



**Christ
Lutheran**
CHURCH

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July 10, 2022
Time after Pentecost

WELCOME TO CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH!

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. 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**.

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. **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.

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.

INTRODUCTION

To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind is to reflect God's mercy in responding to one's neighbor. That mercy found its most profound expression in the "gospel that has come to you"—namely the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That gospel mercy comes to us again today: at the font, at the table, and from the pulpit. It is very near to you.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

Child's Play

York

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 (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).*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
**we confess that we have not followed your path
but have chosen our own way.
Instead of putting others before ourselves,
we long to take the best seats at the table.
When met by those in need,
we have too often passed by on the other side.
Set us again on the path of life.
Save us from ourselves
and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.**

Hear the good news!
God does not deal with us according to our sins
but delights in granting pardon and mercy.
In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
You are free to love as God loves.
Amen.

GREETING

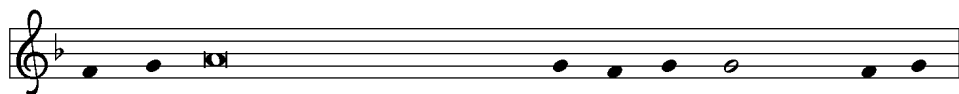
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Children: This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

KYRIE



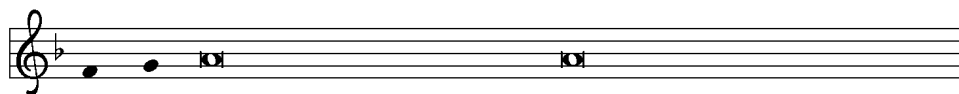
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer-cy.**



For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



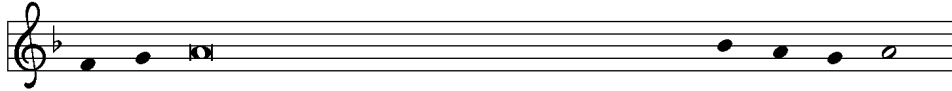
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



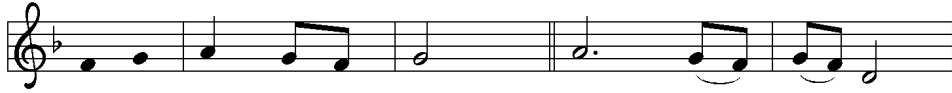
and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us
free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the
hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and
might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,
 for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

God of bandit places,
 love that demands our all:
 reveal to us our wounds
 and give us grace
 to know our neighbour,
 tending us
 with foreign hands;
 through Jesus Christ, who crossed over for us.
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.

READING: Amos 7:7-17

Amos, a shepherd from the southern village of Tekoa, is called by God to preach against Israel, the Northern Kingdom, in a time of economic prosperity. Today's reading illustrates how Amos's stinging criticism of Israel alienated him from those in authority, including King Jeroboam and the priest Amaziah.

⁷This is what [the Lord GOD] showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said,

"See, I am setting a plumb line
in the midst of my people Israel;
I will never again pass them by;

⁹the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

¹⁰Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹For thus Amos has said,

'Jeroboam shall die by the sword,
and Israel must go into exile
away from his land.'

¹²And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; ¹³but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

¹⁴Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, ¹⁵and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'

¹⁶"Now therefore hear the word of the LORD.
You say, 'Do not prophesy against Israel,
and do not preach against the house of Isaac.'

¹⁷Therefore thus says the LORD:
'Your wife shall become a prostitute in the city,
and your sons and your daughters shall fall by the sword,
and your land shall be parceled out by line;
you yourself shall die in an unclean land,
and Israel shall surely go into exile away from its land.'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

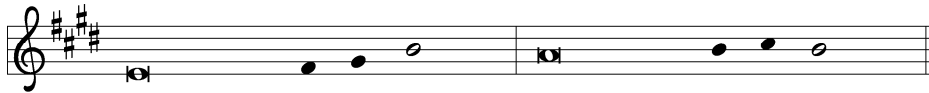
RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 82

The congregation is invited to sing the psalm refrain when indicated (R). Verses will be chanted alternately by the leader and the people.

Refrain



Psalm Tone



PSALM: Psalm 82

God stands to charge the divine coun-¹ cil assembled,
giving judgment in the midst¹ of the gods:

**²"How long will you¹ judge unjustly,
and show favor¹ to the wicked?"**

³Save the weak¹ and the orphan;
defend the hum-¹ ble and needy;

**⁴rescue the weak¹ and the poor;
deliver them from the power¹ of the wicked. R**

⁵They do not know, neither do they understand;
they wander a-¹ bout in darkness;
all the foundations of the¹ earth are shaken.

**⁶Now I say to you,¹ 'You are gods,
and all of you children of¹ the Most High;**

⁷nevertheless, you shall¹ die like mortals,
and fall like¹ any prince."

