

AES MINISTRIES ~ AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Mandy France: 651-800-6672

Visitation Deacon Lyla Klee: (h) 507-439-6940 ~ (c) 507-227-9250

Augustana office: 375-4792 website: www.aeslutheran.org

Organist: Heidi Engel Lector: Lisa Carlson Greeters: Deanna Hoffman

Radio Broadcast Sponsor: Augustana WELCA

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2026 9:00 AM

"Congregations joined in faith and fellowship to spread God's love."

AES Ministries mission statement

Welcome to all who worship with us today!

PRELUDE, WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

LEFT COLUMN, ELW p. 94

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✙ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The presiding minister may lead one of the following or another prayer of preparation.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

One of the following or another confession is prayed.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
we confess
that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you
with our whole heart;
we have not loved
our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake
of your Son, Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

"Gather Us In"

ELW #532

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
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,
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,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,
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.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.
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
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



GREETING

ELW p. 184

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray....

C: Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: 1 KINGS 3:5-12

⁵ At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?" ¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

L: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God**

PSALM: 119:129-136

¹²⁹ Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.

¹³⁰ **When your word is opened it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.**

¹³¹ I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.

¹³² **Turn to me and be gracious to me, as you always do to those who love your name.**

¹³³ Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.

¹³⁴ **Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments.**

¹³⁵ Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶ **My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your teaching.**

SECOND READING: ROMANS 8:26-39

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"

ELW #172





GOSPEL: MATTHEW 13:31-33, 44-52

P: The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew, the 13th Chapter

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

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” ³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a

woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.” ⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

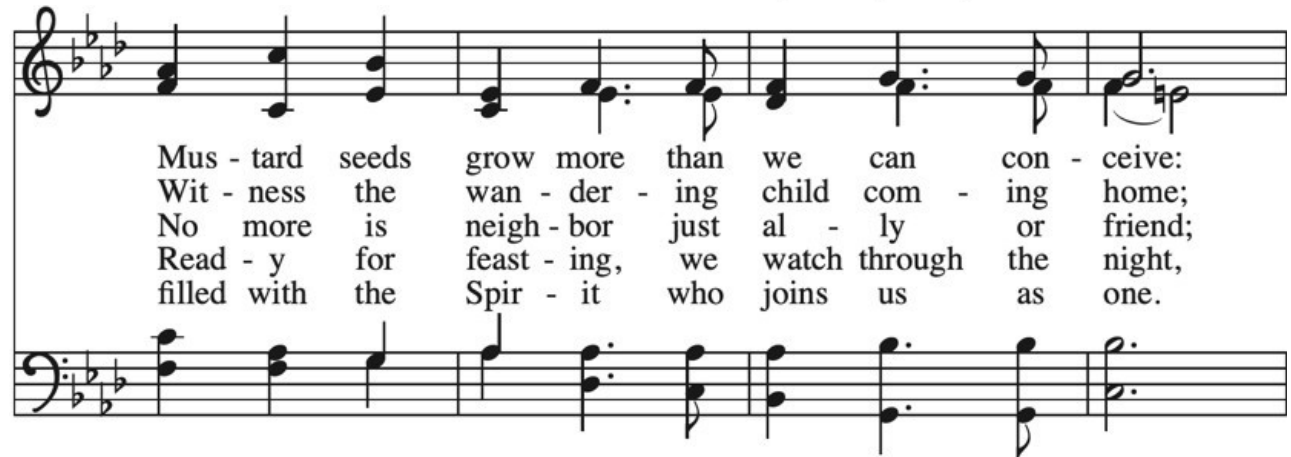
P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

