

18th Sunday after Pentecost

October 1, 2023

8:30 & 11:00 am and Livestream



Icon 4, Lectionary 26A, Sundays and Seasons

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, \dagger 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 \dagger Christ, you are already and always forgiven.*

C **Amen.**

Entrance Hymn

Gather Us In

No. 532



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark-ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through-out all of his-t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a-way— here in this place the new light is shin-ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en, gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion, give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly,
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ple to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

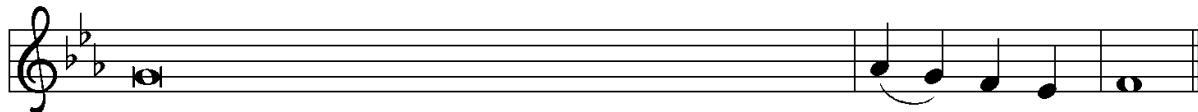
P *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*
C **And also with you.**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



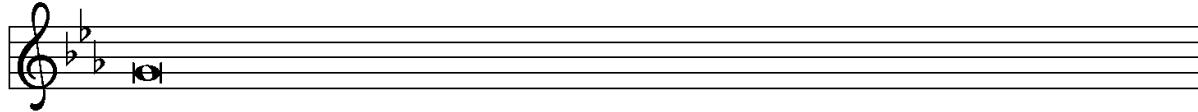
Lord, have mercy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mercy.



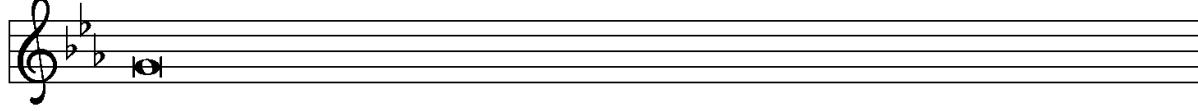
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mercy.



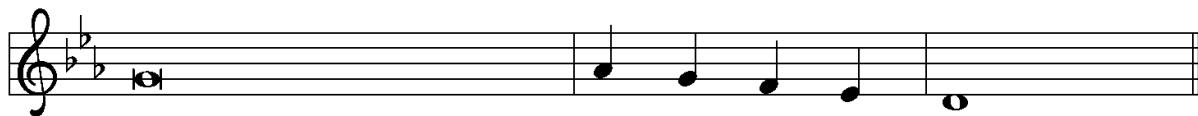
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



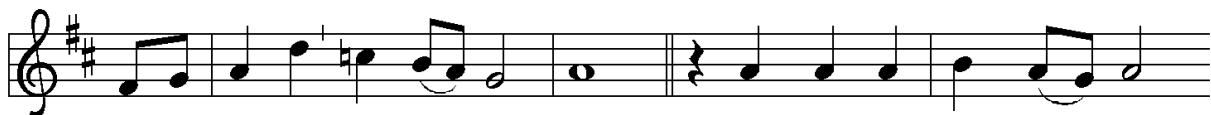
Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.



Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P *The Lord be with you.*

C **And also with you.**

P *Let us pray. God of love, giver of life,*

C **you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated.

★ THE WORD ★

First Reading

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

A *A Reading from Ezekiel. ¹The word of the Lord came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.*

²⁵Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰*Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin.* ³¹*Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel?* ³²*For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.*

A *The word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God**

Psalm

Psalm 25:1-9

A *To you, O Lord,
I lift up my soul.*

C ²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

A ³*Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.*

C ⁴**Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.**

A ⁵*Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.*

C ⁶**Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

A ⁷*Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.*

C **⁸You are gracious and upright, O Lord; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

Second Reading

Philippians 2:1-13

A *A Reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians.* ¹*If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,*

*⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,*

*⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.*

*And being found in human form,
⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.*

*⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,*

¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

A *The word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:23-32

P *The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.*
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this

authority?’’²⁴Jesus said to them, ‘‘I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things.²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?’’ And they argued with one another, ‘‘If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’’²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.’’²⁷So they answered Jesus, ‘‘We do not know.’’ And he said to them, ‘‘Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸‘‘What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’²⁹He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went.³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go.³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?’’ They said, ‘‘The first.’’ Jesus said to them, ‘‘Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.’’

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

Please be seated.

Sermon

The Rev. Alejandro Mejia

Please stand as you are able.

