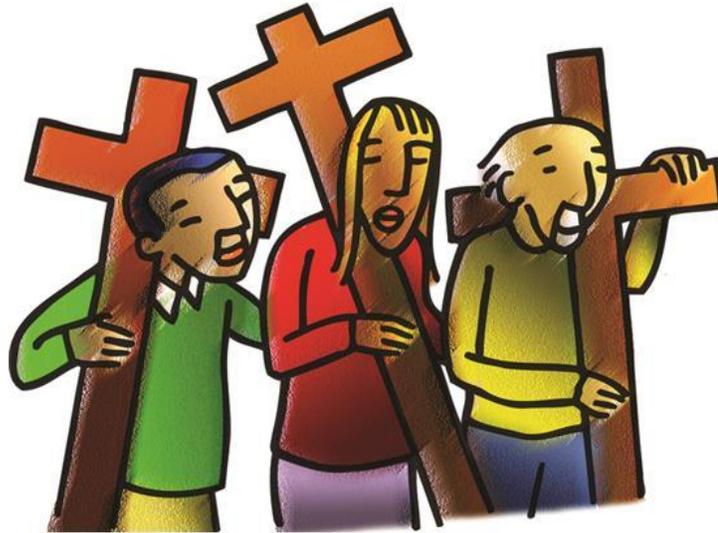


FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 7, 2025

10:00 AM

PastorRev. Megan Floyd
Administrative Assistant.....Kalea Sanford
Music Director Debra Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist Bruce Williams
Sound Technicians Cody Boyan & Raymond Herek
Church email faith@faithlutheranokemos.org
Website www.faithlutheranokemos.org
Facebook Page facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos

WIFI: Faith Lutheran; Password: LutheranFaith

WELCOME STATEMENT

We, at Faith Lutheran Church, welcome you as God’s beloved child, “for in Christ Jesus... [we] are all children of God through faith.” (Galatians 3:26). No matter your age, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, marital status, neurodivergent status, faith background, political leanings, or mental, intellectual or physical ability – you are welcomed here just as you are. In this church, we commit to pursue gender and racial equity in all that we do, and to support one another as chosen family, being parents and siblings for each other regardless of who we have as biological family (Mark 3:31-35). For we are all one in Christ Jesus and rely on the unconditional nature of God’s love and grace to be our help and guide as we strive to serve our world.

For safety reasons, please do not allow your children to wander unsupervised past the coat racks or downstairs during the church service. Our nursery is open but not staffed. You are welcome to use it, but please do not leave your children unattended.

PRELUDE

“Fanfare, Sinfonietta”

Leos Janaceck, arr. Richard Syner

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSIONS AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: Most merciful God,

All: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

All: Amen.

Pastor: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

All: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN – Praise to the Lord, The Almighty (ELW 858)



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
if with his love he be - friend you.
Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

GREETING

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

All: **And also with you.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE – Let Streams of Living Justice (ELW 710 v. 1)



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance; pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Asst: Let us pray. Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: **Amen.**

The assembly may be seated.

FIRST READING Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the LORD; or choose death by following other gods.

¹⁵ “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰ loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Psalm 1

¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

² **Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due
season, with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.

⁴ **It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶ **For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

SECOND READING Philemon 1-21

Onesimus, a new Christian and a man enslaved by Philemon, has helped Paul, who is in prison. Paul writes this letter to his friend Philemon to encourage him to receive Onesimus, upon his return, as a sibling in Christ.

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To our beloved coworker Philemon, ² to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. ⁷ I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸ For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, ⁹ yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment.

¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you.

