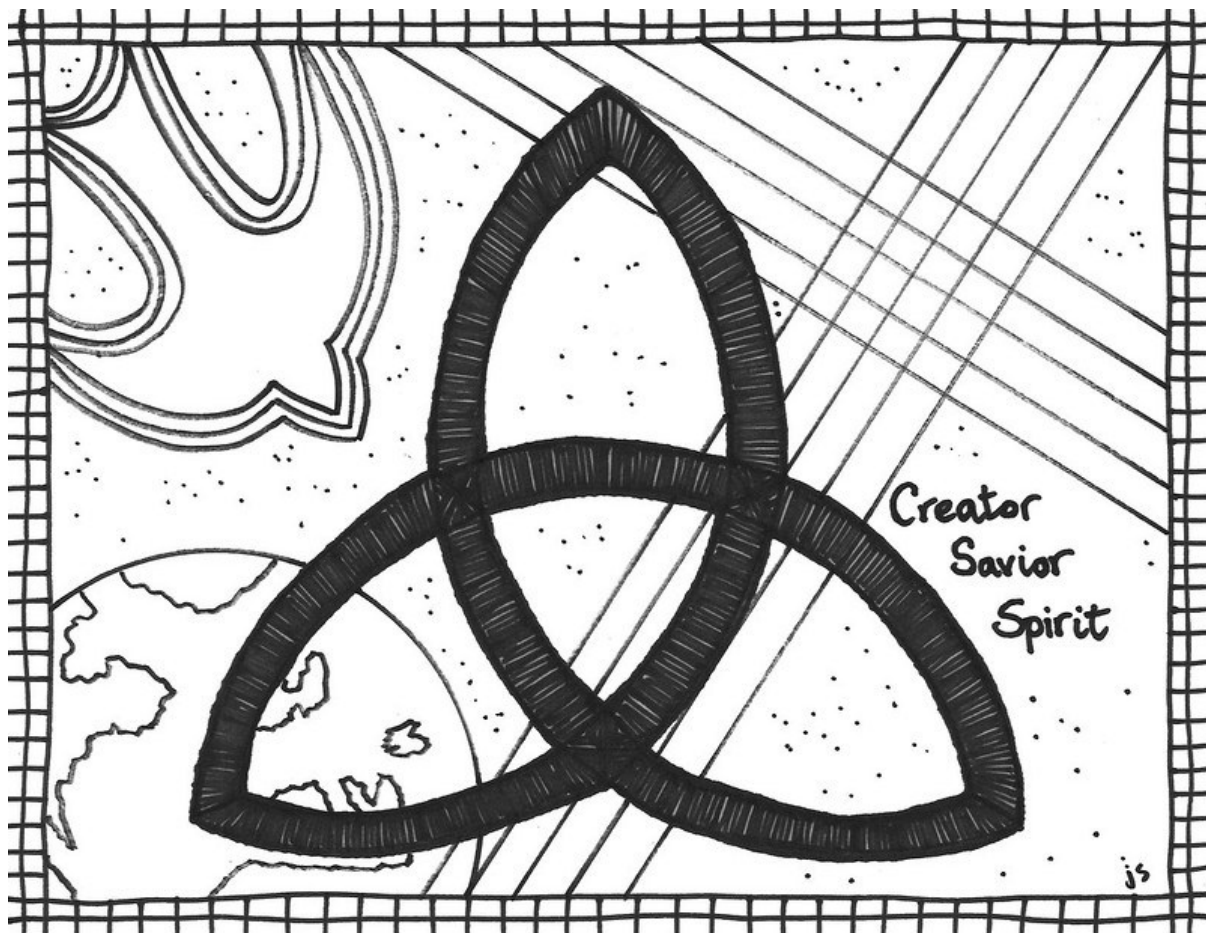




**Christ  
Lutheran**  
CHURCH

2610 Campbell Street  
Valparaiso, Indiana 46385  
(219) 462-6660 • [clcvalpo.org](http://clcvalpo.org)



The Holy Trinity  
June 15, 2025

## **We welcome you to Christ Lutheran Church! We are a community of people sharing God's love through Christ and growing together in faith.**

We celebrate all the ways we are made in the image of God, seeking to see God in everyone. We honor and respect each person's age, ethnicity, family composition, gender identity, gender expression, life history, mental well-being, physical ability, relationship status, sexual orientation, skin color, and socioeconomic standing. Together, we strive to love and serve our neighbor and all creation, including working toward racial and social justice. We would love to walk with you on this creative adventure\* of faith, grace, and love.

