

September 3, 2023

10:00 AM

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

4515 Dobie Road
Okemos, MI 48864
517-349-0620

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

To make disciples for Jesus Christ . . .

- . . . we **Gather** in faith for worship, prayer, study and fellowship
- . . . we **Equip** the people of God with a faith that works in real life
- . . . we **Serve** the world in the name of Jesus Christ

Pastor Bruce Thorsen
Music Director Debra Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist Kathy Richardson
Administrative Assistant Connie Denbrock
Youth & Education Director Pam Williams
Sound Technicians Raymond Herek
Church email faith@faithlutheranokemos.org
Website www.faithlutheranokemos.org
Facebook Page facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos
WIFI: Faith Lutheran; Password: LutheranFaith

Introduction to the Day

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

PRELUDE

"Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me"

arr. Michael Burkhardt

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

Amen.

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

Merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned.

We have hurt our community.

We have squandered your blessings.

We have hoarded your bounty.

In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Righteous God,

we confess that we have sinned.

We have failed to be honest.

We have lacked the courage to speak.

We have spoken falsely.

In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.

God offers boundless grace when we fail.

Claim the gift of God's mercy:

you are freed and forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN – *Lift High the Cross* (ELW 660)



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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GREETING

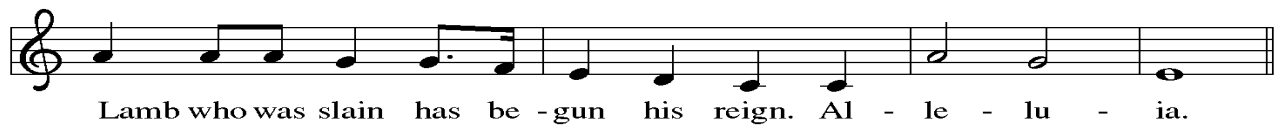
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain

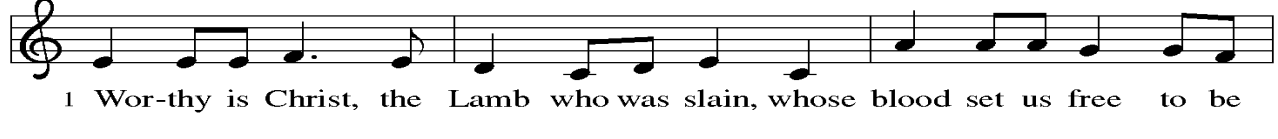


This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the

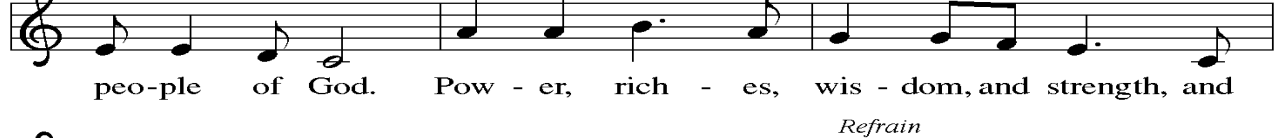


Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

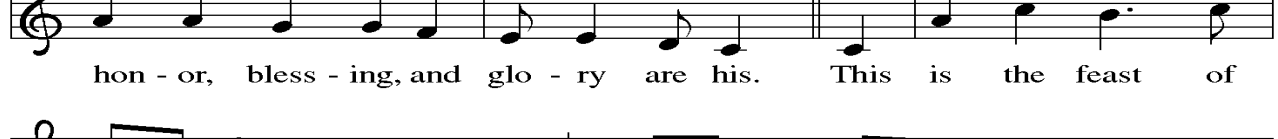
1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



