

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Called by Christ to be a sanctuary that welcomes and serves all.

23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335

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248-474-0584

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

August 30, 2026

10:00 am

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Mark Fisher

Director of Music: Sean Michael Jackman DMA, Ed.D

Director of Mission Advancement: Ashleigh Altemann

Office Manager

Marie Cook

GATHERING

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

BELL CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship

PRELUDE: We Will Feast in the House of Zion Joshua Moore/Sandra McCracken

WELCOME/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

please stand as you are able

GATHERING HYMN: Morning has Broken ELW 556



1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black - bird has
2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en, like the first
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing, born of the



spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet
one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry



morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965
Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version
Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

In the name of God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven.

Rest in God's love.

Amen

HYMN OF PRAISE

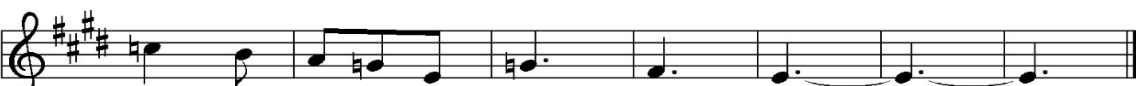
Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



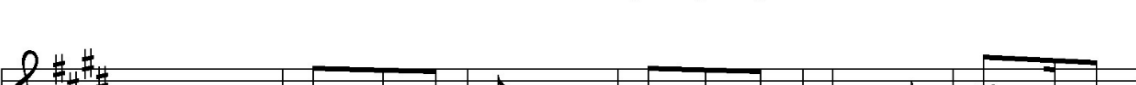
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



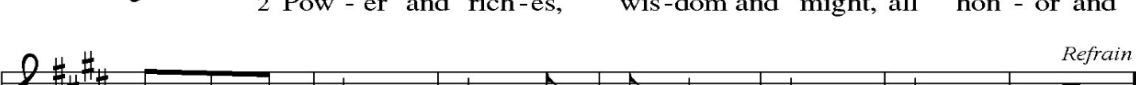
1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



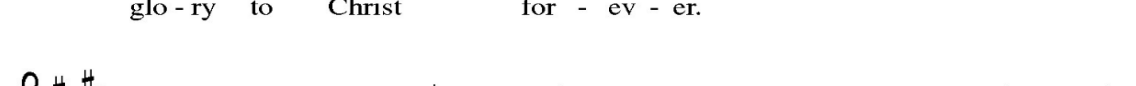
Refrain
freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



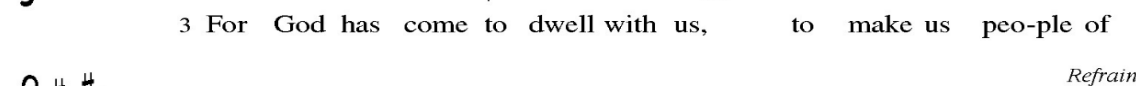
2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



Refrain
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



Refrain
God; to make all things new.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray.... O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the LORD is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

A:¹⁵ O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

¹⁹ Therefore thus says the LORD: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them.

²⁰ And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD.

²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

A: The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 26:1-8

Your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you. (Ps. 26:3)

A: Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity;
I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

C: Test me, O LORD, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.

A: For your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.

C: I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful.

The Psalm continues next page

A: I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked.

C: **I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD, that I may go in procession round your altar,**

A: singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

C: **LORD, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides.**

SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

A: ⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord."

²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Optional Repeat

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 16th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord

After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”

P: ²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON: "" Pastor Sue Lidums

HYMN OF THE DAY: Build a Longer Table ACS 1062

Build a Longer Table



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
 2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
 3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
 4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
 where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
 Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
 Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
 For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
 When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
 So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
 Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
 Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel - come here.
 None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

CONFESSION OF FAITH: A New Creed

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus,
 the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,
 who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence,
 to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others,
 to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified
 and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISE REPORTS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

A: For the church in every land, that its mission and ministry is anchored in the love of Christ. When threats or challenges arise, teach us to take up our cross and follow you in faith.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

A: For the well-being of your creation, that all that lives and grows on the earth may thrive. Bring relief to areas ravaged by droughts, floods, fires, storms, and other disasters (especially).

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

A: For the nations and all in authority, that they seek to live in peace with one another. Bless the work of international and diplomatic organizations and all who work to bring peace to a world scarred by violence. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

A: For all those in need, that they be satisfied. Ensure all your children have safe access to food, water, shelter, and medical care. Bring healing to all who bear wounds in body, mind, and spirit (especially). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

A: For the congregation gathered here to serve you, that they remain strong in faith and united in purpose. Guide our committees, study groups, and other meetings toward honesty and humility, always seeking genuine love. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: For the faithful departed, that their witness continues to strengthen and guide the church. Renew our hope in your promises in this life and the life to come. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

P: Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Christ.

OFFERING MUSIC: Will You Come and Follow Me John Bell/Graham Maule

OFFERING PRAYER: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.

Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

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:

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us 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

P: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

Pastor/Presider extends invitation to online participants to partake of communion The
body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you. Amen

LAMB OF GOD

Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
you break the chains of ha - tred and
you are the way of jus - tice and
you are the bread of life for us

Congregation:

world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
fear:
peace:
all:

Final Stanza
Congregation or Assistant:

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,
grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION MUSIC: I Want Jesus to Walk with Me Spiritual/Traditional

Please stand as you are able

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

SENDING

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

CLOSING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.....

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are
filled with the abundance of your love.

Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely,
as you have shared with us.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us
now and forever. **Amen.**

RINGING OF THE BELL

BLESSING

P: May God bless us with discomfort, at easy answers and half-truths,
so that we may live deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation
of people, so that we may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

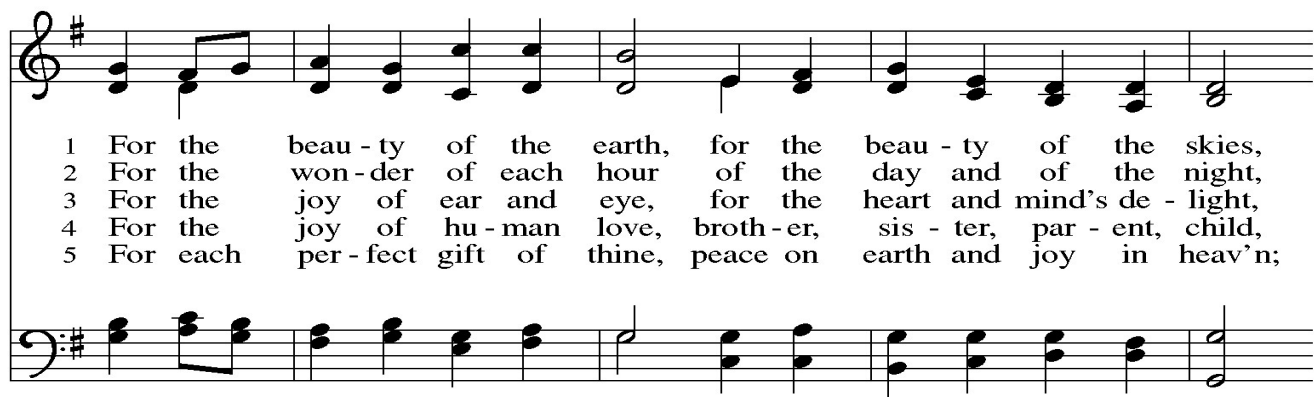
May God bless us with tears, to shed for those who suffer from
pain, rejection, starvation, and war.

So that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and to turn
their pain into joy.

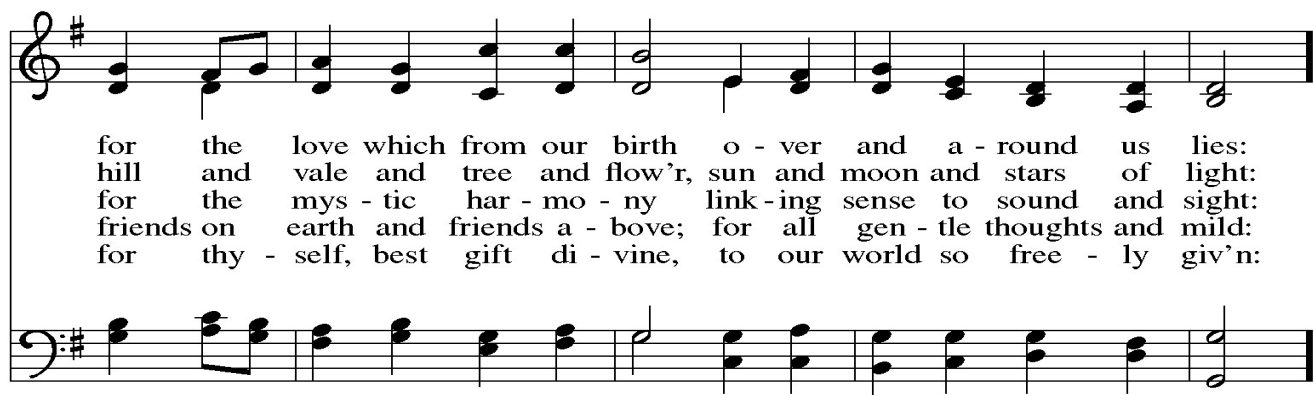
And may God bless us with enough hope to believe that through Christ,
we can make a difference in this world.

Amen

SENDING HYMN: For the Beauty of the Earth ELW 879 V1 V2 and V5



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:



Refrain
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

DISMISSAL

A: We are called by Christ

C: to be a Sanctuary that Welcomes and Serves All.

A: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Goin' to Shout (I Got a Robe) Spiritual/Traditional Arr. Charles Fonteyn Manney

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Now the Feast and Celebration Text: Marty Haugen b. 1950

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Build a Longer Table

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

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