*\* The first sermon ever preached at Christ Lutheran was titled "A Call to Creative Adventure."*

### **ABOUT WORSHIP**

We gather to worship weekly to hear and remember our shared hope: the life, death, and resurrection of Christ makes all things new, even us.

You will find everything that happens in worship printed in this bulletin, with hymns found in the red hymnals ("ELW") in the seats in front of you.

If you have a prayer request, note it on a yellow card from the seatback holder and pass it to an usher; the other side is for any information you would like about Christ Lutheran. Please feel welcome to remain seated as necessary during the service.

### **CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN CHURCH!**

God's people come in all shapes and sizes – it is a gift to the whole community when the smallest of us are present! Sitting with parents and learning to treasure times of worship is the foundation for helping build a growing faith in a child's life. There's some noise and movement that we expect from little ones - feel free to make use of the **activity bags, doodle pads, bookshelf in the overflow area and cry room at the back of the sanctuary** as needed. Whatever sacrifice of energy and effort you make to include your children in worship is multiplied as the good news of God's love takes root in their lives!

### **WHEN NURSERY CARE IS NEEDED DURING WORSHIP**

A fully equipped and staffed Nursery is available for both infants and toddlers during all services. The Nursery is located west of our gathering area in **Room 110**.

### **RESTROOMS**

Men's and women's restrooms off the Gathering Area and Church Hall have changing tables, as does the all-gender restroom near the nursery. A second all-gender restroom is through the Vestry off the East hallway, past the Welcome Center.

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

**Holy Communion** is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.

Our services are on video, and occasional photographs are taken for our website and e-mail news. If you have concerns, please speak to a church staff member.

*Hearing assistance devices are available to those who need help with listening to the service and are located at the entrance to the sanctuary, or please see an Usher for assistance.*

**A Reminder: Please turn off all cell phones during worship services.**

*“O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!” Today we celebrate the holy Trinity. Paul writes that through Jesus we have peace with God, whose love pours into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, giving us lasting hope. We celebrate the gracious One-in-Three, eternal Three-in-One, as we worship in community; as we share water and word, bread and wine; and as we bring God’s love and hope to our neighbors.*

## **GATHERING**

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

### **PRELUDE**

*All Glory Be to God on High*

Böhm

### **WELCOME**

*If you are joining us for the first time, welcome! We’d love to meet you, or if there’s anything you’d like to know about the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church, please consider [filling out a Connection Card online](#) (you can point your phone at the graphic to the right) or using a yellow Connection Card in the pew holders.*



***Prayer requests** can be posted to the livechat or use a yellow Prayer Request (on the backside of the Connection Card) and give them to an usher.*

*If you are worshipping with us via livestream, consider **preparing your space for Communion**: light a candle (if appropriate and safe), and have a plate with bread/cracker/tortilla and a cup for wine or grape juice (or an empty cup as a sign Jesus is sufficient in one or both elements).*

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS p. 94-96 (left column)**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✠ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,  
you free us to love others,  
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.  
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,  
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.  
You surround us with patience, kindness,  
and generosity,  
but we grow weary in doing what is right.  
In your mercy, forgive us.  
Do not give up on us.  
Heal us, break our bonds,  
and show us the path of life.  
**Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus  
and you are God's children through faith.  
In the cross of ✠ Christ,  
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
your sins are forgiven.  
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.  
**Amen.**

## **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.**

*Children: This is the day that the Lord has made.*  
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

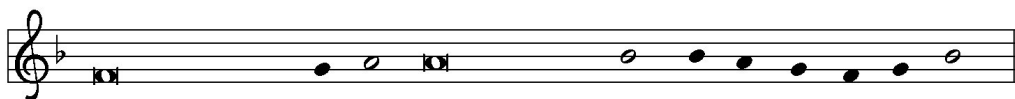
# KYRIE *p. 165-166*



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



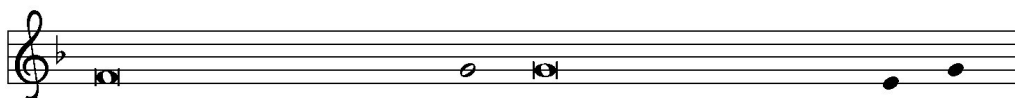
Lord, have mer - cy.