**⁸Arise, O God, and¹ rule the earth,
for you shall take all nations¹ for your own. R**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 10:25-37

Jesus is challenged to explain what is involved in obeying the greatest commandment. He tells a parable rich in surprises: those expected to show pity display hard hearts while the lowly give and receive unexpected and lavish mercy.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” ²⁷He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

²⁹But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” ³⁷He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

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 #712 *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*

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

1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;
3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal-ing light
4 Called by wor-ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,

who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer-cy's per - fect deed;
still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up - on our quick-ened sight,
to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;

we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,
hope and health, good-will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,

con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.
by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.
stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.
that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

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

United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Good and gracious God, you have placed your word of love in the heart of your church. Fill your church with compassion, that we bear the fruit of your healing mercy to a broken world. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

You created the earth with seeds sprouting up to new life. We pray for the flourishing of fruit trees and orchards, vines and bushes. Prosper the work of those who plant, tend, harvest, and gather. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Show us your ways and teach us your paths of justice and love. Raise up community and national leaders to challenge and dismantle societal structures that perpetuate ethnic, racial, and religious profiling and discrimination. Inspire the people and leaders of Eritrea and Ethiopia to work toward peace and reconciliation. As you have guided their churches for millennia, equip them now as constant signs of your love and justice. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Come near to all in need. Orchestrate kindness in the face of cruelty, hope where there is despair, love in the face of neglect, comfort where there is death, and healing in illness. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Turn this community toward neighbors in need. Bring aid and support to those who are poor, beaten down, abused, forgotten, silenced, or avoided. Bless the work of New Creations, the Men's Overnight Shelter, Housing Opportunities, HealthLink, Hilltop House, and the many other local efforts to serve our neighbors. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the saints who revealed your love and mercy in this life, including Benedict and Nathan Söderblom. Inspired by their witness, strengthen us to live in hope. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with your Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping.

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

*Throughout this pandemic our congregation has never stopped serving our neighbors, our community, our world -- all because of your participation and support. This month we are sharing a portion of our offerings for the support of the 1- ELCA's **Global Missions' Selian Lutheran Hospital in Tanzania Africa** and 2- **AMOS, "A Mission of Service" in Guatemala/Honduras.***

If you prefer to give electronically use [our CLC app](#), text 'CLCVLPO' to (833) 245-6029 or browse to our secure on-line portal at clcvalpo.org/give.

OFFERTORY

The Servant Song

Gillard

OFFERING PRAYER

The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.

God of abundance:

you have set before us a plentiful harvest.

