Faith Lutheran Church

July 17, 2016



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**Self-Care**

When her sister Mary fails to help her with her work, Martha asks Jesus, “Lord, do you not care?” (Luke 10:40). Many in our culture can relate to the heavy demands Martha tries to manage. Martha voices her desperation directly, but it is what she doesn’t say that

is perhaps more interesting: Jesus, I know you are here, but I don’t have time for you right now. Clearly, Martha is doing what she believes has to be done. However, it is Jesus who really knows what ought to be done. He recognizes that Mary gets it—she

takes time for God.

Renita Weems, in her book, Listening for God (Simon & Schuster, 1999), responds to ten years of private journal entries that reveal her unconscious spiritual decent, as well as her gratitude for having made the time to discover the power of silence in journaling. Weems’s writings document her inability to navigate the competing roles of mother, wife, seminary professor, pastor, and writer, and describe her discernment of a mysterious diminished desire to pray. Weems’s frequent invitation to God to be present during this chaotic time of her life was nothing more than a meaningless ritual for her fixer-reactionary personality, which

had no time to show hospitality to the divine. As she revisited past journal entries, Weems began to relish those graceful periods when she took the time to scribble reflections on life’s moments in the margins of her notepads. Journaling forced her to carve out time

to reflect on the word, her vocation, and her life. She missed those periods.

Weems had found herself in the same situation as Martha.

She had invited God to enter her chaotic space, yet she did not acknowledge the power of his presence. Thank God that for all

our sakes, God continues to enter our chaotic lives—bidden or unbidden—and invites us to listen.

**Sunday, July 17, 2016**

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Holy Communion**

**INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

Perhaps the church, at its best, is “all ears.” Almighty God urges the faithful, again and again, to “listen up!”—to heed the word from above. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, with Mary and Martha, and the early church at Colossae. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the words of life.

*If hearing assistance is needed, please ask an usher for a personal PA receiver.*

*The ushers also have large print copies of today’s worship folder available.*

*If it will be difficult for you to stand along with the congregation during*

*any part of the worship service, please feel free to remain seated.*

*There is a nursery available during the worship service for those who*

*Wish to use it. It is located at the end of the hall beyond the coat racks.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*We cordially greet all who have come to worship today.*

*Please register your attendance and join us in fellowship after the service.*

Prayer Requests

PRELUDE

*The pre-service music signals the beginning of the worship service. Silence during the*

*pre-service music enables worshipers to prepare for worship through quiet meditation.*

“Prelude in A Flat” Cesar Cul

Gathering

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

*The assembly stands.*

Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked*

*at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

abounding in steadfast love toward us,

healing the sick and raising the dead,

showering us with every good gift.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence

of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Just and gracious God,

**we come to you for healing and life.**

**Our sins hurt others and diminish us;**

**we confess them to you.**

**Our lives bear the scars of sin;**

**we bring these also to you.**

**Show us your mercy, O God.**

**Bind up our wounds,**

**forgive us our sins,** **and free us to love,**

**for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

**Amen.**

The apostle Paul assures us:

“When we were dead in our trespasses,

God made us alive together with Christ,

nailing the record of our sins to the cross.”

Jesus says to you, ☩ “Your sins are forgiven.”

Be at peace, and tell everyone how

much God has done for you.