¹³ I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

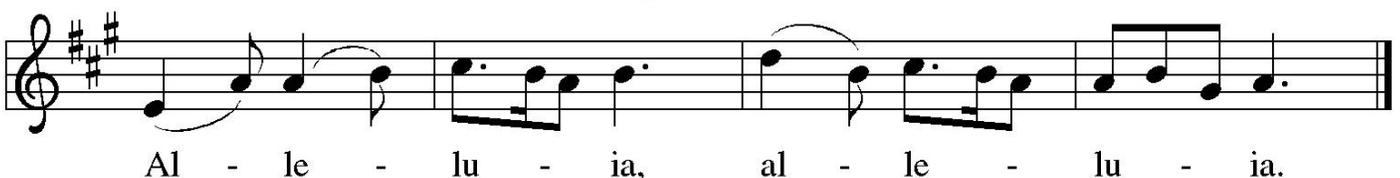
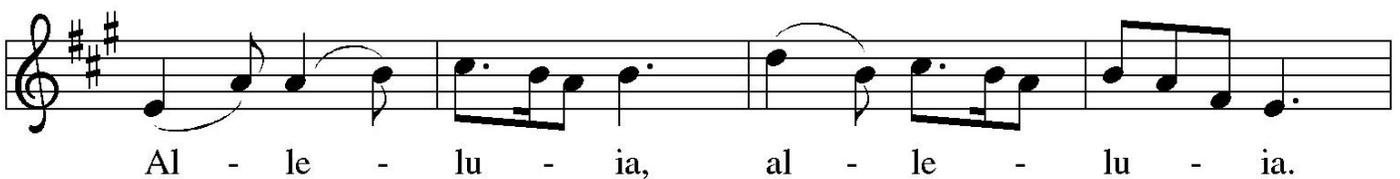
All: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON



Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL Luke 14:25-33

Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly may be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Megan Floyd

Please stand as you are able.

APOSTLES CREED

Pastor: Joining the saints from every time and place, let us confess our faith.

All: **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

Come and Fill Our Hearts (ELW 528)

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in the key of D major (two sharps). The melody is primarily composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no. Al - le - lu - ia!
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!

Asst: Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world,
and all in need. *A brief silence.*

...God of grace,

All: **Receive our prayer.**

Pastor: We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of
Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

All: **Amen.**

Repeat "Come and Fill Our Hearts"

PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: **And also with you.**

The assembly may be seated.

OFFERING

“Heavenly Sunlight”

arr. Mark Hayes

Chancel Choir

LITURGICAL HAND WASHING

Pastor and assisting ministers sanitize and wash their hands.

*“I wash my hands in innocence, and go around your altar, O Lord,
singing aloud a song of thanksgiving, and telling all your wondrous
deeds.” – Psalm 26:6-7*

OFFERING RESPONSE – Take My Life, That I May Be (ELW 583 vs 1)

Refrain/Estribillo



To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -
 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,



da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón
 to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;

To stanzas | Last time



y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.
 let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.



1 Que mi vi - da en - te - ra es - té
 1 Take my hands and let them move
 2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,
 3 Take my voice and let me sing
 4 Take my will and make it thine;



con - sa - gra - da a ti, Se - ñor;
 at the im - pulse of thy love;
 not a mite would I with - hold;
 al - ways, on - ly for my King;
 it shall be no lon - ger mine;



que a mis ma - nos pue - da guiar el im -
 take my feet and let them be swift and
 take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry
 take my lips and let them be filled with
 take my heart, it is thine own; it shall

Refrain/Estribillo



pul - so de tu a - mor.
 beau - ti - ful for thee.
 pow'r as thou shalt choose.
 mes - sag - es from thee.
 be thy roy - al throne.

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Asst: Lord of the harvest,
we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,
but on you, who richly provides for us.
Multiply what we have gathered
to bless all who are suffering and in need,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

