Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 26, 2026 – 10:30 a.m.
With One Voice, Holy Communion, Setting Five

ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Prayer before worship:

Almighty God, you pour out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and supplication. As we come into your presence, deliver us from cold hearts and wandering thoughts, that with steady minds and burning zeal we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

✢ ✢ ✢

Welcome

Pre-Service Music "Prelude on 'Slane'" (Gordon Young)

Ringing of the Bells

Brief Order for Confession & Forgiveness

℗ In the name of the Father, and of the ✢ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

℃ **Amen.**

℗ 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.

℃ **Amen.**

℗ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel or be seated, as able

℗ Most merciful God,

℃ **we confess that we are in bondage 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. Amen.

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for you and, for his sake, forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✢ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Opening Hymn

"Christ Be My Leader" (LSB 861)

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926–2024
Tune: Irish
Text: © 1964, renewed 1992 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005318
Tune: Public domain

Greeting

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

C And also with you.

Hymn of Praise

world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.
C Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
I II For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,
in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.
C Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth,

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray:
Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

First Reading Deuteronomy 7:6-9

6"You are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has
chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the
peoples who are on the face of the earth. 7It was not because you were
more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you
and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, 8but it is because
the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers,
that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed
you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.
9Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who
keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his
commandments, to a thousand generations."

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm *(read responsively)* Psalm 125

L Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

C As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the LORD surrounds his people,
from this time forth and forevermore.

L For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest
on the land allotted to the righteous,
lest the righteous stretch out
their hands to do wrong.

C Do good, O LORD, to those who are good,
and to those who are upright in their hearts!

L But those who turn aside to their crooked ways
the LORD will lead away with evildoers!
Peace be upon Israel!

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Romans 8:28-39

*Please join in reading aloud the **highlighted portion** of Scripture and consider committing this passage to memory in the week ahead.*

28 We know that for those who love God all things work together for
good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those
whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of
his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.
30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he
called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.
31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be
against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us
all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? 33 Who
shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who
is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who
was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding

for us. [35]Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation,
or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?
[36]As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

[37]No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. [38]For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, [39]nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia Verse

Holy Gospel Matthew 13:44-52

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

[44][Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

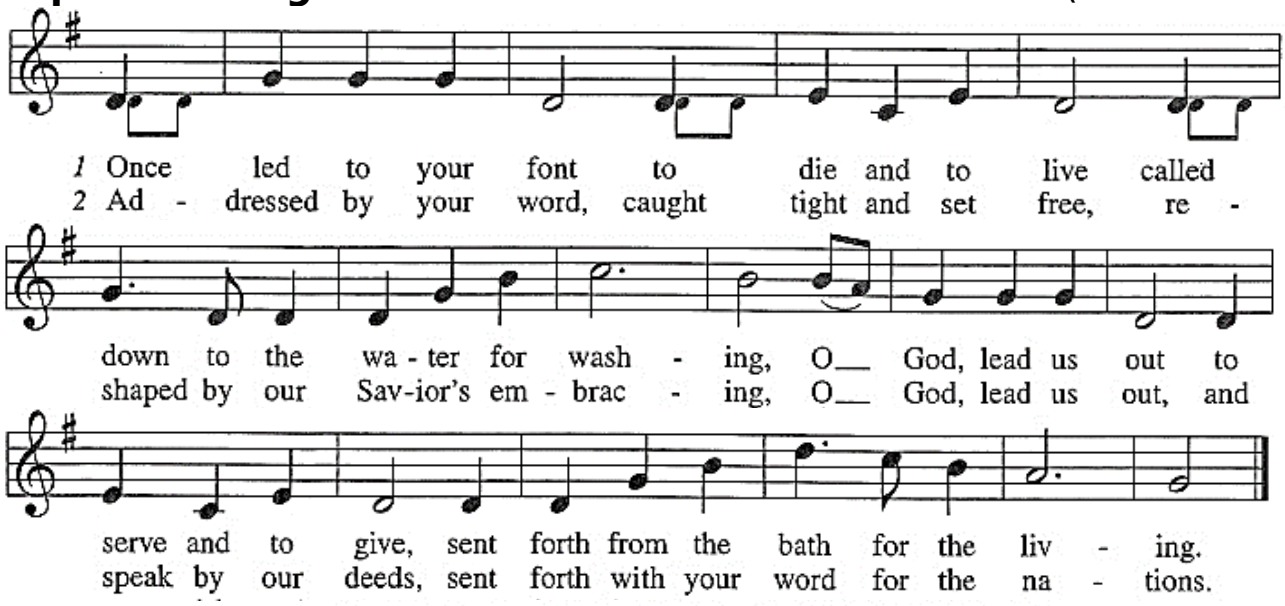
45"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine
pearls, 46who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that
he had and bought it.
47"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea
and gathered fish of every kind. 48When it was full, men drew it ashore
and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the
bad. 49So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and
separate the evil from the righteous 50and throw them into the fiery
furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
51"Have you understood all these things?" They said to him, "Yes." 52And
he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the
kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his
treasure what is new and what is old."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Baptismal Song "Once Led to Your Font" *(stanzas 1 and 2)*



