

16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023

8:30 & 11:00 am and Livestream



FAITH . DISCIPLESHIP . COMMUNITY
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1515 Emmorton Road
Bel Air, Maryland 21014
410-838-8081

The Rev. Alejandro Mejia, Interim Senior Pastor
The Rev. William (Bill) Gohl, Jr., Interim Associate Pastor

In our Lutheran Tradition, liturgy reminds us that we are one in Christ, hence we do it together! Therefore, words in bold and designated by a "C" are the responses from the community.

Enter Reverently. Meditate Quietly. Worship Joyfully. Serve Christ Faithfully.

✦ GATHERING ✦

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

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

P *Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ✠ Jesus who bears the cross,
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.*

C **Amen.**

P *Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.*

Silence is kept for reflection.

P *Steadfast and faithful God,*

C **you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you.
We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering.
We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.
For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.
For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation,
for the way we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive
us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name
of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

P *Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always
making a new way for us. In ✠ Christ, you are already and always
forgiven.*

C **Amen.**



1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we
2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -
3 Lo, the ap - os - tol - ic train join your sa - cred
4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,



bow be - fore you. All on earth your scep - ter claim,
bove are rais - ing; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
name to hal - low; proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
three we name you, though in es - sence on - ly one;



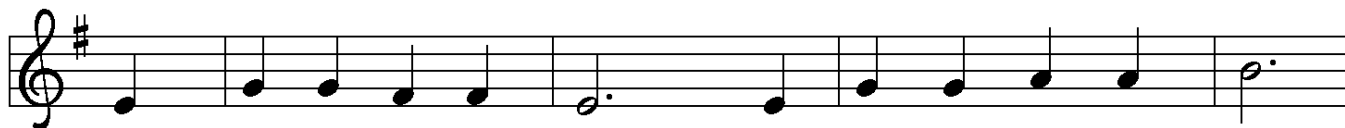
all in heav'n a - bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your
in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heav'ns with
and the white-robed mar - tyrs fol - low; and from morn to
un - di - vid - ed God we claim you and, a - dor - ing,



vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"
set of sun through the church the song goes on.
bend the knee while we own the mys - ter - y.

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.**



P *The Lord be with you.*

C **And also with you.**

P *Let us pray. O Lord God,*

C **merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated.

✦ THE WORD ✦

First Reading

Genesis 50:15-21

A *A reading from Genesis. ¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.*

A *The word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 103:8-13

A *⁸Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;*

C *⁹**you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.***

A *¹⁰You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.*

C *¹¹**For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.***

A *¹²As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.*

C *¹³**As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.***

Second Reading

Romans 14:1-12

A *A Reading from Paul's letter to the Romans. ¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.*

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

A *The word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

P *The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.*

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

Please be seated.

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn of the Day

When the Poor Ones

No. 725



- 1 Cuan-do_{el} po - bre na - da tie - ne y aún re - par - te,
1 When the poor ones, who have noth - ing, still are giv - ing;
2 When com - pas - sion gives the suf - f'ring con - so - la - tion;
3 When our spir - its, like a chal - ice, brim with glad - ness;
4 When the good - ness poured from heav - en fills our dwell - ings;



cuan - do al - guien pa - sa sed ya - gua nos da,
when the thirst - y pass the cup, wa - ter to share;
when ex - spect - ing brings to birth hope that was lost;
when our voic - es, full and clear, sing out the truth;
when the na - tions work to change war in - to peace;



cuan-do_{el} dé - bil a su her - ma - no for - ta - le - ce:
when the wound - ed of - fer oth - ers strength and heal - ing:
when we choose love, not the ha - tred all a - round us:
when our long - ings, free from en - vy, seek the hum - ble:
when the strang - er is ac - cept - ed as our neigh - bor:

Refrain / Estribillo



Va Dios mis - mo en nues - tro mis - mo ca - mi - nar;
We see God, here by our side, walk - ing our way;



va Dios mis - mo en nues - tro mis - mo ca - mi - nar.
we see God, here by our side, walk - ing our way.

A *Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostle's Creed.*
C **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 into hell. 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.

A *Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.*

A brief silence.