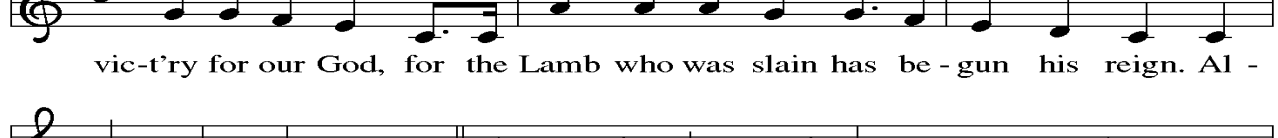
peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



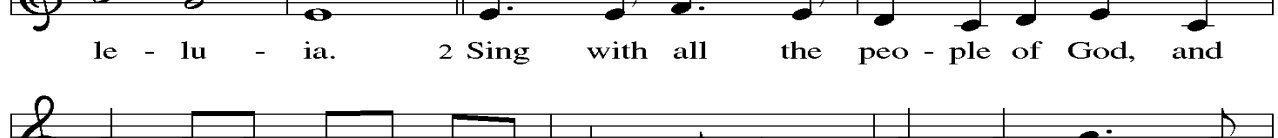
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. *Refrain* This is the feast of




vic - t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. 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 - t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21

A reading from Jeremiah.

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the LORD is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

¹⁵O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. ¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them.

²⁰And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD.

²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

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

PSALM: Psalm 26:1-8

¹Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity; I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

²**Test me, O LORD, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.**

³For your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.

⁴**I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

⁵I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked.

⁶**I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD, that I may go in procession round your altar.**

⁷singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

⁸**LORD, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides.**

SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21

A reading from Romans.

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse hem. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”

²¹From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

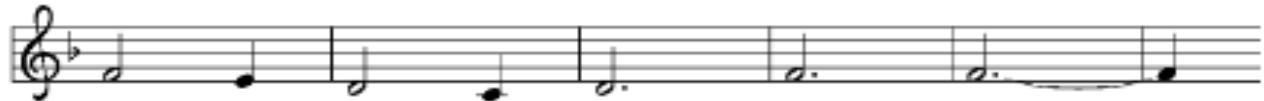
HYMN OF THE DAY – *Will You Come and Follow Me* (ELW 798)



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



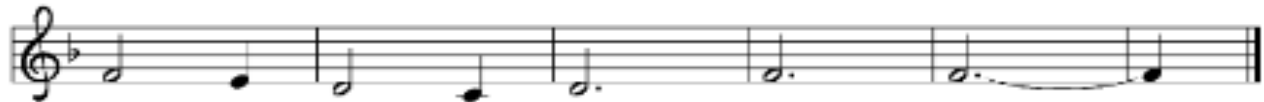
know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
 Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional
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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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need.

...

God, in your mercy, **Receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer us, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

"Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)" Arr. Chris Tomlin and Louie Giglio
Deb Borton-McDonough and Bob Nelson, duet