Once Led to Your Font: A Keyboard Collection, Mark Sedio, ISBN 0-8006-7785-4
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2005

℗ Holy Baptism today is given for Kathryn Elizabeth Vogel, child of Walter and Bethany Vogel. Serving as her sponsors are Michael and Brenda Vogel.

Presentation of Baptismal Candidate

℟ *We present Kathryn Elizabeth to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.*

The Address*The pastor speaks to those assembled for Baptism*

℗ In Christian love you have presented this child for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring her to the services of God's house, and teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As she grows in years, you should place in her hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for her instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of her Baptism and in communion with the Church, she may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ. Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?

℟ *I do.*

The Thanksgiving *The pastor pours the water to be used for Holy Baptism into the font*

℗ The Lord be with you.

℄ **And also with you.**

℗ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

℄ **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

The Flood Prayer *This prayer, written by Martin Luther, acknowledges God's saving acts throughout history by means of water.*

℗ Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

℄ **By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land.**

℣ In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the slavery to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life.

℟ **He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the ✢ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**

℣ Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that those who are here baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of all those who are cleansed by this water and bring them forth as inheritors of your glorious kingdom.

℟ **To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

The Renunciation *Candidates for Baptism and sponsors join together in renouncing the works of Satan.*

℣ I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize. Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

℟ *I do.*

The Profession of Faith *Candidates for Baptism, their sponsors, and the congregation join together in affirming their belief in the triune God.*

℣ Do you believe in God the Father?

℟ **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

℣ Do you believe in God the Son, Jesus Christ?

℟ **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

℗ Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

℃ 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.

The Washing*The pastor baptizes the candidate(s) with these words:*

℗ Kathryn Elizabeth, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Laying on of Hands *The pastor lays hands on the head of the baptized and prays for the Holy Spirit's work in their life:*

℗ God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy Sacrament. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon Kathryn Elizabeth: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.

℃ Amen.

The Sealing *The pastor marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized with oil prepared for this purpose. As the sign of the cross is made, the pastor says:*

℗ Kathryn Elizabeth, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

℃ Amen.

A lighted candle is given to the baptized with these words:

℗ Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

℗ Finally, let us pray for the parents of this child:
O God, giver of all life, look with kindness upon Kathryn's parents, Walter and Bethany. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness for their child. Strengthen them in their own Baptism so they may share eternally the salvation you have given to them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

