



**Christ
Lutheran**
CHURCH

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Indiana 46385 • (219) 462-6660
clcvalpo.org • office@clcvalpo.org



August 7, 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

Jesus says, “It is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” It is God’s promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the “little flock” of which we are a part in today’s assembly. Faith, God’s baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

Now We Ask the Holy Spirit

Buxtehude

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.

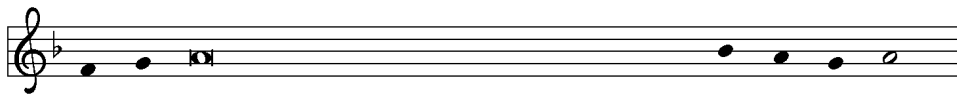
GREETING

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.

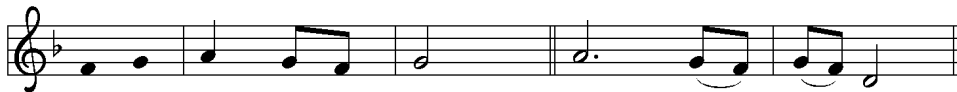
Children: This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

KYRIE

<p>Leader:</p>  <p>In peace, let us pray to the Lord.</p>	<p>Assembly:</p>  <p>Lord, have mer-cy.</p>
 <p>For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us</p>	
 <p>pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.</p>	
 <p>For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,</p>	
 <p>and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.</p>	
 <p>Lord, have mer - cy.</p>	



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



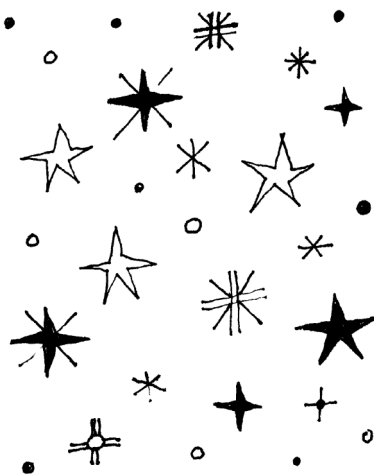
let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



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 the unexpected,
 you steal from us
 our dead complacent hearts
 and kindle a new flame:
 take from our hands
 the burden of worthless things,
 and make them ready
 to receive a greater gift:
 the love of a Servant King;
 through Jesus Christ, the Son of Man.
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: Isaiah 1:1, 10-20

Isaiah announces God's displeasure with the offerings and sacrifices of a people who are without compassion. He urges them instead to do justice and defend the oppressed. Indeed, if they repent, God promises that they will be made as clean as new-fallen snow.

¹The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD,
you rulers of Sodom!

Listen to the teaching of our God,
you people of Gomorrah!

¹¹What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?
says the LORD;

I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams
and the fat of fed beasts;

I do not delight in the blood of bulls,
or of lambs, or of goats.

¹²When you come to appear before me,
who asked this from your hand?

Trample my courts no more;

¹³bringing offerings is futile;
incense is an abomination to me.

New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation—

I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity.

¹⁴Your new moons and your appointed festivals
my soul hates;

they have become a burden to me,
I am weary of bearing them.

¹⁵When you stretch out your hands,
I will hide my eyes from you;

even though you make many prayers,
I will not listen;

your hands are full of blood.

¹⁶Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;
remove the evil of your doings

from before my eyes;

cease to do evil,

¹⁷learn to do good;

seek justice,

rescue the oppressed,

defend the orphan,

plead for the widow.

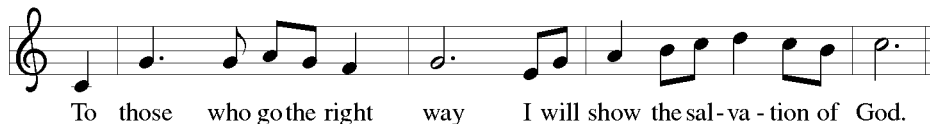
- ¹⁸Come now, let us argue it out,
says the LORD:
though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be like snow;
though they are red like crimson,
they shall become like wool.
¹⁹If you are willing and obedient,
you shall eat the good of the land;
²⁰but if you refuse and rebel,
you shall be devoured by the sword;
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 50: 1-8, 22-23

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



- The mighty one, God the ¹LORD, has spoken;
calling the earth from the rising of the sun ¹to its setting.
²**Out of Zion, perfect ¹in its beauty,**
God shines ¹forth in glory.
³Our God will come and will ¹not keep silence;
with a consuming flame before, and round about a ¹raging storm.
⁴**God calls the heavens and the earth ¹from above**
to witness the judgment ¹of the people. R

