



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

*Twelfth 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.

Our Worship Leaders & Staff

Leader	Rev. Andrea McDonough
Organist	Gerry Mass
Lector	Bert Zahn
Reader	Marie Zahn
Parish Administrator	Jennifer Lasher-Dobush
Custodian	Vince Besednjak

## Dismissal

God graces us with abundance and inspires us to be generous. Now, go into the world, confident in the Lord's provision. **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 8/24/2025:\$ 1187.50**

## Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

**9:00 a.m. August 31st, 2025**

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## Prelude

## Welcome and Announcements

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sins to the Lord who is our helper.

**Lord, all that we have is a gift from you, yet we do not live lives of gratitude. We ignore strangers and turn away from those in need. We seek honor for ourselves and allow pride to take root in us. Forgive our foolish ways, O God, and restore us to you, that we may walk in the way of love. Amen.**

Beloved, your sins are forgiven, for God promises to never leave us. Therefore, be at peace and stand secure in the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sing aloud to God our strength.

Shout for joy to the Lord of Life.

**Blessed be the one, holy and living God.**

**Glory to God forever.**

Gathering Song: *God Is Here! WOV #719*

1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer  
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long  
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's

praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure  
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;  
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en.

what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the  
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -  
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants

world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts  
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,  
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore

wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.

Blessing

May the God of mystery take you to unexpected places, may the God of humility teach you to serve without pride, may the God of wisdom inspire your work in the kingdom; and the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, be with you now and always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love WOV #765*

*Refrain*

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show

us how to serve the neigh - bors we have from you.

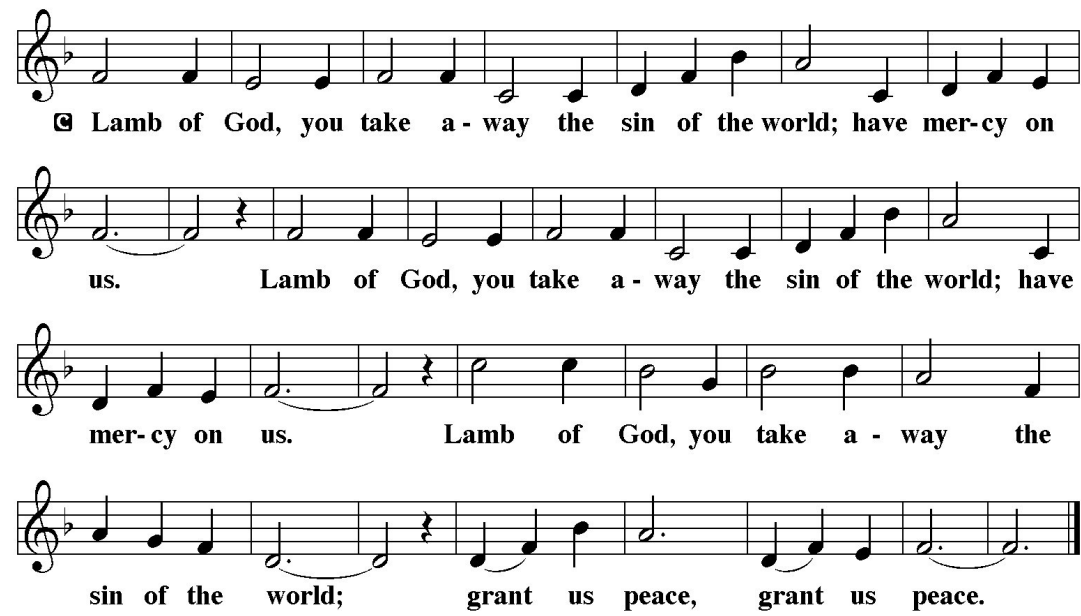
1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,  
2 Neigh - bors are wealth - y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,  
3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;  
4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:

*Refrain*

mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.  
neigh - bors are near - by and far a - way.  
all these are neigh - bors to us and you.  
this is the way we will live with you.

