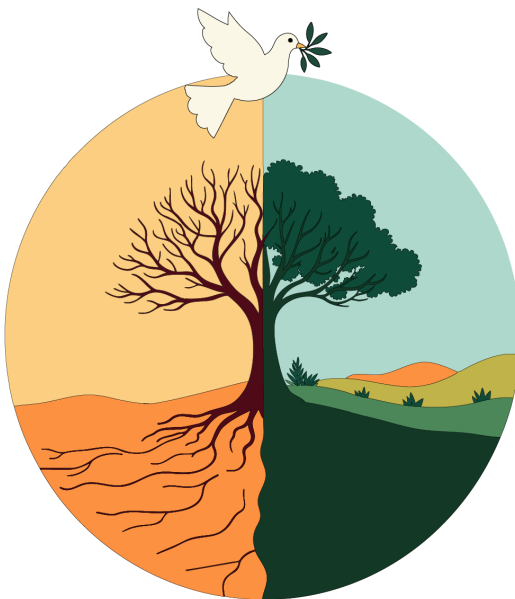




**Christ  
Lutheran**  
CHURCH

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



## ***Garden of Peace***

**Isaiah 32:14-18**

September 7, 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.**

*Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.*

## **GATHERING**

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

### **PRELUDE**

*Earth & All Stars*

Burkhardt

### **WELCOME**

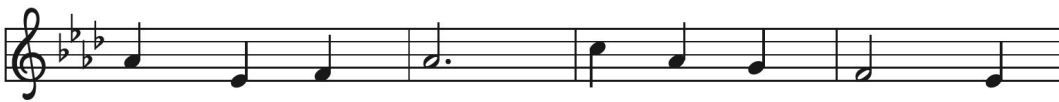
*If you are joining us for the first time, welcome! We'd love to meet you, or if there's anything you'd like to know about the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church, please consider [filling out a Connection Card online](#) (you can point your phone at the graphic to the right) or using a yellow Connection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



***Prayer requests*** can be posted to the live chat 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).*

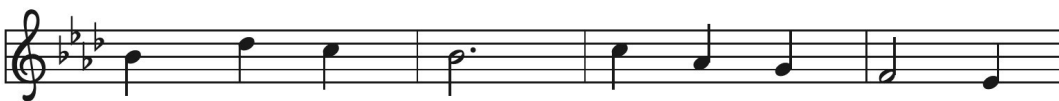




1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,  
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,  
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,  
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,  
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,  
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,  
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,  
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,  
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,  
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.  
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.  
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.  
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,  
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

## **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!**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Bountiful God, you call us to labor with you in tending the earth:  
Where we lack love, open our hearts to the world;  
Where we waste, give us discipline to conserve;  
Where we neglect, awaken our minds and wills to insight and care.  
May we with all your creatures honor and serve you in all things, for you live and reign  
with Christ, Redeemer of all, and with your Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM FOR HARRISON LEE GOLDSCHMIDT** (8:00 a.m. only—10:30 continues on page 8)

*The candidate for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather with the ministers at the font.*

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

*Sponsors present the candidate:*  
We present Harrison Lee for baptism.

*The presiding minister addresses the parents:*  
Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Harrison baptized into Christ?  
**We do.**

*The presiding minister continues:*

As you bring Harrison to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with him among God's faithful people,  
bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,  
teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,  
place in his hands the holy scriptures,  
and nurture him in faith and prayer,  
so that he may learn to trust God,  
proclaim Christ through word and deed,  
care for others and the world God made,  
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Harrison grow in the Christian faith and life?

**We do.**

*The presiding minister addresses sponsors:*

Sponsors, do you promise to continue to accompany Harrison in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

**We do.**

*The assembly stands.*

People of God, do you promise to support Harrison and pray for him in his new life in Christ? Will you grow with him, learn with him, serve with him, and together give praise to God?

**We will.**

## **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?  
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?  
**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.**

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. Amen.**

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

## **THANKSGIVING AT 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 our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **BAPTISM**

*The assembly is seated. The presiding minister baptizes the candidate.*

Harrison Lee, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your children new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

*Laying both hands on the head of the newly baptized, the minister prays:*

Sustain Harrison with the gift of your Holy Spirit:

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, both now and forever. **Amen.**

*The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized.*

Harrison, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

## **WELCOME**

*A lighted candle may be given to the newly baptized.*

Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

## **WORD**

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

## **CHILDREN'S TIME**

*Children come forward for a time together.*

## **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.*

<sup>15</sup> See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup> I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup> 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, <sup>20</sup> 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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

