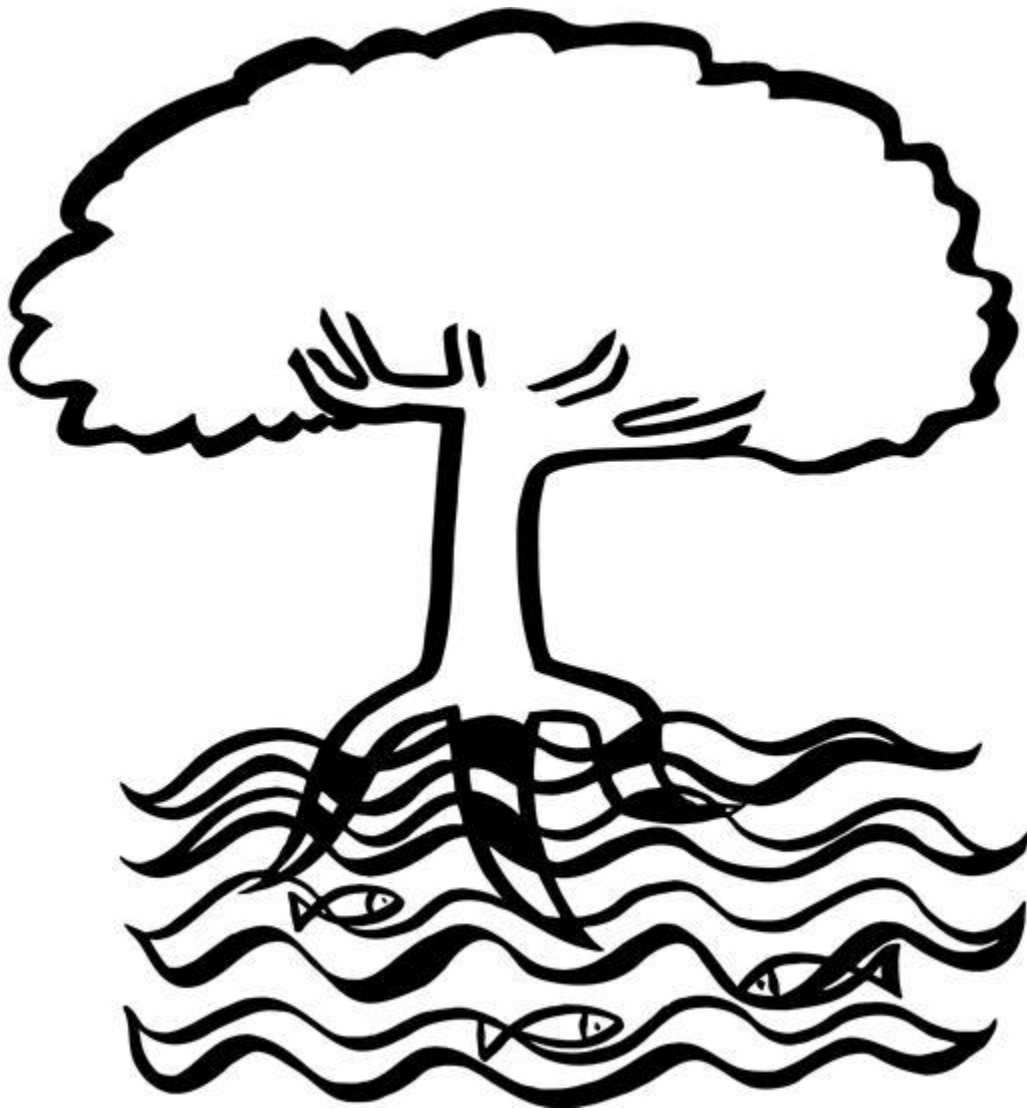




“The apostles said to the Lord, ‘Increase our faith!’ The Lord replied, ‘If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.’”