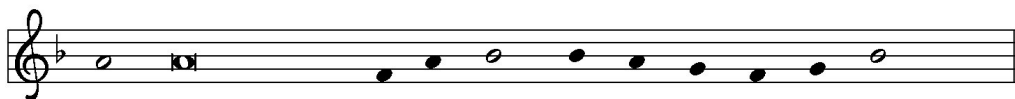
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of



God, and for the uni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and

praise, let us pray to the Lord.


Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gracious Lord.

A - men.

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE *p. 167-168***

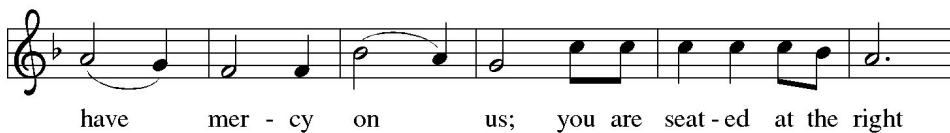
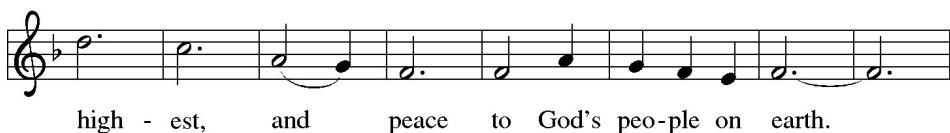
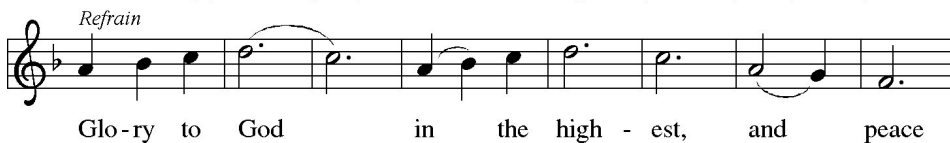
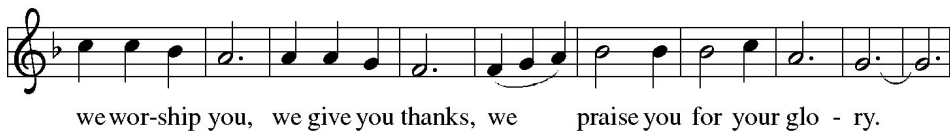
*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace

to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



*Refrain*

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace  
to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the  
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

3 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.

*Final refrain*

Glo-ry to God in the high - est.  
A - men, a - men.



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Holy Trinity,  
you are neither monarch nor monologue  
but an eternal harmony  
of gift and response:  
through the Uncreated Word  
and the Spirit of Truth  
include us and all creation  
in your extravagant love;  
through the Wisdom of God,  
who raises her voice  
to call us to life.

**Amen.**

## WORD

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

## CHILDREN'S TIME

*The assembly is seated as children come forward for a time together.*

### READING: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

*In the Bible, wisdom is portrayed in terms sometimes human and sometimes divine. Often, wisdom is personified as feminine. In this passage, Woman Wisdom is depicted not only as the first creation of God, but also as God's helper, rejoicing in God's creation, especially in human beings.*

<sup>1</sup> Does not wisdom call,  
and does not understanding raise her voice?

<sup>2</sup> On the heights, beside the way,  
at the crossroads she takes her stand;

<sup>3</sup> beside the gates in front of the town,  
at the entrance of the portals she cries out:

<sup>4</sup> "To you, O people, I call,  
and my cry is to all that live.

<sup>22</sup> The LORD created me at the beginning of his work,  
the first of his acts of long ago.

<sup>23</sup> Ages ago I was set up,  
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

<sup>24</sup> When there were no depths I was brought forth,  
when there were no springs abounding with water.

<sup>25</sup> Before the mountains had been shaped,

before the hills, I was brought forth—  
<sup>26</sup> when he had not yet made earth and fields,  
or the world's first bits of soil.  
<sup>27</sup> When he established the heavens, I was there,  
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,  
<sup>28</sup> when he made firm the skies above,  
when he established the fountains of the deep,  
<sup>29</sup> when he assigned to the sea its limit,  
so that the waters might not transgress his command,  
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,  
<sup>30</sup> then I was beside him, like a master worker;  
and I was daily his delight,  
rejoicing before him always,  
<sup>31</sup> rejoicing in his inhabited world  
and delighting in the human race.”