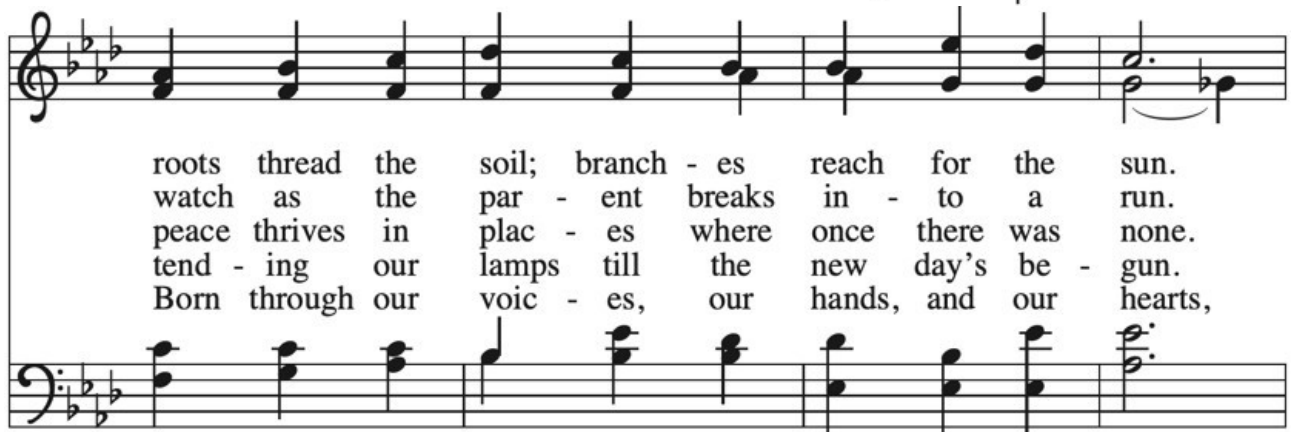
MESSAGE



1 What is the world like when God's will is done?
2 What is the world like when God's will is done?
3 What is the world like when God's will is done?
4 What is the world like when God's will is done?
5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im - parts,



Mus - tard seeds grow more than we can con - ceive:
Wit - ness the wan - der - ing child com - ing home;
No more is neigh - bor just al - ly or friend;
Read - y for feast - ing, we watch through the night,
filled with the Spir - it who joins us as one.



roots thread the soil; branch - es reach for the sun.
watch as the par - ent breaks in - to a run.
peace thrives in plac - es where once there was none.
tend - ing our lamps till the new day's be - gun.
Born through our voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,



This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.
This is how God longs for us when we roam.
This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.
This is how God read - ies us for the light.
this is a new world where God's will is done.

APOSTLE'S CREED

ELW p. 105

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.

PRAYER'S OF INTERCESSION

L: Lord in your Mercy . . .

C: Hear our Prayer

Prayer Concerns: Jaymi Dader, Mike Menssen, Francey Anderson, Laikyn, Lindsey Kulseth, Debbie McGuire, Nolan O'Connor, Darrell Ask, Dennis Johnson, Mike Larson, Jamie (Noren) Seiner, Marie Christenson, Phyllis Jurgens, Dave Finnegan, Tim Knaak, Don Flater, Bruce Ohland, Sam Christenson, Melissa Anderson, Steven Olson, Chloe Anderson, Orval Larson, Linda Madison, and Emma Overson.