**Amen.**

Gathering Song #771

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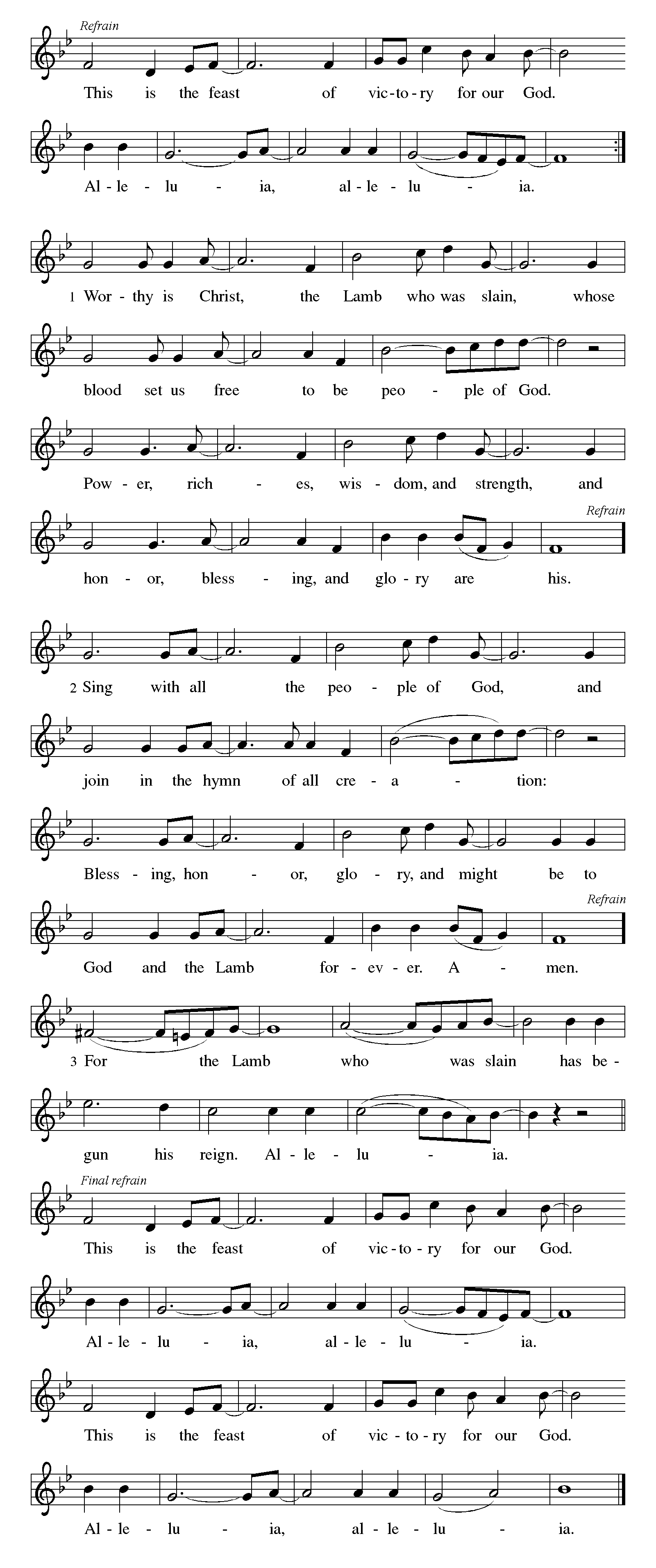
Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