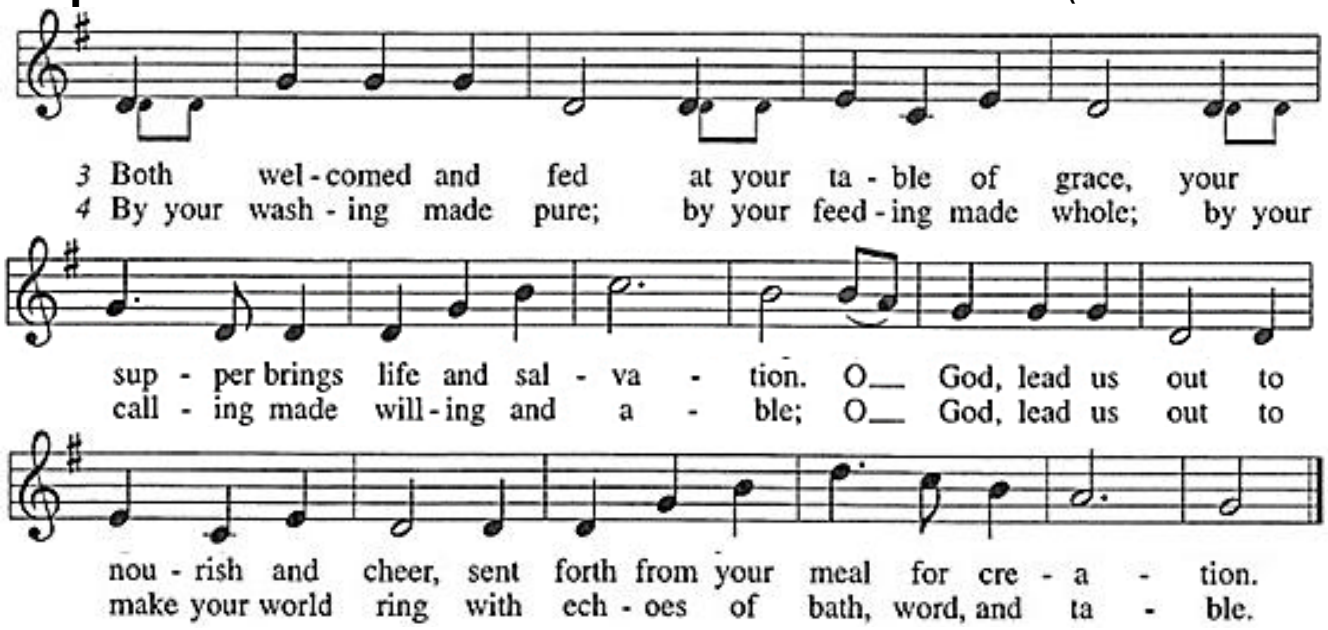
C Amen.

The Welcome *Those who have been baptized turn and face the congregation as these words are spoken:*

L Through Baptism, God has made this child of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear His creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

C We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, child of the same heavenly Father, and worker with us in the kingdom of God.

Response "Once Led to Your Font" *(stanzas 3 and 4)*



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Sermon "Readings from Romans: More Than Conquerors"

Hymn of the Day "Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me" (LSB 722)

Text: Julie von Hausmann, 1825–1901; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.
Tune: P. Friedrich Silcher, 1789–1860
Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005318
Tune: Public domain

Prayers of the People

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Special prayer requests are announced followed by a brief silence for private prayer.

During the season after Pentecost each petition ends with the phrase: "Hear us, O God."

Please respond by saying: ***"Your mercy is great."***

The prayers end with the words:

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

C **Amen.**

Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying,
"Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

