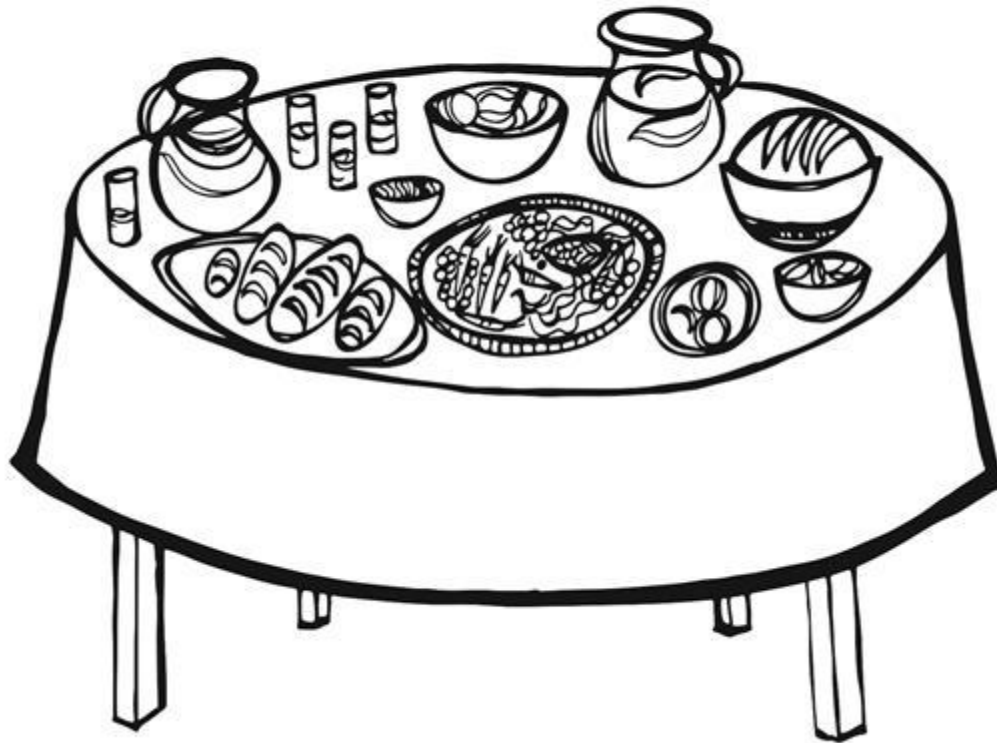




“But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

~Luke 14:13-14

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
12th Sunday after Pentecost – August 31, 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 worshiping 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**

Our faith is rich in mystery. Mystery that invites us to wonder with awe, and mystery that challenges us and fills our hearts with questions. We ponder what we do not know, opening ourselves to uncertainty, holding space for discernment. We struggle with spaces where faith is hard, where faith feels insufficient. Our questions can feel destabilizing, challenging, and uncomfortable. Yet we are emboldened by God’s invitation to enter into conversation, to bring our questions, our struggles, and our uncertainties to God’s abundant grace and mercy. So before we enter this searching time, let me tell you something that is unquestionably true:

God loves you. God embraces you.

And God uses everything – even the uncertain – to create love and connection.

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.**

***GATHERING HYMN *Gather Us In* (ELW 532)**



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
 Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please join me as we confess our sins together. But first, consider: Where have you gone wrong this week? How have you harmed your relationship with God, with your neighbor, and with yourself? (*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 God, you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

Know this: You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's child through faith.

In the cross of ✠ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, our sins are forgiven.

You can doubt this love. But you can never change the truth of it. God knows all and forgives all. The only question that remains is whether we can accept love so freely given.

We accept God's forgiveness, and we take our place in God's purpose. Amen!

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE *Glory to God*



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Proverbs 25:6-7a

A reading from Proverbs.

⁶ Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great,

^{7a} for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 112

The refrain is sung once through by all who wish. The tone by which the verses are chanted is first played by the music director, who will sing the lightly printed verses. The congregation will chant the verses printed in bold following the same chanted tone as the music director. The vertical line indicates the change in tone. The refrain is sung by all as indicated with "R".



The righ-teous are mer-ci-ful and full of com - pas-sion.

- ¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who | fear the LORD
and have great delight in | God's commandments!
- ² **Their descendants will be mighty | in the land;**
the generation of the upright | will be blessed. R
- ³ Wealth and riches will be | in their house,
and their righteousness will | last forever.
- ⁴ **Light shines in the darkness | for the upright;**
the righteous are merciful and full | of compassion.
- ⁵ It is good for them to be gener- | ous in lending
and to manage their af- | fairs with justice.
- ⁶ **For they will nev- | er be shaken;**
the righteous will be kept in everlast- | ing remembrance. R
- ⁷ They will not be afraid of any | evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting | in the LORD.
- ⁸ **Their heart is established and | will not shrink,**
until they see their desire up- | on their enemies.
- ⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands | fast forever;
they will hold up their | head with honor.
- ¹⁰ **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and | pine away;**
the desires of the wick- | ed will perish. R

SECOND READING: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

A reading from Hebrews.

