Welcome to

Faith Lutheran Church

September 11, 2016



4515 Dobie Road

Okemos MI 48864-2203

517-349-0620

Pastor Ellen Schoepf

prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org

**We Are Found!**

Rescuers diligently searched for the lost. Cheers went up and tears of joy fell when someone was found alive! Though it has been 15 years since 9/11, there are many who carry with them today the images of searching for the lost in the mountain of debris at Ground Zero and the joy when someone was found.

Whether in the rubble of an earthquake, the aftermath of a tornado, the devastation of a hurricane, or the search for a lost child, rescuers rejoice when the lost are found safe and sound. Jesus tells us that the angels of God will rejoice in the same way over one sinner who repents. That’s why Jesus meets and eats with sinners. All are worth finding—even the religious leaders, who are sinners too.

If there is great joy when someone is found, then there is also great sorrow when someone is not. Many still carry the pain of having lost a loved one on 9/11 who was never found. Many around the world have lost a loved one who has never been found to war, natural disaster, or other tragedies. Many grieve someone who seems lost in their sin—perhaps even themselves.

The promise in Jesus is that we are never so lost that we can’t be found by our loving Savior. Even in death, Christ carries us to life. Jesus meets us in our grief to comfort and heal us. Daily, Christ searches to find us in the dust of our sin and wipes it away with his very own body and blood.

We all need rescue from sin, death, and the powers that seek to destroy us. And in bread, wine, water, and word, Jesus finds us again and again. Taste, see, and hear today: our rescuer comes to save us!

**Sunday, September 11, 2016**

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion

**INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

The grumbling of the Pharisees and the scribes in today’s gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God wills to seek and to save the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As Paul’s first letter to Timothy reminds us, “The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” Thanks be to God.

*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.*

“Canticle of the Turning” #723 arr. Ron Schmoltze

*Gathering*

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

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,

the only Sovereign, who dwells in light;

Christ Jesus, who came to save sinners;

the Holy Spirit, who lives within us.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of overflowing grace,

**we come to you with repentant hearts.**

**Forgive us for shallow thankfulness.**

**Forgive us for passing by the ones in need.**

**Forgive us for setting our hopes on fleeting treasures.**

**Forgive us our neglect and thoughtlessness.**

**Bring us home from the wilderness of sin,**

**and strengthen us to serve you**

**in all that we do and say;**

**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

There is joy in heaven over every sinner who repents.

By the grace of God in ☩ Christ Jesus,

who gave himself up for us all,

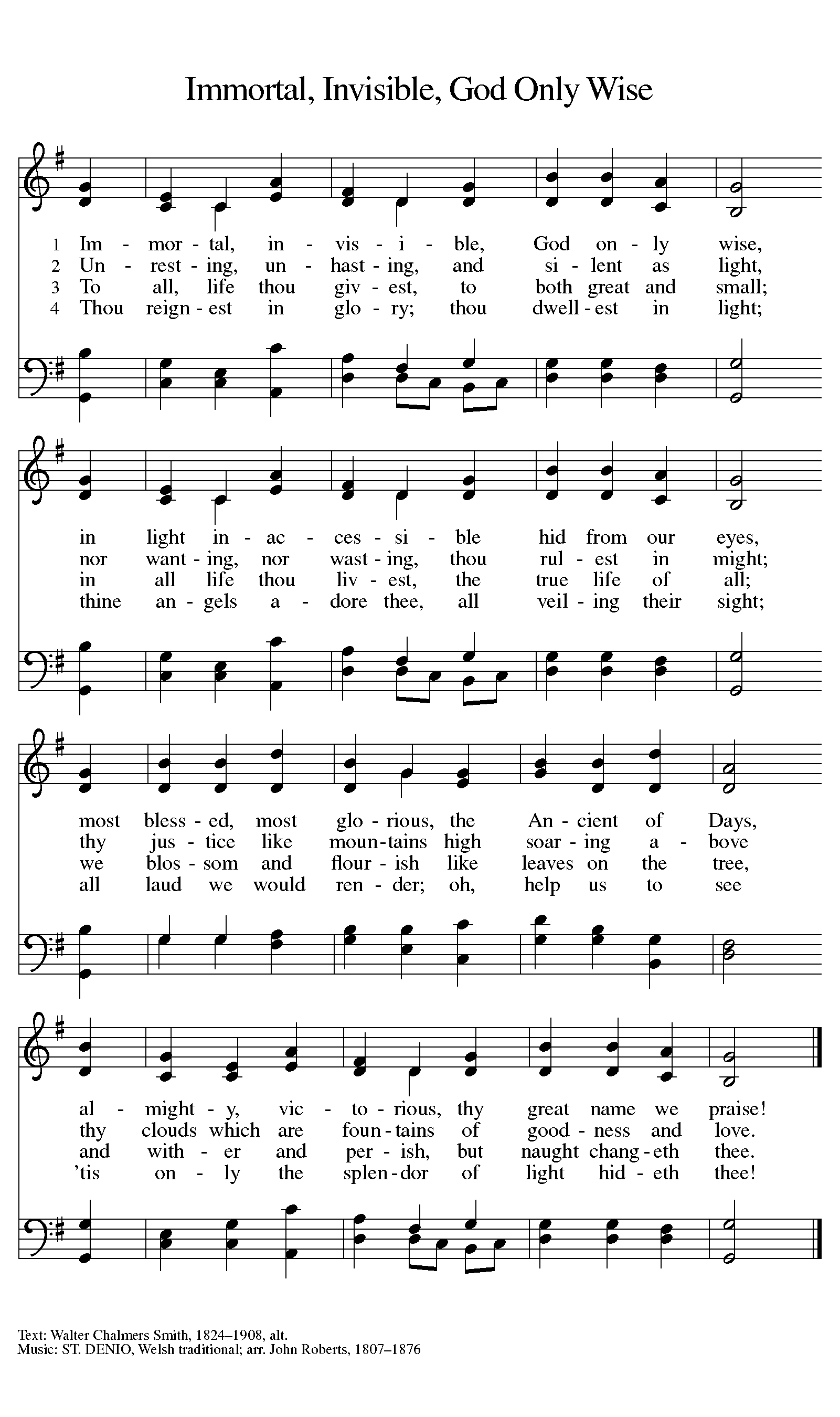
your sins are forgiven and you are made free.

