The Words of Institution

The service of holy communion is a celebration of the presence of God and Christ among us and a feast of bounty for all. In this place, all are welcome to partake. You will be directed, row by row, to come forward. The server will place the bread in your open palms. Gluten-free wafers are available. You are invited to either partake of the common cup containing wine or you may choose to take one of the individual cups containing grape juice. If you wish to take communion using intinction (dipping the bread), please use the individual cups.

The Communion Anthem — *Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)* — Sonja Poorman

*The Communion Response — LAAST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter, One God Triune, whom we adore.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

*The Closing Hymn No. 617 — *Unite and Join Your Cheerful Songs*
(Stanzas 1, 2, 4) — AMAZING GRACE (NEW BRITAIN)

*The Benediction — Rev. Hankamer

*The Postlude and Recessional — *Trumpet Tune* — Michael McCabe

(Following the Choir's recession, you may quietly follow or be seated until the conclusion of the postlude

At Northminster, Everyone Is a Minister
Our Equipping Ministers

Senior Pastor: Rev. Jillian Hankamer
Director of Music: Rev. Dr. Deborah Chandler
Organist/Musician in Residence: Rev. Dr. D.H. Clark
Music Associate: Mr. Justin Havard
Choral Intern: Miss Naomi Kilpatrick
Admin. Assistant: Ms. Renee Decker
In Memoriam Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy, Senior Pastor 1992-2016

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Do Justice, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly with God. MICAH 6:8

NORTHMINSTER Church

The Worship of God

The Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost
August 23, 2026

Welcome to our service at Northminster Church. We believe that true worship is an active experience for each worshipper. As we become aware of the presence of those seated near us let us enter into the realization that this hour provides us with an opportunity to encounter the Holy. At this time, please silence all electronic devices. Then, please sign and pass the attendance register on the inside aisle of each row so we can know of your presence with us.

Gathering for Worship

The Preludes — *Pièce fugitives No. 1 & 3* – Clara Schumann — 10:45 a.m.
Un sussurro di brivido - Thomas Newman
T*here is a Balm in Gilead* – Spiritual, arr. Fred Bock

The Chiming of the Hour — 11:00 a.m.

The Welcome and Opportunities — Rev. Jillian Hankamer

The Call to Worship

One: A man comes to Jesus carrying a question that refuses to stay quiet: *What must I do to inherit eternal life?*
Many: We bring the same question but fear the answer.
One: We know how to earn, achieve, accumulate, and hold on. But Jesus calls us beyond the life we can secure for ourselves.
Many: Teach us to listen and follow.
One: Come with your questions, your longing, and your full hands. Come ready to follow Jesus into a life greater than the one you can build for yourself.
Many: We are ready.
One: Let us worship God.

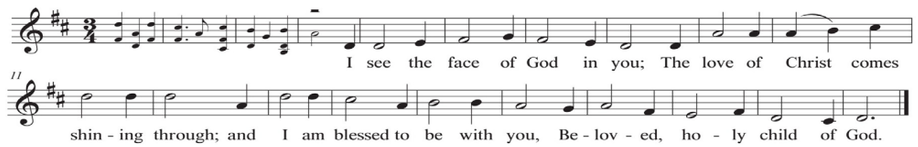
**Please rise, if able, in body or in spirit.*

*The Processional *(Please rise in body or in spirit as the processional cross passes your row)*

*The Opening Hymn No. 4 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You
HYMN TO JOY

Listening for God in Word, Music, and Prayer

The Children's Message



The Voluntary *La Lettre* Thomas Newman

The Psalter Psalm 8



The Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that our hands are full, and we are afraid to open them. We cling to what we own, what we have accomplished, and the security we have built. We measure our lives by what we can accumulate, protect, and control, even when you are calling us toward something more. We want eternal life, but we do not always want to surrender the lives we have made for ourselves. We want to follow Jesus, but we hesitate when following means letting go. Forgive us for confusing abundance with blessing, possession with security, and success with faithfulness. Forgive us for seeing what we have as proof that we have earned more than others. Teach us to receive instead of grasping. Teach us to trust instead of control. Teach us to see what we have not as something to protect, but as something we can release for the sake of others. Jesus, you look upon us with love. Give us the courage to let go. Amen

The Assurance of Grace

One: Hear the good news: God's grace is not something we earn or possess; it is freely given.

Many: We are loved, forgiven, and free to receive the life God offers. Amen.

*The Hymn No. 408 *All My Hope on God is Founded*
MICHAEL

*The Gospel Acclamation D.H. Clark

The light of good news shines forth! Glory be to You, O Christ

*The Gospel Reading Luke 4:16-21; 18:18-30

One: The Gospel of the Lord.

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

Choir: May the light of these words guide our path. *Praise be to You, O Christ.*

The Sermon ***Jubilee and the Kingdom of Heaven*** Rev. Hankamer

The Anthem *How Great Thou Art* **arr.** Dan Forrest

Dedicating Gifts to God

The Offertory is a time of personal devotion and reflection on the day's teaching, and an opportunity to present silently before God what we can give of ourselves. Monetary gifts, which are an important part of our worship and commitment to our church, may be made privately in the offering plate located in the aisle at the back of the sanctuary or via PayPal by scanning the QR Code found on the insert.

Sharing Holy Communion

The Invitation to Communion

The Prayer of Jesus Paraphrase by Thomas B. Turner

How deep within You are! How high above, how far beyond! Your name be hallowed. Your new creation come. Your way be followed everywhere. Give us bread to share. Forgive us the wounds that we have caused and help us forgive those who have wounded us. Do not let evil exploit our weaknesses or hold us in bondage, but let Your grace heal and free us, Your love sustain, Your spirit enliven, Your wisdom guide. And may our last word to You always be, "Yes."

**Please rise, if able.*