As we feast on your goodness,

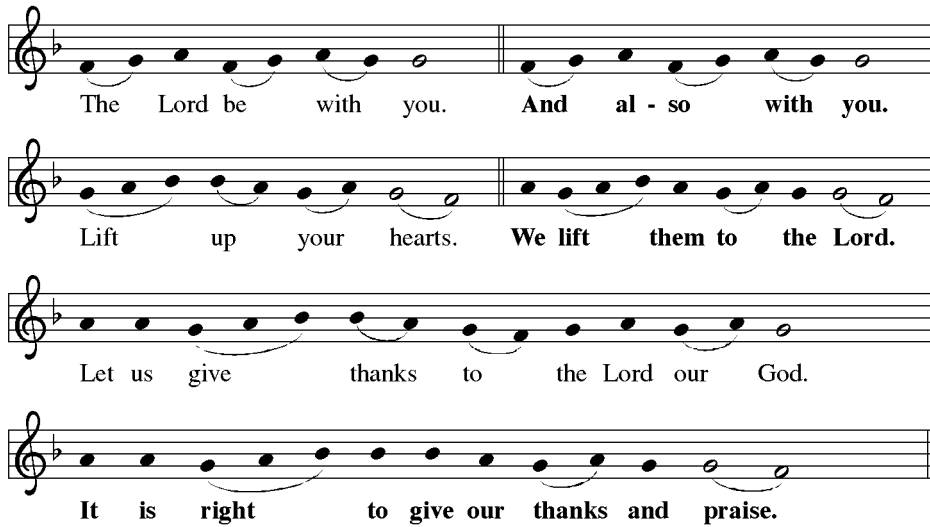
strengthen us to labor in your field,

and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all,

in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



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

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

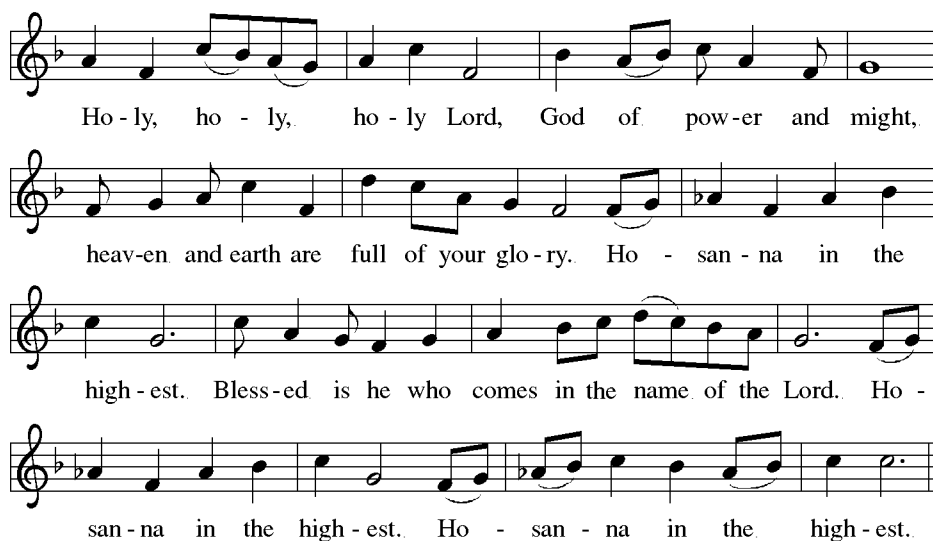
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: Staff 1: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. Staff 2: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. Staff 3: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. Staff 4: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with some words underlined for emphasis.

The pastor begins the prayer and 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-er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

TABLE PRAYER

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

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy.

Come to the banquet.

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.

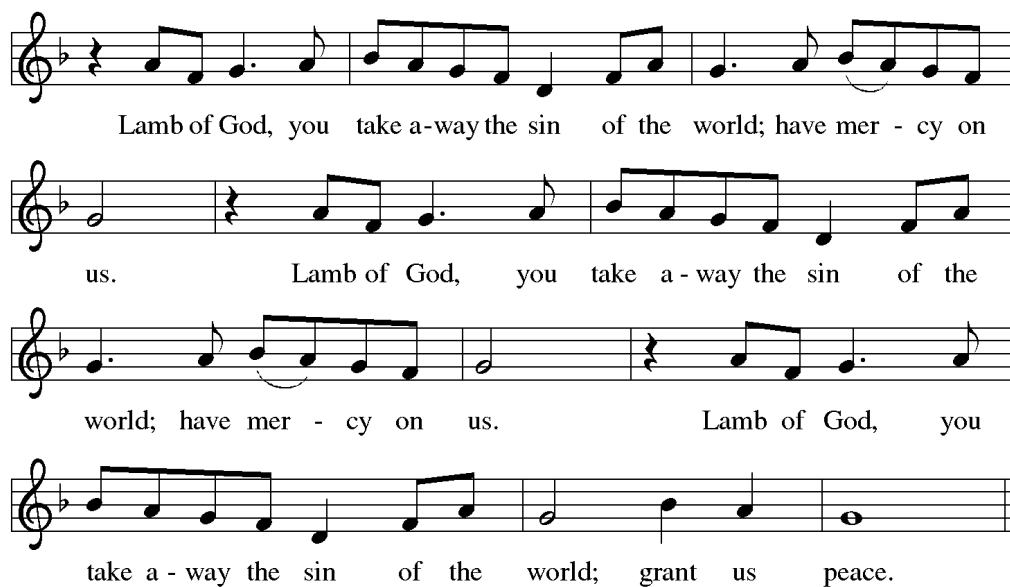
Amen (receive the bread)

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. 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.

LAMB OF GOD



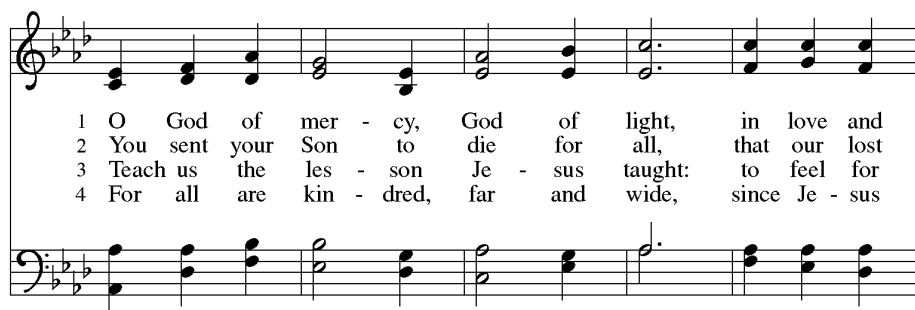
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on

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.

COMMUNION HYMN ELW #714 *O God of Mercy, God of Light*



1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and
 2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost
 3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for
 4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus



mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er
 world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we
 those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and
 Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and



in your sight, to live our lives in you.
 stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.
 word and thought may work a work for you.
 grace pro - vide, to love them all in you.