Rejoice with the angels and with one another!

We are home in God’s mercy, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Gathering Song*#834*



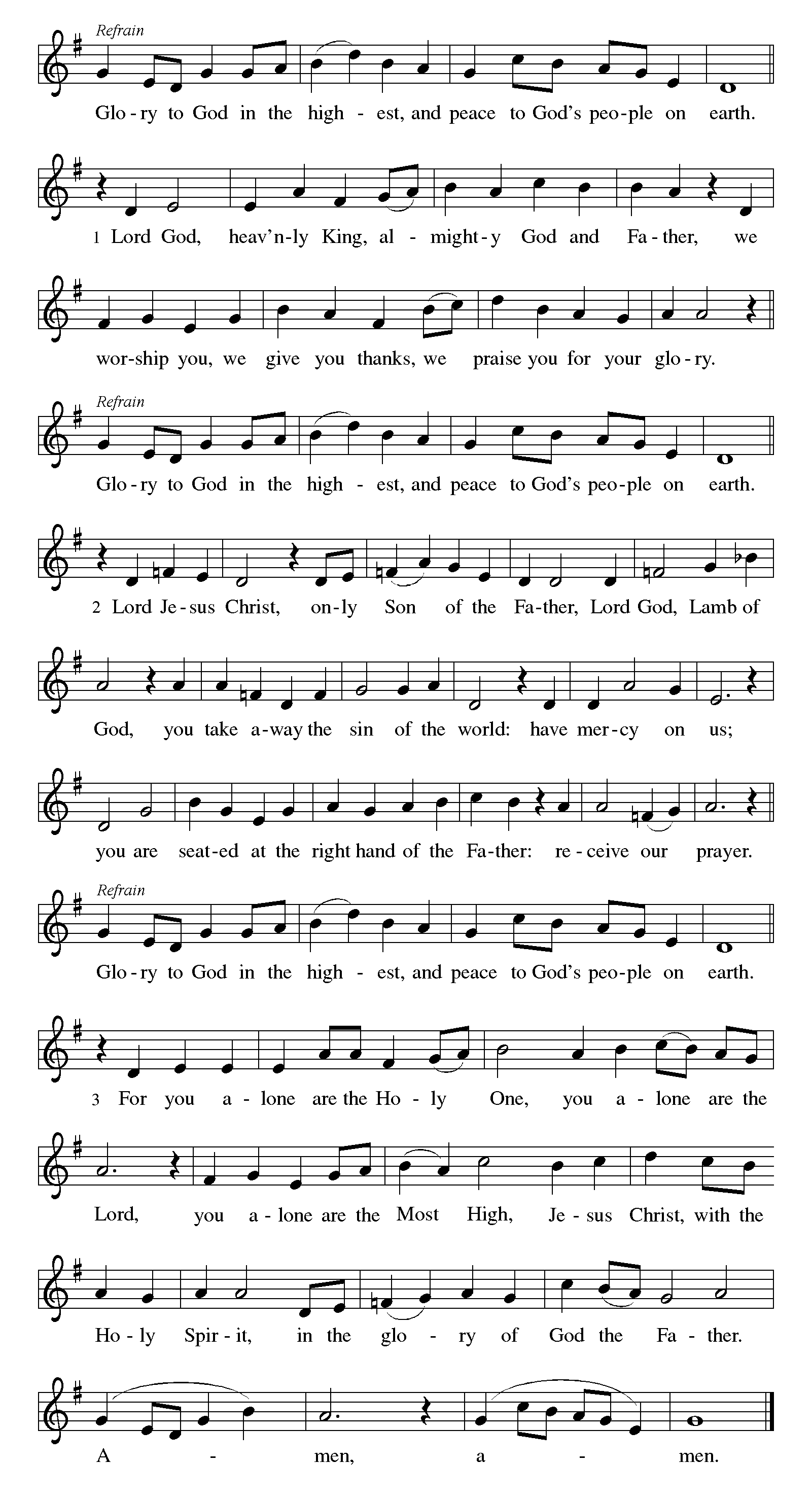
Greeting

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.**

Canticle of Praise



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

Word

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

First Reading: Exodus 32:7-14

*While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today’s reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God’s own people and boldly asks mercy for them.*

A reading from Exodus.

7The Lord said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; 8they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ ” 9The Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. 10Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.”  
  11But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? 12Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. 13Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ” 14And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

*The letters to Timothy are called the Pastoral Epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.*

A reading from 1 Timothy.