~Luke 17:5~6

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
17th Sunday after Pentecost – October 5, 2025**

420 Beaver St., PO Box 411

Mars, PA 16046-0411

www.stjohnchurchmars.org

Phone: 724-625-1830

email: office@stjohnchurchmars.org

Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister

Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning!
Know that you are welcome here just as you are.*

If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time worshipping at St. John, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.

*Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an * and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**. All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.*

*During the time of **Peace**, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.*

*At the time of **Offering**, you are invited to share a gift. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Online gifts may be made using the QR code below:*



*You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. **Visitor information cards** and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.*

*As Lutherans, we believe Christ is truly present in the elements of the Lord's Supper. At the time of **Holy Communion**, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then pre-filled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

*If you need a **restroom**, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.*

*A **playroom** is available downstairs for children who need a break from the worship service.*

This room is by the elevator on the lower level. An adult must remain with the child.

Children are also welcome to utilize the books and puzzles available in the Greeting Area on the top level by the elevator.

You are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms located in each pew as desired. The cards will be collected during our hymn of the day, and prayers will be offered during the prayers of intercession.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

As we prepare our hearts and minds for worship, you are invited to offer a prayer for God to lead, guide, nourish, and use you in worship this morning. You can use these or other words:

“Lord, I come to honor you in worship today. I ask that all the things of this week that can crowd you out of my heart be set aside by the power of your Holy Spirit. Open my heart and mind to meet you and receive you today. Amen.”

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

***GREETING**

Followers of Christ, believe this – God loved the world, God loves the world, God loves you!

May the truth of this great love story shine through our worship today,
and renew our sense of calling.

So come, with your tiredness, your frustrations and your discouragements;
come with your doubts, your fears, and your longings;
come, to discover yet again how Jesus reveals God’s love and mercy for us.

Come, in love for God, for each other, and for the world,
to listen for God’s Word to us, to offer our prayers, and to renew our calling.

Followers of Christ

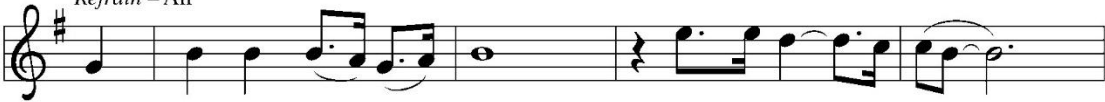
May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us worship!

***GATHERING HYMN *We've Come This Far By Faith* (ELW 633)**

Refrain – All



We've come this far by faith, lean-ing on the Lord;



trust-ing in his ho-ly word, he's nev-er failed us yet.

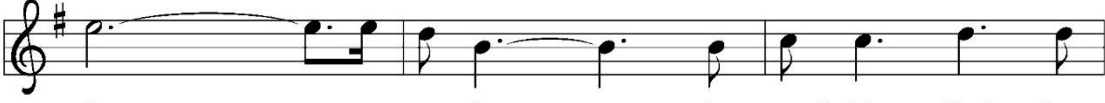


Oh, can't turn a-round, we've come this far by



faith. We've come this far by faith.

Leader



1 Just re-mem-ber the good things God has
2 Don't be dis-cour-aged with trou-ble in your



done, things that seemed im-pos-si-ble; oh,
life; he'll bear your . . . bur-dens, and

Refrain



praise him for the vic-t'ries he has won. Oh!
move . . . all the dis-cord and strife. Oh!

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
But first, let us consider:

Where have we gone wrong this week?

How have we harmed our relationship with God, with our neighbor, or with ourselves?

(a brief silence for reflection)

Let us pray: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Merciful and loving God,
we are your stiff-necked people.

We trample on the needy.

We grumble about your grace to others.

We turn away from the poor.

Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.

Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found.

Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!
Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE *Glory to God

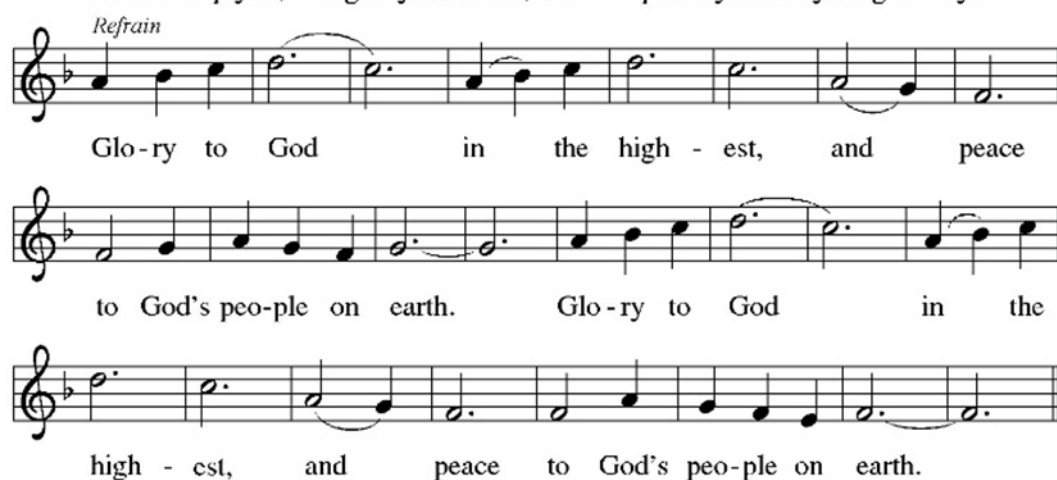
Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace
to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa-ther,
we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace
to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



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



have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right



hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God in the



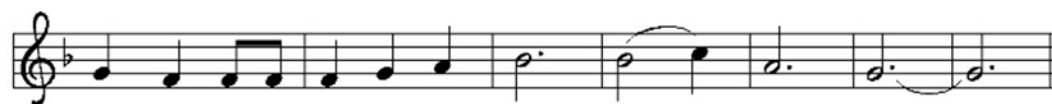
high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a -



lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est.



A - men, a - men.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

A reading from Habakkuk.

¹ The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

² O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen?

Or cry to you "Violence!"
and you will not save?

³ Why do you make me see wrongdoing
and look at trouble?

Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.

⁴ So the law becomes slack, and justice never prevails.
The wicked surround the righteous;
therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

^{2:1} I will stand at my watch post and station myself on the rampart;
I will keep watch to see what he will say to me
and what he will answer concerning my complaint.

² Then the LORD answered me and said:

Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it.

³ For there is still a vision for the appointed time;
it speaks of the end and does not lie.

If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay.

⁴ Look at the proud!

Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faithfulness.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 37:1-9

*The psalm is read responsively. The leader will read the light printed verses.
The congregation will read the bolded verses.*

- ¹ Do not be provoked by evildoers;
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
- ² **For they shall soon wither like the grass,
and like the green grass fade away.**
- ³ Put your trust in the LORD and do good;
dwell in the land and find safe pasture.
- ⁴ **Take delight in the LORD,
who shall give you your heart's desire.**
- ⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD,
and see what God will do.
- ⁶ **The LORD will make your vindication as clear as the light
and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.**
- ⁷ Be still before the LORD and wait patiently.
Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
- ⁸ **Refrain from anger, leave rage alone;
do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.**
- ⁹ For evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who hope in the LORD shall possess the land.

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 1:1-14

A reading from 2 Timothy.