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

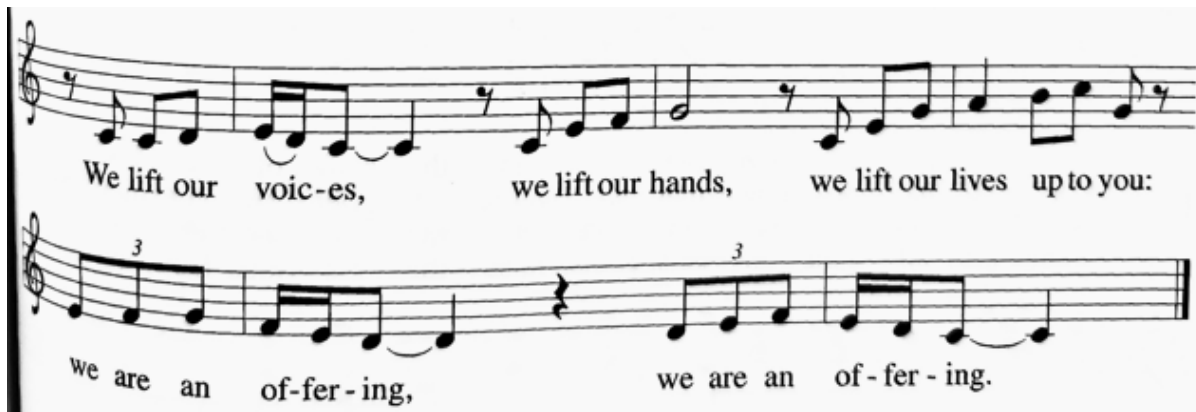
OFFERING

Offertory Hymn

"We Are an Offering"

ELW #692

The image shows a musical score for the offertory hymn "We Are an Offering" (ELW #692). The score is written on four staves of music. The lyrics are: "We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you." The music is in a simple, melodic style with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a time signature of 4/4. There are some triplets indicated by a '3' over the notes.



Offertory Prayer

Scan this QR Code to give Electronically!



THE LORD'S PRAYER

ELW p. 191

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.

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C: Amen

SENDING HYMN

"Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God"

WOV #783

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia, al -

D F#m G D G

1 Seek ye . . . first the king - dom of God and its
2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and
3 We do not live by bread . . . a - lone, but by

le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
D Em A⁷ D F[#]m

righ - teous - ness, and all these things shall be
you shall find; knock and the door shall be
ev - 'ry word that pro - ceeds from the

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
G D G D Em A D

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
mouth . . of . . . God. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

DISMISSAL **P:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord! **C:** Thanks be to God!

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Activities this week: July 27 – August 2

Tuesday 10:30 am – Devotions @ Brandt Ridge
11:00 am – Devotions @ Pleasant View
2:15 pm – Augustana worship on cable tv
Sunday 9:00 am – (E) Communion Worship
9:30 am – (A) Coffee Hour
10:30 am – (A) Communion Worship

Church Announcements

✝ **Noisy offering is TODAY!**

✝ **Join Augustana choir!** No age requirement and all people are welcome. Contact Maya Kulseth if you are interested. 507-621-3905

✝ **Attention Ladies of AES Ministries!** Please join us on **Wednesday August 5, 2026** for a "**Ladies Night Out**" at 5:30 in the "Porch" at Rivers Edge Grill (Golf Course). We will order off the menu.

* RSVP's are appreciated to the Augustana Church Office (507-375-4792) please leave a message if Lauren is unavailable.

Hosted by Rebecca Circle - We look forward to seeing you there!

✝ Following worship service, there will be coffee hour and a congregational financial update.

✝ There will be a **Relay for Life Donation Lunch TODAY**, 11-2 at the St. James American Legion. Silent Auction, Gift Certificate Wall, Bake Sale, and Luminaria Sale.

✝ Come and enjoy "The Little Mermaid" put on by St. James Community Theater! You will see local talent of a variety of ages bring this story of love and belonging to life. The production can be seen at the St. James High School's Little Theater on Thur., July 30 at 7 p.m., Fri., July 31 at 7 p.m., and Sat., Aug. 1 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$3 for 12 & under.

COMING UP IN AUGUST

August 4: 7-9 pm, AES Youth Pool Party at St. James outdoor pool

August 5: 5:30 pm, AES "Ladies Night Out", Rivers Edge Grill

August 9: 10:00 am, Joint Worship, Annual Picnic at East

August 16: No Worship at East – Threshing Bee

10:30 am, Worship Augustana

August 23: No Worship at East

10:30 am, Join Augustana for worship at Bandstand in Memorial Park

August 30: 10:00 am Joint Worship at Augustana (5th Sunday worship)