

7th Sunday after Pentecost

July 16, 2023

9:30 am and Livestream



Icon 1, Lectionary 15a, 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.

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 the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.*

C **Amen.**

P *Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.*

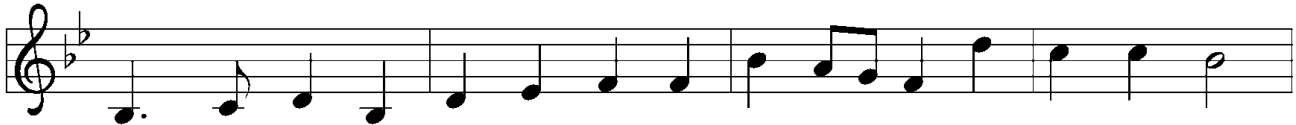
Silence is kept for reflection.

P *To you, O God,*

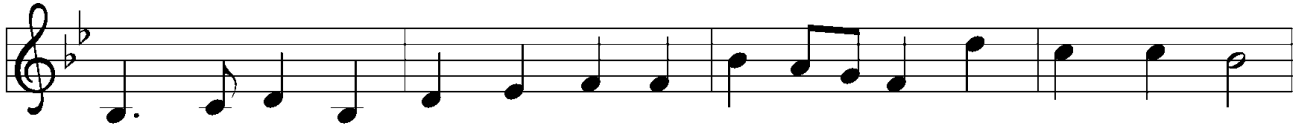
C **all hearts are open, to you all desires known. We come to you, confessing our sins. Forgive us in your mercy, and remember us in your love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

P *By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of † Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins. The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life.*

C **Amen.**



- 1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
- 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
- 3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant-ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
- 4 Thou my faith in-crease and quick-en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
- 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



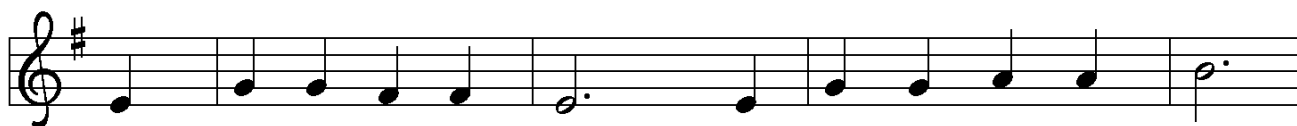
where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
let my soul, where it is plant-ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick-en, may thy word still o'er me shine
may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.

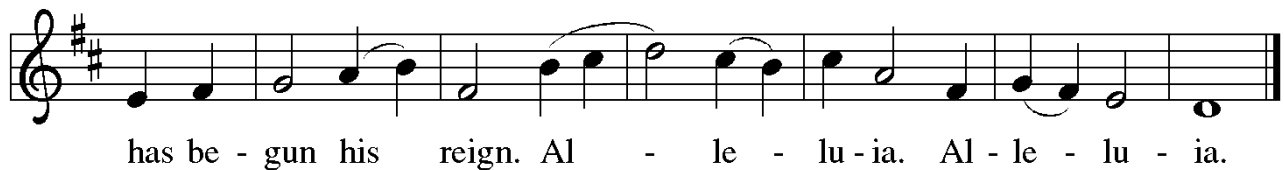
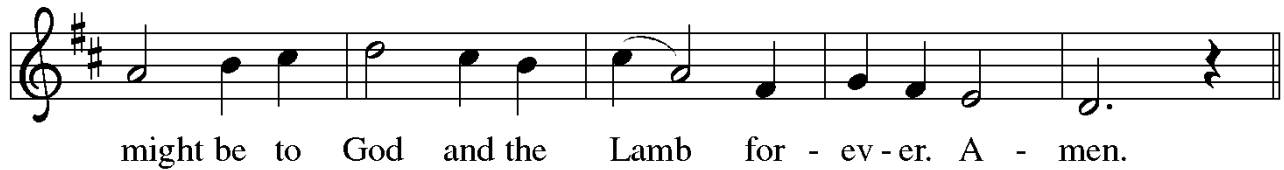
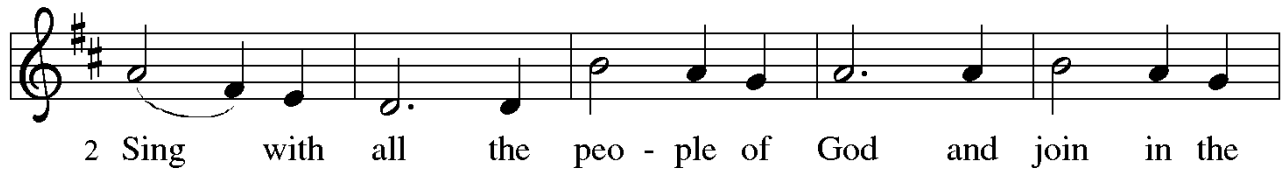


Oh, how bless-ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
as my guid-ing star through life, as my com-fort in all strife.
Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

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. Almighty God,*

C **we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated.