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

**PSALM 8** (*Read Responsively*)

<sup>1</sup> O LORD our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!—  
<sup>2</sup> **you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and  
children; you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe  
and avenger.**  
<sup>3</sup> When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,  
<sup>4</sup> **what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,  
human beings that you should care for them?**  
<sup>5</sup> Yet you have made them little less than divine;  
with glory and honor you crown them.  
<sup>6</sup> **You have made them rule over the works of your hands;  
you have put all things under their feet:**  
<sup>7</sup> all flocks and cattle,  
even the wild beasts of the field,  
<sup>8</sup> **the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,  
and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**  
<sup>9</sup> O LORD our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

## READING: Romans 5:1-5

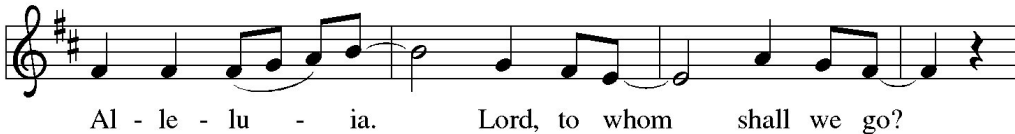
*Paul describes the life of faith with reference to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Even now, we have peace with God through Jesus, and our hope for the future is grounded in the love of God that we experience through Christ's Holy Spirit.*

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *p. 171*

*The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.*



## GOSPEL: John 16:12-15

*Jesus' ongoing presence with the disciples will be made known through the coming Spirit who will guide them and communicate to them Jesus' will and glory.*

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

[Jesus said,] <sup>12</sup> "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup> When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup> All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you."

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

## SERMON

*The assembly is seated. Time for reflection follows the sermon.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #410

### *All Glory Be to God on High*

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



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, who has the world be -  
2 O Fa - ther, for your lord - ship true we give you praise and  
3 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's  
4 O Ho - ly Spir - it, per - fect gift, who brings us con - so -



friend - ed; to us no harm shall now come nigh, the  
hon - or; we wor - ship you; we trust in you; we  
au - thor, re - deem - er of your wan - d'ring ones, and  
la - tion: to men and wom - en saved by Christ as -



strife at last is end - ed. God shows good-will to  
give you thanks for - ev - er. Your will is per - fect,  
source of all true plea - sure; O Lamb of God, O  
sure your in - spi - ra - tion. Through sick - ness, need, and



one and all, and peace when trou - bled sin - ners call. Thank  
and your might re - lent - less - ly con - firms the right; your  
Lord di - vine, con - form our lives to your de - sign, and  
bit - ter death, grant us your warm, life - giv - ing breath; our



God for grace and mer - cy!  
lord - ship is our bless - ing.  
on us all have mer - cy.  
lives are in your keep - ing. A - men.

## APOSTLES' 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.

*\*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

## PRAYERS

*Our prayers draw on the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle and the Church's calendar of Commemorations—further information is found each week at the end of the bulletin.*

Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

*A brief silence.*

Abiding God, your love pours into your whole church, creating faith and bestowing hope. Fill all the baptized with these good gifts in our various callings. Gather your church in every place and expression into the unity of your Spirit. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Creating God, your name is majestic in all the earth, and we are filled with awe at your creation. Renew this planet and all its wonders: springs abounding with water, earth and soil, beasts of the field, birds of the air, and fish of the sea. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, you delight in the whole human race. On this week of Juneteenth, bring an end to racial oppression and heal the wounds of racial trauma. Grant us your wisdom, so that all people, especially those in authority, work for the life and freedom of others. We pray for our neighbors in Botswana and Zimbabwe – for your Spirit to guide churches and for your wisdom and justice to guide leaders. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Compassionate God, your mindful care for us is everlasting. Give peace to all who are troubled, endurance to all who suffer, deliverance to all who are afflicted, and healing to all who are sick. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Living God, your glory appears in our shared life. On this Father's Day, give to all fathers and father figures gentle hearts and strong spirits, heal the wounds in our families, and comfort those for whom this day brings pain. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Eternal God, your hope does not disappoint. We give you thanks for all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, especially Onesimos Nesib and the Emmanuel Nine, martyrs. Hold us in our grief, and bring us at last to fullness of life in you. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*We invite those worshipping by livestream to share a sign of peace in the chat, and for those in person we turn to offer them our greeting of peace before sharing a sign of peace with one another: **Peace be with you!***