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

² To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

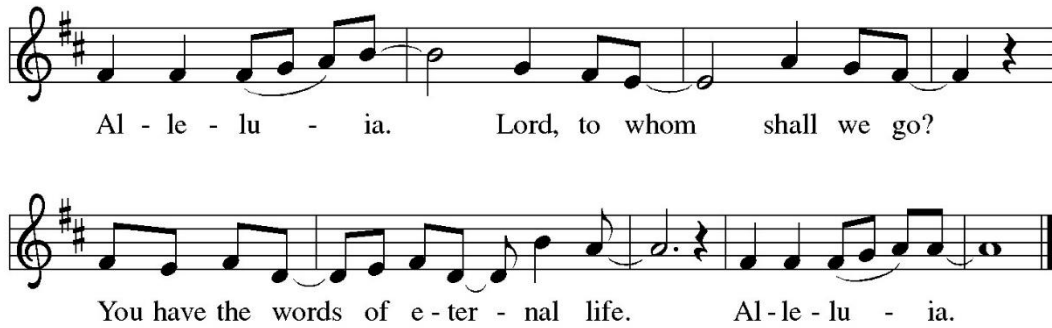
³ I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴ Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷ for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

⁸ Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, in the power of God, ⁹ who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace, and this grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹ For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, ¹² and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day the deposit I have entrusted to him. ¹³ Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Guard the good deposit entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL READING LUKE 17:5-10

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” ⁶ The Lord replied, “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

⁷ “Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, ‘Come here at once and take your place at the table’? ⁸ Would you not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me; put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink’? ⁹ Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? ¹⁰ So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, ‘We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!’”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

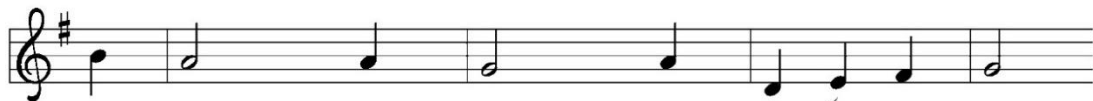
CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

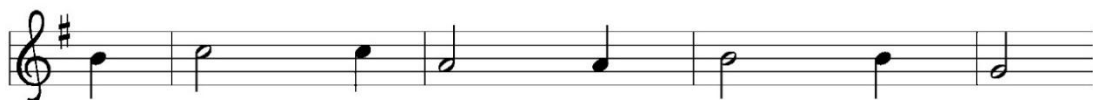
***HYMN OF THE DAY *O Spirit of Life* (ELW 405) (Blue prayer cards are collected)**



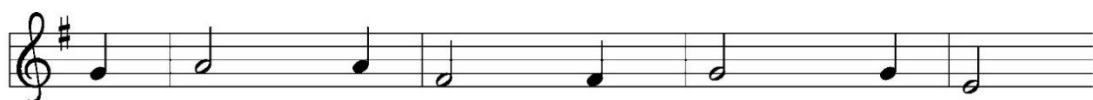
1 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God,
 2 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God,
 3 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God,
 4 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God,



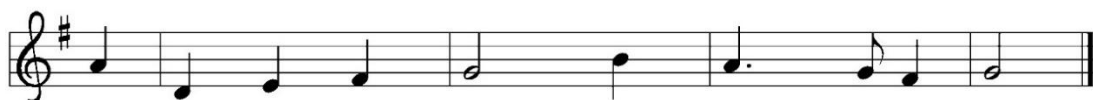
in ev - 'ry need you bring us aid,
 in - crease our faith in our dear Lord;
 make us to love your sa - cred word;
 en - light - en us by that same word;



pro - ceed - ing forth from heav - en's throne,
 un - less your grace the pow'r should give,
 the ho - ly flame of love im - part,
 teach us to know God's ra - diant love,



from God, the Fa - ther and the Son;
 none can be - lieve in Christ and live;
 that char - i - ty may warm each heart;
 lead us to Christ who reigns a - bove;



O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God.
 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God.
 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God.
 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

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 INTERCESSION**

Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

O God of the church, you give the church a treasure in Jesus Christ. Draw us into the gift of faith passed down from generation to generation. Remind your people that faith the size of a mustard seed is enough. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

O God of creation, you nourish the earth with grace and mercy. Bring favorable weather during the harvest season and sustain all creation along with all who labor in the field. Ensure the welfare of animal companions whose presence offers comfort, safety, and joy. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

O God of nations and communities, you govern and guard the world. Give leaders and people in authority a spirit of making just and righteous laws. Bring peace to countries affected by war and violence. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