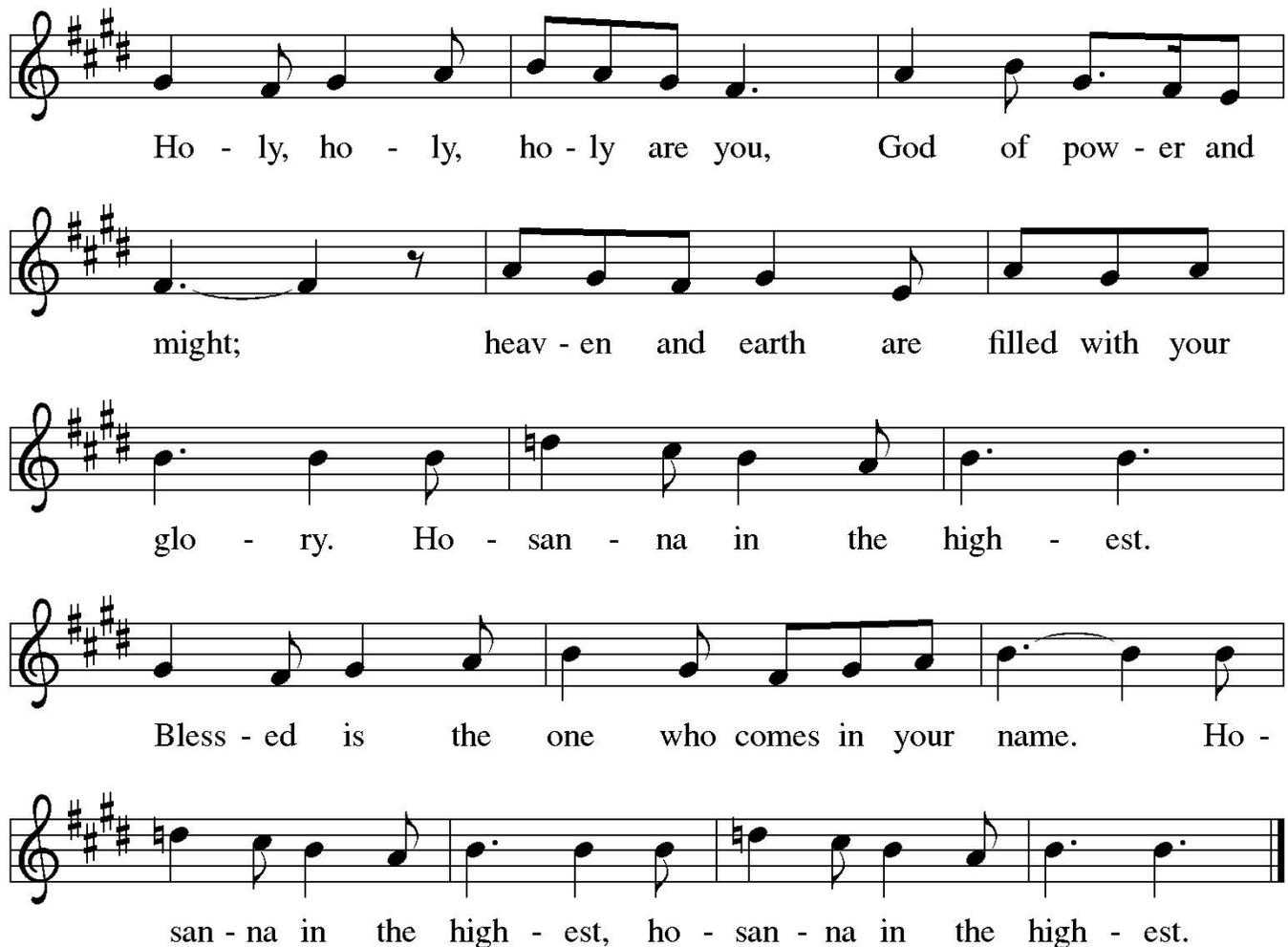
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

Pastor: 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 (ELW 191)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Pastor: 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

All: **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

Pastor: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.
Come to this meal of mercy!

All are invited to come to the table to receive what the Lord offers. If, however, you would prefer not to receive communion, you may come to the table for a blessing.

Gluten free wafers are available upon request when you come to receive communion at the altar rail.

