

17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026

8:30, 11:00 a.m. & Livestream



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

The Rev. Drew McCaffery, Pastor

At The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, we embrace the uniqueness of every individual and respect their dignity and worth, for all are created in the image of God. We strive to welcome everyone in the fullness of who they are.

Let us call together for reconciliation, and live out God's vision of love for people of every sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, socio-economic status, age, physical or mental ability, political persuasion, race, ethnicity, and personal history. Let us walk together to strive for racial equity, as Jesus calls us to do.

All people are welcome here to worship, build community, and grow together as Jesus' disciples at this place.



✦ GATHERING ✦

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

P *Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.*

C **Amen.**

P *Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.*

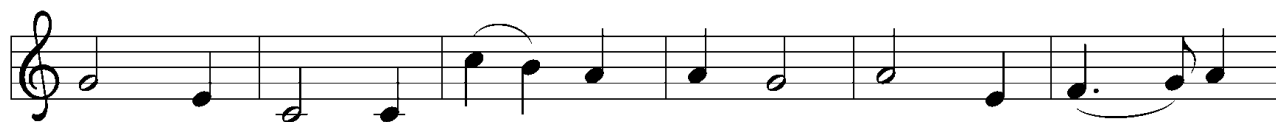
Silence is kept for reflection.

P *Compassionate God,*

C **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

P *Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.*

C **Amen.**



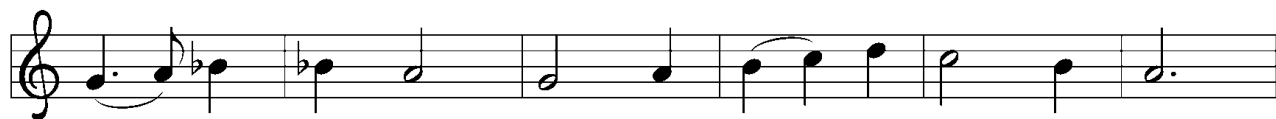
1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and
 2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -
 3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may
 4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent



suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom
 ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance
 low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,
 day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing



as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -
 of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -
 with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions
 peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that



fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.
 ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:
 from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:
 pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:

Refrain



Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

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.**

Hymn of Praise

Bless the Lord

Tore W. Aas

Bless the Lord, O my soul
Bless the Lord, O my soul
Bless the Lord, O my soul
Praise His holy name.

Repeat 2 more times

Sing each line after leader

The Lord is good
He reigns forever
He's merciful
Bless His holy name

Repeat first part 3x

P *The Lord be with you.*

C **And also with you.**

A *Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God,*

C **you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated.

✦ THE WORD ✦

First Reading

Jonah 3:10—4:11

A *A reading from Jonah. ¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.*

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is

better for me to die than to live.”⁴ And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?”⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.”¹⁰ Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night.¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

A *The word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 145:1-8

Read Responsively

A *¹ I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.*

C **² Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

- A ³ *Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.*
- C ⁴ **One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.**
- A ⁵ *I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.*
- C ⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.**
- A ⁷ *They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.*
- C ⁸ **The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Second Reading

Philippians 1:21-30

- A *A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians. ²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.*

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in

Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

A *The word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

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

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

P *[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever*

is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.’”

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

Sermon

The Rev. Drew McCaffery



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

The 8:30 a.m. service continues with the Apostles' Creed on page 14.

Please be seated.

P *In baptism our gracious heavenly Parent frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.*

P *Who presents these children to receive the sacrament?*

Michelle & Mike: I present Josie Marie Scharfe for baptism.

Amy & Jon: I present Mason Alexander Lipka for baptism.

P *David and Krysten, Kimberly and Alex, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Josie Marie and Mason Alexander baptized into Christ?*

David & Krysten: I do.

Kimberly & Alex: I do.

P *As you bring your children to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:*

*to live with Josie and Mason among God's faithful people,
bring them to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed,
and the Ten Commandments,
place in their hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture them in faith and prayer,
so that Josie and Mason may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.*

Do you promise to help Josie and Mason grow in the Christian faith and life?

David & Kyrsten: I do.

Kimberly & Alex: I do.

P **David and Krysten, Kimberly and Alex,** *do you promise to nurture Josie and Mason in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?*

Michelle & Mike: I do.

Amy & Jon: I do.

Please stand, as you are able.

P *People of God, do you promise to support Josie and Mason and pray for them in their new life in Christ?*

C **We do.**

P *Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?*

C **I renounce them.**

P *Do you believe in God the Father?*

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

P *Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?*

C **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 to the dead.
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.**

P *Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?*

C **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.**

Please be seated.

P *The Lord be with you.*

C **And also with you.**

P *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P *Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things.*

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

- P** *Josie Marie, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*
- P** *Sustain Josie with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.*
- P** *Josie Marie, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.*
- P** *Mason Alexander, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*
- P** *Sustain Mason with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.*
- P** *Mason Alexander, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.*
- P** *Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life.*

Pastor introduces the newly baptized to the congregation.

Please stand, as you are able.

- A** *Let us welcome Josie and Mason as our sibling in Christ through baptism.*
- C** **We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

The 11 a.m. service continues with the "Prayers of the Church" on page 14.

A *Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' 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 to the dead. 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.

Prayers of the Church

A *Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.*

A brief silence.

