

## **\*Dismissal**

Brothers and sisters, seek not to please others; seek rather the approval of God alone. Go now in peace, and with your lives preach the gospel. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

## **Praying Together**

**... for those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or recuperating:**

Gayle Agg, Nora Beach, Joan Clarke, Bruce Constant, Chuck Dickey, Olive Evanofski, Bill Flick, Barbara Fossa, Ken Frajter, Donna Franz, Barb Gaglione, Michelle Garnett, Rosa Garnett, Jane Gradert, Linda Johnson, Dorrie Kearns, Dylan King, Elaine Knerem, Nel Lanese, Barbara Mingee, Phyllis Nemeth, Dick Ptak, Madeline Ptak, Barb Toth, Maud Wright, Wilma Dancy, Bill Helmick, Nancy Helmick, Robert Lambrecht, Laura Mele, Judy Morgan, Kris Sandor, Lois Williams, Eugene Winfrey, the Copeland/Lane Family.

## **Last Week**

**General Fund receipts for week ending 6/15/2025:\$950.00**



**Lutheran Church of the Covenant  
Maple Heights, OH**

***Second Sunday after Pentecost***

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant welcomes you to worship!  
Here are a few notes to make you feel more at home as we praise the  
God of new life together!

Bulletins are available to be picked up at the back of the sanctuary.

We encourage you to participate throughout worship by speaking  
the **bold** print and singing along with the hymns!

Portions marked with \* are when we invite you to stand as you are  
able to do so. There will not be a separate time for an offering, so a  
basket is placed in the back for those who wish to support our local  
ministry as well as the wider church.

A children's table is located at the back of the sanctuary, where you'll  
find some books and activities to help children feel more at home in  
worship.

Our Worship Leaders & Staff


Presiding Minister	Rev. Andrea McDonough
Organist	Gerry Mass
Lector	Bert Zahn
Reader	Mary Kaye Bernardo
Parish Administrator	Jennifer Lasher-Dobush
Custodian	Vince Besednjak

**\*Blessing**


The Lord ☩ bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.  
**Amen.**

**\*Sending Hymn: *I Received the Living God* ELW # 477**


*Refrain*




I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.



I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.



1 Je - sus said: I am the bread, knead - ed long to give you life;  
2 Je - sus said: I am the way, and my Fa - ther longs for you;  
3 Je - sus said: I am the truth; come and fol - low close to me.  
4 Je - sus said: I am the life, far from whom no thing can grow,



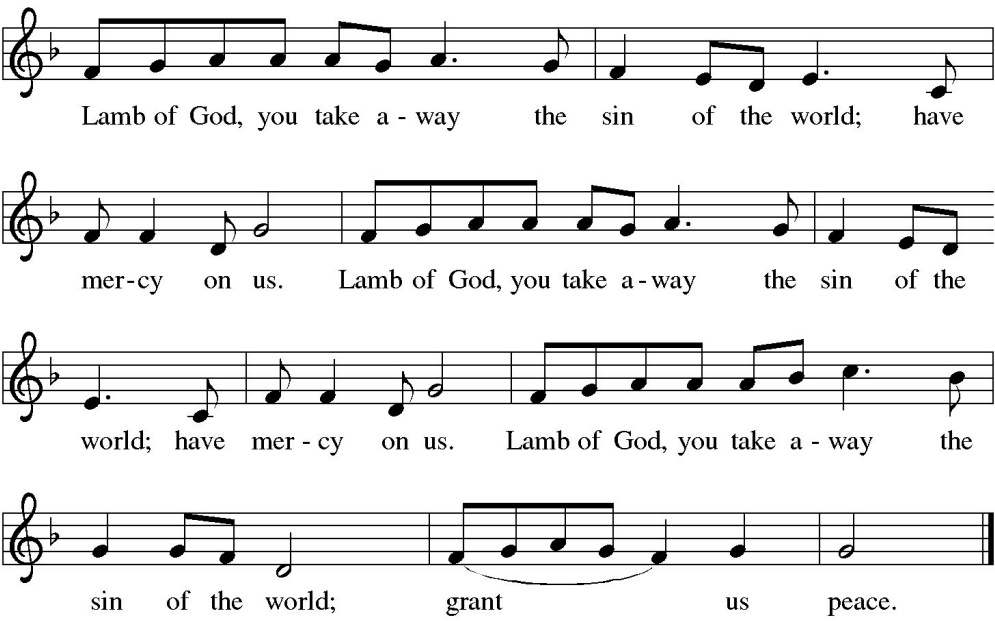
*Refrain*

you who will par - take of me need not ev - er fear to die.  
so I come to bring you home to be one with us a - new.  
You will know me in your heart, and my word shall make you free.  
but re - ceive this liv - ing bread, and my Spir - it you shall know.

