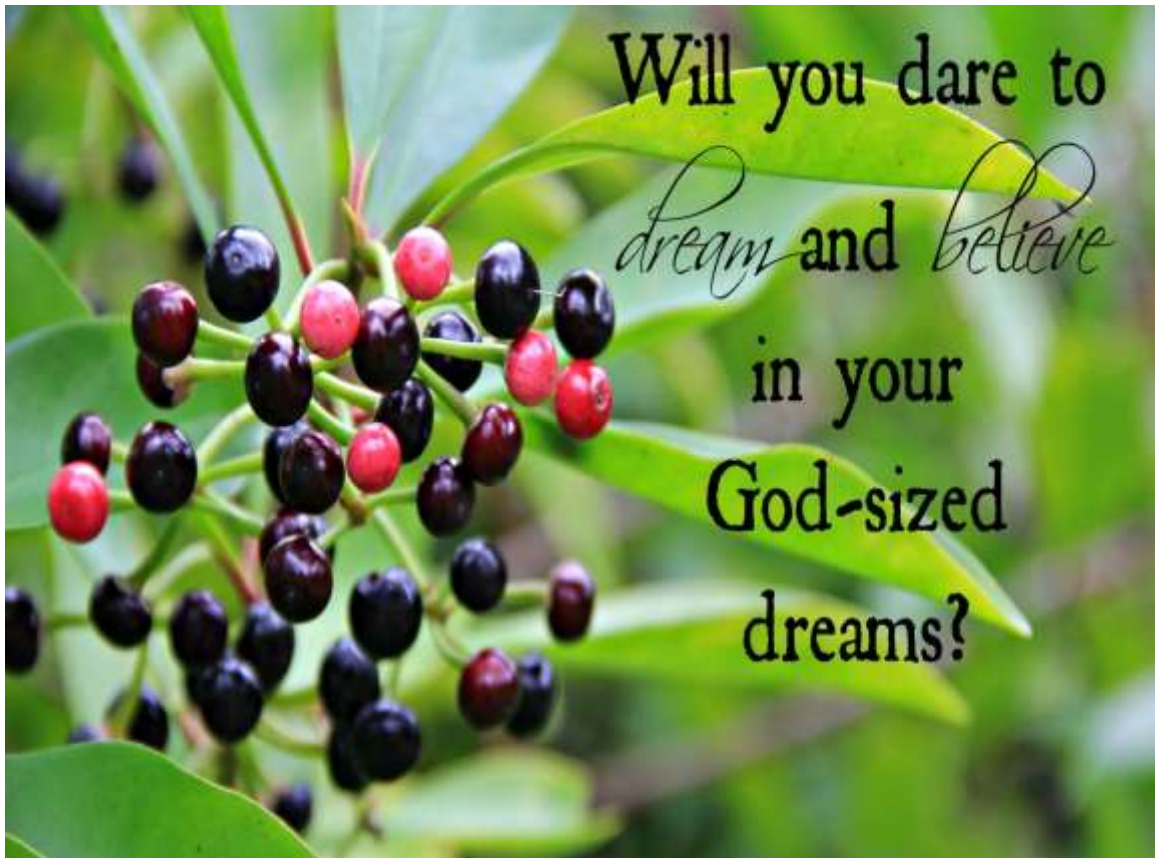


Triune Lutheran Church



Will you dare to
dream and believe
in your
God-sized
dreams?

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

*We thank you for joining us here
at Triune Lutheran Church, a
family united by our Risen Lord,
Jesus Christ!*



In order to make you feel more at home, here are a few notes about the service. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. We hope to make your time here as meaningful as possible!

Worship

- The * by the headings throughout the service indicate when we invite you to stand, as you are able.
- The light print will be spoken by the pastor or another worship leader, while we encourage you to speak the **bold print**.
- The hymns are chosen from our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) hymnal, which is the red book directly in front of you in the pews. You will find the hymns in the last two-thirds of the book with the bold numbers on the top of the pages.
- We welcome all the baptized to join us in the Lord's Supper, where we believe Jesus is present "in, with, and under" the bread and wine as his body and blood. After the organist and assisting minister commune, you will be invited to come forward up the non-organ side aisle to the pastor, who will give you bread (gluten-free wafers also available upon request). You are encouraged to keep the bread in your hands and then dip it into the chalice of wine for intinction. You may also come forward to receive a blessing by simply keeping your hands folded. You may return to your seat up the center aisle. If you are unable to come forward, the elements will be brought to you.
- For visitors, if you so choose, we encourage you to fill out a card available at the center-aisle end of the pew to learn more about us.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen!