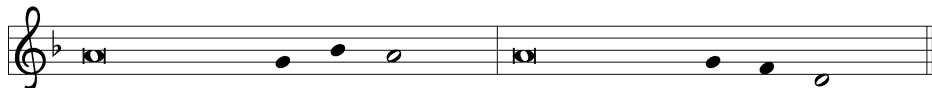
## PSALM 1

*The congregation is invited to sing the psalm refrain when indicated (R). Verses will be chanted alternately by the leader and the people.*

### Refrain



### Psalm Tone



Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel <sup>|</sup> of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners,

nor sat in the seats <sup>|</sup> of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup>**Their delight is in the law <sup>|</sup> of the LORD,**  
**and they meditate on God's teaching <sup>|</sup> day and night. R**

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

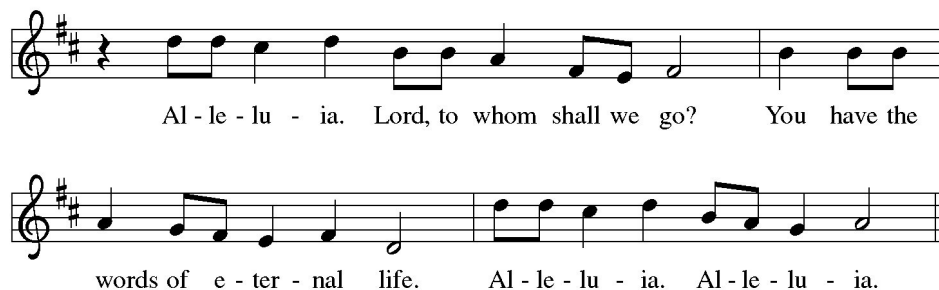
<sup>4</sup>**It is not so <sup>|</sup> with the wicked;**  
**they are like chaff which the wind <sup>|</sup> blows away.**

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when <sup>|</sup> judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council <sup>|</sup> of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup>**For the LORD knows the way <sup>|</sup> of the righteous,**  
**but the way of the wicked shall <sup>|</sup> be destroyed. R**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.*



## 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.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>25</sup> Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup> “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. <sup>27</sup> Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup> 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? <sup>29</sup> Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup> saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup> 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? <sup>32</sup> If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup> So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

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 ACS #1042

## May This Church Be Like a Tree

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



1 *Que\_es-ta\_i - gle - sia se - a\_un ár - bol en el*  
 1 May this church be like a tree, be - hind your  
 2 May this church be like a tree, there in the  
 3 May this church be like a tree, O God, that



*fon - do de tu ca - sa, que\_ha - ya fies - ta, y\_a - le -*  
 house, there in your gar - den, meet - ing - place for joy, and  
 street or in the pla - za, for the birds a nest - ing -  
 thrives where you have plant - ed; may it stand to show the



*grí - a y\_o - ra - ción ba - jo sus ra - mas.*  
 feast, and sim - ple prayer be - neath its branch - es.  
 branch, for pass - ers - by a wel - come shel - ter.  
 way, your way of lov - ing and self - giv - ing,



*Con ra - í - ces bien pro - fun - das y sus bra - zos*  
 With its roots in earth so fer - tile, and its arms raised  
 May it stand as if it's watch - ing, near my house, just  
 of - f'ring shade, and fruit for shar - ing, giv - ing up its



*ha - cia\_el cie - lo, que\_es - ta\_i - gle - sia sea fe -*  
 high to heav - en, may this church bear fruits of  
 round the cor - ner, wait - ing for this wea - ry  
 wood for burn - ing. May this liv - ing church that

(Con't on next page)



cun - da dan - do fru - tos de con - sue - lo.  
jus - tice, acts of lov - ing and com - pas - sion.  
pil - grim with its arms wide to em - brace me.  
names you be a tree of life e - ter - nal.

*Refrain / Estribillo*



Ár - bol plan - ta - do jun - to a las a - guas  
Tree ev - er grow - ing by liv - ing wa - ter,



de vi - da e - ter - na de nues - tro Dios.  
run - ning e - ter - nal, flow - ing from God.



Ár - bol plan - ta - do jun - to a las a - guas  
Tree ev - er grow - ing by liv - ing wa - ter,



de vi - da e - ter - na de nues - tro Dios.  
run - ning e - ter - nal, flow - ing from God.