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya,
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

a - le - lu - ya! a - le - lu - ya!
al - le - lu - ia! al - le - lu - ia!

*GOSPEL READING: Luke 14:1, 7-14

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *God Weeps with Us Who Weep and Mourn* (ACS 1054)

(Blue prayer cards are collected)



1 God weeps with us who weep and mourn; God's
 2 Through tears and sor - row, God, we share a
 3 And yet be - cause, like us, you weep, we

tears flow down with ours, and God's own heart is
 sense of your vast grief: the weight of bear - ing
 trust you will re - ceive and in your ten - der

bruised and worn from all the heav - y hours
 ev - 'ry prayer for heal - ing and re - lief,
 heart will keep the ones for whom we grieve,

of watch - ing while the soul's bright fire burned
 the bur - den of our ques - tions why, the
 while with your tears our hearts will taste the

low - er day by day, and pulse and breath and
 doubts that they en - gage, and as our friends and
 deep, dear core of things from which both life and

love's de - sire dimmed down to ash and clay.
 loved ones die, our hope - less - ness and rage.
 death are graced by love's re - new - ing springs.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

For some, the Apostles' Creed is like liturgical muscle memory: You can say it without thinking about it. Today we ask you to affirm your faith by answering questions so you might truly consider what you believe. If you feel unable to affirm your faith today, listen to those around you. Borrow some faith from them as we share these ancient words.

Do you believe there is a God who made us?

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

Do you believe this God sent a person named Jesus to save this world?

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.

Do you believe the Holy Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies us, animating our faith and empowering the church?

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**

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

For the leaders of the church, we pray. Inspire deacons, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and Christian education directors with a passion for speaking the word of God. Equip all the baptized to share your word of grace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For the well-being of creation, we pray. Sustain farm workers and all who labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and pastures, and provide for the cattle and creatures who rely on the land for their sustenance. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For the leaders of towns, cities, provinces, states, and nations, we pray. Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for all. On this Labor Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For the lowly and those who are ignored, we pray. Provide for the needs of vulnerable communities, those who are unemployed, burdened by debt, or struggle to make ends meet. Accompany all who need reassurance of your loving presence especially Bob, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Sally, Katie, Debi, Anne, Karen, Nan, Beverly, those on our prayer list, and all who suffer in any way. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For the hospitality ministries of this congregation, we pray. Give ushers and greeters a spirit of welcome for visitors, and bless the work of those who feed and nourish us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For all the saints who from their labors rest, we give thanks. With them, we offer our sacrifice of praise to you, O God, the same yesterday and today and forever. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy three, holy one, you hear our prayers, spoken and unspoken. 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 now 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 our prayer to the one who always listens; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

***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.).

COLLECTION OF THE OFFERING

You are invited to support the ministries of this congregation through gifts and prayers 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.

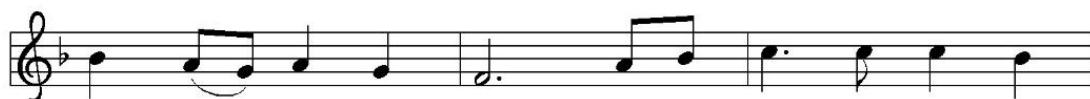
OFFERTORY HYMN *All Are Welcome* (ELW 641) *Rise on verse 5*



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
claim the faith of Je - sus:
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
end to fear and dan - ger:
claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God of life, we may never know what you will do with these gifts. But we carry a faith passed to us through generations. We set the table with food and drink harvested by many hands. We break the bread of answered prayers. Use the gifts we give today to grow tomorrow's mercy.

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:

San - to, san - to, san - to, es el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,

Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to, es el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.

San - to, san - to, san - to, san - to, es el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,

Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to, es el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.

Ho - san - na en el cie - lo, ho - san - na en la
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na here on

tie - rra. Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en el
earth. Blest is he who comes in the

nom - bre del Se - ñor. Ho - san - na en el
name . . . of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

cie - lo, ho - san - na en la tie - rra. Ben -
high - est, ho - san - na here on earth.

di - to el que vie - ne en el nom - bre del Se - ñor.
Blest is he who comes in the name . . . of the Lord.

Gracious God, out of your unflinching *yes* for our salvation, you sent to us Jesus.
People had their doubts, but Jesus' faith compelled them to ask,
"Is this really the one who will save us from our sins?"

Christ's abundant forgiveness to sinners, humiliating death at the hands of the state,
and glorious resurrection from the depths of the tomb
all told us and showed us the answer: yes! In Christ we can know forgiveness and salvation!

The night before Jesus died, the people who knew Jesus best were hungry for answers.
When Jesus gathered them for one last meal, uncertainty swirled in their hearts.

So to explain God's love, to show it and share it,
in the night in which our Lord Jesus was betrayed,
he 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.

When we eat this bread and drink this cup
we never have to question your love for us, Great God.

Now send the Spirit into this meal and into our hearts.
Blend this food and drink with holiness.