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

## **OFFERING**

*This congregation serves our neighbors, community, and the world through the participation and support of its members and guests.*

*If you wish to give electronically, use the QR code, browse to our secure on-line portal at [clcvalpo.org/give](https://clcvalpo.org/give) or use [our CLC app](https://clcvalpo.org/app) (download at [clcvalpo.org/app](https://clcvalpo.org/app)).*



## **OFFERTORY**

*Fugue in C Major*

Pachebel

## OFFERING HYMN ELW #185 *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

*The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.*

The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.'

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.  
Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me  
with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,  
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING *p. 172*

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.**

*The pastor continues the prayer then all join in singing:*

## **SANCTUS p. 173**

*(An ancient practice invites us to make the sign of the cross in honor of Jesus at the words "Blessed is he.")*

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

## **TABLE PRAYER**

### **LORD'S PRAYER p. 173 (*pray whichever version you prefer*)**

*Children: The Spirit makes us one. We pray as Jesus taught us:*

**Our Father in heaven,**  
    **hallowed be your name,**  
    **your kingdom come,**  
    **your will be done,**  
        **on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**  
    **as we forgive those**  
        **who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**  
    **and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**  
    **and the glory are yours,**  
    **now and forever. Amen.**



## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

**Thanks be to God!**

## DISTRIBUTION

*The assembly is seated. The pastor invites those worshipping via **livestream** to commune:*

The body of Christ, given for you.

**Amen (receive the bread)**

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**Amen (receive the cup)**

**In-person distribution:** When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. WINE is lighter-colored and GRAPE JUICE is dark; wine is received either by Common Cup or from individual cups in the trays. USED GLASSES are placed in the basket located near the ramp. GLUTEN-FREE BREAD IS AVAILABLE, please indicate to the server that you require this.

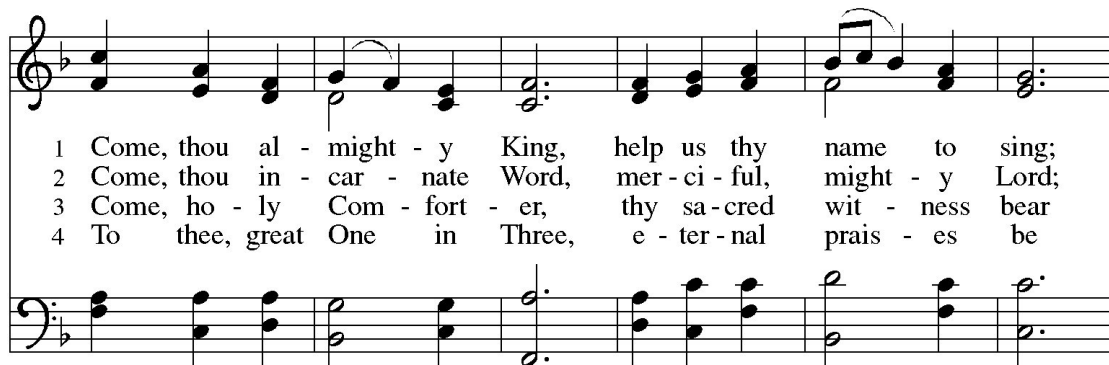
## LAMB OF GOD *p. 174*

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.



1 Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy name to sing;  
 2 Come, thou in - car - nate Word, mer - ci - ful, might - y Lord;  
 3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred wit - ness bear  
 4 To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal prais - es be