O God of those in need, you care for those who are sick, oppressed, bereaved, lonely, and poor. Come to the help of all in need especially Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Sally, Katie, Debi, Anne, Karen, Nan, Beverly, those on our prayer list, all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts and all who suffer in any way. Help us to trust that you will come to us at the right time. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

O God of this congregation, you nurture our faith. Thank you for those of all ages who teach, lead, and learn in this congregation and beyond. Give growth to the seeds of faith watered by faithful examples of baptismal living. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

O God of ages past, thank you for the witness of those who have died in faith. May the faith of those who now rest in your merciful arms, like Lois and Eunice, shape our faith in your Son, Jesus Christ. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

O God of life, we do not come to honor you alone. Thank you for those with whom we worship today – both here and in eternity. We especially remember before you those whose joys and concerns we carry with us in our worship (*blue prayer cards are read*). Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust this prayer to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

You are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace as we prepare to receive God's grace in communion. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcome to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.).

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

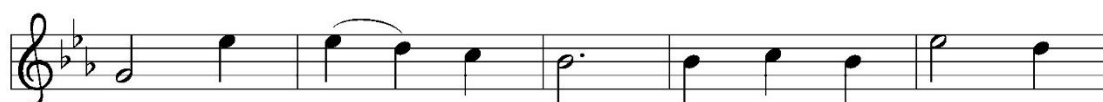
COLLECTION OF THE OFFERING

You are invited to support the ministries of this congregation through prayers and gifts at this time. Ongoing prayer requests, connection cards, communion records, and financial gifts are collected in the plates as we remember that we offer all of ourselves to God.

OFFERTORY HYMN *O Master, Let Me Walk with You* (ELW 818)



1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the



paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly



help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

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:

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

O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation,
hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty.
When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child;
When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom.
Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath, and the psalmists cried out for healing,
and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother.
He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city.
With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

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 his death, we cry out Amen. **Amen.**
Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. **Amen.**
Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. **Amen.**

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.
O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.
O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.
O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly, O God our strength and our song,
you show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations.
Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son, the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior,
life in you, now and forever.
Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray:
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

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

You are invited to come to the table of grace; receive the gift of new life.

We come to this table not because we must but because we may,
not because we are strong, but because we are weak.

We come, not because any goodness of our own gives us a right to come,
but because we need mercy and help.

We come, because we love the Lord and would like to love him more.

We come, because he loved us and gave himself for us.

We come and meet the risen Christ together.

Come and taste the truth of God's love, for God's love is for you!

Thanks be to God!

Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God*

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a melody with several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a bracket). The lyrics are written below the notes.

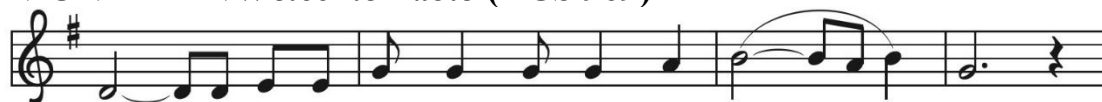
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

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.

COMMUNION HYMN *Welcome Table* (ACS 969)



1 I'm a-goin'-a eat at the wel - come ta - ble,
 2 I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . . and hon - ey,
 3 I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er,



I'm a-goin'-a eat at the wel-come ta-ble, some of these days.
 I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . . and hon-ey, some of these days.
 I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv-er, some of these days.



I'm a-goin'-a eat at the wel - come ta - ble,
 I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . . and hon - ey,
 I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er,



I'm goin' - a eat at the wel - come ta - ble, some of these days.
 I'm goin' - a feast on milk . . . and hon - ey, some of these days.
 I'm goin' - a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er, some of these days.

COMMUNION HYMN *We Come Now to Your Table* (ACS 970)



We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, you are the Liv-ing Bread.



We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, let ev - 'ry soul be fed.



You are the Liv-ing Bread, let ev - 'ry soul be fed:



and now may ev - 'ry soul be fed with Liv - ing Bread.

