

# 8th Sunday after Pentecost

July 23, 2023

9:30 am and Livestream



Icon 1, Lectionary 16a, Sundays and Seasons

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

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

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

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

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

## GATHERING

### Prelude

### Confession and Forgiveness

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

**P** *Blessed be 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 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
- 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
- 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
- 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
- 5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:  
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:  
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:  
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:  
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

**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. Faithful God,*

**C** **most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## THE WORD

### Romans 8:12-25

**A** *A reading from Romans. <sup>12</sup>So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—<sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.*

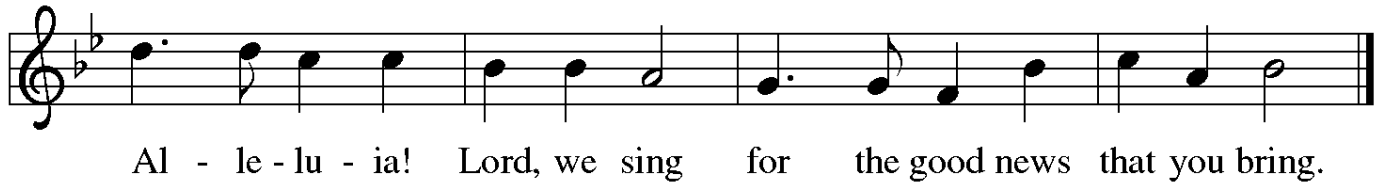
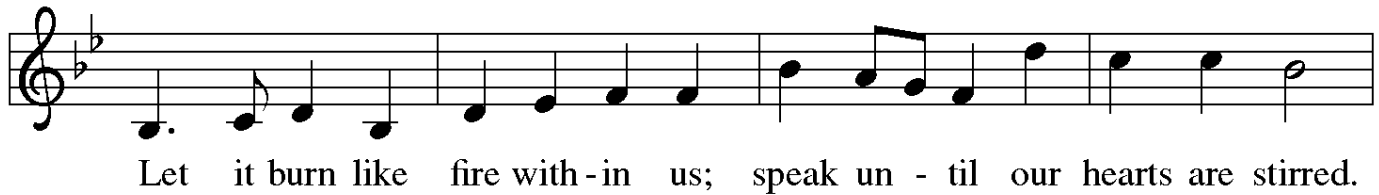
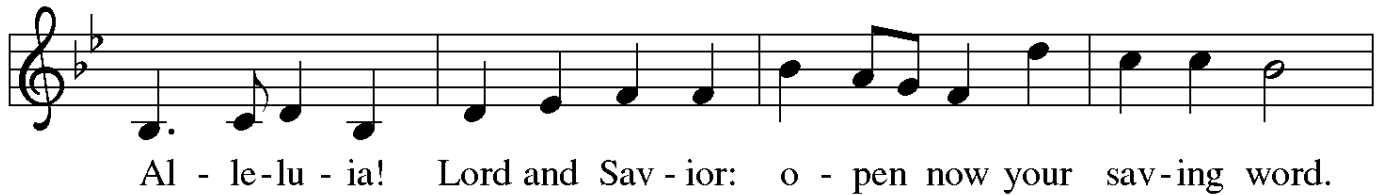
*<sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit,*

groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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

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

*Please stand as you are able.*



## **Holy Gospel**

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

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

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

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;<sup>25</sup>but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup>And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come

from?’ <sup>28</sup>He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ <sup>29</sup>But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

<sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” <sup>37</sup>He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup>the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, <sup>42</sup>and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

**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.*



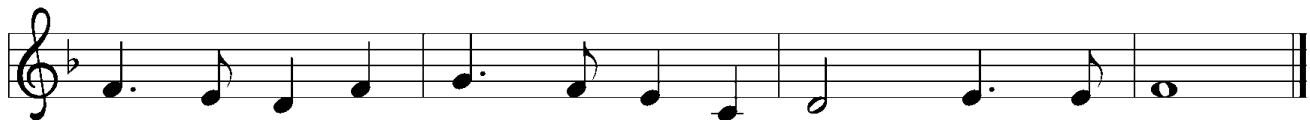
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



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.**

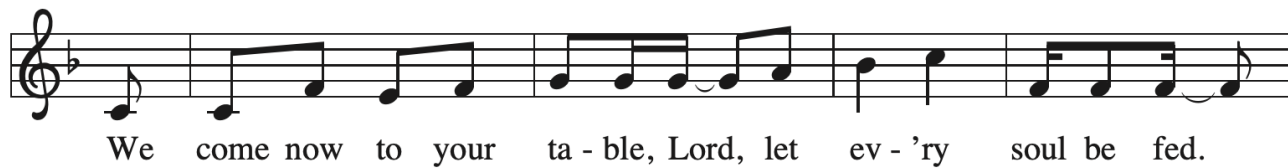
**P** *The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