Please stand if you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

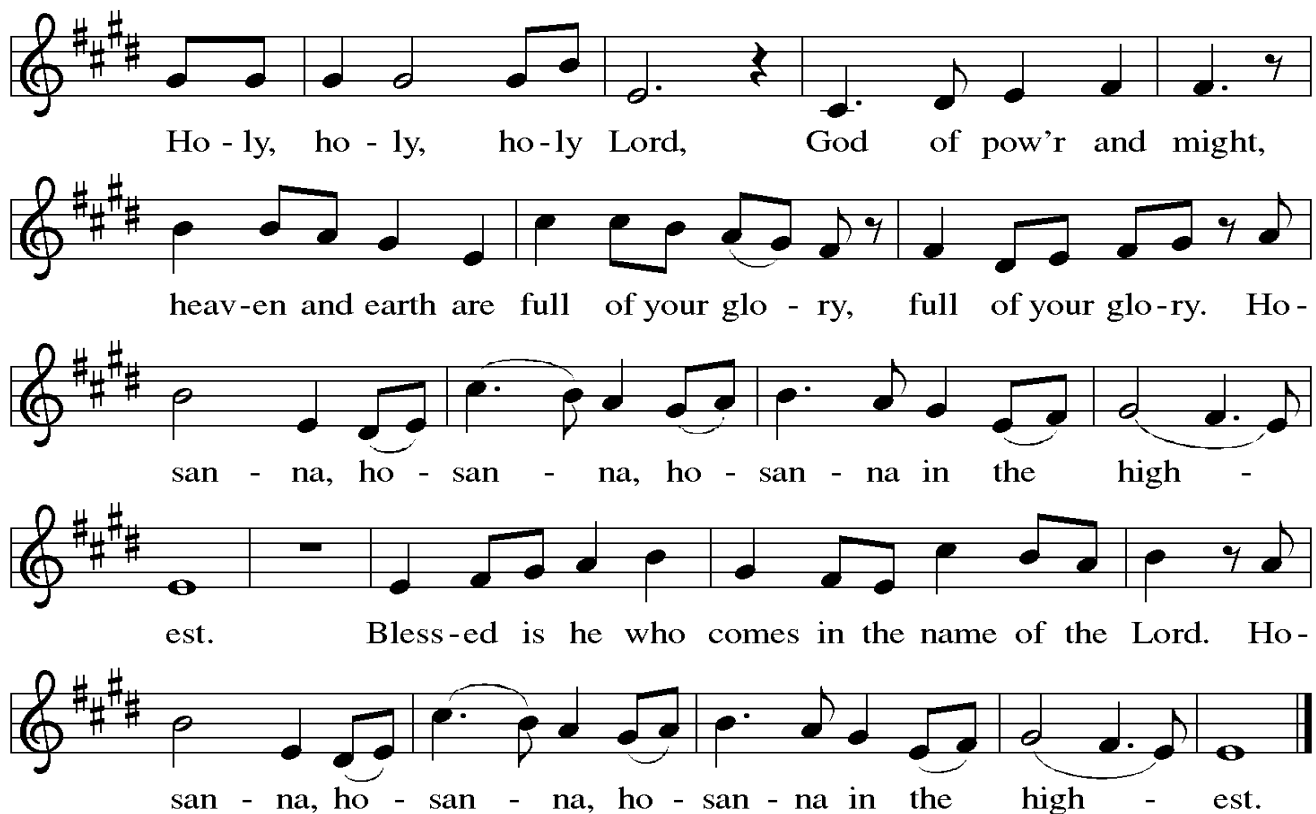
DIALOGUE

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,
... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
...
be all honor and glory, 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 kin[g]dom 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 kin[g]dom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