**\*Invitation to Communion**

*Please be seated. We welcome to the table Adrian Bernardo and his family, as Adrian receives for the first time the bread and wine, the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus the Christ.*

**Communion Hymn (next page)**



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.

**\*Post-Communion Prayer**

Holy 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.  
**Amen.**

**Second Sunday after Pentecost**

**9:00 a.m. June 22, 2025**

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Confession & Forgiveness**

There is no longer Jew or Greek, **there is no longer slave or free,**  
there is no longer male and female: for all of you are one in  
Christ Jesus. **We are children of God through faith.**  
Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin to God and to  
one another.

Merciful and gracious God,  
**we walk in a way that is not good.**  
**We follow our own devices.**  
**We ignore your image in ourselves and in our neighbors.**  
**Do not turn away from us, O God,**  
**but hear our cry for blessing.**  
**Lead us out of the tombs we inhabit.**  
**Guide us into your light**  
**so that we may walk in your way. Amen.**

You belong to Christ and are heirs of the promise of freedom. In full assurance of justification by grace through faith, I declare to you the absolute forgiveness of all your sins.  
In the name of the blessed Trinity, ✠ One God. **Amen.**

**\*Gathering Song: All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly ELW #461**



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na is our bread.  
2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.  
3 All who hun-ger, sing to- geth-er, Je-sus Christ is liv-ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.  
Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.  
Come from lone-li-ness and long-ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.  
We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.  
Blest are those who from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.




Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993  
Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825  
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**\*Greeting**

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.**


**Sanctus**




Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n 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.

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

**\*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## \*Offering Prayer

With these gifts, O God, we remember with thanksgiving the life that we have because of you. Make us grateful every day for the privilege of offering ourselves for the well-being of all your world. **Amen.**

## \*Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, it is good, and it is joyful  
to give thanks to you, God of mystery and miracle.  
When there was only darkness,  
    you made light.  
When we cried out to you from captivity,  
    you claimed us as your own.  
When we forgot our love for you,  
    you did not forget us,  
sending your prophets to turn us around and  
renewing your promises  
    with a bow in the sky,  
    the parting of the sea,  
    your own Son.  
And so we praise you,  
tuning our voices to the angels' songs,  
joining all those who sing on earth and in heaven:

## \*Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,  
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

\*Hymn of Praise

Assisting minister

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All

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.

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.

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. A - men.

your promise that we are yours forever. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

Music Interlude

Offertory Hymn: *We Praise You O God* ELW #870

1 We praise you, O God, our re - deem - er, cre - a - tor;

3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer

in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.

and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.

We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;

With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.

we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.

To you, our great re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

## Prayers of the People

Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

We pray for the church. Clothe us in Christ, shower us in mercy, send us in love. Strengthen the faith and witness of Christians across the planet and Christians in our community. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for creation. Deliver the earth from disaster, bring forth life amid uncertainty, inspire wonder at all you have made. Sustain all people who delight in the well-being of your creation: farmers, agricultural workers, gardeners, birdwatchers, conservationists, scientists, advocates, and policy makers. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nations. Pave a way to justice, drown the forces of oppression, bring peace on earth. Give leaders the will to turn from war and violence. When people must flee their homes, guide them to safety. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for people in need. Satisfy all who are poor, soothe those in pain, accompany all who are sick. Give perseverance to each of us living with mental illness, and shield us from discrimination due to race, class, gender, or any other human distinction. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly. Listen to our cries, come to our aid, make us one. Weave among us the fabric of belonging so that we rejoice in each person gathered here, and enliven our proclamation of how much you have done for us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We offer our thanksgiving for all people who have died in faith. Today especially we give you thanks for the life and spirit of Jean Rusher. Keep all our loved ones in your peace, comfort us in sorrow, raise us to new life. As we remember their faith and witness, may we trust