After each portion of the prayers:

A *Hear us, O God.*
C **your mercy is great.**

The prayers conclude:

P *Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.*
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

Choir Anthem

Open My Eyes

Jesse Manibusan

As the gifts are presented, please stand, as you are able.



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

- A** *Let us pray. God of creation,*
C **you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.**

✦THE EUCHARIST✦

- P** *The Lord be with you.*
C **And also with you.**

P *Lift up your hearts.*

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P *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:*

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef, with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est." The score consists of five staves of music. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second staff ends with a double bar line. The third staff ends with a double bar line. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line. The fifth staff ends with a double bar line.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

P *Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance. You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.*

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast. By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P *Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus 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 *Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!*

C **Thanks be to God!**

Please be seated.

All are welcome at the Lord's Table! Whether you are a member of this church or a visitor, the Communion celebrated here is "open" to all who trust that our Lord Jesus Christ—his true Body and his true Blood—is present for All of God's People. (Note: should you prefer, we also offer gluten free wafers and white grape juice.)

During the distribution, the following is sung.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

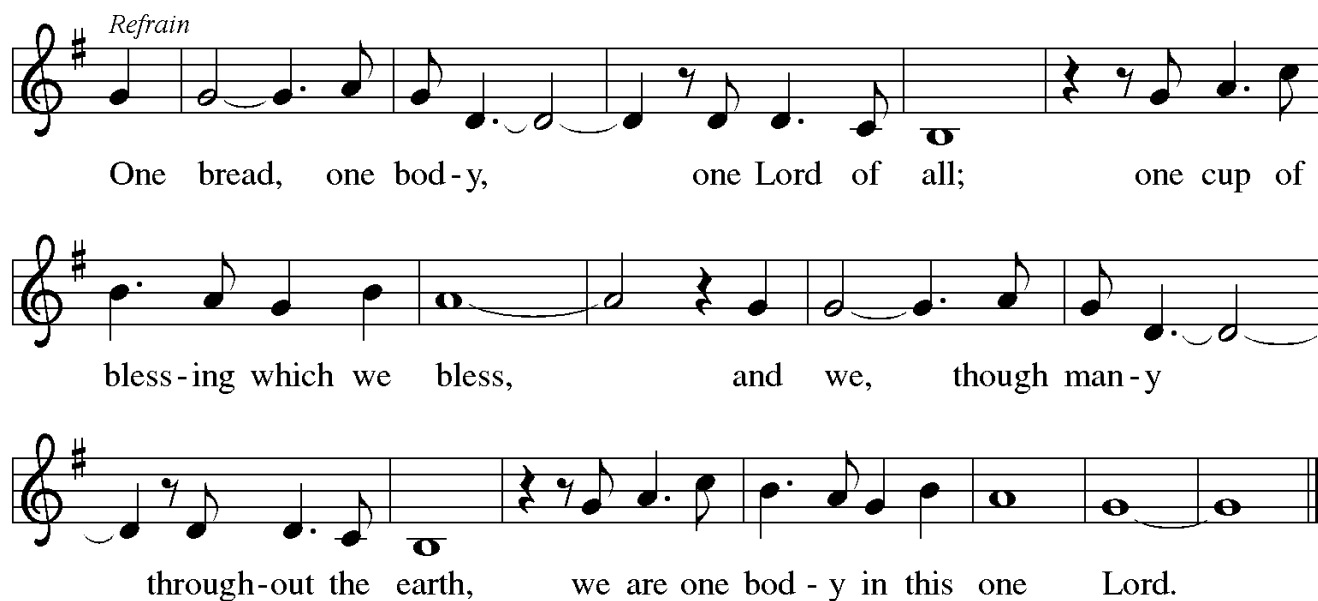
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Communion Hymn

One Bread, One Body *Refrain only after all have communed*

Refrain



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of
bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y
through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.

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. Sustaining God,*

C **with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

✦ SENDING ✦

P *The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.*

C **Amen.**

P *The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.*

C **Amen.**

P *The God of grace ✠ bless you now and forever.*

C **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

Lord of All Hopefulness

No. 765



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

A *Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Pray for Those That Need God's Healing

*Paul, Lynne, Andrea, Al, Joan, Daisy, Betty,
Jean, Nancy, Nick and Lois*

The Altar Flowers are Given to the Glory of God

*by Joni & David Poust in Celebration of their 40th wedding anniversary
and*

by Gina & Tim Miller in thanksgiving of Sam and Jack on their birthdays

As mentioned in our temple talk today, please prayerfully consider reading the study “Conscience and Conversation: A Study During the Reconsideration of the Social Statement Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” and participating in the survey, which ends on September 30th as the ELCA task force called to lead the work around reconsideration prepares a first draft of the social statement for the church to consider. The study, including the survey, linked on page 38, and other information from the task force, is at <https://www.elca.org/social-teachings/2026-human-sexuality-theological-discernment-current-project>.



If you have any questions about the social statement, reconsideration process, or survey, please reach out to Pastor Drew, Janet DeVinney or Connie Charitonuk. Thank you. We look forward to hearing more about the task force's work as this process continues.

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SERVING TODAY

8:30 am

11:00 am

Assisting Minister

Sherman Canapp, OSSD

Teri King

Communion Assistants

Sallie Gartside

Sherman Canapp, OSSD

Ushers

Doyle McCracken

Livestream

Joel Raedeke