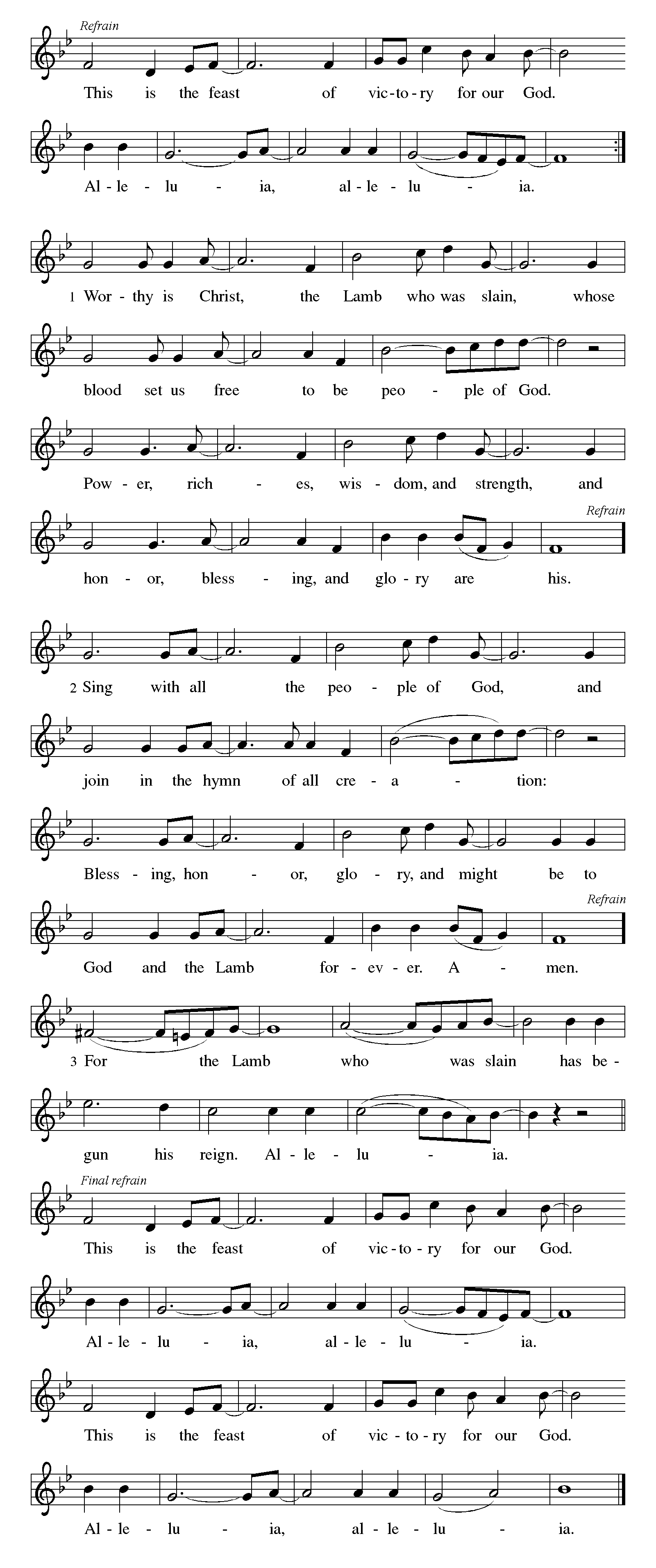
**And also with you.**

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Canticle of Praise

⇒

-6-

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Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make

yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us

attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word

above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

First Reading: Genesis 18:1-10a

*The Lord visits Abraham and Sarah to tell them that the long—awaited promise of the birth of a child will be fulfilled for them in their old age.*

*The reading is announced.*

A reading from Genesis.

1The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. 2He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. 3He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. 4Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. 5Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” 6And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” 7Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. 8Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.  
  9They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” 10aThen one said, “I will surely return to you

in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.”

*The reading is concluded:*

The word of the Lord.

*The assembly responds:*

**Thanks be to God.**

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Second Reading: Colossians 1:15-28

*Sometimes Paul preaches with great attention to theological concepts. Here, however, Paul offers a mystical teaching, that the great mystery of God is “Christ in you.” Because Christ is present in the church, Christians share in his life, suffering, and glory.*

*The reading is announced.*

A reading from Colossians.

15[Christ Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;16for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. 17He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. 19For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

  21And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him—23provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

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  24I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. 25I became its servant according to God’s commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, 26the mystery that has been

hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. 27To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

*The reading is concluded:*

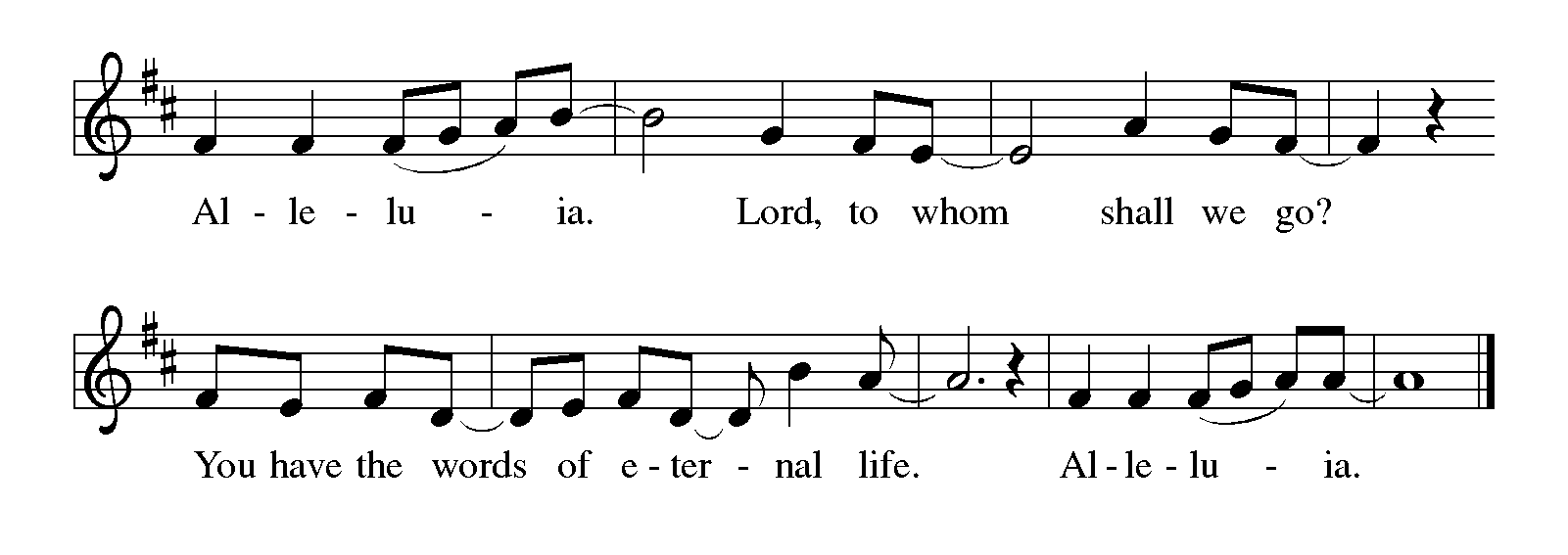
The word of the Lord.