Announcements

Offertory Prayer

L Merciful God,

C **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament

Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them up to the Lord.**

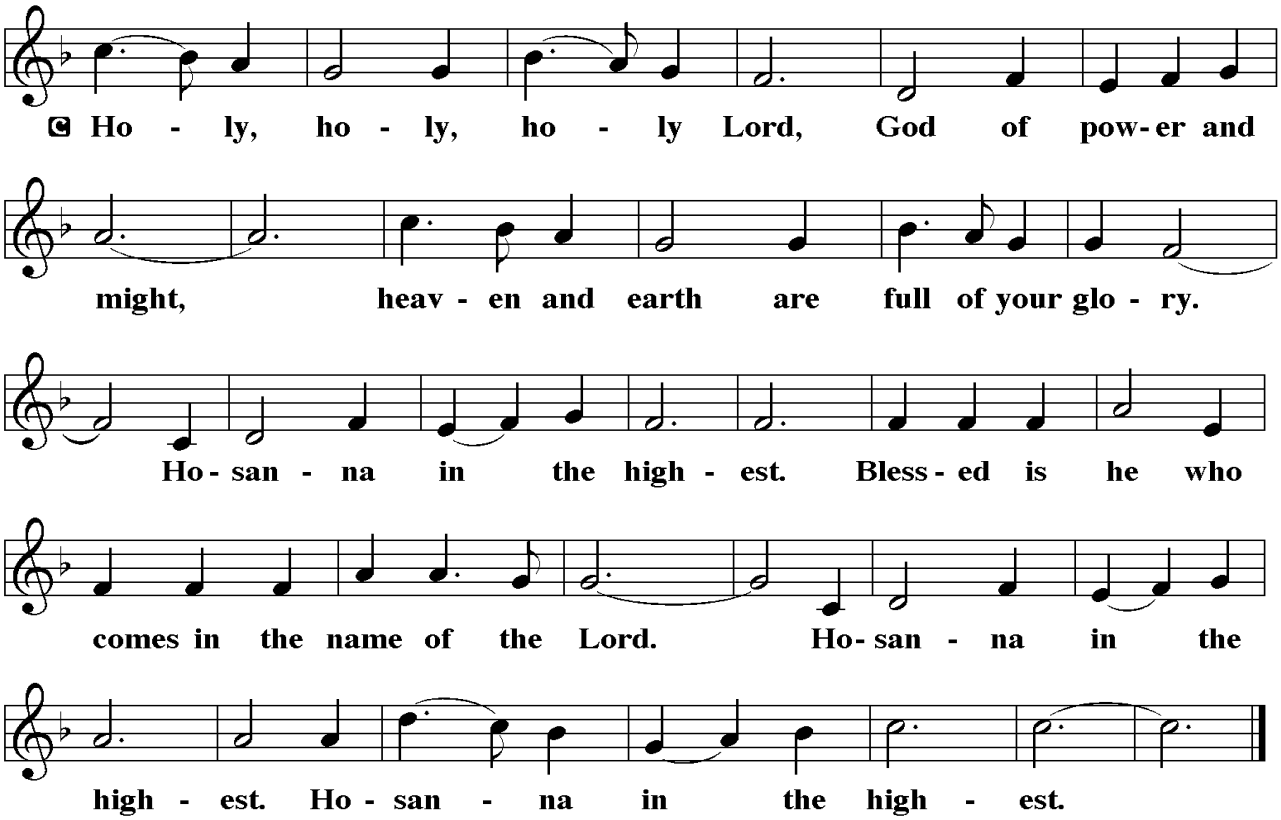
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Preface

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; 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 the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus



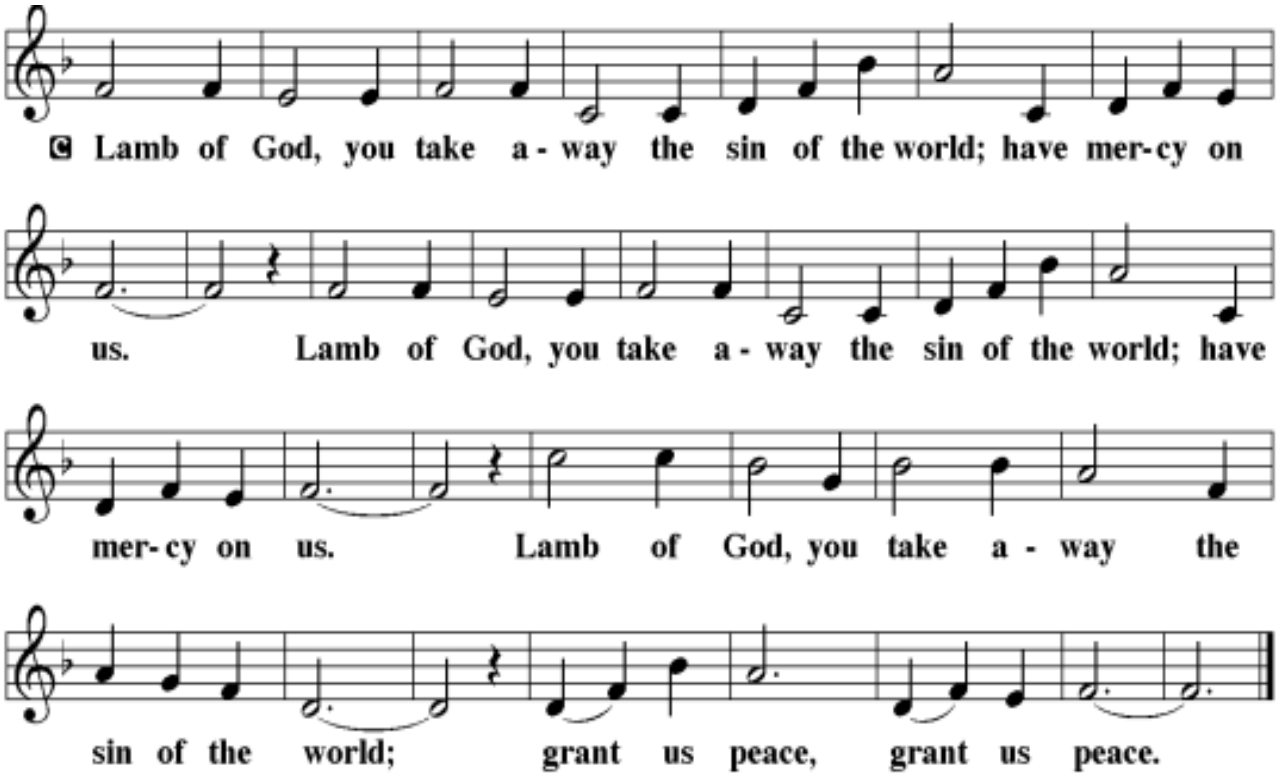
Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Agnus Dei