# 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.

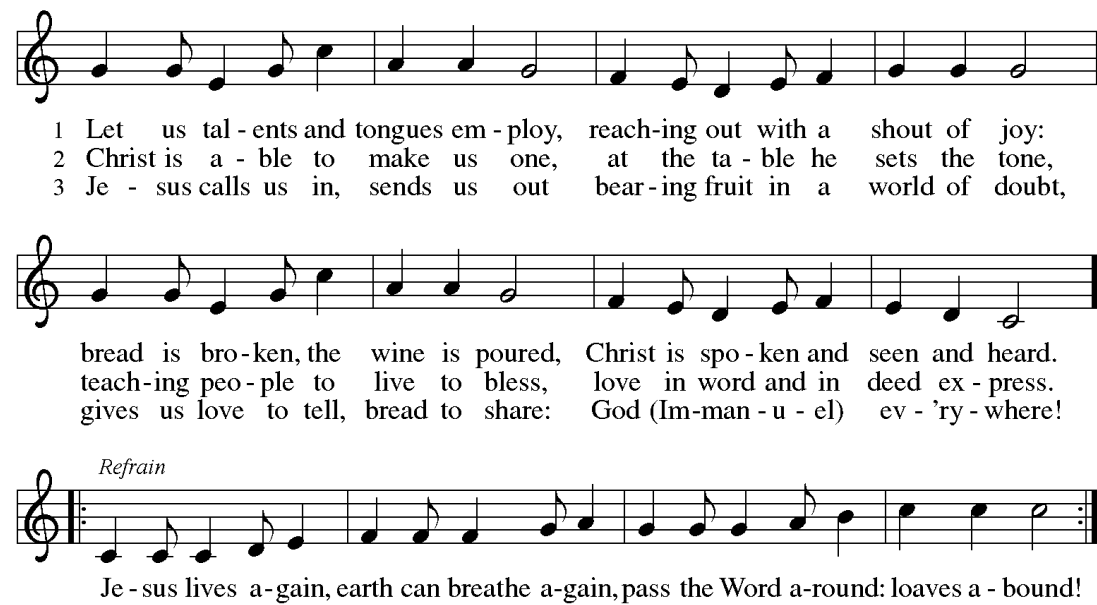
## Post-Communion Prayer

Creator God, we give you thanks for all that we remember as we have shared this meal: your birth, your life, your death and resurrection. 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.

# 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.**

## 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: LINSTED, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–1980  
Text and music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
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## Prayer of the Day

Faithful God, in Jesus you show us a way of humility and hospitality with power to transform our world. Give us the grace to love those things that please you and the courage to live them to your glory.  
**Amen.**