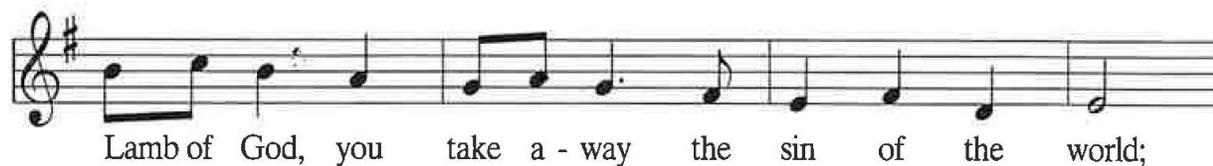
Our trays have wine (darker liquid) in the outer part of the tray, and grape juice (lighter liquid) in the center. Please choose whichever you prefer.

If it would be easier for you to have communion brought to you, please let an usher know and we will be happy to serve you at your seat.

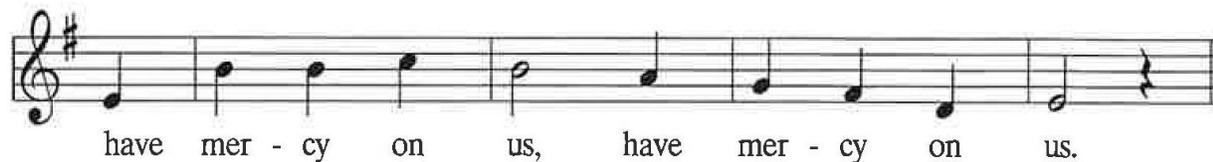
If you have any further questions, please ask an usher.

The assembly may be seated.

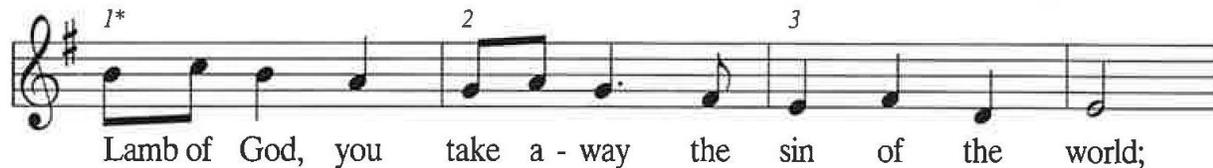
LAMB OF GOD (WOV 621)



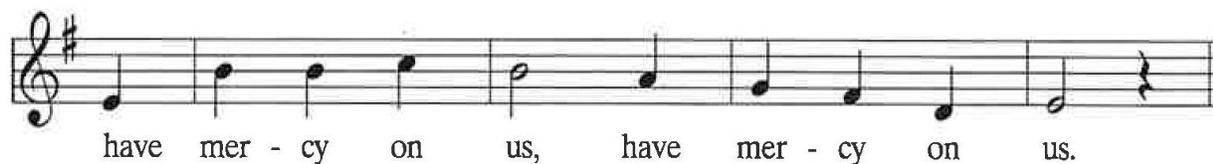
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION SONG – Where Charity and Love Prevail (ELW 359)



- 1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
- 2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
- 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
- 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
- 5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Please stand as you are able.

Pastor: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Asst: O God, through this meal you have strengthened us
and appointed us to be your servants.
Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