Seeking reconciliation with God and neighbor,
let us remember the gift of baptism and confess our sin.

*You may kneel or remain standing/sitting. Silence is kept
for reflection and self-examination.*

God of mercy,
**we confess that we have sinned against you,
against one another,
and against the earth entrusted to our care.
We are worried and distracted by many things,
and we fail to love you above all else.
We store up treasures for ourselves
and turn away from our neighbors in need.
Forgive us, that we may live in the freedom of your
Son,
Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

When we were laid low by sin and guilt,
God made us alive together with Christ,
forgiving us † all our trespasses
by taking our sins to the cross.
For that freedom from sin and death
Christ has already set us free:
Rejoice in this good news!
Amen!

***GATHERING HYMN**

“O Day of Rest and Gladness”

ELW 521

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Holy Spirit, you are the life and light of your whole church.
Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be
ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen!**

FIRST READING

Genesis 15:1-6

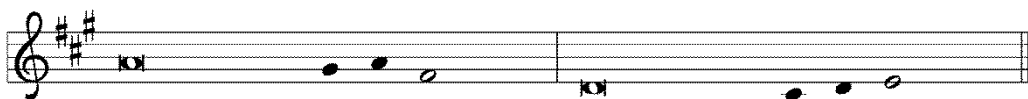
¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ²But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” ⁵He brought him outside and said,

“Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

The word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

PSALM

Psalm 33: 12-22



- ¹²Happy is the nation whose God | is the LORD!
Happy the people chosen to | be God’s heritage!
- ¹³**The LORD looks | down from heaven,
and sees all | humankind.**
- ¹⁴God sits firmly en- | throned and watches
all who dwell | on the earth.
- ¹⁵**God fashions | all their hearts
and observes | all their deeds.**
- ¹⁶A king is not saved by the size | of the army,
nor are warriors rescued by | their great strength.
- ¹⁷**The horse gives vain | hope for victory;
despite its great strength it | cannot save.**
- ¹⁸Truly, your eye is upon those who fear | you, O LORD,
upon those who wait for your | steadfast love,
- ¹⁹**to deliver their | lives from death,
and to keep them alive in | time of famine.**

²⁰Our innermost being waits for | you, O LORD,
our helper | and our shield.

²¹**Surely, our heart rejoic- | es in you,
for in your holy name we | put our trust.**

²²Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, | be upon us,
even as we place our | hope in you.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

¹³All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on

the earth, ¹⁴for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

The word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



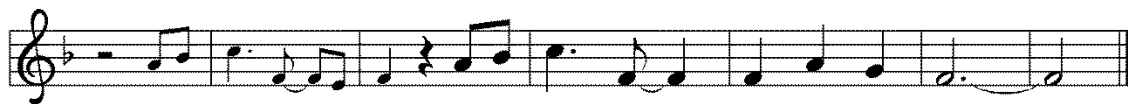
Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



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



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

***GOSPEL**

Luke 12:32-40

The holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord!

[Jesus said:] ³²“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

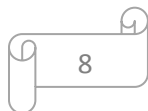
This is the holy Gospel of our Lord!
Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“When Long before Time” Verses 1, 4-6

ELW 861



***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**

Treasuring your promise to hear us when we call, we pray for
the church, those in need, and all of your creation.

A brief silence.

Lord God, bless and send your whole church out from each place of worship to be a light to the nations. Wherever we set out in faith, equip us to share our hope in Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless and protect your beautiful creation, raising up stewards and innovators to nourish and sustain natural wonders too many to number. Protect animals and insects, and send sun and rain where they are needed. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless and govern all the nations, uniting all humankind in seeking justice and peace. Fashion our hearts and guide our deeds in love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless and comfort those in need, providing shelter to those without homes, food for those who hunger, companionship to those who are lonely, and health to the sick, including for Bev Deitrick, Joann Loede, Hazel Schwab, Martha Wasson, Trudy Weidman, Mardell Weiss, Dave & Clara Wilcox, Jenny Adams, Cathy Gallagher, Richard Jakubcin, Matt Loede, Mary Phillips, George Tomaselli, those serving in the armed forces and as first responders, and all those we name in our hearts...Be their help and their shield. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless and sustain those wanting but unable to bear children, those in the adoption process, and children longing for parents. Welcome in love those who seek homes in a new community or country, and give us eyes to see and hearts to respond to the needs of our newest neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Keep in your care the faithful loved ones who have died in Christ, until we join them in the everlasting city, whose architect and builder is God. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and more we ask in the name of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen!**

***PEACE**

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always!
And also with you.