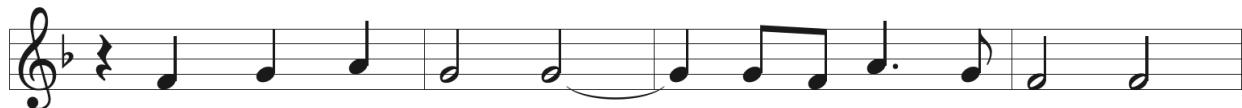
Hymn of the Day

When We Are Living

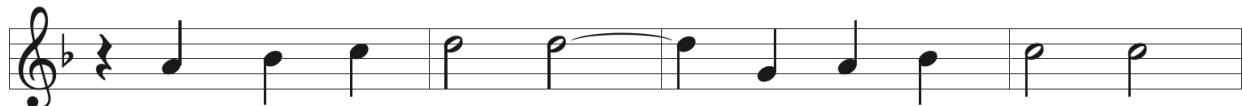
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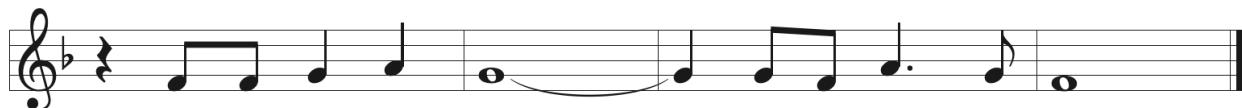
Pues si vi - vi - mos, pa - ra él vi - vi - mos,
1 When we are liv - ing, it is in Christ Je - sus,
2 'Mid times of sor - row and in times of pain,
3 A - cross this wide world, we shall al - ways find



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.

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.



We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, you are the Liv-ing Bread.



We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, let ev - 'ry soul be fed.



You are the Living Bread, let ev - 'ry soul be fed:



and now may ev - 'ry soul be fed with Liv - ing Bread.

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 Lord be with you. And al - so 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 thanksgiving continues with the preface for the season; the congregation responds:

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 nä - 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 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.

11:00 am - First Communion

We invite each First Communicant, and their parents forward to receive the sacrament.

Strengthen for Service, Lord

No. 497

1 Streng - then for ser - vice, Lord, the hands that ho - ly
 2 The tongues that sang your ho - ly name now purge of
 3 And may the feet that walked your courts be nev - er

things have ta - - ken; and let the ears that heard your
 all de - cep - - tion; keep bright the eyes that saw your
 lured to wan - - der; but lead the faith - ful nour - ished

word to false - hood nev - er wak - - en.
 love and sharp - en their per - cep - - tion.
 here to jour - - ney on in splen - - dor.

Here is Bread

No. 483

1 Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us, he is with us.
 2 Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us, he is with us.
 3 Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us, he is with us.

Break the bread, taste the wine, Christ is with us here.
 Know his grace, find his peace, feast on Je - sus here.
 We'll pro - claim till he comes Je - sus cru - ci - fied.

Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950

Music: Graham Kendrick

Text and music © 1991 Make Way Music, admin. by Music Services in the Western Hemisphere

HERE IS BREAD

33 44 33 5 and refrain

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.**

8:30 am - Blessing of Home Communion Kits

We are blessed to have Lay Eucharistic Ministers serving here at LCGS. On the first Sunday of each month, the bread and the wine they carry in their home communion kits are consecrated during our service. Home communion is then offered throughout the month to those who are unable to join us here. If you would like to join this ministry, know of someone who would like to receive home communion, or want more information, please contact the church office.

P *Let us pray. Compassionate God, as Jesus called disciples to follow him, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick and homebound. May these gifts be signs of our love and prayers, that through the sharing of the body and blood of Christ, all may know your grace and healing revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

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.*

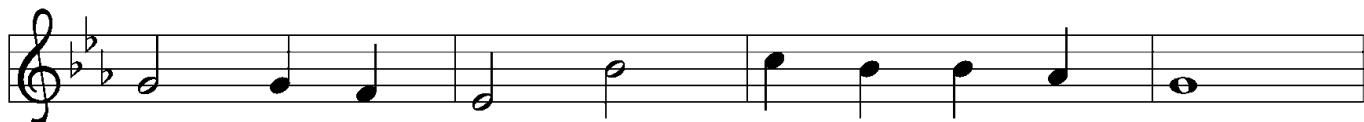
C **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

Abide with Me

Verses 1, 3 & 5

No. 629



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.
O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.
I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!
in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

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

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

Postlude

The Flowers are Given to the Glory of God by

Dave Stark in Celebration of 40 wonderful years of marriage.

Pray for Those That Need God's Healing

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

Pray for our New Communicants

*Daniel Kromm
Ethan Kromm
Madison Hennessey*

Pray for Members of the Military

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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SERVING TODAY

	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
Greeters	Gail Fricke	
Assisting Minister	Sherman Canapp, OSSD	Sherman Canapp, OSSD
Communion Assistants	Sue Quinn	Carol Meyer Angela Wachter
Ushers	Doyle McCracken	
Acolytes		
Livestream		Joel Raedeke