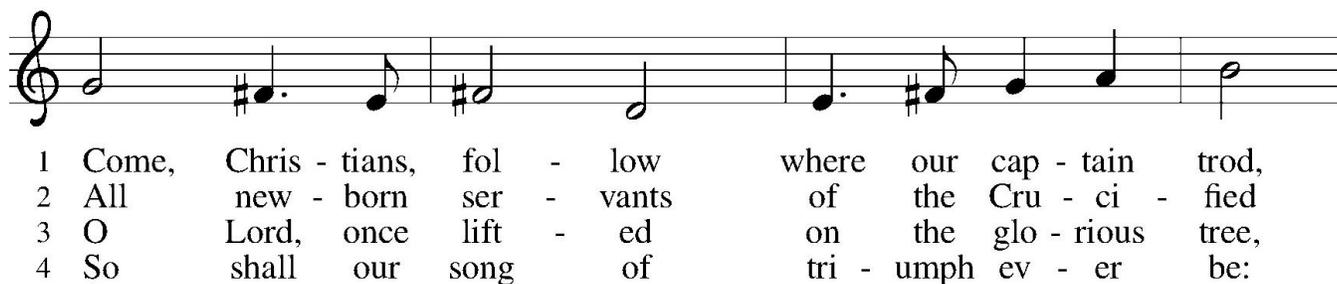
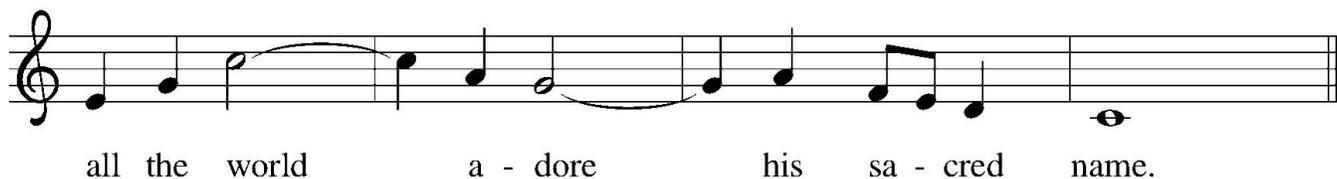
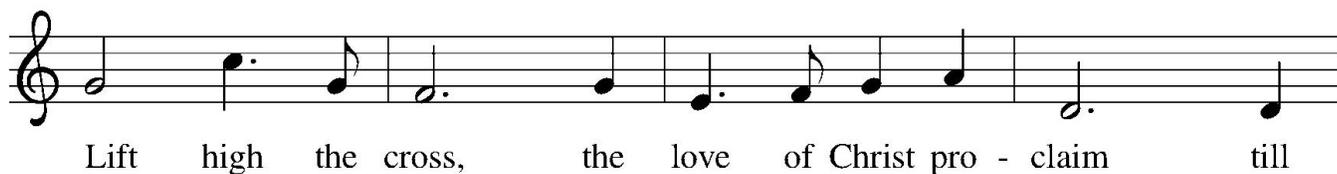
All: **Amen.**

BLESSING

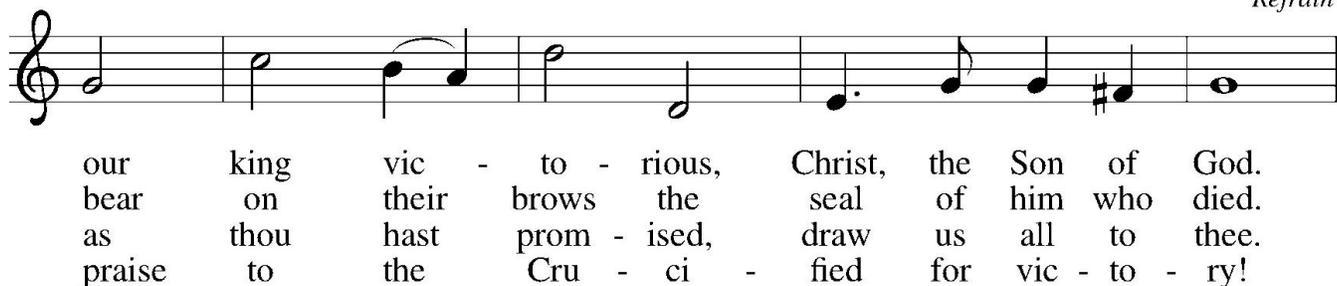
Pastor: The God of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,
✠ bless you now and forever.

All: Amen.

SENDING SONG – Lift High the Cross (ELW 660)



Refrain



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DISMISSAL

Asst: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Toccata in Seven”

John Rutter

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, September 7

Worship Service @ 10:00 am: **13th Sunday after Pentecost**
Rally Day Celebration in the Fellowship Hall following service
Pantry Steering Committee @11:45 in Library

Monday September 8

Scouts @5:30pm in Fellowship Hall
Council Meeting @7pm in Library

Tuesday, September 9

CAMTA @9am in Old Sanctuary
Worship Committee Meeting @11am in Library
Bible Study @12pm in Library
Girl Scouts @5:30pm in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, September 10

