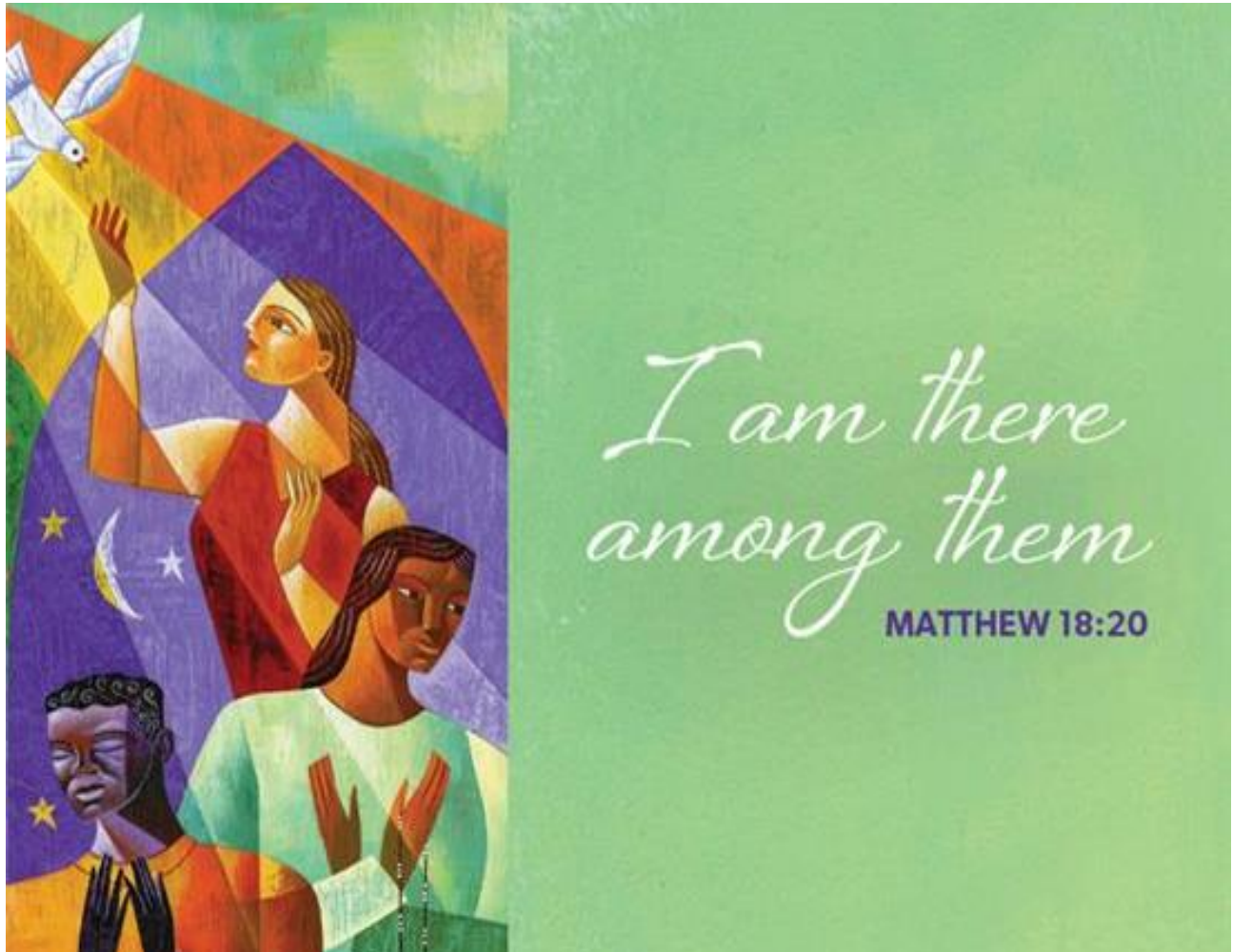


# 15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 10, 2023

8:30 & 11:00 am and Livestream



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

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

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

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

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

## ✦ GATHERING ✦

### Prelude

### Confession and Forgiveness

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

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

**C** **Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** *Steadfast and faithful God,*

**C** **you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you.**

**We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering.**

**We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.**

**For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.**

**For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation,  
neighbor, forgive us.**

**Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of  
Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

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

**C** **Amen.**



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,  
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,  
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,  
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,  
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,  
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,  
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,  
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,  
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,  
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.  
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.  
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.  
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