OFFERING

***OFFERING HYMN**

“We Come to the Hungry Feast”

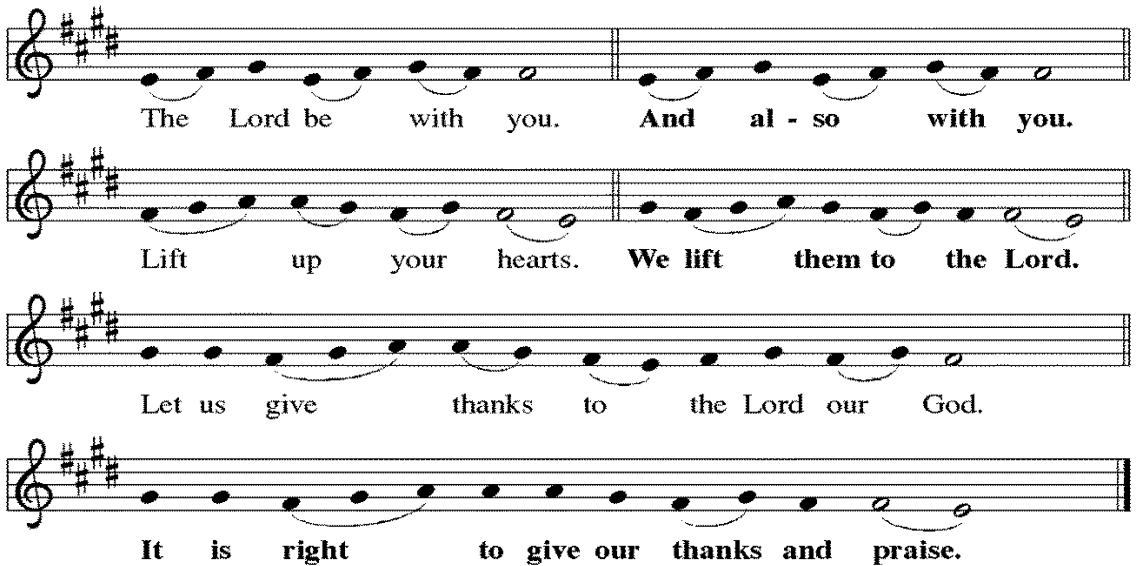
ELW 479

*OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God,
for the greening earth given for all,
for the talents we are given to share,
and for this bread and wine.

Transform us to be the body of Christ,
that, feasting on this food and drink,
our lives may reflect your generosity;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen!**

*GREAT THANKSGIVING



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.

*PREFACE

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:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God,
our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,
in the harmonious world of your creation,
the plants and animals,
the seas and stars
were whole and well in your praise.
When sin had scarred the world,
you sent your Son to heal our ills
and to form us again into one.

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, therefore,
his acts of healing,
his body given up,
and his victory over death,
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Holy Spirit, continue to come upon us and upon this meal:
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
so let your church be gathered from the ends of the earth,
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, Jesus Christ, our
Lord.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
both now and forever. **Amen!**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

**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

God invites you to this table of bounty.

Come, the banquet is ready for you!

Thanks be to God!

*COMMUNION HYMN



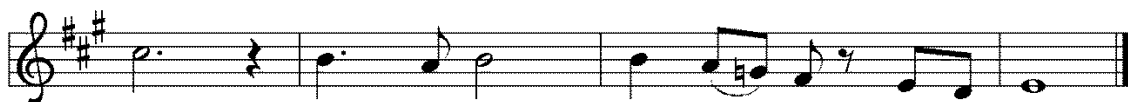
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



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, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION

***COMMUNION PRAYER**

O God, in this holy communion
you have welcomed us into your presence,
nourished us with words of mercy,
and fed us at your table.
Amid the cares of this life,
strengthen us to love you with all our heart,
serve our neighbors with a willing spirit,
and honor the earth you have made;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen!**

***BLESSING**

Live your lives in Christ, rooted and built up in him,
and abound in thanksgiving;
and the blessing of the holy Trinity, † one God,
be upon you and remain with you forever.
Amen!

***SENDING HYMN**

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

ELW 533

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ sends you out for the world!
Thanks be to God!