Please be seated

Distribution of Holy Communion

Lutheran Christians believe and teach that in the Sacrament of the Altar, Christ's body and blood are given to those who receive the bread and wine. With the bread and wine, the gifts of His body and blood are given to Christ's people for forgiveness of sins, strength for our journey of faith, and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. All who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and who trust His words that these gifts are given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins, are invited to receive the Eucharist.

Please follow the direction of the ushers to come to the Lord's Table. The bread will be distributed first. **Gluten-free wafers** are available for those who may need these. Please indicate this to the pastor at the distribution. The wine is then received by individual glasses only. Non-alcoholic grape juice is available for those who for medical or recovery purposes must abstain from alcohol.

Children who do not receive the Sacrament are invited to come forward

and receive a blessing. Please cross arms over chest so the pastor and lay assistant are able to distinguish children who do commune from those who do not yet receive the Sacrament.

Distribution Hymns

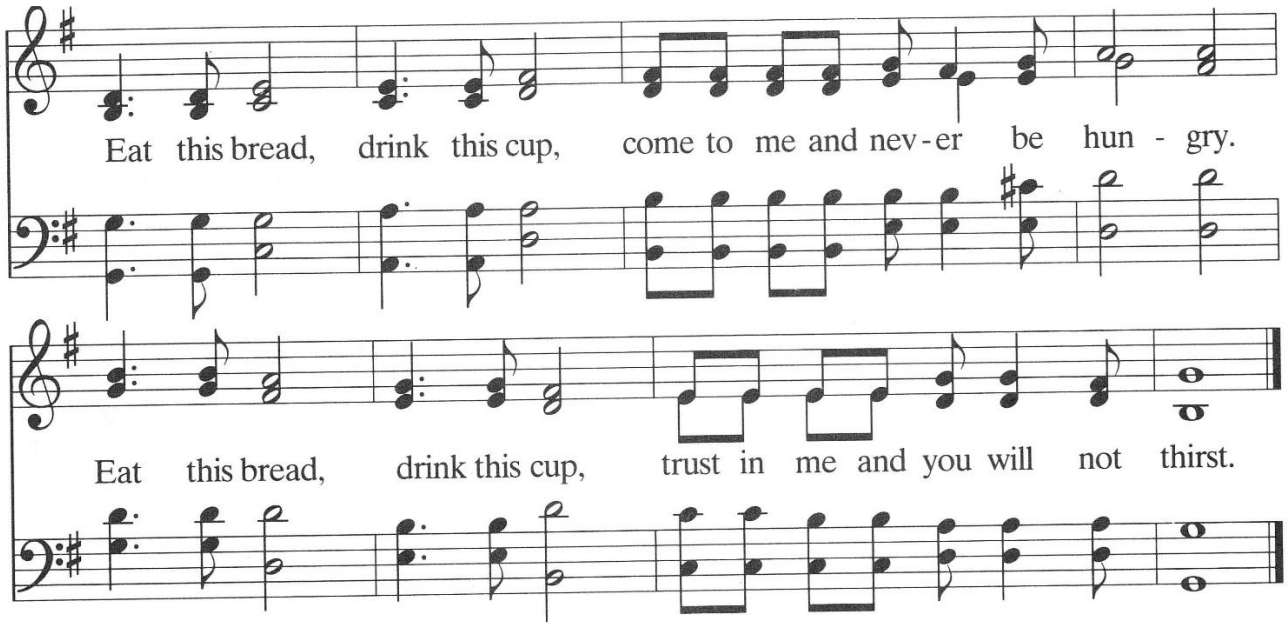
Summer Choir Anthem "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing - 'Nettleton'" (Roland Martin)