⁵"Gather before me my ¹loyal followers,
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed ¹it with sacrifice."
⁶**The heavens declare the rightness ¹of God's cause,
for it is God ¹who is judge.**
⁷"Listen, my people, and I will speak: Israel, I will bear wit- ¹ness against you;
for I am ¹God, your God.
⁸**I do not accuse you because ¹of your sacrifices;
your burnt offerings are al- ¹ways before me. R**
²²Consider this well, you ¹who forget God,
lest I tear you apart and there be none to de- ¹liver you.
²³**Whoever offers me a sacrifice of thanksgiving ¹honors me;
I will show the salvation of God to those who go ¹the right way." R**

READING: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

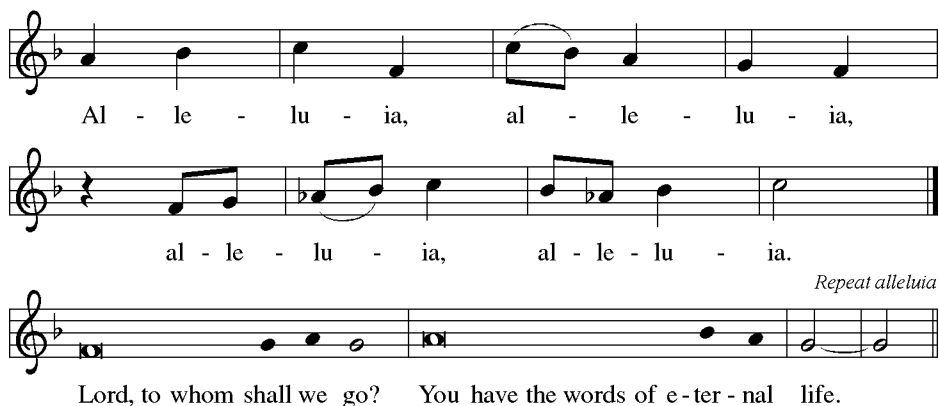
⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

¹³All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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. *Repeat alleluia*
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 12:32-40

Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ³²“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.

³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

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 #764 *Have No Fear, Little Flock*

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

- 1 *Have no fear, little flock;
have no fear, little flock,
for the Father has chosen
to give you the kingdom;
have no fear, little flock!*

- 2 *Have good cheer, little flock;
have good cheer, little flock,
for the Father will keep you
in his love forever;
have good cheer, little flock!*

- 3 *Praise the Lord high above;
praise the Lord high above,
for he stoops down to heal you,
uplift and restore you;
praise the Lord high above!*

- 4 *Thankful hearts raise to God;
thankful hearts raise to God,
for he stays close beside you,
in all things works with you;
thankful hearts raise to God!*

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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

Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

A brief silence.

Let your loving kindness be upon your church. Fill all who proclaim the gospel with your Spirit. Equip your flock to speak your word of promise and hope in the midst of fear and uncertainty. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Let your loving kindness be upon your creation. Dwell among us and sustain our earthly home. In places of famine, provide nourishment. In places of plenty, fashion us to be good stewards of your bounty. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Let your loving kindness be upon your world. Be our helper and our shield in places torn by strife and violence. Raise up courageous leaders to govern with compassion and justice. Bless the people and churches of Cameroon, Central African Republic, and Equatorial Guinea. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Let your loving kindness be upon your children. Look upon all who wait for your steadfast love. Console those who grieve and embrace those who cry out to you, especially those we now name before you now (*silence to lift up those in need, aloud or in your heart*). Help us to trust your promise and not be afraid. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Let your loving kindness be upon the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and its members who gather this week in its Churchwide Assembly. Inspire the celebration of God's varied works throughout the church. Instill your peace in the midst of the work you have called us to and the deliberations that will take place. Shape the work of the church according to your will for the whole world. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Let your loving kindness be upon this community. Fashion our hearts to strive for the way of peace. Strengthen the outreach ministries of our congregations, and strengthen our partnership for the sake of the gospel. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With thanksgiving we remember all who have died in faith and now rest in you, especially Dominic, Lawrence, Clare, Florence Nightingale and Clara Maas. As they placed their hope in you, so strengthen us to trust in your promise of new life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.

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- **Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS)** <https://www.lirs.org> and 2- **Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW)** <https://www.lbwinc.org>.*

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

OFFERTORY

Dialogue
(from Mass for the Parishes)

Couperin

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.