12I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, 13even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, 14and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 15The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. 16But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. 17To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel*

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Luke 15:1-10

*Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that his or her recovery brings joy in heaven.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

1Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] 2And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”  
  3So he told them this parable: 4“Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? 5When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. 6And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ 7Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.  
  8“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? 9When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ 10Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

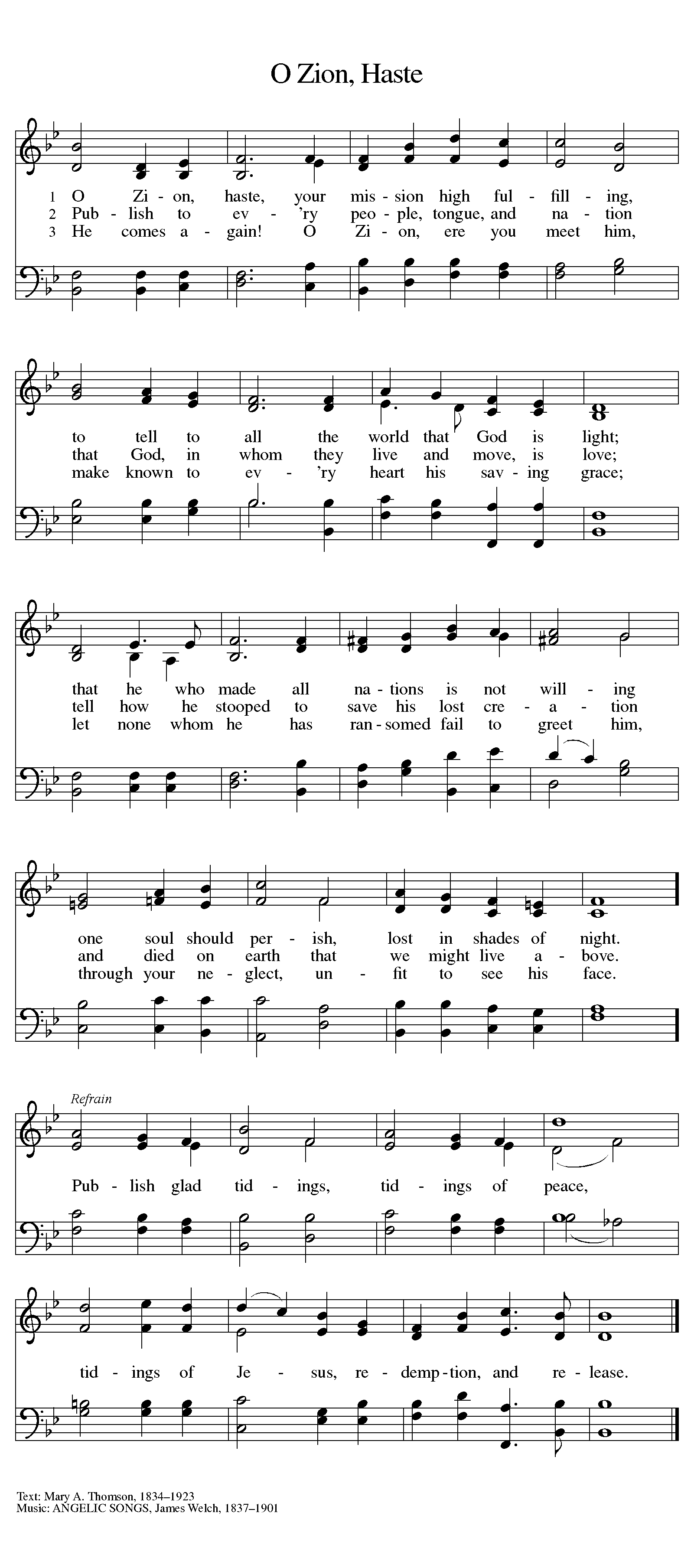
CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Sermon