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Ministers: **All People**
Pastor: **Brad Ross**
Organist: **Edith Schatt**
Worship Leader: **Dale Kirk**
Office Manager: **Jan Piskac**

Looking forward to another Land

Lectionary Blog for Aug 11, 2019
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23;
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

I'm writing this on the evening of July 4. I purposely tucked my son into bed about an hour ago so he would be asleep before the fireworks start. When we lived in Morocco, they launched fireworks for national celebrations about a block away from our home. I love fireworks, so we went outside to watch them. But debris and cinders fell on us and the explosions happened much too close. My son, not even 2 yet, was so terrified that he shook for an hour afterward.

Since then he's never really liked loud noises, especially fireworks, which is difficult for my family. My mom's favorite holiday is Independence Day, and I was looking forward to moving back to the U.S. to celebrate it with her. But, like my son, I have difficulty fully embracing national holidays. Please don't misunderstand, I served my country for two years overseas and am very patriotic. But I see a wide gulf between the United States, the country I love, and the kingdom of God that has my allegiance.

I take some solace that the heroes and heroines of the faith had similar fraught relationships with land, place and country. Hebrews 11 tells us that when Abraham, Sarah, Isaac and Jacob entered the promised land, they dwelt in tents, never truly abiding in permanent structures. Indeed, they confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth (verse 13). They were seeking a homeland, a city with foundations, a place that God had prepared for them. The epistle writer argues that Canaan wasn't the full manifestation of their hope—they were looking to a heavenly city. They died without fully realizing their hope, but only seeing it from a long way off.

The matriarchs and patriarchs didn't look back on where they had come from, but set their faces resolutely toward where God was calling them (15). In my view, this is the greatest boast of their faithfulness. When I lived overseas, as I did for most of my adult life, I dreamt about what life must be like in the States. And when I live in the States, I can't wait to get back to North Africa or Southwest Asia. But Abraham and Sarah, along with their descendants, kept their hearts and eyes focused on the land to which God was calling them and, even more, on their future heavenly home.

It's this heavenly home that Jesus calls us to prepare for ourselves. Instead of trying to accrue power or influence in this world, we are to use our time here to be servants, ready to serve at each opportunity.

It's this heavenly home that Jesus calls us to prepare for ourselves. Instead of trying to accrue power or influence in this world, we are to use our time here to be servants, ready to serve at each opportunity (Luke 12:35-36). The best course of action in this world is to sell our possessions and give to the poor. In so doing, Jesus says we store up treasure in heaven where it can't be lost or taken away (33).

But the goal isn't to have the grandest treasure trove in heaven. Storing up treasure where the streets are said to be paved with gold doesn't make much sense. Instead, the goal of a life of service and generosity is an orientation of our hearts toward the full realization of God's reign and active presence. Where our treasure is, our hearts will also be (34).

Jesus' theme of serving others—leading to an orientation toward the reign and presence of God—echoes the words spoken through the prophet Isaiah. God was furious that the people celebrated all the religious occasions but didn't love their neighbors. God desires not just sacrifices, but righteous living and neighbor-love. God really wants people to “learn to do good, seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, [and] plead for the widow” (Isaiah 1:17).

If we come to church to worship on Sunday but then ignore the oppressed and marginalized the rest of the week, our services are also an “abomination” that “[God's] soul hates” (13). God demands that we live holistic lives of worship. We worship the God of the prophets, who orders us to love our neighbors and participate in ritual worship. One without the other is not enough.

We must live our lives confessing that we are foreigners and strangers in this life. Jesus calls us to orient our hearts toward the place where God’s reign is already and eternally realized. We, like Sarah and Abraham, are to look forward to a heavenly city, and live our lives accordingly. What we do in this life matters to God, and it matters to our neighbor. And it should matter to us.



Cory Driver is a minister of word and service, and the director of the Transformational Leadership Academy in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod. He earned his doctorate in Jewish religious cultures from Emory University, Atlanta. Cory lives with his family in Indianapolis.

On Sunday, August 25, during our worship at 11am, we will take time to sing some of our favorite hymns! In the meantime, you are encouraged to let us know which songs are your favorite by next Sunday, August 18, whether they be from the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal that we use during worship, our previous *Lutheran Book of Worship* (green hymnal), or even something from Sunday school that you remember. You can simply let us know the title, and we’ll be sure to find it! We encourage you to turn in your votes via e-mail to the church, filling out a piece of paper and putting it in the offering plate or letting Edith or Pastor Brad know. Then, join us on Sunday, August 25, as we make a joyful noise to the Lord through the precious gift of music!