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you in grace.

Amen

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***BLESSING**

The God of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free, ✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***SENDING SONG *Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises* (ELW 535)**

Refrain— sung twice each time



Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa ro - na, di tha -
Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es, all our



bi - le ka - o - fe - la. Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa
hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your



ro - na, di tha - bi - le ka - o - fe - la.
prais-es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness.

End



1 Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,
2 Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,

Repeat stanza, then sing refrain



I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hun - ger.
strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joy - ful gos - pel.

***SENDING PRAYER**

Holy One, we thank you for all that you have given us. We thank you for the relationships with which you have blessed us, the guidance you have given us in your word, and the support, healing, and love you have fed us with at your table. Take away our sin and carry us into the week with the new beginning we have in your promised forgiveness. Lead us this week to be your hands, your feet, and your voice in the world. **Amen.**

***DISMISSAL**

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord say, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’

And I said, ‘Here am I; send me!’”

Isaiah 6:8

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

Thanks be to God.

The flowers on the altar today were supplied by Jeff and Deb Martin in celebration of our granddaughter Reagan Bucher's 11th birthday.

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister: Jonathan C

Acolyte: Nathan K

Offering: Josie W and Carissa M

Attendance from last week: 49 + 4 zoom

Notes for the day's texts:

Faith is the theme for today's readings, but not just any faith. It is a life-transforming faith, one that demonstrates the very presence of God moving, alive, and active in God's people. In response to Habakkuk's oracle, the Lord answered him that "the righteous live by their faith" (Hab. 2:4b). But just what does it mean to be righteous? It's a righteousness imparted by God, who creates and claims each of us as God's own sons and daughters, bringing us into this family by our baptisms and by the faith God gives us makes us holy children. Being part of this divine family gives us our worth, even at those times we may not think of ourselves as worthy. In 2 Timothy, the author writes a history of the faith in Timothy's family, beginning with his grandmother and then passed on to his mother and himself. This is how many of us were first brought into the family of God: we had faithful parents who knew of their own God-given righteousness and then passed this gift on to their children. But again, it's all God's doing! Finally, Jesus' disciples boldly ask their teacher to "Increase our faith" (Luke 17:5). They knew that faith was something needed, and Jesus explains that even a small amount of faith can do great wonders. What does it mean to have this sort of faith, a faith that can serve God's purposes here to truly be God's work and yet it's done with our hands? It's a gift and connection to our God.

Today's Music

We've Come This Far by Faith. Text: Albert A. Goodson, 1933-2003, Music: Albert A. Goodson. Manna Music, Inc.

O Spirit of Life. Text: Johann Niedling, 1602-1668; tr. John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, alt., Music: Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1623; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750. Public Domain.

O Master, Let Me Walk with You. Text: Washington Gladden, 1836-1918, alt., Music: H. Percy Smith, 1825-1898. Public Domain.

Welcome Table. Text: African American spiritual, Music: African American spiritual; arr. Mark Hayes, b. 1953. Augsburg Fortress.

We Come Now to Your Table. Text: Caribbean Conference of Churches Jamaica workshop, Music: St. Vincent traditional, adapt.; arr. Patrick Prescod, 1932-2013. Caribbean Conference of Churches.

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises. Text: South African; tr. Freedom Is Coming, 1984, Music: South African; arr. Freedom Is Coming. Walton Music / Public Domain.

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Greeting, adapted from "Call to Worship" by Ann Siddall, and posted on the Stillpoint Spirituality Centre website. <https://stillpointsa.org.au/>

Invitation to the Table, adapted from "Invitations to the Table" by Phil Whittall, © 2025 The Simple Pastor

Next Week's Readings

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c *Naaman washes in the Jordan and is cleansed*

Psalm 111 *I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart*

2 Timothy 2:8-15 *If we die with Christ, we will live with Christ*

Luke 17:11-19 *One leper made clean by Jesus gives thanks to God*