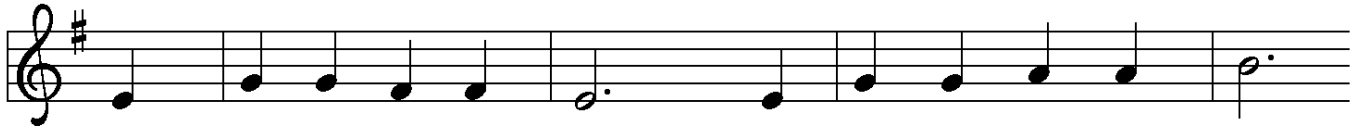
Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,  
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

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

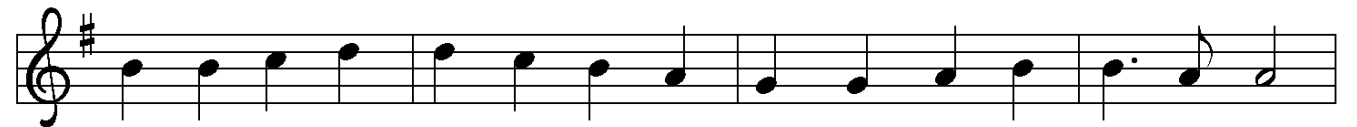
**C** **And also with you.**



- 1 Have mer-cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol-emn prayer.  
2 Have mer-cy on us, Christ, and wash a-way our sin.  
3 Have mer-cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de-part.



We come to hear your liv-ing word; it saves us from de-spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be-gin.  
Re-new us with your sav-ing pow'r; cre-ate in us new hearts!



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for-ev-er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
3 Ho-ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a-lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre-a-tion, Fa-ther of sur-pass-ing worth:  
Son of God and gra-cious Sav-ior, you have come from heav'n a-bove;  
Ho-ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex-alt you, we a-dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je-sus Christ, with God the Spir-it, in the Fa-ther's splen-dor bright.



Saints and an-gels bow be-fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re-store, for-give us; in your prom-ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in-her-it, glo-ry be to God on high!

**P** *The Lord be with you.*

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** *Let us pray. O Lord God,*

**C** **enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## ✦ THE WORD ✦

### **First Reading**

Ezekiel 33:7-11

**A** *A reading from Ezekiel. <sup>7</sup>So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.*

*<sup>10</sup>Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” <sup>11</sup>Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?*

**A** *The word of the Lord.*

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

## Psalm

Psalm 119:33-40

- A**    *<sup>33</sup>Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,  
and I shall keep it to the end.*
- C**    **<sup>34</sup>Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;  
I shall keep it with all my heart.**
- A**    *<sup>35</sup>Lead me in the path of your commandments,  
for that is my desire.*
- C**    **<sup>36</sup>Incline my heart to your decrees  
and not to unjust gain.**
- A**    *<sup>37</sup>Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;  
give me life in your way.*
- C**    **<sup>38</sup>Fulfill your promise to your servant,  
which is for those who fear you.**
- A**    *<sup>39</sup>Turn away the reproach that I dread,  
because your judgments are good.*
- C**    **<sup>40</sup>Behold, I long for your commandments;  
by your righteousness enliven me.**

## Second Reading

Romans 13:8-14

- A**    *A Reading from Paul's letter to the Romans. <sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.*

*<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when*

*we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.*

**A** *The word of the Lord.*

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

*Please stand as you are able.*



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



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



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

## **Holy Gospel**

Matthew 18:15-20

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

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

*[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup>But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three*

witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

**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.*



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!  
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing  
3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;  
4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!  
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.  
sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.  
All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,  
Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been  
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do  
Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?  
if with his love he be - friend you.  
Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