After each portion of the prayers:

A *Merciful God,*
C **receive our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

P *Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.*

C **Amen.**

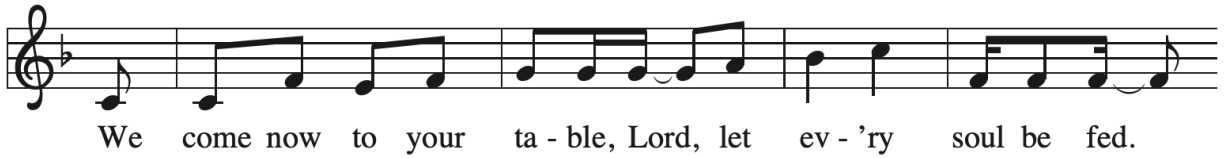
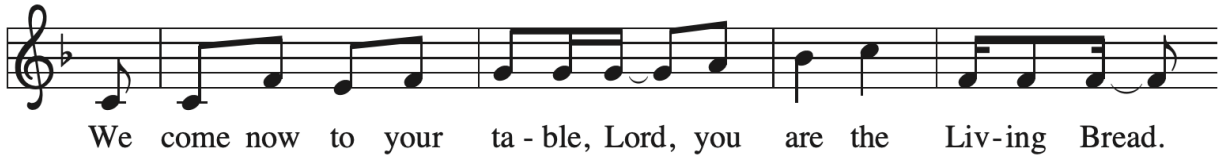
P *The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

C **And also with you.**

After sharing the peace, please be seated.

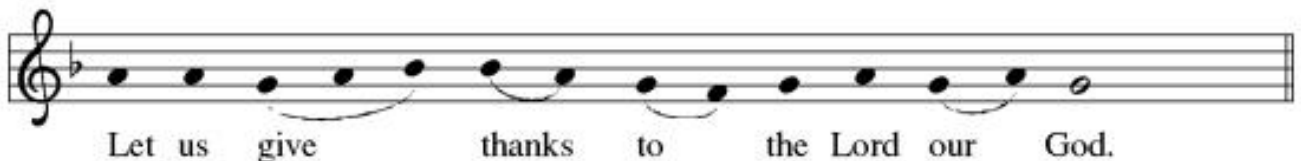
Offering and Offertory

Please stand, as you are able.



A *Let us pray. God of power, God of plenty,*
C **all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

✦THE EUCHARIST✦



The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the season; the congregation responds:

1*



Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer
You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

2



Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,
You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

P *In the night in which he was betrayed...*

Again, after supper...

*Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:*

C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P *We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal;
among your people; throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and
thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your
church, without end.*

C **Amen.**

P *Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:*

C **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy
kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as
we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever
and ever. Amen.**

P *Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please be seated.

We welcome to the table all who proclaim with us that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and the wine. (Note: should you prefer, we also offer gluten free wafers and grape juice. Just let the Pastor or Assistants know.)

*If you require communion to be brought to you in the pew, please alert an usher.
During the distribution of communion, the following is sung:*



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Draw Us In the Spirit's Tether

No. 470



1 Draw us in the Spir - it's teth - er, for when hum - bly
2 As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of
3 All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -



in your name two or three are met to - geth - er,
Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er
ments of you, that by car - ing, help - ing, giv - ing,



you are in the midst of them. Al - le - lu - ia!
break the bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia!
we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.
Al - le - lu - ia! so now bind our friend - ship up.
Al - le - lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.

When We Are Living

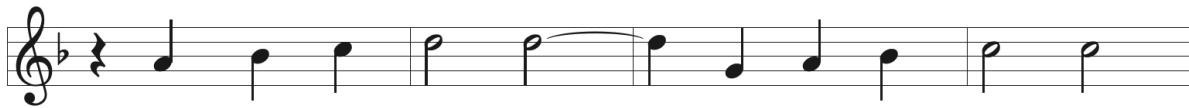
No. 639



Pues si vi - vi - mos, pa - ra él vi - vi - mos,
 1 When we are liv - ing, it is in Christ Je - sus,
 2 'Mid times of sor - row and in times of pain,
 3 A - cross this wide world, we shall al - ways find



y si mo - ri - mos pa - ra él mo - ri - mos.
 and when we're dy - ing, it is in the Lord. . . .
 when sens - ing beau - ty or in love's em - brace, . . .
 those who are cry - ing with no peace of mind; . . .



