



**KIMBALL MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
101 VANCE ST. KANNAPOLIS, NC 28081

August 31, 2025      Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
10:00 am

✝ *Please stand as you are able.*  
*Congregation responses in **Bold**.*

**PRELUDE**                      *Beautiful Savior with As the Deer*                      *arr. Anna Laura Page*

**WELCOME**

✝ **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Merciful God,

C **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.**

P You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of ✝ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

C **Amen.**

*Refrain*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

## GREETING

**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.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**A** 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.

**C** Amen.

## LET'S TALK

*Children's Time*

## READING HEBREWS 13:1-8, 15-16

**L** A reading from the thirteenth chapter of Hebrews.

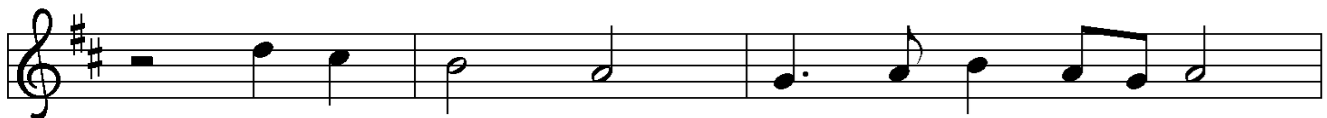
*The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.*

**L** et mutual affection continue. <sup>2</sup> Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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." <sup>6</sup> So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" <sup>7</sup> Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. <sup>15</sup> Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. <sup>16</sup> Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

**L** Word of God, word of life.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## ✠ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW S151



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

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

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

*Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.*

**O**n 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. <sup>7</sup> When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. <sup>8</sup> “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, <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. <sup>14</sup> And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

*Pastor John Futterer*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *ELW 462*

*Now We Join in Celebration*

*Next Page*

**AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

*See Insert*



1 Now we join in cel - e - bra - tion at our Sav - ior's in - vi - ta - tion,  
 2 Lord, as round this feast we gath - er, fill our hearts with ho - ly rap - ture!  
 3 Lord, we share in this com - mu - nion as one fam - 'ly of God's chil - dren,

dressed no more in spir - it som - ber, clothed in - stead in joy and won - der;  
 For this bread and cup of bless - ing are for us the sure pos - sess - ing  
 rec - on - ciled through you, our broth - er, one in you with God our Fa - ther.

for the Lord of all ex - is - tence, put - ting off di - vine tran - scen - dence,  
 of your lov - ing deed on Cal - v'ry, of your liv - ing self, our vic - t'ry,  
 Give us grace to live for oth - ers, serv - ing all, both friends and strang - ers,

stoops a - gain in love to meet us, with his ver - y life to feed us.  
 pledge of your un - fail - ing pres - ence, fore - taste here of heav'n - ly glad - ness.  
 seek - ing jus - tice, love, and mer - cy till you come in fi - nal glo - ry.

## ✠ SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

A The peace of Christ be with you.

C And also with you.

A Please greet those around you with words of peace.

## OFFERING

*The offering plates are in the narthex for your use. You may also place your offering in the plate at the communion rail when you come forward for communion. Please ask an usher if you have any questions.*

### ELW 674

### Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.

*Refrain*



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

## OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

## HOLY COMMUNION

*We have two options for Communion during this time. You are free to come forward to receive the bread and pre-filled cups of wine from our clergy and lay assistants, returning to your seats after you've deposited the empty cup and following the guidance of our ushers; or you may continue to use the pre-packaged communion elements which are available from the ushers at the entrance to the Sanctuary. Gluten-free is available on request. However you choose to receive Communion this morning, know that we are glad you're here for this Sacrament!*

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P 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.