*The assembly responds:*

**Thanks be to**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

Gospel Acclamation



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Gospel: Luke 10:38-42

*Jesus uses his visit to two sisters as an occasion to remind disciples that an important aspect of obedience is single-minded devotion to Jesus and his word.*

*The gospel is announced.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

38Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. 39She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to what he was saying. 40But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.” 41But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; 42there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.”

*The gospel concludes.*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Sermon

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

Hymn of the Day

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Text: Psalm 119:105, refrain: Michael W. Smith, stanzas

Music: Amy Grant

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Bug and Bear Music, admin. Word Music, Inc.

Text and music printed under CCLI 720217

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.**

Commissioning of Mission

Trip Youth and Adults

Our Lord, who came among us as a servant, calls us

to faith and a life of loving service to our neighbor.

You stand among us as members called to serve others

as you go to West Virginia to help those in need.

*A reading from First Peter:*

Most of all, love each other as if your life depended on it.

Love makes up for practically anything. Be quick to give

a meal to the hungry, a bed to the homeless – cheerfully.

Be generous with the different things God gave you, passing

them around so all get in on it: if words, let it be God’s words;

if help, let it be God’s hearty help. That way, God’s bright presence will be evident in everything through Jesus, and *he’ll*

get all the credit as the One mighty in everything – encores to

the end of time. Amen. (1 Peter 4:8-11 from *The Message*)

As you head to West Virginia, will you assume this mission

and ministry in the confidence that it comes from God?

**We will, and we ask God to help us.**

Will you trust in God’s care, seek to grow in love for those you serve, and strive to share God’s love with those you meet?

**We will, and we ask God to help us.**

Let us pray.

Gracious God, as you have called workers to varied tasks

in the world and in your Church, so you have called these

your servants to this mission. Grant them joy and a spirit

of bold trust, that their work may stir up each of us to a life

of fruitful service; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Rooted in Christ and rising to serve, let us pray

for the church, the world, and all in need.

*Prayers of intercession are prayed.*

*To each petition, the assembly responds:*

Hear us, O God,

**your mercy is great.**

*The presiding minister concludes the*

*prayers, and the assembly responds:*

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting your

promise to hear us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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Peace

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet*

*each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ’s peace, and may say, “Peace be with you,” or similar words.*

*The assembly is seated.*

Meal

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the*

*church, including the care of those in need.*

Chris Lewis, solo “People Need the Lord” Nelson and McHugh

*The assembly stands*

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God of mercy and grace, the

eyes of all wait upon you, and

you open your hand in blessing.

Fill us with good things at your table,

that we may come to the help of all in need,

through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

**Amen.**

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Great Thanksgiving

Dialogue

*The presiding minister greets the assembly*

*and invites all present to give thanks.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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.**

Preface

*The presiding minister continues:*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and

merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ;

who on this day overcame death and the grave,

and by his glorious resurrection opened

to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with

the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we

praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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Holy, Holy, Holy



Thanksgiving at the Table

*The presiding minister continues:*

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.

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Lord’s Prayer

*The presiding minister introduces the Lord’s Prayer.*

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,

let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those**

**who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours,**

**now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

Christ invites you to a place of honor at this banquet.

Welcome to the feast.

Communion

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond*

Amen.

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Communion Song

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CONGREGATIONAL SONG

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Text: Matthew 6:33, 7:7, adapt. Karen Lafferty

Music: Karen Lafferty

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CONGREGATIONAL SONG #510

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*The assembly stands.*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ

strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

**Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.

O God, as a mother comforts her child,

so you comfort your people, carrying us in

your arms and satisfying us with this food

and drink, the body and blood of Christ.

Send us now as your disciples,

announcing peace and proclaiming that

the reign of God has come near; through

Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Sending

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

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord’s face shine upon

you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with

Favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**

Sending SonG

“Sent Forth By God’s Blessing” #547

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Proclaim the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

**“Voluntary in D” John Alcock**

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Followers of Jesus, welcome to worship!

Please greet the disciples worshiping near you.

Pastor Ellen Schoepf prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org

Secretary Rita Barry rbarry@faithlutheranokemos.org

Director of Christian Education Melinda Schultz

Director of Music Debra Borton-McDonough

Organist/Pianist Bruce Williams

July 10 worship attendance: 80

Serving Faith Today July 31

Acolyte

Altar care Becky Bills and Gretchen Bills

Communion assistants Ken Schoepf Rich Weingartner

Warren Heilman David Baker

Greeters Brian & Michelle Ransom Mark and Molly DeHate

Lay assistants Ken Schoepf Rich Weingartner

Readers Warren Heilman David Baker

Ushers Jon and Elaine Harrison Doug and Linda Hirt

Nursery Pam & Drew Williams Jennifer Coe