

16th Sunday After Pentecost
Pride Sunday - September 28, 2025
8:30 & 11:00 am and Livestream



Through Him, All Things by Lauren Wright Pittman

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 & 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, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.*

C **Amen**

P *Friends, God has named us beloved, and yet, this can be easy to forget. In a world of scarcity and threats, in a world that is rarely satisfied, the bravest thing we can do is trust that we belong here. So let us now turn to confession to tell the truth of our lives—to trust that even here, God’s love is boundless.*

Silence is kept for reflection.

P *Divine Creator,*

C **we come before you with humble hearts, acknowledging our shortcomings and seeking forgiveness. We confess, O God, that we have subjected others to the kind of rejection and misunderstanding that you yourself experienced in the form of Jesus. We try to control the paths of those we love, deeming them “out of their minds” or unworthy of acceptance when they veer from our expectations for how they “should” be or whom they “should” love. Meanwhile, in moments of doubt, we have sometimes sought approval from those who do not understand our truth instead of finding solace in the chosen family you have blessed us with. Have mercy on us, O God, when we have believed what others say about us rather than what you promise. Have mercy on us, O God, when we have caused others to doubt your love. Forgive us for the moments we stand in our own way**

or in the way of others— dimming a God-given light, participating in the silencing of God-given voices.

Grant us the courage to stand in solidarity with our queer and trans siblings, even when doing so puts us at risk or challenges our comfort. In times of fear and uncertainty, may we find solace in your promises, O God. Help us, O God, to live authentically and boldly as the children you created us to be. Give us courage to trust our belovedness even in a world that sometimes threatens to snuff out the life that has been breathed into us by God.

Strengthen us to embody your love and courage in all that we do. Guide us to walk humbly, act justly, and extend grace and mercy to all whom we encounter. May our lives be a reflection of your boundless love and embrace. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

P *Siblings in Christ, as long as we live on this side of heaven, there may be days when self- doubt and insecurity creep in, or moments when fear and external pressures threaten our courage. There will surely be days when we fail to believe our own belovedness or affirm it in those around us.*

Even still, the promises of God are for us. Though the road is long and difficult, nothing can separate us from God's love—not religious doctrine, not denominational decisions, not a person's unbelief, not even our own fears.

Friends, each day is a new chance to affirm life, to start over, and to love more fiercely. We are being renewed daily. This is our hope.

In the name of † Jesus, are all loved, forgiven, embraced, and cherished. We are God's beloved.

C Amen



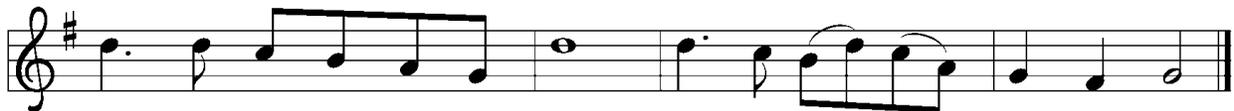
1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



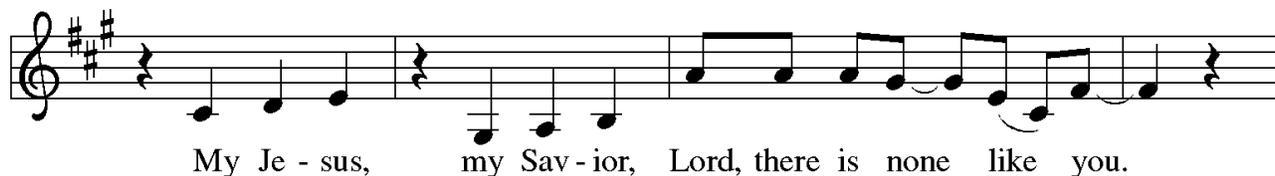
bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