## \*Prayer of the Day

Living God, you call us to yourself so that we may live in wholeness with ourselves and our neighbors. Unchain your people and set us free to rejoice in your saving word, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## Children's Moment

### First Reading: Isaiah 65:1-9

- <sup>1</sup> I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask,  
to be found by those who did not seek me.  
I said, "Here I am, here I am,"  
to a nation that did not call on my name.
- <sup>2</sup> I held out my hands all day long  
to a rebellious people,  
who walk in a way that is not good,  
following their own devices;
- <sup>3</sup> a people who provoke me  
to my face continually,  
sacrificing in gardens  
and offering incense on bricks;
- <sup>4</sup> who sit inside tombs  
and spend the night in secret places;  
who eat the flesh of pigs,  
with broth of abominable things in their vessels;
- <sup>5</sup> who say, "Keep to yourself;  
do not come near me, for I am too holy for you."  
These are a smoke in my nostrils,



a fire that burns all day long.  
<sup>6</sup> See, it is written before me:  
I will not keep silent, but I will repay;  
I will indeed repay into their laps  
<sup>7</sup> their iniquities and their ancestors' iniquities together,  
says the LORD;  
because they offered incense on the mountains  
and reviled me on the hills,  
I will measure into their laps  
full payment for their actions.  
<sup>8</sup> Thus says the LORD:  
As the wine is found in the cluster,  
and they say, "Do not destroy it,  
for there is a blessing in it,"  
so I will do for my servants' sake  
and not destroy them all.  
<sup>9</sup> I will bring forth descendants from Jacob  
and from Judah inheritors of my mountains;  
my chosen shall inherit it,  
and my servants shall settle there.

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

## **Psalm: Psalm 22:19-28**

<sup>19</sup> But you, O LORD, be not far away;  
O my help, hasten to my aid.  
<sup>20</sup> **Deliver me from the sword,  
my life from the power of the dog.**

## **\*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.**

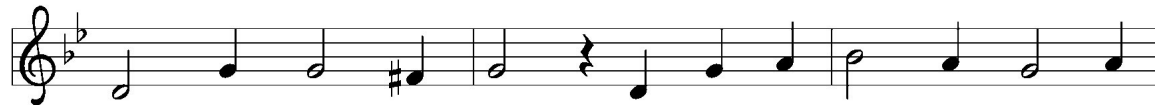


**\*Hymn of the Day: *If You But Trust in God to Guide You***

**ELW # 769**



1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle  
2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less  
3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and  
4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your



hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -  
an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's  
qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -  
ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -



side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in  
keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who  
fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has  
serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our



God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.  
took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.  
cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.  
con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

<sup>21</sup> Save me from the lion's mouth!  
From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.

<sup>22</sup> I will declare your name to my people;  
in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.

<sup>23</sup> You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

<sup>24</sup> **For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their pov-  
erty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them;  
but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

<sup>25</sup> From you comes my praise in the great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup> **The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live  
forever!**

<sup>27</sup> All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup> **For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
who rules over the nations.**

**Second Reading: Galatians 3:23-29**

<sup>23</sup> Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. <sup>24</sup> Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be reckoned as righteous by faith. <sup>25</sup> But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, <sup>26</sup> for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. <sup>27</sup> As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and

female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.<sup>29</sup> And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise.

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.

**\*Gospel: John 8:26-39**

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup> Then Jesus and his disciples arrived at the region of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. <sup>27</sup> As he stepped out on shore, a man from the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had not worn any clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. <sup>28</sup> When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, shouting, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me,” <sup>29</sup> for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit

to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) <sup>30</sup> Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” He said, “Legion,” for many demons had entered him. <sup>31</sup> They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

<sup>32</sup> Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding, and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. <sup>33</sup> Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd stampeded down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

<sup>34</sup> When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. <sup>35</sup> Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they became frightened. <sup>36</sup> Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. <sup>37</sup> Then the whole throng of people of the surrounding region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. <sup>38</sup> The man from whom the demons had gone out begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, <sup>39</sup> “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**