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr. Rev. Erica Gibson-Even	
Director of Music Ministries	Brian Bartusch	
Worship Participants	Bella Quatra Handbell Quartet	
Communion Baker	Linda Mapes	
Cover Art by Ruthie Ridley		

## COMMEMORATIONS

### *Week of September 10*

#### **September 13**

##### **John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, died 407**

John was a priest in Antioch and an outstanding preacher. His eloquence earned him the nickname “Chrysostom” (“golden mouth”). Appointed bishop of Constantinople, seat of the empire, he criticized corruption in the court. As a result, he was exiled by the empress, Fausta.

#### **September 14**

##### **Holy Cross Day**

Helena, mother of Constantine, made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and found what may be the actual site of Jesus’ crucifixion. Her son built two churches there, and the dedication of one of them gave rise to this celebration of our Lord’s victory on the cross.

#### **September 16**

##### **Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, died around 258**

Cyprian served as a bishop during a time of great persecution of Christians. He insisted on receiving back those who had left the faith under duress. He also provided medical care during a severe epidemic.

## **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle**

This week we pray for the churches and people of **Ghana and Nigeria**.

#### **We are thankful for:**

- Christians and Muslims who take risks to work for dialogue and reconciliation, and people of disparate ethnic groups who strive together for the common good
- churches who have been faithful in spreading the Good News, serving the people and pursuing justice in these societies
- economic growth from natural resources, where it benefits all people – and especially the poor – in these nations
- how people, especially in Nigeria, have been sustained by God in the face of attacks and violence in the context of the movement of population groups and from extremist elements like Boko Haram.

#### **We pray for:**

- those affected by violence and terrorism, and that such violent attacks might cease
- leaders of churches, that they might speak out courageously against political, social and economic injustices
- just and peaceful relations between members of different ethnic groups and between Muslims and Christians
- those who suffer from malnutrition and diseases such as malaria, whooping cough and HIV and AIDS
- better stewardship of the environment and natural resources.

## **In 2023, the Season of Creation draws on the image of a Mighty River**

The prophet Isaiah proclaims: “Listen carefully, I am about to do a new thing, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it? I will even put a road in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.” (Isaiah 43: 19) Biodiversity is being lost at a rate not seen since the last mass extinction. The futures of young people are threatened by the cascading impacts of the loss of biodiversity and a changing climate.

The urgency grows and we must make visible peace with Earth and on Earth, at the same time that justice calls us to repentance and a change of attitude and actions. As we join the river of justice and peace with others then hope is created instead of despair.



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