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 #488

Soul, Adorn Yourself With Gladness

1 Soul, a - dorn your-self with glad-ness, leave the gloom-y haunts of sad - ness,
 2 Has-ten as a bride to meet him, ea - ger - ly and glad-ly greet him.
 3 Now in faith I hum-bly pon - der o - ver this sur-pass-ing won - der
 4 Je - sus, source of last-ing plea-sure, tru - est friend, and dear-est trea - sure,

come in - to the day-light's splen - dor, there with joy your prais-es ren - der.
 There he stands al-read - y knock-ing; quick - ly, now, your gate un - lock - ing,
 that the bread of life is bound-less though the souls it feeds are count-less;
 peace be - yond all un - der - stand - ing, joy in - to all life ex - pand - ing:

Bless the one whose grace un - bound-ed this a - maz - ing ban-quet found-ed;
 o - pen wide the fast-closed por - tal, say - ing to the Lord im - mor - tal:
 with the choic-est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to us is giv - en.
 hum-bly now, I bow be - fore you, love in - car - nate, I a - dore you;

Christ, though heav'n-ly, high, and ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
 "Come, and leave your loved one nev - er; dwell with-in my heart for - ev - er."
 Oh, most glo - rious con - so - la - tion, pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion.
 wor - thi - ly let me re - ceive you, and, so fa - vored, nev - er leave you.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. 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

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

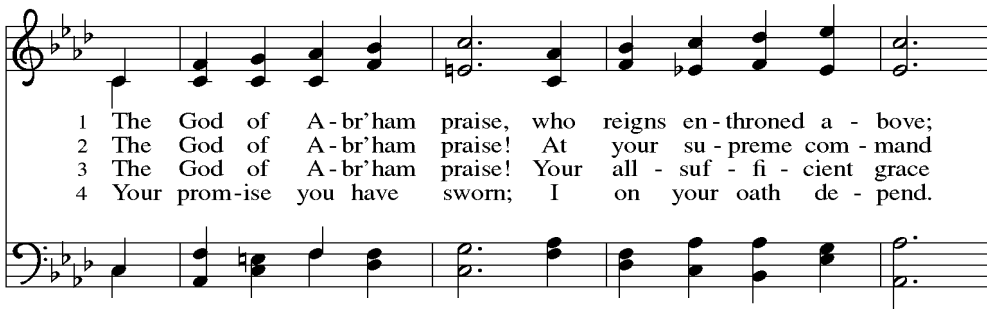
INVITATIONS

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

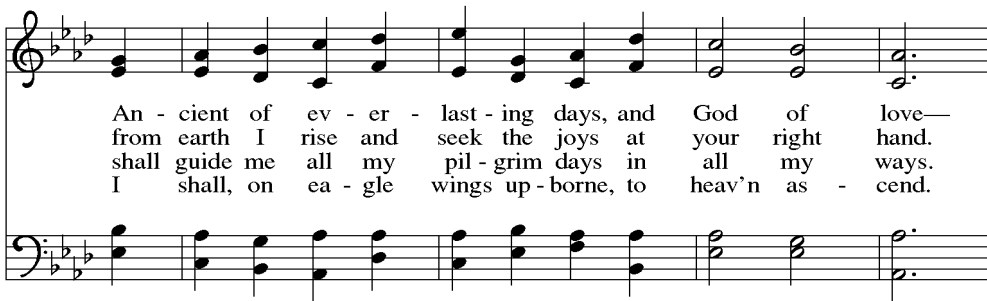
BLESSING

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 #831

The God of Abraham Praise


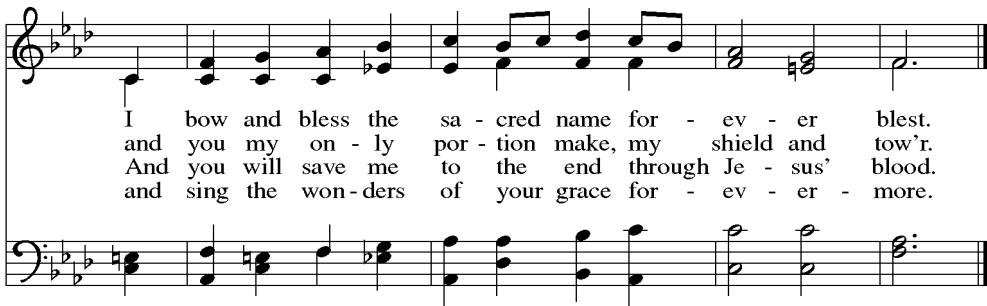
1 The God of A-br'ham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove;
 2 The God of A-br'ham praise! At your su-preme com-mand
 3 The God of A-br'ham praise! Your all - suf - fi - cient grace
 4 Your prom-ise you have sworn; I on your oath de - pend.



An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, and God of love—
 from earth I rise and seek the joys at your right hand.
 shall guide me all my pil - grim days in all my ways.
 I shall, on ea - gle wings up - borne, to heav'n as - cend.



“I Am the One I Am”— by earth and heav'n con - fessed;
 I all on earth for - sake— its wis - dom, fame, and pow'r—
 You deign to call me friend; you call your - self my God!
 I shall be - hold your face; I shall your pow'r a - dore,



I bow and bless the sa - cred name for - ev - er blest.
 and you my on - ly por - tion make, my shield and tow'r.
 And you will save me to the end through Je - sus' blood.
 and sing the won - ders of your grace for - ev - er - more.