First Reading

Isaiah 55:10-13

A *A reading from Isaiah. ¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth,*

*making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.*

*¹²For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.*

*¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.*

A *The Word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 65: 9-13

Read Responsively

A *⁹You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water.
You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.*

C **¹⁰You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

A *¹¹You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.*

C *¹²May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.*

A *¹³May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys
cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.*

Second Reading

Romans 8:1-11

A *A reading from Romans. ¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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 13:1-9, 18-23

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

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

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!"

¹⁸"Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and

snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

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

Please be seated.

Sermon

The Rev. Karen Pugatch

Please stand as you are able.



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be 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 *Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.*

A brief silence.

After each portion of the prayers:

A *Hear us, O God.*

C **Your mercy is great.**

The prayers conclude:

P *Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.*

C **Amen.**

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

C **And also with you.**

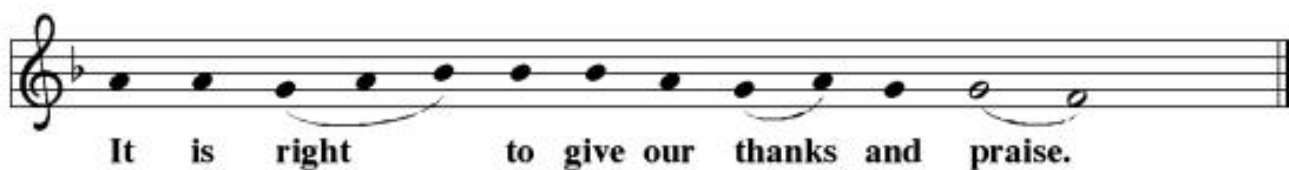
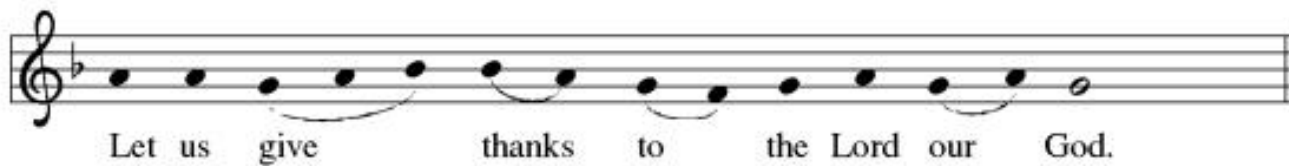
After sharing the peace, please be seated.

Offering and Offertory

Please stand, as you are able.



A *Let us pray. God of field and forest, sea and sky,*
C **you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**



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 *Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.*

C **We praise you, O God.**

P *Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.*

C **We bless you, O God.**

P *We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.*

C **We thank you, O God.**

P *In the night in which....*

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 *All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.*

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.

What Is This Place

No. 524



1 What is this place where we are meet-ing? On - ly a house, the
2 Words from a - far, stars that are fall - ing, sparks that are sown in
3 And we ac - cept bread at this ta - ble, bro - ken and shared, a



earth its floor. Walls and a roof shel - ter - ing peo - ple,
us like seed: names for our God, dreams, signs and won - ders
liv - ing sign. Here in this world, dy - ing and liv - ing,



win-dows for light, an o - pen door. Yet it be-comes a bod - y that lives
sent from the past are all we need. We in this place re - mem-ber and speak
we are each oth-er's bread and wine. This is the place where we can re - ceive



when we are gath - ered here, and know our God is near.
a - gain what we have heard: God's free re - deem-ing word.
what we need to in - crease: our jus - tice and God's peace.

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

No. 516



- 1 Al-might - y God, your word is cast like seed in - to the ground;
- 2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe this ho - ly seed re - move,
- 3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,
- 4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, life - giv - ing grace be - stow,



now let the dew of heav'n de - scend and righ - teous fruits a - bound.
but give it root in ev - 'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.
but let it yield a hun - dred - fold the fruits of peace and joy.
that all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing pow'r may know.

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. We thank you, generous God,*

C **for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table.
Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,
through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P *The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shines on you with grace and mercy. 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.**



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



the peo - ple of our God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing



to give work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
to hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

A *Nourished by God's words and sacraments,*
C **we go out to bear a living witness to the gospel**

A *Empowered by the Holy Spirit,*
C **we go out to be God's church wherever we go**

A *Go in peace and serve each other.*
C **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Postlude

The Flowers on the Altar are given to the Glory of God by

*Sharon Powell in honor of her sisters, Joyce Pote and Janet Flippo's,
58th Birthdays.*

Pray for Those That Need God's Healing

*Ray, Betsey, Al, Donna, Lind, Joan, Doris, Theresa, Charles,
Elaine, Georgeann, Jean, Nicholas, Lois, Barbara & Bruce*

Prayers of Comfort

*For Lind and Donna Hostetler on the passing of Lind's mom, Doris Erma
Lind Hostetler. May the blessed hope of the resurrection of our Lord
Jesus comfort Lind, Donna, and family as they mourn.*

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SERVING TODAY

Assisting Minister

Joan Serio

Communion Assistants

Nancy Schmalzer & Janet DeVinney

Ushers

Livestream

Shawn Nesaw