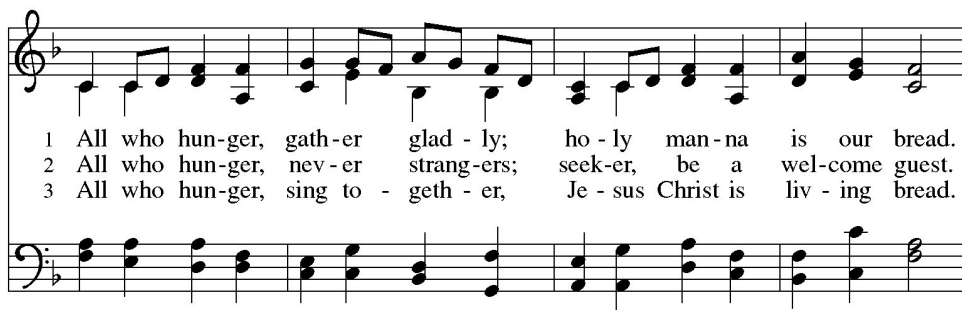


help us to praise; Fa - ther all - glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic -  
 our prayer at - tend. Come and thy peo - ple bless, and give thy  
 in this glad hour! Thou who al - might - y art, rule now in  
 hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - 'reign maj - es - ty may we in

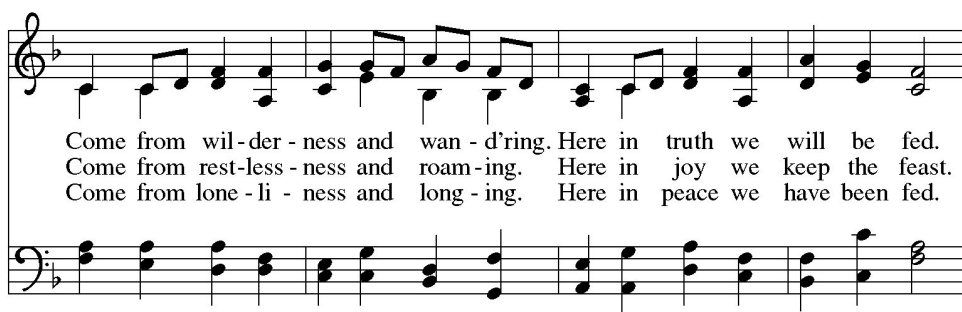


to - ri - ous, come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.  
 word suc - cess, and let thy righ - teous - ness on us de - scend.  
 ev - 'ry heart, nev - er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.  
 glo - ry see, and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

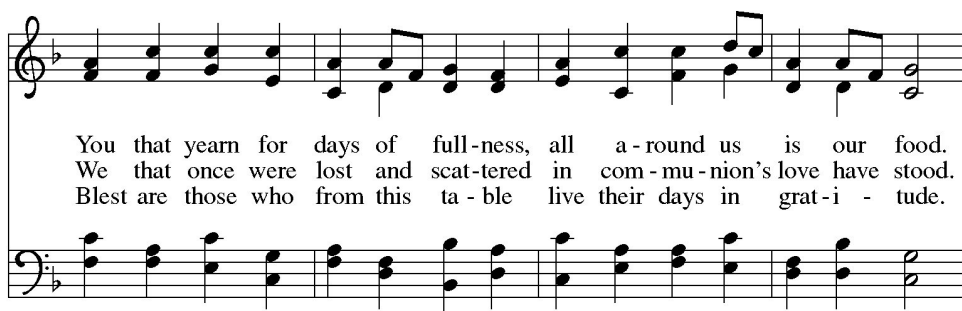
ELW #461 *All Who Hunger, Gladly Gather*



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na is our bread.  
 2 All who hun-ger, nev - er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.  
 3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil-der - ness and wan - d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.  
 Come from rest-less - ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.  
 Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a - round us is our food.  
 We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.  
 Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat-i - tude.



Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
 Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
 Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

*After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands as the minister continues.*  
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Mothering God,  
you gathered us to your table  
and we drank deeply of your grace.  
Send us out by your Spirit  
to love our neighbors as ourselves  
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.  
**Amen.**

### **SENDING**

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

### **INVITATIONS**

*The assembly is seated as brief invitations are shared, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.*

### **BLESSING**

The love of God abound in you;  
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;  
and the life of the Spirit  
✠ bless you and give you peace.  
**Amen.**



- 1 Come, join the dance of Trin - i - ty, be - fore all worlds be - gun—
- 2 Come, see the face of Trin - i - ty, new - born in Beth - le - hem;
- 3 Come, speak a - loud of Trin - i - ty, as wind and tongues of flame
- 4 With - in the dance of Trin - i - ty, be - fore all worlds be - gun,



the in - ter-weav - ing of the Three, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son.  
 then blood - ied by a crown of thorns out - side Je - ru - sa - lem.  
 set peo - ple free at Pen - te - cost to tell the Sav - ior's name.  
 we sing the prais - es of the Three, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son.