- 2 *Que esta iglesia también sea como un árbol de la plaza,  
nido de pájaros libres y refugio del que pasa;  
y que sea como el árbol de la esquina de mi casa,  
que me ve llegar de lejos e imagino que me abraza. Estribillo*
- 3 *Que esta iglesia sea un árbol, oh buen Dios, en donde quieras,  
pero siempre apuntalado por tu amor y a tu manera.  
Para dar frutos y sombra o entregar nuestra madera,  
que esta iglesia que te nombra árbol de la vida sea. Estribillo*

## **APOSTLES' CREED** (10:30 a.m. only)

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.*

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

We pray for the church to follow in your ways, that it may be a witness to your love for all people. Help us choose all that is life-giving and confront the forces of death.

God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for creation, that it may be cherished and nurtured. Sustain farmlands, animals, and waters; restore places affected by calamities; and shield coastlands from rising seas.

God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in authority. Grant them wisdom to govern justly and compassion to care for the marginalized. Equip them for actions that further the common good. Tend to the lands, people, and churches of Benin, Ivory Coast, and Togo, that all may flourish.

God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for those who are sick, hungry, unhoused, or lonely. May they find healing through your love and the care of those around them. Lead us to be your hands and feet in the world. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation, that we may be united in love and faith. Refresh our hearts in Christ and deepen our support of one another. We pray that our sharing of faith may transform lives. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We thank you for Peter Claver, John Chrysostom, and all those who have died and now dwell with the saints. Surround them with your divine mercy, that they find peace and rest in your loving embrace. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

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

**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. Because offerings are never just about us, this month we are sharing a portion of your gifts with **Compass International Family Center and Project Neighbors – Freedom Recovery Fund**.*