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

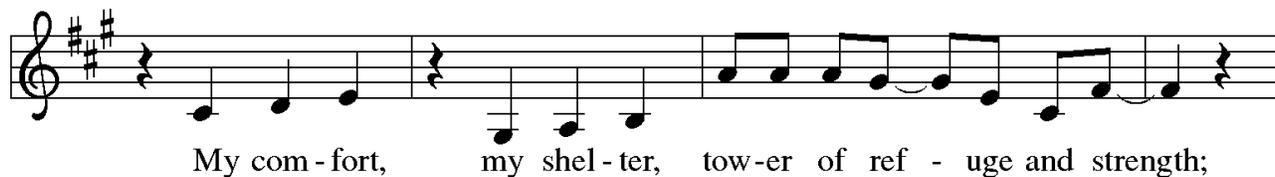
C **And also with you.**



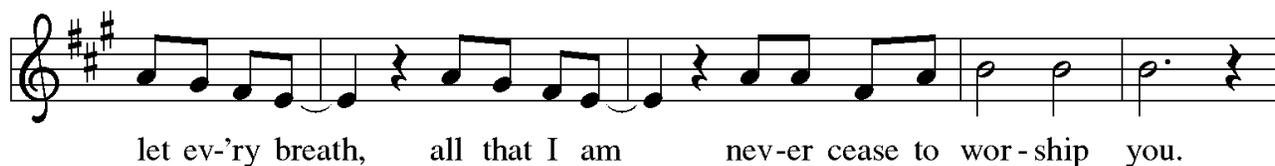
My Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Lord, there is none like you.



All of my days I want to praise the won - ders of your might - y love.



My com - fort, my shel - ter, tow - er of ref - uge and strength;



let ev - ry breath, all that I am nev - er cease to wor - ship you.



Shout to the Lord, all the earth; let us sing pow - er and maj - es - ty, praise



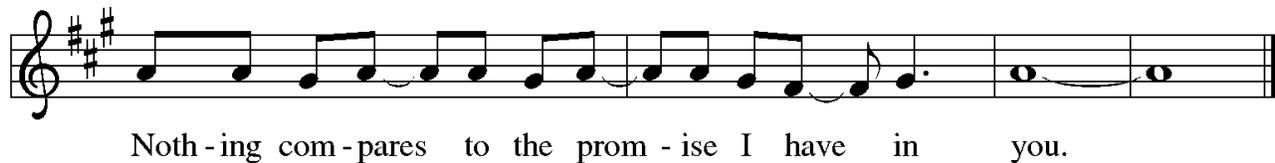
to the King. Moun - tains bow down and the seas will roar at the



sound of your name. I sing for joy at the work of your hands;



for - ev - er I'll love you, for - ev - er I'll stand.



Noth - ing com - pares to the prom - ise I have in you.

P *The Lord be with you.*

C **And also with you.**

A *Let us pray. Loving God, Living Word,*

C **Help us be present to your Spirit moving among us here as we open ourselves to scripture that both comforts and challenges. Breathe your holy wisdom into human words; imbue us with the boldness to wrestle blessing from this book that some have claimed holds nothing for us but condemnation. As we bring old baggage and our own fresh, unique insights, open our hearts and minds to your good news, here and now.**

Please be seated.

✦ **THE WORD** ✦

First Reading

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

A *A reading from Amos. ^{1a} Woe to those who are at ease in Zion and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria.*

*⁴ Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory
and lounge on their couches
and eat lambs from the flock
and calves from the stall,*

*⁵ who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp
and like David improvise on instruments of music,*

*⁶ who drink wine from bowls
and anoint themselves with the finest oils
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!*

*⁷ Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile,
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.*

A *The word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 146

A *¹ Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul!*

C **² I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

A *³ Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help.*

C **⁴ When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.**

A *⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the Lord their God;*

C **⁶ who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;**

A *⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The Lord sets the captive free.*

C **⁸ The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.**

A *⁹ The Lord cares for the stranger; the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.*

C **¹⁰ The Lord shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

Second Reading

1 Timothy 6: 6-19

A *A reading from 1st Timothy. ⁶ Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it, ⁸ but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹ But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness*

to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

¹¹ But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴ to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁶ It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷ As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

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

Luke 16:19-31

P *The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixteenth chapter.*

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

[Jesus said:] ¹⁹ “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’ ²⁵ But Abraham said,

‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶ Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ ²⁷ He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house ²⁸ for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ ³⁰ He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ ³¹ He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

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

Please be seated.