## Children's Moment

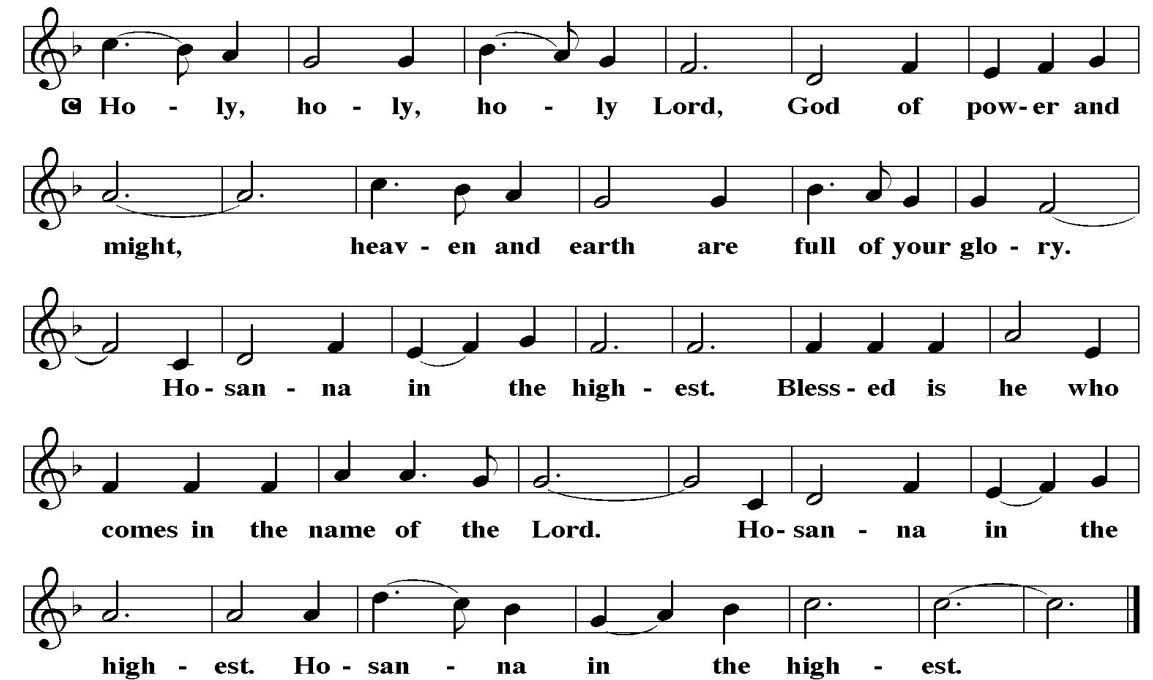
### First Reading: Proverbs 25:6-7a

- <sup>6</sup> Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence  
or stand in the place of the great,  
<sup>7a</sup> 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

- <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Happy are they who <sup>1</sup> fear the LORD  
and have great delight in <sup>1</sup> God's commandments!  
<sup>2</sup> Their descendants will be mighty <sup>1</sup> in the land;  
the generation of the upright <sup>1</sup> will be blessed.  
<sup>3</sup> Wealth and riches will be <sup>1</sup> in their house,  
and their righteousness will <sup>1</sup> last forever.  
<sup>4</sup> Light shines in the darkness <sup>1</sup> for the upright;



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.**

## 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)**

**the righteous are merciful and full<sup>1</sup> of compassion.**

<sup>5</sup> It is good for them to be gener-<sup>1</sup>ous in lending  
and to manage their af-<sup>1</sup>fairs with justice.

<sup>6</sup> **For they will nev-<sup>1</sup>er be shaken;**

**the righteous will be kept in everlast-<sup>1</sup>ing remembrance.**

<sup>7</sup> They will not be afraid of any<sup>1</sup> evil rumors;  
their heart is steadfast, trusting<sup>1</sup> in the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> **Their heart is established and<sup>1</sup> will not shrink,  
until they see their desire up-<sup>1</sup>on their enemies.**

<sup>9</sup> They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands<sup>1</sup>  
fast forever;  
they will hold up their<sup>1</sup> head with honor.

<sup>10</sup> **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth  
and<sup>1</sup> pine away;  
the desires of the wick-<sup>1</sup>ed will perish.**

## Second Reading: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16


<sup>1</sup> Let 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 confi-

dence,  
“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.

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.

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

Faithful God, you bless us in Jesus, who is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. And so we praise you with lips that confess his name and ask your blessing on these gifts for the life of the world. **Amen.**



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/Labour 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. 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.**

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.**

## Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14

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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<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."

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

## Sermon

Hymn of the Day: *Great God, Your Love Has Called Us*

WOV # 666



1 Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for  
2 We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and  
3 Great God, in Christ you call our name and then re - ceive us  
4 Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and  
5 Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your



love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,  
cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains,  
as your own, not through some mer - it, right, or claim,  
call us friends. Suf - fer and serve till all are fed,  
joy to share. Give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty



though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our  
by so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by pow'rs and sys - tems  
but by your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse your  
and show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre -  
to turn from guilt and dull de - spair, and of - fer all that



heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.  
close con - fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.  
mer - cy seat and find you kneel - ing at our feet.  
a - tion sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.  
faith can do while love is mak - ing all things new.

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.

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