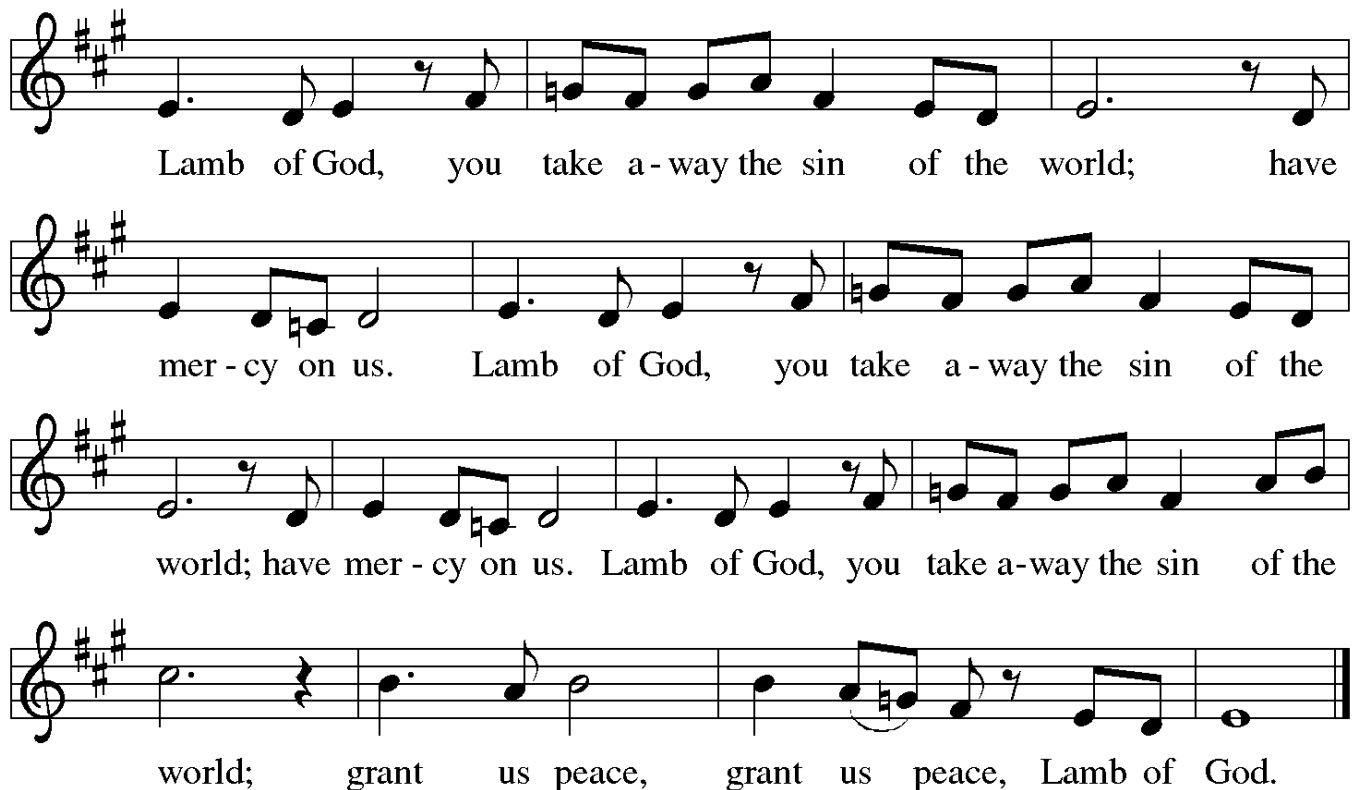
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

COMMUNION SONG



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, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

“Prayer of Notre Dame”

arr. Leon Boellmann

Please stand if you are able.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed
✠ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG – RISE, O CHURCH, LIKE CHRIST ARISEN (ELW 548)



1 Rise, O church, like Christ a - ris - en,
 2 Rise, trans - formed, and choose to fol - low
 3 Rise, re - mem - ber well the fu - ture
 4 Ser - vice be our sure vo - ca - tion;



from this meal of love and grace;
 af - ter Christ, though wound - ed, whole;
 God has called us to re - ceive;
 cour - age be our dai - ly breath;



may we through such love en - vi - sion
 bro - ken, shared, our lives are hal - lowed
 pres - ent by God's lov - ing nur - ture,
 mer - cy be our des - ti - na - tion



whose we are, and whose, our praise.
 to re - lease and to con - sole.
 Spir - it - ed then let us live.
 from this day and un - to death.



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



God, the won - der of our days.
 Christ, our pres - ent, past, and goal.
 Spir - it, grace by whom we live.
 Rise, O church, a liv - ing faith.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
 Music: SURGE ECCLESIA, Timothy J. Strand, b. 1958
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share and receive the Good News. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Prelude in a Classic Style”

arr. Gordon Young

Reader: Bob Nelson
Lay Assistant: Ryan Thompson
Ushers: Brenda & Walter Kopf
Acolyte: Open

Greeter(s): Karen Fraser
Altar Care: Jamie Royalty
Nursery: Open, but not staffed
Coffee Hour: No one signed up ☹️

January - July 2023

Income	\$ 182,874
Expenses	<u>\$ 186,938</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (4,064)