Sermon

The Rev. Drew McCaffery

Please stand as you are able.



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

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 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 *Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.*

A brief silence.

After each portion of the prayers:

A *God of Love,*
C **receive our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

P *Holy One, we lift these prayers and those known only to you. Hold up your beloved children God, guard them, and keep them from all harm. We pray all this in your many and marvelous names.*

C **Amen.**

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

After sharing the peace, please be seated.

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



bless-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. Holy God,*
C **you have gifted us with so much. We lay these gifts before you with hope for a better world where your image is honored in each person. Use them for the building of your kin-dom, and give us courage to dream of that day. In the name of the Beloved we pray, 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 our right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, God of justice and accompaniment, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You made us all in your image; in the spirit of abounding love and creativity, you formed us. You sent us your advocate so that we can know how to advocate for our beloveds as you strengthen us to love and uphold one another. 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 thanksgiving continues with the preface; the congregation responds:



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 *Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.*

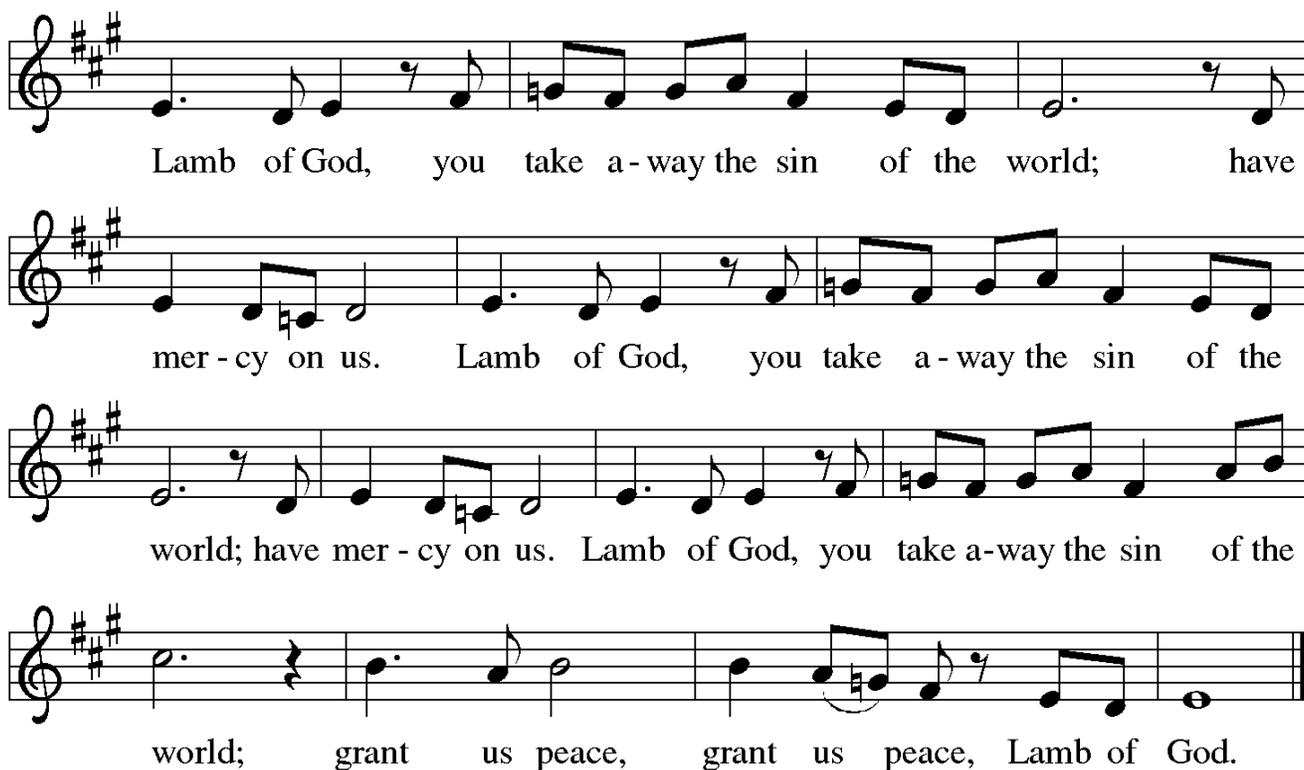
C **Thanks be to God!**

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 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.



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na is our bread.
2 All who hun-ger, nev - er strang - ers; seek - er, be a wel - come guest.
3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil - der - ness and wan - d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
Come from rest - less - ness and roam - ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.
Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full - ness, all a - round us is our food.
We that once were lost and scat - tered in com - mu - nion's love have stood.
Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat - i - tude.



Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

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. O God,*

C **through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

✦ SENDING ✦

P *May the love that binds us together as one family, chosen by God, continue to inspire us to extend grace, compassion, and understanding to all whom we encounter.*

As we go forth from this place, may our particular gifts, personalities, and identities shine brightly within us, ever reflecting the imago dei in us and the belovedness in which we have been shaped.

And may the assurance of God's unwavering presence accompany us on our journey, reminding us that we are never alone, and that we are deeply loved and cherished just as we are.

Go now in the peace of God, the love of Christ, ✠ and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

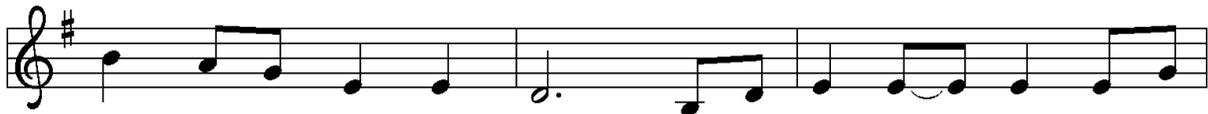
Sending Hymn

Canticle of the Turning

No. 723



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

A *Go in peace and shout from the rooftops that God's love is for ALL – NO EXCEPTIONS!*

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Pray for Those That Need God's Healing

*Paul, Jessie, Kathy, Donna, Al, Andrea, Joan, Teri,
 Betty, Carol, Jean, Lois, Barbara & Bruce*

CONTACT INFORMATION

The Rev. Drew McCaffery	Pr.Drew@lcgsselca.org	(O) 410-838-8081
Sherman Canapp, OSSD Deacon	canappsherman501@gmail.com	(M) 443-904-7013
Jessie Lim, Music Director	Music@lcgsselca.org	(O) 410-838-8081
Gina Miller, Office Manager	officemanager@lcgsselca.org	(O) 410-838-8081
Dawn Love, Church Secretary	officesecretary@lcgsselca.org	(O) 410-838-8081
Council President, Steve Starbuck	council_president@lcgsselca.org	
Treasurer, Linda Ruese	treasurer@lcgsselca.org	
Communications/Web/E-News	communications@lcgsselca.org	
Lois Dobart, Preschool Director	school@lcgsselca.org	(O) 410-838-8457
Web address	www.lcgsselca.org	
WiFi access	SSID: LCGS_Public	Passphrase: public@LCGS

Liturgy has adapted from *Liturgy for Pride Sunday/Imago Dei Sunday*. Original liturgy was developed by Rev. Claudia Aguilar Rubalcava, Avery Arden, Rev. Brooke Scott, and Matt Webb | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

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SERVING TODAY

8:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Assisting Minister

Sherman Canapp, OSSD

Janet DeVinney

Communion Assistant

Gail Fricke

Joan Serio

Ushers

Doyle McCracken

Peggy Thomas
John Helmick

Livestream

Joel Raedecke