Sea que vi - va - mos o que mu - ra - mos,
 Both in our liv - ing and in our dy - ing,
 wheth - er we suf - fer, or sing re - joic - ing,
 and when we help them, or when we feed them,



so - mos del Se - ñor, so - mos del Se - ñor.
 we be - long to God, we be - long to God.
 we be - long to God, we be - long to God.
 we be - long to God, we be - long to God.

After all have communed, please stand, as you are able.

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

C **Amen.**

A *Let us pray. Blessed be your name, O God,*
C **for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Blessing of Quilts and School Kits

Blessing of Quilts and School Kits

P *God, we give you thanks for the pieces of fabric, thread, sewing machines, and the school supplies collected for the kits. May their presence be a sign of hope and love to our neighbors around the world.*

C **Jesus, help us reach out in hope to our neighbors.**

P *God, we give thanks for all the volunteer hands that fashioned hope into a quilt, for the hands that collected and sorted, for the hands that continually open wider so that no one feels left out. We give you thanks for those who provided these materials and their generosity.*

C **Jesus, help us see hope in our neighbors.**

P *God, we ask you to guide the staff and partners at LWR. May their voices and hands be a beacon of hope. Keep them safe. Keep them filled with your strength and perseverance.*

C **Jesus, help us share a taste of hope with our neighbors.**

P *God, be with our neighbors who will receive these gifts. May they be wrapped in love, may they taste your goodness, may they touch signs of your hope. Whether or not we know their names or where they live, they are our neighbors, our siblings in Christ. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the One who is our hope.*

C **Amen.**

✦ SENDING ✦

P *May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shines on you with grace and mercy. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Parent, ✠ the Son and the Holy Spirit.*

C **Amen.**

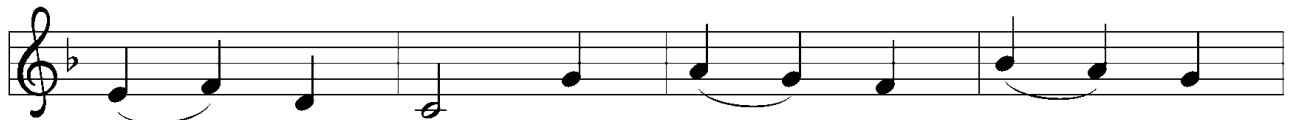
Sending Hymn

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

No. 551



| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|---------|-----|--------|
| 1 | The | Spir - it | sends | us | forth | to | serve; | we | go | in |
| 2 | We | go | to | com - | fort | those | who | mourn | and | set |
| 3 | We | go | to | be | the | hands | of | Christ, | to | scat - |
| 4 | Then | let | us | go | to | serve | in | peace, | the | gos - |
| | | | | | | | | | | pel |



| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|-------|--------|-------|-------|------|-------|---|------|
| Je | - | sus' | name | to | bring | glad | tid | - | ings |
| bur | - | dened | free; | where | hope | is | dim, | | to |
| joy | | like | seed | and, | all | our | days, | | to |
| to | | pro - | claim. | God's | Spir | - | it | | em - |



| | | | | | | | | |
|--------|------|-------|-------|------|-----|-------|-------|--------|
| to | the | poor, | God's | fa - | vor | to | pro - | claim. |
| share | a | dream | and | help | the | blind | to | see. |
| cher - | ish | life, | to | do | the | lov - | ing | deed. |
| pow - | ered | us; | we | go | in | Je - | sus' | name. |

A *Go in peace. God is at work in you.*

C **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Postlude

Pray for Those That Need God's Healing

*Al, Donna, Lind, Joan, Ed, Marion, Daneene, Doris, Theresa, Charles,
Elaine, Georgeann, Jean, Nicholas, Lois, Barbara & Bruce*

Pray for Members of the Military

*Josh, Michael, Nick, Ryan, Matt, Kyle, Christopher,
Andrew, Jason, and Matthew*

The Flowers are Given to the Glory of God by

*Kirsten Anke in loving memory of her dad, Gordon Anke
on what would have been his 90th birthday.
and by
Carol Meyer in memory of Tom Meyer.*

CONTACT INFORMATION

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
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SERVING TODAY

Greeters

Assisting Minister

Communion Assistants

Ushers

Acolytes

Livestream

8:30 a.m.

Gail Fricke

Tina Zimmerman

Rhonda Messick

Merrill Messick

Matthew Messick

11:00 a.m.

Sherman Canapp, OSSD

Joan Serio

Lisa Steel

Carroll Baker