Weekly Offering Reports

	<u>August 20</u>
Loose Cash	\$ 3.00
General Fund	\$ 1,460.00
Living Waters/Stony Lake	\$ 94.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 52.75
LWR School Kits	\$ 50.00
LWR Hawaii	\$ 80.00
Building Rental	\$ 50.00
Youth	\$ 17.00
Subtotal	<u>\$ 1,806.75</u>
Vanco	
General Operating	\$ 2,186.50
Building	\$ 25.00
Caring Committee	
Breakfast Bags	\$ 50.00
Youth	\$ 60.60
Parish House	\$ 35.35
Subtotal	<u>\$ 2,357.45</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$4,164.20</u>

	<u>August 27</u>
Loose Cash	\$ 25.00
Loose Checks	\$ 10.00
General Fund	\$ 6,625.00
Living Waters/Stony Lake	\$ 35.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 140.00
Parish House	\$ 25.00
Subtotal	<u>\$ 6,860.00</u>
Vanco	
General Operating	\$ 350.00
Subtotal	<u>\$ 350.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$7,210.00</u>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **RALLY DAY is Sunday, September 10th at 9:00am!!** Continental Breakfast @ 9:00 + Potluck will follow the 10:00am Service.
Sign up to help with Sunday School!! We need people to sign up to teach Sunday School, especially on the 17th of September.
- **CONFIRMATION** will be held two Sunday's a month after church from 11:30 to 1:30. We will meet downstairs in the Fellowship Hall and parents will sign up for a light lunch for all. There will be a schedule sign-up available soon. In September, we will be meeting on the 17th, and then, in October, we will meet on the 1st and 15th. **See September Newsletter for more info.**
- **The Caring Committee is asking for your help!**

Drivers Needed for Back-to-School Breakfast Bags Delivery.
6 drivers are needed to deliver our Back-to-School breakfast bags on Sep. 10th after church service.

Please contact Natalie at Natalie.dingledine@gmail.com if you're able to assist!
- **Lutheran World Relief** continues to give aid to refugees and persons displaced by natural and human disasters. **We are collecting items for Personal Care kits (during September).** Please see the Friday E-NEWS for the list of items requested. **There is a Display Board and Collection Bin in the Narthex.**
Thank you - from the Stewardship Group - Women of Faith
- **Faith Lutheran Church Calendar of Events:** All scheduled Sunday Services, church events, meetings, and facility use events are now posted on the FLC Website under About Us / Calendar. OR, you can click "Calendar" from the top right corner of the Home Page.
Here is the direct link: [Faith Lutheran Church Calendar of Events](#). **Links to the Sunday Services (recorded and Live), Tuesday Bible Studies (via Zoom), etc., are available within the individual calendar events.**

- **CHRIST'S KALEIDOSCOPE**

Instructors: Samuel Brink, Fortune Lake Lutheran Bible Camp intern and Pastor Bruce J. Thorsen, Faith, Okemos, Michigan.

Sundays for five weeks, September 24-October 22 on Zoom 4 -5 p.m. Eastern Time, 3-4 Central Time.

This five-week study focuses on resources that educate and deepen cultural competency regarding racial equity, our indigenous neighbors, and the LGBTQIA+ community.

Together we will navigate media and text sources and engage in weekly group discussion as we seek greater awareness and Deeper understanding of these groups. The material for each week invites dialogue surrounding historical perspectives, contemporary realities, and implications for future action and advocacy. This is an extension of the 2023 Lenten Kaleidoscope Challenge that was done in Northern Great Lakes Synod. Each week of the study is grounded in our Christian faith and Lutheran tradition. As a person signs up they will be sent the media and text sources as well as a zoom invitation.

Registration Link: [Registration Form](#)

- **Micro Pantry** – The NOISY Offerings for September are on the 10th and 24th.

Pantry Items Needed This Week:

- Plastic (Meijer/Kroger) Grocery Bags
- Kleenex tissue (any variety)
- Pop Tarts

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