**Fuse our searching souls with your perfect love,
and we will become people who delight in what you have done
and joyfully wonder what you shall make of us today.**

To you, Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three be all praise today, tomorrow, 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

Come to the table of grace; receive the gift of new life. You are invited. Bring your unanswered questions with you, because the Spirit unquestionably beckons you to taste the truth of God's love. 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*



Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no-so-tros, have . . mer-cy up-on us, ten pie-dad de no-so-tros, have . . mer-cy up-on us.

Cor-de-ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no-so-tros, have . . mer-cy up-on us, ten pie-dad de no-so-tros, have . . mer-cy up-on us.

Cor-de-ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

da-nos tu paz, grant us your peace, da-nos tu paz. grant us your peace.

COMMUNION HYMN *There is a Longing in Our Hearts* (ACS 1078)

Refrain — All



There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re -



veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our



hearts for love we on - ly find in you, our God.

Leader or All



1 For jus - tice,	for free - dom,	for mer - cy:
2 For wis - dom,	for cour - age,	for com - fort:
3 For heal - ing,	for whole - ness,	for new life:
4 Lord, save us,	take pit - y,	light in our



hear our prayer.	In sor - row,	in grief:
hear our prayer.	In weak - ness,	in fear:
hear our prayer.	In sick - ness,	in death:
deep - est night.	We call you;	we wait:



Refrain

be near; hear our prayer, O God.

COMMUNION HYMN *We Are Waiting for Jesus* (ACS 905)



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

*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.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

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

*BLESSING

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ✠ bless you and give you peace.

Amen.

*SENDING SONG *Ask the Complicated Questions* (ACS 1005)



1 Ask the com - pli - cat - ed ques - tions.
2 Seek the dis - con - cert - ing an - swers,
3 Knock on doors of new i - de - as,
4 For in strug - gle we dis - cov - er



Do not fear to be found out; for our God makes
fol - low where the Spir - it blows; test com - pet - ing
test as - sump - tions long grown stale, for Christ calls from
truth both sim - ple and pro - found; in the knock-ing,



strong our weak-ness, forg - ing faith in fires of doubt.
truths for wis - dom, for in ten - sion new life grows.
shores of won - der, dar - ing us to try and fail.
ask - ing, seek - ing, we are o - pened, an - swered, found.

*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

[Jesus said,] “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.”

Mark 16:15

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

The flowers on the altar today were supplied by Dave and Cindy Knauff to honor student, teachers administrators and all school employees.

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister: Gene H

Acolyte: Jules K

Offering: Anna K & Nathan K

Greeters: Ruth Ann T

Attendance from last week: 50 +3 zoom

Notes for the day's texts:

For most of human history wisdom was largely part of an oral tradition. From one generation to the next, wisdom was passed down. These days it sometimes seems that technology has replaced that tradition of shared wisdom. Rather than ask a trusted elder the temptation is to pull out a smartphone and do a quick Internet search. Next thing you know, there it is, wisdom at your fingertips—maybe. Could it be that something is lost in the process? We can find facts online, but virtues like humility, respect of elders, hospitality, servanthood, and peacemaking do not seem to translate as easily in the electronic age. In the gospel reading Jesus takes the time to pass on some ancient-yet-prudent wisdom from the proverbs of Solomon to a crowd of social climbers who obviously were not familiar with such prudence or wisdom.

More significantly Jesus lifts up the mysteriously gracious and life-transforming values of the kingdom of God. Jesus lifts up the humility required to take the lowest seat at the table, never hoping to be invited to a place of greater honor or status. Jesus invites his followers to practice the hospitality that offers a banquet of the finest of foods for people who cannot repay. Jesus invites his followers to embody the kind of radical-yet-relational love of Jesus himself. This radical love is taught by both individuals and congregations. Communities of faith by their practices of generosity and compassion embody the love of Jesus in their communities.

Today's Music

Gather Us In. Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, Music: Marty Haugen. GIA Publications, Inc.

God Weeps with Us Who Weep and Mourn. Text: Thomas H. Troeger, 1945-2022, Music: Sally Ann Morris, b. 1952. GIA Publications, Inc.

All Are Welcome. Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, Music: Marty Haugen. GIA Publications, Inc.

There is a Longing in Our Hearts. Text: Anne Quigley, b. 1955, Music: Anne Quigley. OCP (Oregon Catholic Press).

We Are Waiting for Jesus. Text: John Helgen, b. 1957, Music: John Helgen. Augsburg Fortress.

Ask the Complicated Questions. Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984, Music: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. hymnal. GIA Publications, Inc. / Augsburg Fortress.

Liturgy words and music taken from SundaysandSeasons.com Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission. Reprinted under One License: #A-724822 and CCLI.

Next Week's Readings

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Walk in the way of life and hold fast to God

Psalms 1 They are like trees planted by streams of water

Philemon 1-21 Paul says: Receive Onesimus as a coworker

Luke 14:25-33 Jesus says: Disciples, give up your possessions and carry the cross