**Commissioning of Connect Leaders**

*Connect Leaders are invited forward.*

**P** *A reading from first Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)*

*Connect Leaders, you have accepted positions of leadership and trust in this congregation. You are to be faithful in your roles in the faith formation of our community, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified. Will you accept and faithfully carry out your duties this academic year?*

**Connect Leaders respond:** I will, and I ask God to help me.

**P** *People of God, will you support these Connect Leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?*

**C** **We will, and we ask God to help us.**

**P** *Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, for all who respond to the call to serve in your name. Give them joy and fulfillment, care and guidance in their tasks. Help us all to give willingly and to receive thankfully the gifts of ministry, that your name may be glorified, your people live in peace, and your will be done; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

**C** **Amen.**

**P** *I now commission you as Kids Connect and Adults Connect Leaders. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may continue to be faithful servants of Christ.*

**C** **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** **receiver our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

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

**C** **Amen.**

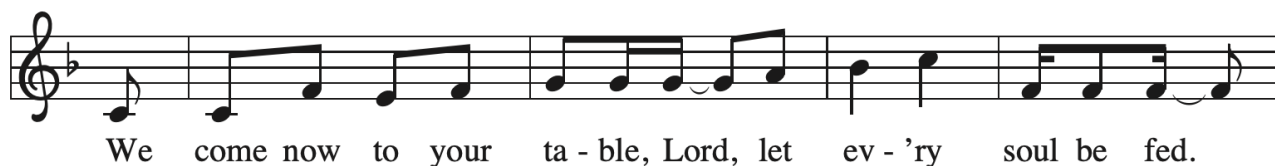
**P** *The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

**C** **And also with you.**

*After sharing the peace, please be seated.*

## **Offering and Offertory**

*Please stand, as you are able.*



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

### ✦THE EUCHARIST✦

The musical notation is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some half notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined. The first staff has a double bar line after the first phrase. The second staff also has a double bar line after the first phrase. The third and fourth staves end with double bar lines.

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:

1\*



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



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



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



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

2



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



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



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



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

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

*Again, after supper...*

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

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

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

**C** **Amen.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Please be seated.*

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

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



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



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

# Here I Am, Lord

No. 574



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.

# When the Poor Ones

No. 725



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



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



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

## Refrain / Estribillo



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



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

*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.**

✦ **SENDING** ✦

**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 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.  
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.  
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.  
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."  
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."  
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

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

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

**Postlude*****Pray for Those That Need God's Healing***

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

## **The Flowers are Given to the Glory of God by**

*Carroll & Dawn Baker in thanks of 41 years of marriage.*

*and by*

*Ken & Lynn Evans in memory of Val Andrews on the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of her passing.*

## **Pray for Members of the Military**

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

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

The Rev. Alejandro Mejia, Interim Pastor	pr.mejia@lcgsselca.org	(O) 410-838-8081
Sherman Canapp, OSSD, Deacon	canappsherman501@gmail.com	(M) 443-904-7013
Angela Kromm, 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, Evelyn Spratt	council_president@lcgsselca.org	(M) 410-869-2005
Treasurer, Lindsay Guckert	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

Text and music contained in this bulletin owned by their respective copyright holder(s). Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-710797. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted with permission under Augsburg Fortress License # SAS01 Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-710797 and Augsburg Fortress License # SAS012

### **SERVING TODAY**

Greeters  
Assisting Minister  
Communion Assistants

Ushers

Acolytes  
Livestream

### **8:30 a.m.**

Gail Fricke  
Sherman Canapp, OSSD  
Sue Quinn  
Rhonda Messick  
Doyle McCracken

### **11:00 a.m.**

Corrine Rao  
Sherman Canapp, OSSD  
Joan Serio  
Sharon Powell  
Monica Thayer  
Tim Miller  
Ken Rankin

Marcy Starbuck