

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST September 14, 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

“Nettleton”

arr. Paul Manz

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 – Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing (ELW 807)



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

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. 2)



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. 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.

All: **Amen.**

The assembly may be seated.

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 for mercy for them.

⁷ The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸ they 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!' " ⁹ The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰ Now 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."

¹¹ But 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? ¹² Why 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. ¹³ Remember 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.' " ¹⁴ And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Psalm 51:1-10

Refrain



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God,



and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

Reader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.

Refrain

Reader: For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.

Refrain

Reader: Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.
Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.
Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

Refrain

SECOND READING

1 Timothy 1:12-17

The letters to Timothy and Titus 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.

¹² I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³ even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost.

¹⁶ But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON (Noisy offering for FLC Youth Fund)



Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

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

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 their recovery brings joy in heaven.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

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

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So 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? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ Just 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? ⁹ And when 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.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

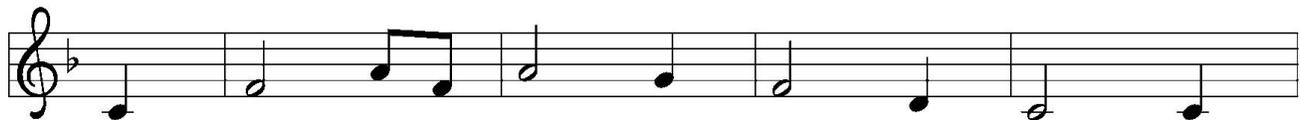
The assembly may be seated.

SERMON

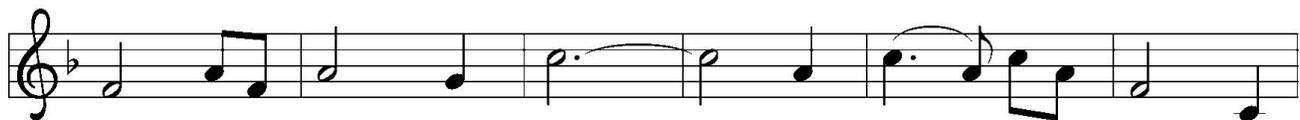
Deacon Kim O'Brien

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY – Amazing Grace (ELW 779)



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

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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 a soprano and bass voice part. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The melody is simple, with lyrics: "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." The bass line consists of chords. The second system continues the melody and bass line with lyrics: "Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no. Al - le - lu - ia! Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!" The piece ends with a double bar line.

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

“Panis Angelicus”

arr. Cesar Franck

Cody Boyan, soloist

Translation: “The angels bread becomes the bread of men; The heavenly bread ends all symbols. Oh, miraculous thing! The body of the Lord will nourish the poor, poor, and humble servant.”

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 2)

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;