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! Oh, fix me on it,
Mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I find my greatest treasure;
Hither by Thy great help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood;

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

"Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup" (WOV 706)



Text: John 6; adapt. Robert Batastini, b. 1942, and the Taizé Community
Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

BERTHIER
irregular

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"What Feast of Love" (WOV 701)

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
Music: English ballad, 16th cent.
Text © 1993 Delores Dufner, OSB, admin. OCP Publications

GREENSLEEVES
8 7 8 7 6 7 6 7

Dismissal

Post-Communion Canticle

"Thankful Hearts"

Prayer of Thanksgiving

℣ Let us pray:

Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

℟ **Amen.**

Sending

Benediction

P Almighty God, Father, ✢ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

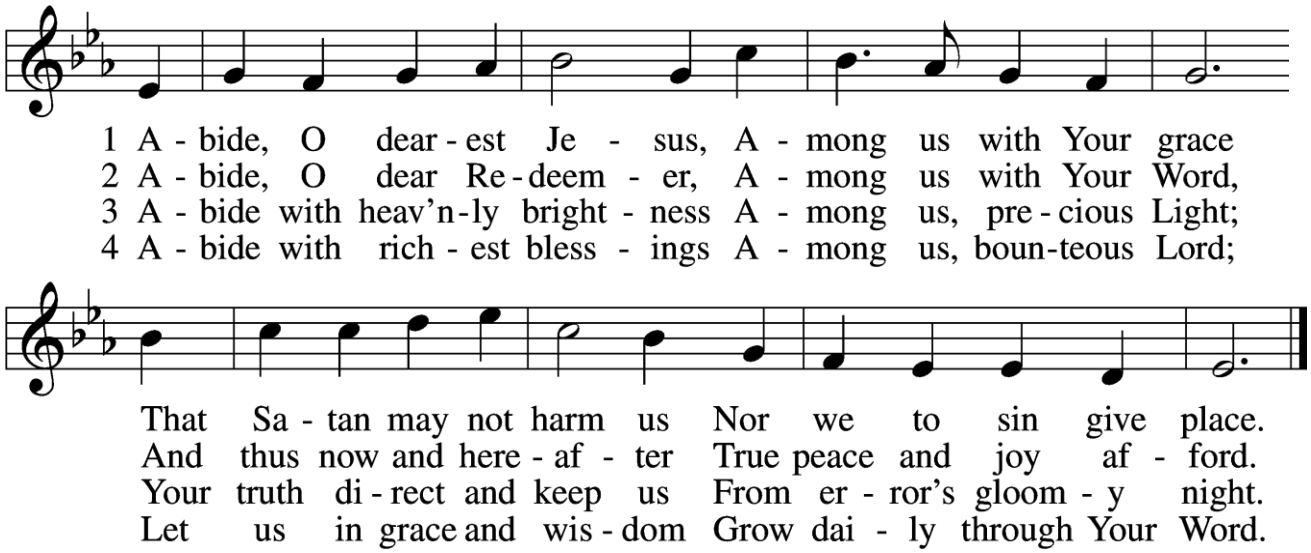
Sending

L Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Sending Hymn

"Abide, O Dearest Jesus" (LSB 919)



5 Abide with Your protection
Among us, Lord, our strength,
Lest world and Satan fell us
And overcome at length.

6 Abide, O faithful Savior,
Among us with Your love;
Grant steadfastness and help us
To reach our home above.

Text: Josua Stegmann, 1588–1632; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt., Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615, Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude **"**Fanfare" (Kenneth Leighton)

✢ ✢ ✢

Our Ministry Of Worship

Officiant/Preacher	Pastor Meehan
Lay Assistant	Mark Guilfoil
Communion Lay Assistant	Barbara Pate
Organist/Pianist	David Leahey, Director of Music
Ushers	St. John's Usher Team
Altar Care	Jean Gilbertson
AV Operator	Jared Dilley Mark Gilbertson
Welcome Host	Christy Hoins
Nursery	Emily Seaton Barbara Gilliland Lisa Goodell

This weekend's **altar flowers** are given by donations to the flower fund.

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...AND MORE!

Acknowledgments

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