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

**

Hymn of the Day*#668*

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*The assembly is seated*

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING OF TEACHERS

A reading from First Corinthians.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. *(I Cor. 12:4-7)*

Brothers and sisters, you have volunteered your time, your energy, and your gifts to the children, youth and family ministries of this congregation. Will you offer your giftedness to this ministry in the confidence that it comes from God?

**I will, and I ask God to help me.**

A reading from Proverbs.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. *(Prov. 3:5-6)*

Will you carry out this ministry centered in Christ’s call, striving to trust God as your guide and inspiration?

**I will, and I ask God to help me.**

A reading from Ephesians.

I pray that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through God’s Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (*Eph. 3:16-19)*

Will you trust in God’s care, seek to grow in love for those you serve, strive for excellence in your skills, and honor the gospel with a faithful life?

**I will, and I ask God to help me.**

*The assembly stands*

I now ask you, the people of Faith Lutheran Church:

Will you today renew your commitment to our youngest brothers and sisters, our children and youth who look to you for guidance, support, and examples of righteous living?

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

People of Faith: Will you claim these gifted people as those called by God to help carry out our congregation’s ministry to children, youth, and families? Will you support them and enthusiastically celebrate the work they do?

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

Will you pray for these leaders and the young people they serve, celebrating our children and youth as the ones Jesus blessed and welcomed?

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

Let us pray.

Gracious God, for Jesus’ sake, empower these ministers to care for the young ones in our family of faith. Help them to teach faithfully, lead patiently, and guide confidently. Stir up in these servants the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, who has given you the gifts and the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

**Amen.**

On behalf of Faith Lutheran Church, we now commission you for ministry, grateful for your gifts and your willingness to serve.

*The assembly may offer acclamation with applause*

*The worship service continues with the prayers.*

Prayers of Intercession

Rejoicing in the Spirit’s work among us, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those 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:*

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

Peace

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

Chancel Choir "Now Let Us All Praise God and Sing" (Young)

*The assembly stands.*

Offering Response

“We are an Offering” Hymn # 692

Offering Prayer

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills

were gathered together to become one bread,

so let your church be gathered together

from the ends of the earth into your kingdom,

for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

Dialogue

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

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:

Holy, Holy, Holy

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Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**Amen**

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

Take hold of the life that really is life.

Come, take your place at the table.

*The assembly is seated.*

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.

Communion Song



CONGREGATIONAL SONG*#779*

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CONGREGATIONAL SONG

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CONGREGATIONAL SONG #484

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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

We come again to you, O God,

giving you thanks that in this feast of mercy

you have embraced us and healed us,

making us one in the body of Christ.

Go with us on our way.

Equip us for every good work,

that we may continue to give you thanks

by embracing others with mercy and healing;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Sending

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

Blessing

God Almighty send you light and truth

to keep you all the days of your life.

The hand of God protect you;

the holy angels accompany you;

and the blessing of almighty God,

the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be with you now and forever.

**Amen.**

Sending Song #723

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Fague in C Major” (Jig) by Dietrich Buxtehude

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Brothers and sisters in Christ, welcome to worship in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Pastor Ellen Schoepf prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org

Secretary Katie Love klove@faithlutheranokemos.org

Director of Christian Education Melinda Schultz

Director of Music Debra Borton-McDonough

Organist/Pianist Bruce Williams

September 4 worship attendance: 69

Serving Faith Today September 18

Acolyte

Alter Care Kay Showers & Gwynne Kadrofske

Communion Assistants Deb Borton-McDonough Harold Sollenberger

August Colandrea Deb Borton-McDonough

Greeters Harold Sollenberger Doug & Linda Hirt

Lay Assistants Deb Borton-McDonough Harold Sollenberger

Readers August Colandrea Deb Borton-McDonough

Ushers Dingledine Family Dingeldine Family

Nursery Melinda & Lauren Beth Ballegeer