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



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.**

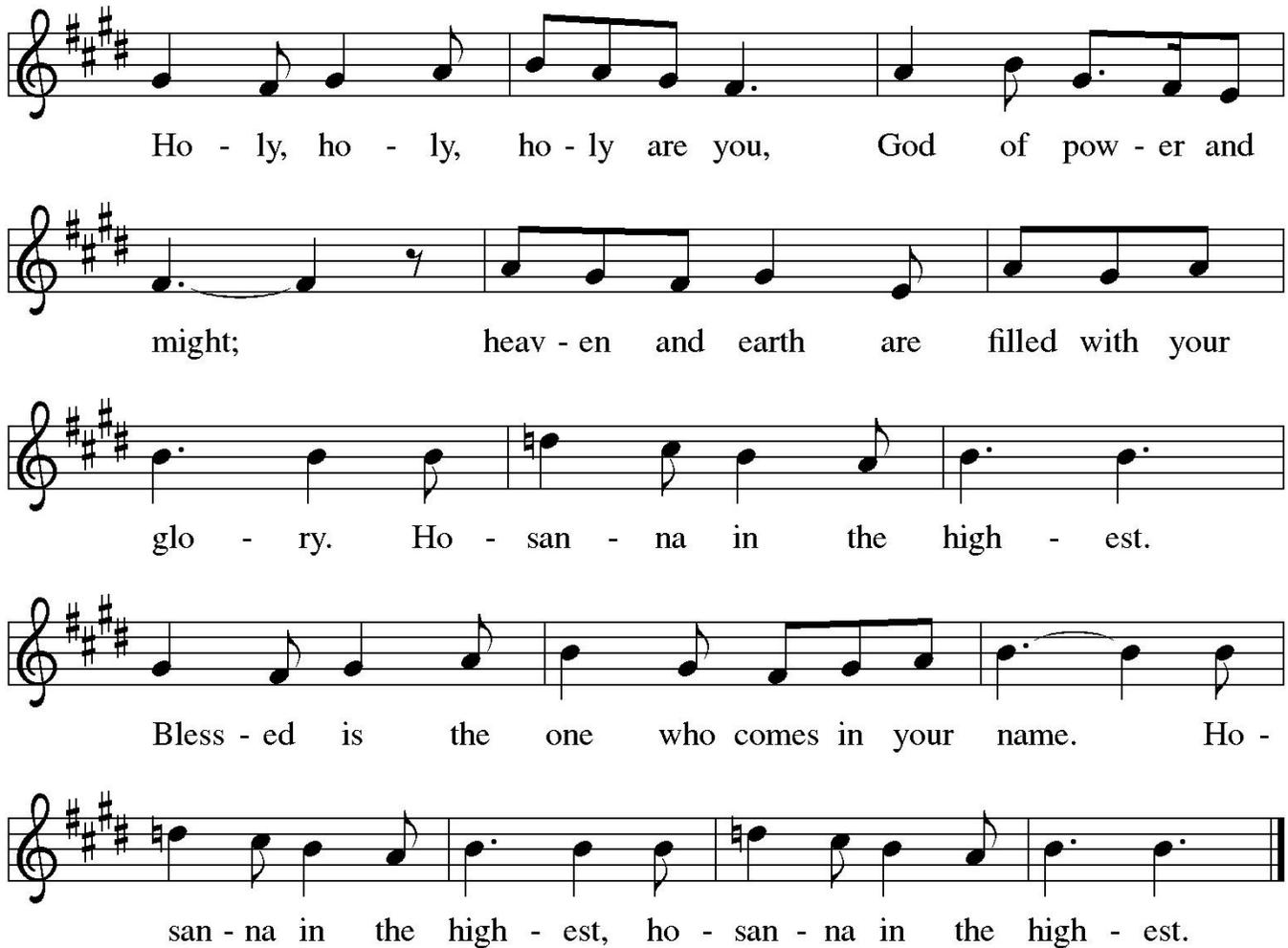
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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)

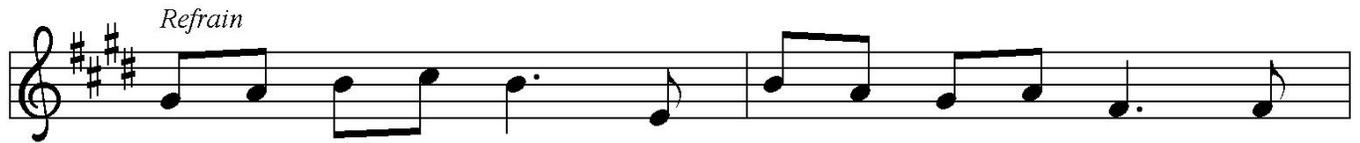
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.
*1** Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
2 have mer - cy on us, *3* have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

CHANCEL CHOIR
"Holy Thy Name"

arr. Tom Fettke & Thomas Grassi

COMMUNION SONG – As The Grains of Wheat (ELW 465)

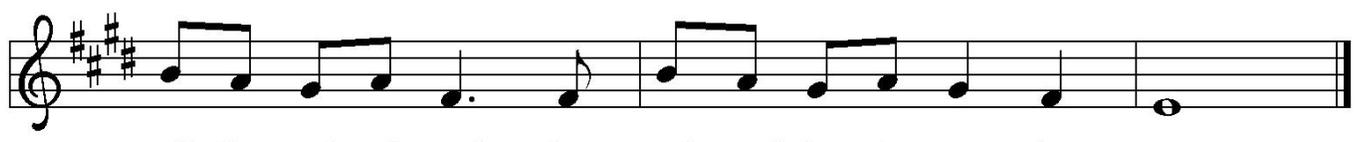
Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when



Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

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.