*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**

*All' Offertorio*

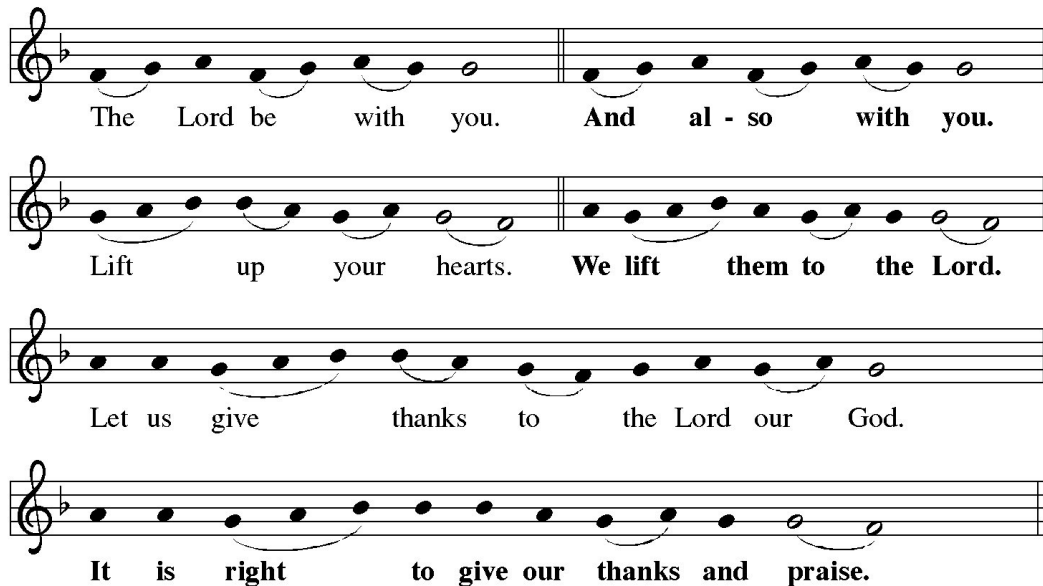
*Zipoli*

## OFFERING HYMN ELW #686 *We Give Thee but Thine Own*

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



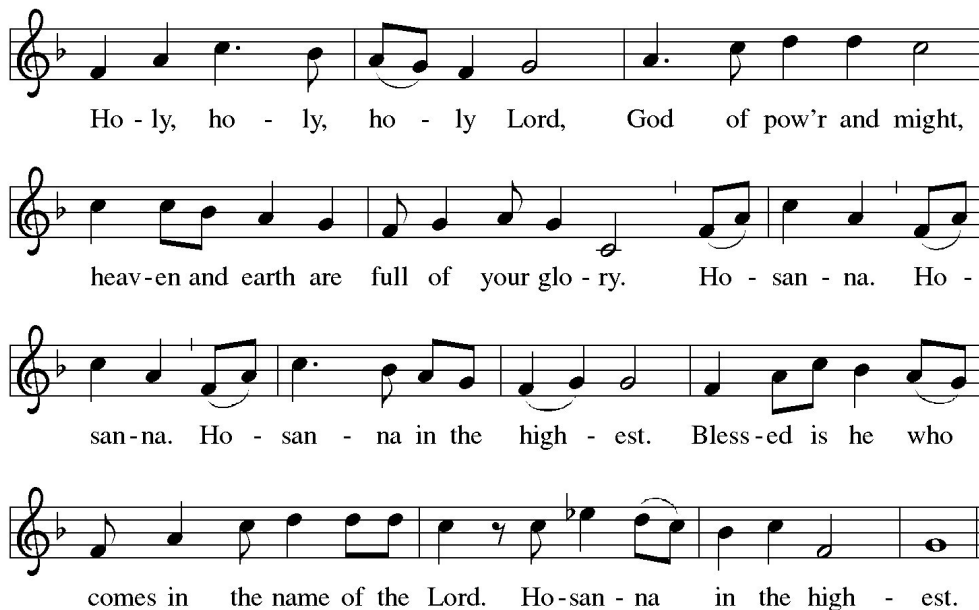
## GREAT THANKSGIVING



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

## **SANCTUS**

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

## **TABLE PRAYER**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**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.**



## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God has fed us from the very beginning; Christ is the Living Bread, given for all Creation and for you today. Come and eat!

**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

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.

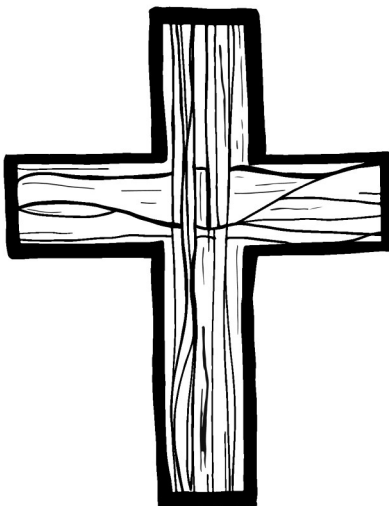
**COMMUNION MUSIC ELW #772**     *Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways*



- 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
- 2 Or - der my foot-steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;
- 3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
- 4 Make me to walk in your com-mands, 'tis a de-light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!  
let sin have no do - min-ion, Lord, but keep my con-science clear.  
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan-d'ring sheep.  
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.



# ELW #808    *Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song*

1 *Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te;*  
 1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;  
 2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.  
 3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,  
 4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;

*Jé - sus, je vou - drais t'an-non-cer à mes voi - sins par - tout,*  
 I'll tell ev - 'ry - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go;  
 May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.  
 to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.  
 but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.

*car toi seul es la vie et la paix et l'a - mour:*  
 you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.  
 May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.  
 For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.  
 And with all of the fam - 'ly you saved by your love,

*Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te.*  
 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.  
 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.  
 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.  
 we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

*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**

Create in us a new heart and a new vision, O God, that the gifts of your Spirit may work in us and renew the face of the earth. May we be one with you so that our work is yours, and your work is ours. Transform our lives to reflect your glory in Creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **SENDING**

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

### **INVITATIONS**

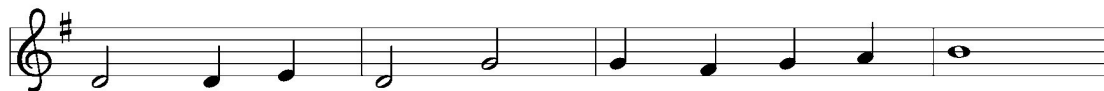
*The assembly is seated as brief invitations are shared, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.*

### **BLESSING**

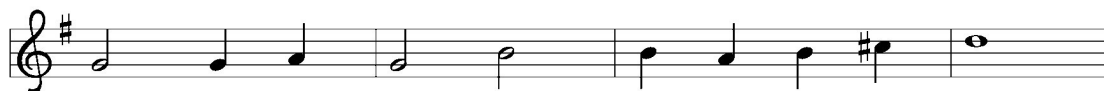
God of the galaxies,  
God of the starburst and sunlit morning,  
God of the forest and shining seas,  
God of the blooming desert and rolling grasslands—  
Father, Son, ✠ and Holy Spirit, shine on you and bless you.

