

Dismissal

Christ walked in perfect faith that we might follow in the way of peace. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

Praying Together

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

Gayle Agg, Nora Beach, Joan Clarke, 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, Arlene Stoltz, Barb Toth, Maud Wright, Charlotte Zaranka, 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 8/10/2025:\$ 1317.00



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

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

You may stay in your vehicle or setup a chair anywhere you like.
Speakers will be set up front by the worship leaders so that everyone can hear and participate from their respective spots.
We encourage you to participate throughout the worship by speaking the **bold** print and singing along with the hymns!
You will not be asked to stand during the worship, so feel free to remain seated throughout.
An offering basket is placed up-front by the podium.

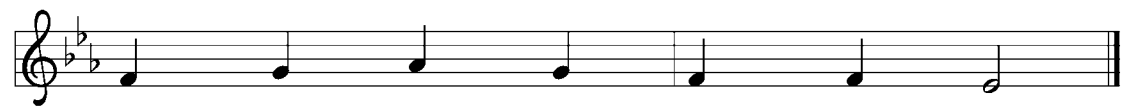
Sending Hymn: *God When Human Bonds Are Broken* WOV #73



1 God, when hu - man bonds are bro - ken and we lack the
2 Through that still - ness, with your Spir - it come in - to our
3 You in us are bruised and bro - ken: hear us as we
4 Send us, God of new be - gin - nings, hum - bly hope - ful
5 Give us faith to be more faith - ful, give us hope to



love or skill, to re - store the hope of heal - ing,
world of stress, for the sake of Christ for - giv - ing
seek re - lease from the pain of ear - lier liv - ing;
in - to life. Use us as a means of bless - ing:
be more true, give us love to go on learn - ing:



give us grace and make us still.
all the fail - ures we con - fess.
set us free and grant us peace.
make us stron - ger, give us faith.
God, en - cour - age and re - new!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929
Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889
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Our Worship Leaders & Staff

Leader	Jen Lasher-Dobush
Organist	Gerry Mass
Lector	Allan Treichel
Reader	Karen Zack
Parish Administrator	Jennifer Lasher-Dobush
Custodian	Vince Besednjak

Blessing

May the God of creation and restoration give you confidence in the daily tasks set before you. The God of love and compassion, assure you of your heritage as a child of God. The God of guidance and inspiration, mold you in God's image. And the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. August 17th, 2025

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Trusting in God's hopes for us, let us come before God with contrite hearts, asking for reconciliation and seeking peace.

God of hope, **we confess our disregard of your care, our doubt of your providence, our blindness to signs of your love. We are afraid to risk our comforts to find new life; we separate ourselves from you and from others and foster divisions between those you love. Help us to amend our lives and make us your faithful people who bear the good fruit of your Word in the world. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

God hears our confession, rejoicing as we desire amendment of life. God lifts us from our despondency to rejoice in the company of the saints. God acknowledges the forces that separate us, and brings us to peace. Rejoice in the knowledge of our reconciliation and a life lived in the presence of God. **Thanks be to God!**

Gathering Song: *Here in This Place* WOV# 718

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

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,

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.

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

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

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.

Invitation to Communion

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.

Post-Communion Prayer

Creator God, we give you thanks for all that we remember as we have shared this meal: your birth, your life, your death and resurrec-tion. We give you thanks for the eternal presence of your Spirit with us. May this meal we have shared renew and inspire us to join more joyfully with you as you work for peace and justice in the world. **Amen.**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly 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. 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.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the com-
munion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise: *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* WOV # 754

1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear-ing fruit in a world of doubt,
bread is bro-ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach-ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

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

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929
Music: LINSTEAD, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–1980
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Prayer of the Day

Faithful God, you have blessed us with the inheritance of grace that we might live as people of justice, righteousness, and peace. Stir in us your power and fill us with the love of Christ, strong and true, that we may be always eager to serve your promised reign of peace. **Amen.**

Children's Moment

First Reading: Jeremiah 23:23-29

²³ Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? ²⁴ Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" ²⁶ How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷ They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

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

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 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:

Sanctus (next page)

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Music Interlude: Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring

WOV #759



1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957
Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune
Text © 1990 Augsburg Fortress

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Offering Prayer

God of the ages, surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, we faith-fully add our gifts to those who have gone before us throughout the generations. Bless these gifts that they may yield an increase for the spreading of your love in the world. **Amen.**

Psalm: Psalm 82

¹ God stands to charge the divine coun-^l cil assembled,
giving judgment in the midst^l of the gods:
² **“How long will you^l judge unjustly,
and show favor^l to the wicked?**
³ Save the weak^l and the orphan;
defend the hum-^l ble and needy;
⁴ **rescue the weak^l and the poor;
deliver them from the power^l of the wicked.**
⁵ They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander a-^l
bout in darkness;
all the foundations of the^l earth are shaken.
⁶ **Now I say to you,^l ‘You are gods,
and all of you children of^l the Most High;**
⁷ nevertheless, you shall^l die like mortals,
and fall like^l any prince.’”
⁸ **Arise, O God, and^l rule the earth,
for you shall take all nations^l for your own.**

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:29—12:2

²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹ Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1} Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the

and mutuality. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Safeguard rivers and lakes from pollution. Sustain the work of conservationists, policy makers, and advocacy groups seeking to protect fresh water sources. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bridge divisions across partisan lines. Strengthen cooperative efforts among lawmakers who enact policies that protect our neighbors who are most vulnerable. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Embrace all who suffer in isolation: for those who are incarcerated or detained, those who are fleeing from unsafe environments, and those who are sick or homebound. Reassure them of your care in all times and places. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Guide the leaders of this congregation. In these late summer weeks, inspire their planning for a new program year ahead. Kindle in us a spirit of collaboration and support for their work. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With thanksgiving, we remember the cloud of witnesses who surround us. By the example of their faith, enable us to run with perseverance the race set before us, until that day when we join their unending praise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion. **Amen.**

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 the People

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

Raise up faithful leaders for your church around the world. Inspire
global missionaries with a spirit of accompaniment, as they walk
alongside our partners in the gospel in solidarity, interdependence,

sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

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

Gospel Acclamation



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

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

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

Gospel: Luke 12:49-56

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

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹ “I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵² From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³ they will be divided:
father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens. ⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. ⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: *Bind Us Together* WOV # 735

Refrain
F Dm Gm
Bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er with cords that
can - not be bro - ken. Bind us to - geth - er, Lord,
bind us to - geth - er, Lord; bind us to - geth - er in love.
1 There . . is on - ly one God. There . . is on - ly one King.
2 You are the fam - 'ly of God. You are the prom - ise di - vine.
There . . is on - ly one Bod - y; that . . is why we can sing:
You are God's cho - sen de - sire, you are the glo - rious new wine.
Refrain
F C7 F C7 F B^b/C

Text: Bob Gillman, b. 1946
Music: Bob Gillman, b. 1946
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