5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,
 may we each other's burdens share;
 may we, where help is needed, there
 give help as though to you.

6 And may your Holy Spirit move
 all those who live to live in love,
 till you receive in heav'n above
 all those who live in you.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt.
 Music: JUST AS I AM, Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896; arr. hymnal version
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

COMMUNION MEDITATION

Ave Maria

Piazzolla

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

Life-giving God,
through this meal you have bandaged our wounds
and fed us with your mercy.
Now send us forth to live for others,
both friend and stranger,
that all may come to know your love.
This we pray in the name of Jesus.
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.

BLESSING

The God of peace,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you, comfort you,
and show you the path of life
this day and always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN ACS #988

The Spirit Send Us Forth to Serve



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in Je - sus' name
2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the bur - dened free;
3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter joy like seed
4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel to pro - claim.



to bring glad tid - ings to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.
where hope is dim, to share a dream and help the blind to see.
and, all our days, to cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.
God's Spir - it has em - pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: SANTA MONICA, Robert A. Hobby, b. 1962

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Children join the pastors to send us in mission.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Allegro di molto e con fuoco
(Organ Fantaisie)

Saint-Saëns

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

COMMEMORATIONS

Week of July 10, 2022

July 11

Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, died around 540

Benedict is known as the father of the Western monastic movement. Educated in Rome, he went to live as a hermit, and eventually gathered a community of monks around him. He wrote a rule for living in monasteries that is used by Benedictines and adapted by others.

July 12

Nathan Söderblom, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1931

A winner of the Nobel Prize for peace for his efforts to unite peoples after the First World War, Söderblom also called attention to the revival of early church worship principles, and helped to lay the groundwork for the World Council of Churches.

Stewardship Snippet

Luke 10:27 – Jesus answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.”

We are free people of God, and Jesus teaches us the highest purposes of our freedom: To love God with all our being, and to love our neighbor through acts of kindness and mercy.

Worship Participants

<u>Worship Assistants</u>	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Acolyte	Sara McDaniel	Olivia Magiera
Lector	Paige Reichardt	Dr. Tim Knauff
Prayer Assistant	Paige Reichardt	
Communion Assistants	Chris Schmidgall Erin Schmidgall	Holly Knauff Amy Knauff
Ushers	Tim Sutherland Don MacMillan	Tim Malchow Jon Malchow
Sound/Light		Jeff Peiffer
Video/Livestream	—————	Adam Gibson-Even
Pastors:	Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr. Rev. Erica Gibson-Even	

Director of Music Ministries: Brian Bartusch

Worship Participants:

Adam Gibson-Even, cantor
Carolina Bowen
Cheryl Lemmons
Matthew Yee

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Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

This week we pray for the churches and people of **Eritrea and Ethiopia**.

We are thankful for:

- the long centuries of Christian history in Ethiopia and Eritrea
- the current witness and work of Orthodox, Catholic and Evangelical churches amid difficult circumstances
- those who have provided humanitarian aid, especially during times of drought and hunger
- those who have worked for peaceful relations between Eritrea and Ethiopia.

We pray for:

- victims of human rights abuses
- greater understanding and respect among the many ethnic groups
- lasting peace and reconciliation between Ethiopia and Eritrea
- the emergence of more democratic governance that respects human rights and furthers justice for all ethnic groups and minorities.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

A Matter of Proximity

Most people consider clarifying questions to be helpful things. That is, of course, unless the questions are attempts to find loopholes or ways around doing what is moral and just. Today we find that Jesus is not a fan of loopholes when it comes to serving our neighbors. In fact, the tale he weaves for the listeners today is shocking on its face. To suggest that the outsider, a Samaritan, saves the day in the story probably went a bit too far for those first hearers. Perhaps that's true for hearers today too, when we truly listen. The Samaritan is an unlikely hero.

This parable, often called "The Good Samaritan," highlights proximity as a tool in extending God's grace in the world. Those who do not want to help the injured person pass on the other side of the street. Perhaps the physical distance helps them feel disconnected from moral responsibility.

But notice the extreme proximity that the merciful Samaritan employs: he gets near to treat the beaten man's wounds, puts his own wine on the injuries as a sanitary agent, puts the man on his own beast, and pays for the man's needs with his own money. For Jesus, being a neighbor doesn't just mean tending to those who happen to be next to us. For Jesus, being a neighbor means leaning in, especially when others want to avoid the situation altogether.

To truly attend to the needs of the world we must come in close proximity to need. After all, Jesus himself, fully God, became fully human to get in proximity to us. And like the Samaritan, this wandering preacher from a nowhere town with a ragtag group of followers will save the day for us all. God in Jesus is the unlikely hero who draws close to our need.