**Amen.**

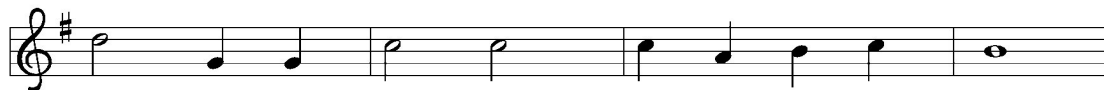
SENDING HYMN ELW #534 *Savior, Again to Your Dear Name*



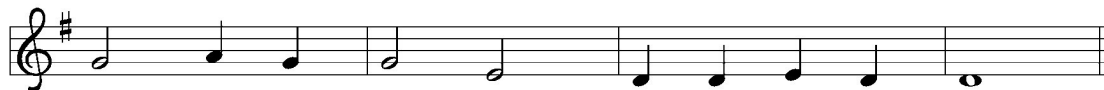
1 Sav - ior, a - gain to your dear name we raise  
 2 Grant us your peace up - on our home - ward way;  
 3 Grant us your peace, Lord, through the com - ing night;  
 4 Grant us your peace through - out our earth - ly life,



with one ac - cord our part - ing hymn of praise;  
 with you be - gan, with you shall end the day;  
 for us trans - form its dark - ness in - to light.  
 our balm in sor - row, and our stay in strife;



once more we bless you ere our wor - ship cease,  
 guard all the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,  
 Keep us from harm and dan - ger till the dawn;  
 then, when your voice shall bid our con - flict cease,



then, low - ly bend - ing, wait your word of peace.  
 that in this house have called up - on your name.  
 your eve - ning pres - ence prom - ise to your own.  
 call us, O Lord, to your e - ter - nal peace.

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

**DISMISSAL**

*Children: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

*I'll Praise My Maker*

Page

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

## **Worship Leaders**

Acolyte	<u>8:00 a.m.</u> Sam Venstrom	<u>10:30 a.m.</u> Noah DeJesus
Lector	Denise Maragos	Karen Hernes
Prayer Assistant	Darla Hernandez	Jeri Simms
Communion Assistants	Bob Lockett Betty Lockett	Becky Fry Jeri Simms
Ushers	Scott Steinwart Don MacMillan	Jim Toole
Sound/Light	Lance Nolting	Tony Reinhold
Video/Livestream	_____	
Presiding/Preaching	Bishop Tim Graham	
Pastors	Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr. Rev. Erica Gibson-Even	
Director of Music Ministries	Brian Bartusch	
Communion Baker	Marilyn McGawn	

## **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle**

This week we pray for the churches and people of **Benin, Ivory Coast, Togo**

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

- the beauty, natural resources, wildlife and different cultures in these countries
- the produce that small farmers continue to grow amid environmental and other hardships
- the spiritual vitality and growth of the churches and how they are cooperating with each other and those of other faiths and practices
- the relative peace and stability that prevails after long years of civil war and political struggle.

### **We pray for:**

- more democratic governments that are free of corruption and that prioritize what the people most need
- those working to alleviate the poverty, illiteracy and hunger that so many in these countries still experience
- churches faithfully bringing the gospel to, and serving, all people with greater respect for how those of other faiths express their spirituality
- emotional and physical healing, and restoring hope in people who are victims of conflict, disease and human rights abuses

## **COMMEMORATIONS** **Week of September 7**

### **September 9**

#### **Peter Claver, priest, missionary to Colombia, died 1654**

Born into Spanish nobility, Claver became a Jesuit missionary, and served in present-day Colombia. His ministry was focused on the enslaved people who arrived there. He gave them food and medicine, learned their dialects, and taught them Christianity.

### **September 13**

#### **John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, died 407**

John was a priest in Antioch and an outstanding preacher. His eloquence earned him the nickname “Chrysostom” (“golden mouth”). Appointed bishop of Constantinople, seat of the empire, he criticized corruption in the court. As a result, he was exiled by the empress.

# PEACE WITH CREATION

## SEASON OF CREATION 2025

The Season of Creation is an annual celebration uniting Christians in prayer and action for the protection of our common home. The idea of celebrating 1 September as a day of prayer for creation began at the wish of the Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios in 1989, and was endorsed by Pope Francis in 2015; in 2008 the World Council of Churches began encouraging churches to observe a Time of Creation. The season runs from September 1 to October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

During this season we are encouraged to pray and engage in community events in order to deepen our relationship with our God, our neighbor and the earth we share, being ever more attentive to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

Our Biblical text for this year is Isaiah 32:14-18. The prophet Isaiah pictured the desolated Creation without peace because of the lack of justice and the broken relationship between God and humankind. This description of devastated cities and wastelands eloquently stresses the fact that human destructive behaviours have a negative impact on the Earth.

Our hope: Creation will find peace when justice is restored.  
There is still hope and the expectation for a peaceful Earth.

To hope in a biblical context does not mean to stand still and quiet, but to act, pray, change, and reconcile with Creation and the Creator in unity, metanoia (repentance), and solidarity.

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