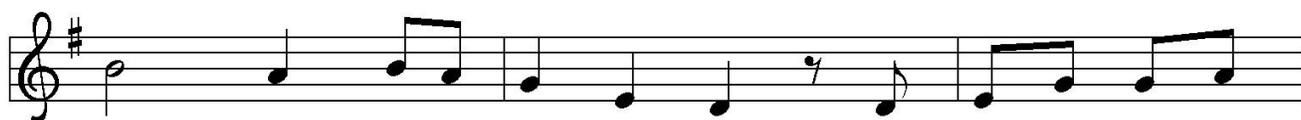
All: **Amen.**

BLESSING

Pastor: May 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.**

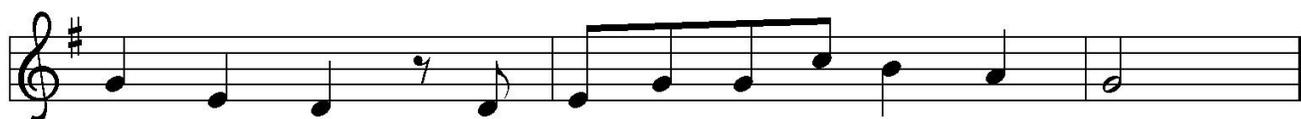
SENDING SONG – Light Dawns on a Weary World (ELW 726)



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea-tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



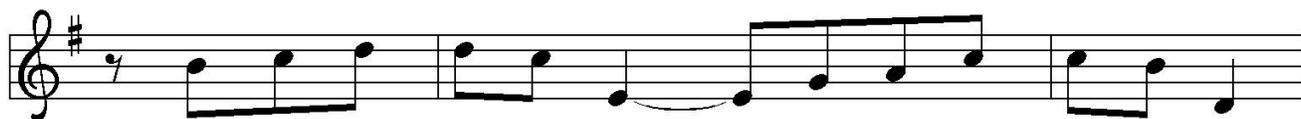
wea - ry world: the prom-ised day of jus - tice comes.
wea - ry world: the prom-ised feast of plen - ty comes.
wea - ry world: the prom-ised green of E - den comes.



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun-tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

DISMISSAL

Asst: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Open Wide the Doors” (John Angotti and Larry Dorsch)

Nick Herschenberger, steel drum; Matt Schnizlein, piano;

Ryan Thompson, soloist; Addie Thompson, flute

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, September 14

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

Monday September 15

Scouts @5:30pm in Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, September 16

Bible Study @12pm in Library

Wednesday, September 17

Quilters @9:30am

FLC Staff Meeting @10:15am

Lunch Bunch @11:45am

Faith Formation @5:45pm in Fellowship Hall

Faith Bells@ 6:30pm

Chancel Choir @7:30pm

Thursday, September 24

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

Sunday, September 21

Worship Service @10:00am: **15th Sunday after Pentecost**

HS Youth Group @5pm in Fellowship Hall

FAITH VOLUNTEERS

September 14

Greeter(s): Chris & Jean Lewis
Usher(s): John McCracken, Ken Milne
Coffee Hour: Bob & Connie Nelson
Counters: Jamie Royalty, Ramona Backman
Noisy Offering: Matt Schnizlein
Acolyte:
Reader: Heidi Nussdorfer
Lay Assistant: Kim O'Brien
Altar Care: Rich Weingartner

September 21

Greeter(s): Bob & Connie Nelson
Usher(s): Brenda Kopf
Coffee Hour:
Counters: Kathy Mace, Randy Royalty
Noisy Offering:
Acolyte:
Reader: Linda Hirt
Lay Assistant: Doug Hirt
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, Lutheran Church of the Savior in Kalamazoo, their pastor Rev. Alexander Steward, 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!

High School Youth Group:

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.**

Faith Formation: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.**

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 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!**