The u - ni - verse of space and time did not a - rise by chance,  
 The dance of Trin - i - ty is meant for hu - man flesh and bone;  
 We know the yoke of sin and death, our necks have worn it smooth;  
 Let voic - es rise and in - ter-weave, by love and hope set free,



but as the Three, in love and hope, made room with - in their dance.  
 when fear con - fines the dance in death, God rolls a - way the stone.  
 go tell the world of weight and woe that we are free to move!  
 to shape in song this joy, this life: the dance of Trin - i - ty.

*Children join the pastors to send us in mission.*

## DISMISSAL

*Children: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.*

**Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

*Campane a Sete  
(Bells in Seven)*

Fletcher

*As worship concludes we move to the Gathering Place, where we are invited to greet one another and share in fellowship.*

### **Worship Leaders**

9:30 a.m.

Acolyte

Joey Rodeck

Lector

Gail Mannington

Prayer Assistant

Linda Mapes

Communion Assistants

Scott Steinwart  
Phyllis Schroeder

Ushers

Don MacMillan

Sound/Light

Video/Livestream

Tony Reinhold

Pastors

Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr.  
Rev. Erica Gibson-Even

Director of Music Ministries

Brian Bartusch

Communion Baker

The Bull Family

## **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle**

This week we pray for the churches and people of **Botswana, Zimbabwe.**

### **We are thankful for:**

- the prophetic witness of churches to protest injustices and advocate good governance
- efforts that have been made to stem the spread of HIV and AIDS and to treat those affected
- economic progress that improves the lives of all
- the iconic animals and minerals in these lands and measures to protect them from being exploited.

### **We pray for:**

- fair election of democratic governments to counter instability, violence and human rights abuses
- stable economies that enable all people to prosper and live in justice and peace
- effective measures to improve the health and life expectancy of all
- the biodiversity and animals present in these lands, and measures to preserve them
- the herders and farmers who continue to raise cattle and food, despite droughts and desertification.

## **COMMEMORATIONS** **Week of June 15**

### **June 17**

#### **Emanuel Nine, martyrs, d. 2015**

On June 17, 2015, nine people gathered for Bible study and prayer at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina were murdered by a self-professed white supremacist. A resolution to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance for the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine was adopted by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on August 8, 2019.

### **June 21**

#### **Onesimos Nesib, translator, evangelist, died 1931**

Onesimos (oh-NESS-ee-mus neh-SEEB) was born into the Oromo people of Ethiopia. He was captured by slave traders and taken from his homeland to Eritrea, where he was bought, freed, and educated by Swedish missionaries. He translated the Bible into Oromo and returned to his homeland to preach the gospel. His tombstone includes a verse from Jeremiah 22:29, “O land, land, land, hear the word of the Lord!”

## Beyond the Known Limit

Telescopes provide a whole new way to see the cosmos, and over the centuries since their invention, we have expanded our understanding of the known universe. For example, we keep increasing our estimate of just how many galaxies are out there. In another hundred years, that number will no doubt be even greater. Will we ever find a fixed boundary?

We might view love as we do the universe. We might experience a limit to love today, but as we embrace the truth that God is love, we continually discover another truth: there is no limit to love. Jesus says all is contained in the two great commandments—love God, and love neighbor as self.

On Pentecost, the church was given the profound gift of love by the Holy Spirit, flowing and very much alive. The church is encouraged to dive deep into that love, to experiment with and experience the reality of love, as shown to us by the God who created us.

One practical way to know God’s love is to acknowledge there is so much more to learn about it. We allow for the possibility of infinity in how God expresses love, whether for the person we see in the mirror or for the person who angers us the most.

The Trinity is often shown in ancient art as the Holy Triune gathered around a table in deep and honest conversation. This conversation began way before the beginning, continues in the present, and lives forevermore. The ancient art often offers the viewer a space in the holy circle for one more person. That “one more” is each one of us.

When Jesus says, “I have many things to say to you” (John 16:12), we give thanks that at the holy table, the triune God invites us to sit together and then gifts us with all the time in the universe for each one of us to listen to the loving words God has to say.

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