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

*After sharing the peace, please be seated.*

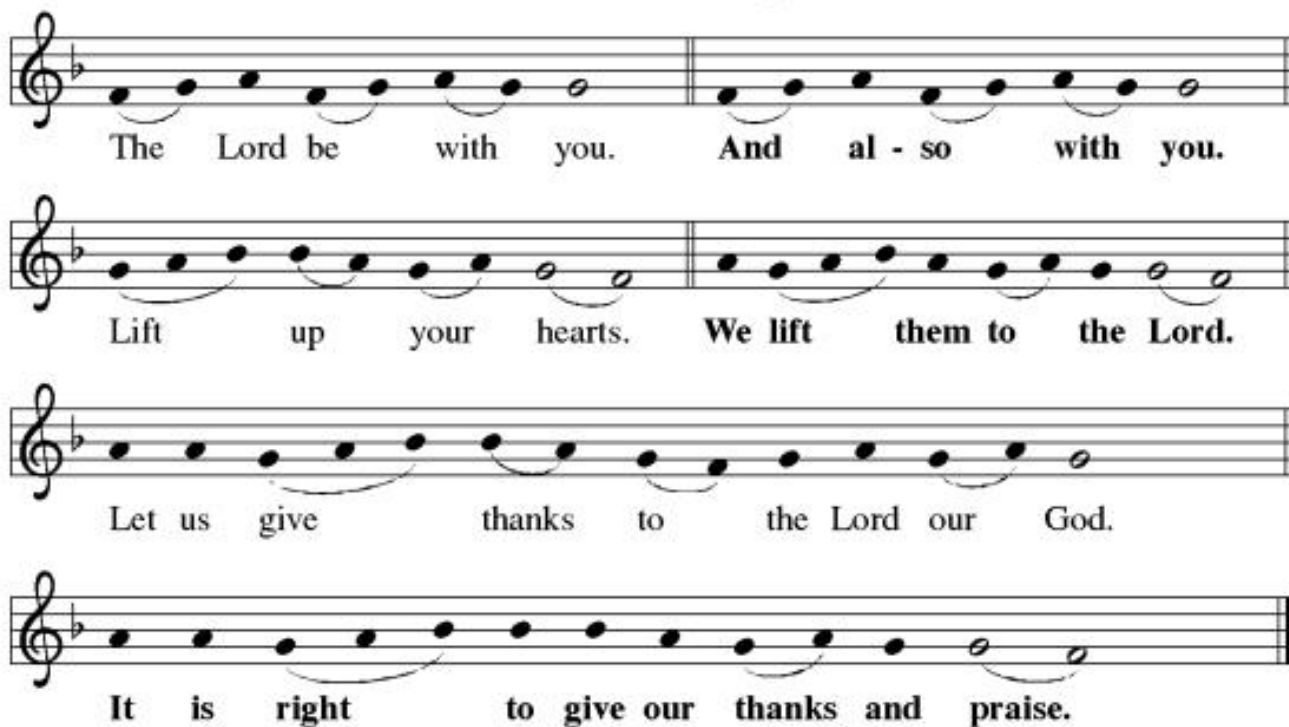
## **Offering and Offertory**

*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 EUCHARIST



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The musical score consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, using quarter and eighth notes. Each staff contains a line of music followed by lyrics. 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 do not have double bar lines. The lyrics are: '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.', and '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** *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.

*God of the Fertile Fields*

ACS No. 1063



1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of  
2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in  
3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that  
4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the



earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your  
trust from you all that you give; help us in  
serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our  
Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our



boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,  
love to share, teach us like you to care  
toil be used, no gift of yours a - busied,  
lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.



that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.  
for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.  
no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.  
Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

# *O Spirit All-Embracing*

ACS No. 944



1 O Spir - it all - em - brac - ing and coun - sel - or all - wise,  
2 O Beau - ty ev - er blaz - ing in flow - er, field, and face,  
3 Come, pas - sion's pow - er ho - ly, your in - sight here im - part,



un - bound - ed splen - dor grac - ing a shore - less sea of skies:  
you show your - self a - maz - ing in un - ex - pect - ed place.  
and give your ser - vants low - ly an un - der - stand - ing heart



un - fail - ing is your trea - sure, un - fad - ing your re - ward;  
We see you and re - mem - ber what once our dreams had been;  
to know your care more clear - ly when faith and love are tried,



sur - pass - ing world - ly plea - sure, the rich - es you af - ford.  
you fan the glow - ing em - ber and kin - dle hope with - in.  
to seek you more sin - cere - ly when false i - deals have died:



Come, stream of end - less flow - ing, and res - cue us from death;  
Come, fire of glo - ry gra - cious, bless all who trust in you;  
for vi - sion we im - plore you, for wis - dom's pure de - light;



come, wind of spring - time blow - ing, and warm us by your breath.  
un - dy - ing flame te - na - cious, burn in your church a - new.  
in prayer we come be - fore you to wait up - on your light.

*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.**

## **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 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-'ry  
 3 Come, Al-might-y, to de-liv-er; let us all thy  
 4 Fin-ish then thy new cre-a-tion, pure and spot-less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing, all thy  
 trou-bled breast; let us all in thee in-her-it; let us  
 life re-ceive; sud-den-ly re-turn, and nev-er, nev-er-  
 let us be; let us see thy great sal-va-tion per-fect-



faith-ful mer-cies crown. Je-sus, thou art all com-pas-sion,  
 find thy prom-ised rest. Take a-way the love of sin-ning;  
 more thy tem-ples leave. Thee we would be al-ways bless-ing,  
 ly re-stored in thee! Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry,



pure, un-bound-ed love thou art; vis-it us with  
 Al-pha and O-me-ga be; end of faith, as  
 serve thee as thy hosts a-bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-'ry trem-bling heart.  
 its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.  
 with-out ceas-ing, glo-ry in thy per-fect love.  
 crowns be-fore thee, lost in won-der, love, and praise!

**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**

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

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

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## SERVING TODAY

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Communion Assistants

Sharon Powell & Lis Miller

Ushers

Peggy Thomas & John Helmick

Acolytes

Livestream

Sam Miller