## LORD'S PRAYER

**P** Gathered as one by the Holy Spirit let us pray, as Jesus taught.

**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.

## INVITATION

**P** The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

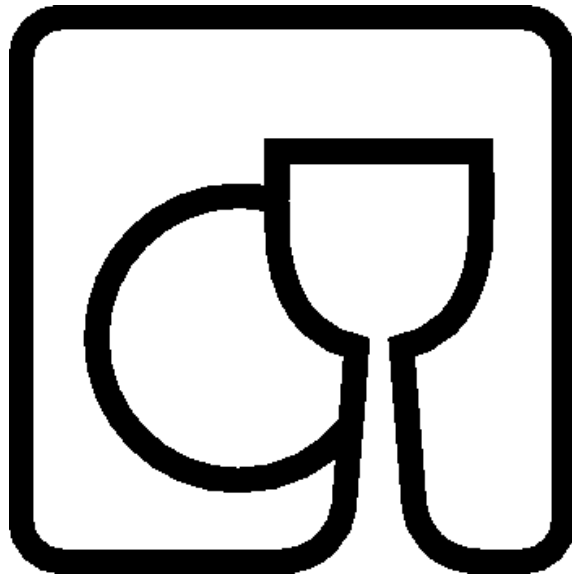
**You may receive the Elements as the words are said:  
*The Body of Christ given for you; The Blood of Christ shed for you.***

*Healing Prayer is available under the balcony during Communion if you desire prayer.*

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*How Great Is Our God*  
*Nicholas Bronson, Soloist*

*Tomlin, Reeves, Cash*



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,  
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,  
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,  
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!  
 robed in the flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;  
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;  
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,  
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,  
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,  
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.  
 than all the an - gels in the sky.  
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!



**✠ POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

**C** Amen.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** Let us pray. Gracious God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

**C** Amen.

**BENEDICTION**

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.



1 O Christ the same, through all our sto - ry's pag - es—  
 2 O Christ the same, the friend of sin - ners, shar - ing  
 3 O Christ the same, se - cure with - in whose keep - ing



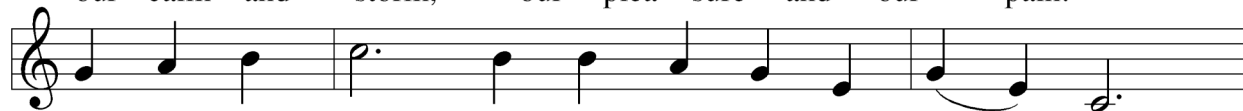
our loves and hopes, our fail - ures and our fears;  
 our in - most thoughts, the se - crets none can hide;  
 our lives and loves, our days and years re - main;



e - ter - nal Lord, the king of all the a - ges,  
 still as of old up - on your bod - y bear - ing  
 our work and rest, our wak - ing and our sleep - ing,



un - chang - ing still a - mid the pass - ing years:  
 the marks of love in tri - umph glo - ri - fied:  
 our calm and storm, our plea - sure and our pain:



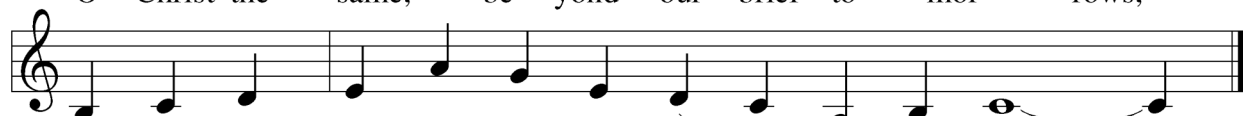
O liv - ing Word, the source of all cre - a - tion,  
 O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heav - en—  
 O Lord of love, for all our joys and sor - rows,



who spread the skies and set the stars a - blaze;  
 O Prince of life, in all your sav - ing power;  
 for all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee;



O Christ the same, who wrought our whole sal - va - tion,  
 O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are giv - en:  
 O Christ the same, be - yond our brief to - mor - rows,



we bring our thanks for all our yes - ter - days.  
 we bring our thanks for this the pres - ent hour.  
 we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

## DISMISSAL

A Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

*Londonderry Air*

*arr. William M. Felton*

## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

**Tuesday, September 2, 2025—Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, died 1872**

Grundtvig was, with Søren Kierkegaard, one of the two great Danish theologians of the nineteenth century. As a pastor, he battled the prevalent idea that Christianity was more a philosophy than divine revelation. He wrote over a thousand hymns.

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