MI Refugee Hope Golf Outing @9am
Quilters @9:30am
Faith Bells@ 6:30pm
Chancel Choir @7:30pm

Thursday, September 4

A time of prayer @11:45am in the Sanctuary (or wherever you are)

Saturday, September 13

Bishop Julie Installation

Sunday, September 14

Worship Service @10:00am: **14th Sunday after Pentecost**

FAITH VOLUNTEERS

September 7

Greeter(s): Harold & Jan Sollenberger

Usher(s): Jon & Elaine Harrison

Coffee Hour: Rally Day

Counters: John McCracken

Noisy Offering:

Acolyte:

Reader: Andy Boyan

Lay Assistant: Ryan Thompson

Altar Care: Elaine Harrison

September 14

Greeter(s): Chris & Jean Lewis

Usher(s): John McCracken and Ken Milne

Coffee Hour: Bob and Connie Nelson

Counters: Jamie Spellicy, Ramona Backman

Noisy Offering: Matt Schnizlein

Acolyte:

Reader: Heidi Nussdorfer

Lay Assistant: Kim O'Brien

Altar Care: Rich Weingartner



We invite you to hold these people in your prayers each day this week.

We pray for all longing for sustainable housing, secure employment, access to medical care, and overall health and wellness, especially **Sarah, Dan, Ellie**, Marj, Denise, Kate, Marla, and Chuck.

We pray for all those in military service, especially those connected to our community: Braxton, Joey, Jon, Landon, Hannah, Joe, Reuben, Lane, and Aiden.

We pray for the larger church, especially our synod prayer partner Immanuel Lutheran Church in Jackson, and their pastor Rev. Kate Schroeder, and our companion synods in Papua New Guinea and Honduras.

****New additions to our prayers are listed in bold; names will remain on the printed list for six weeks. Please contact the church office or Pastor Megan to add or reinstate names to the prayer list.***

Prayer Partners Letter

We are participating in this activity and would love you to add your signature. The letter is located on the table under the bulletin board entitled "Prayer Partners."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

Inspired by the Pray Without Ceasing movement in the ELCA **on Thursdays at 11:45am** we will be Praying Together, either in the Sanctuary or wherever you are. Please feel free to join us in person if you are able!

GOLF OUTING

Michigan Refugee Hope annual golf outing will be held **Wednesday, September 10th** at Wheatfield Valley Golf Club in Williamston. Check in at 9am! Flyers can be found in the Narthex, and if you have any questions please reach out to Paul Hereza, Randy Royalty or Jack Dingedine.

HAWK HOLLOW PUTT-PUTT GOLF OUTING

Sunday, October 5th. We will be heading to Hawk Hollow to play 18 holes on their mini hawk putt-putt course. Fun for all ages.

FLU/COVID CLINIC

1st Annual Flu/Covid clinic will be held **Sunday, October 5th** in the Fellowship Hall following service. Please mark your calendars and see flyer for more information.

CHARGE

Charge retreat, Nov. 14-16, at Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City! Registration is open now, and we plan to combine our group with University Lutheran. Registration is due by Oct. 1st. **Please contact Pastor Megan for the registration link!**

FAITH FORMATION

We are trying something new, and you (and your friends) are invited! Faith Formation classes and High School Youth Group are going to look a little different this fall. **Please see the flyer in the narthex for more information!**

High School:

We are collaborating with University Lutheran to form a community High School Youth Group that will meet in the evenings on the first Sunday of the month at ULC, and on the third Sunday of the month at Faith. We'll share a meal and build community through various activities. **Our first meeting is Sunday, September 21 @5pm.**

Pre-K through Middle School (Confirmation):

We will meet on the third Wednesday evening each month for a community meal, followed by a VBS-style rotation for our younger students and confirmation programming for our middle schoolers. *We will not have Sunday School classes on Sunday mornings before worship. **Our first Faith Formation night is Wednesday, September 17 @5:45pm.**

What's not changing is our commitment to walking with you and your children on their faith journey, no matter where they are on that path (even if they aren't really on the path at all). All are welcome, including friends!