Children join the pastors to send us in mission.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

The God of Abraham Praise

Burkhardt

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

Worship Participants

Worship Assistants

8:00 a.m.

Acolyte

Sara McDaniel

Lector

Darla Hernandez

Prayer Assistant

Betty Luckett

Communion Assistants

Chris Schmidgall
Erin Schmidgall

Ushers

Ramona Krueger
Brooke Pearson

Sound/Light

Malcolm McGawn

Video/Livestream

Tony Reinhold

Pastor:

Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr.

Director of Music Ministries:

Brian Bartusch

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

This week we pray for the churches and people of **Cameroon, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea.**

We are **thankful** for:

- the natural resources and diverse gifts that come from these countries, such as the distinctive music and dance of Cameroon
- those who minister to victims of sexual violence, trafficking and other human rights abuses
- Christians and people of other faiths who courageously have pursued reconciliation and peace among those in conflict
- individuals and organizations who have provided for health clinics and schools in Cameroon and the Central African Republic.

We **pray** for:

- just resolutions to the conflicts and violence among diverse groups and their leaders
- refugees who flee to other countries, and for those who host them
- economic developments that make it possible for all to rise out of poverty
- stable democratic governments that effectively serve the common good.

COMMEMORATIONS

Week of August 7, 2022

August 8

Dominic, founder of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), died 1221

Dominic was a Spanish priest who saw the wealth of the clergy as a stumbling block for the church, so he formed a movement, the Order of Preachers (commonly called Dominicans) devoted to itinerant preaching and living in poverty.

August 10

Lawrence, deacon, martyr, died 258

As one of the seven deacons of the church at Rome, Lawrence was responsible for the church's financial matters and for the care of the poor. Asked by the emperor to gather the church's treasure, he presented a collection of orphans, lepers, and the like. The enraged emperor had him put to death.

August 11

Clare, Abbess of San Damiano, died 1253

A contemporary of Francis of Assisi, Clare and a growing number of companions established a women's Franciscan community, called the Order of Poor Ladies, or Poor Clares. She inspired other women to pursue spiritual goals.

August 13

Florence Nightingale, died 1910; Clara Maass, died 1901; renewers of society

Nightingale was born in England, and horrified her wealthy family by deciding to become a nurse. She led a group of nurses in ministering in the midst of the Crimean War, and worked for hospital reform. Maass, a native of New Jersey, was also a war nurse, and volunteered as a subject for research on yellow fever. She died of the disease.

**AUGUST 7, 2022
NINTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**



We are strangers and foreigners on earth.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 12:32-40	Seek treasures in heaven
Monday	Genesis 15:1-6	God's covenant with Abram
Tuesday	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16	The meaning of faith
Wednesday	Psalm 33:1-11	Sing praises to the Lord
Thursday	1 Chronicles 29:10-22	David's praises to the Lord
Friday	Isaiah 40:27-31	The Lord gives strength
Saturday	Psalm 33:12-22	Trust only in God
Sunday	Luke 12:49-56	Following Jesus causes division

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

They [Abraham's descendants] confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. Hebrews 11:13b-14 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, direct us to long for what you long for and to thirst for what you promise, that we may treasure what you want for us through Jesus, the Son of Man. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

God of steadfast love, fill our hearts with trust in you, as you fill our bodies with the riches of this meal. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of steadfast love and faithfulness give you peace.



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GOSPEL MESSAGE

Security Systems That Don't Fail

Jesus knows that we worry about a lot of things. Many people who own a lot of possessions live in fear of losing them. Some find that a security system installed with cameras and sensors and smart doorbells can lower their anxiety. But even with internet-of-things technology, these security systems do not stop the risk of theft. We may get a video of someone stealing our stuff, but we still lose the stuff. Anxiety over losing what we have persists and may in fact be ever-present as our cell phones alert us to each passerby at the front door.

Jesus proposes several other security systems that transform our anxiety over losing what we have into a different kind of calm. The first one he offers is probably the least popular: *Sell your possessions and give the money to the poor*. You don't have to worry about your belongings being stolen if you get rid of them. It's a radical option, but an option nonetheless.

Jesus also proposes another kind of security: *Place value in the things that can't be stolen*. When we treasure the mercy and love of God as our most prized possession, we have what no one else can take. We have a security system that does not fail. We have deep and abiding peace. Our fears are calmed.

There is one additional security system to which Jesus invites us: *Have confidence that it is God's good pleasure to give us life with God*, life in a world where everyone has enough and no one worries about losing it, life where we all know we are equally beloved. When this is our treasure, when it is where we place our hearts, we find the peace that is a secure gift.

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