

welcome to worship
TIME AFTER PENTECOST
July 19, 2026



PRELUDE

Oboe Concerto No. 2, "Allegretto giocoso"
Artemis Drake, oboe
Atonement Bach Scholarship winner

Hildas

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, we confess to you all that we have been unable to do for your creation. We have fought with each other; neglected things, looked the other way and hold so much brokenness in our hearts. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. Send the spirit to guide us always to you. In Christ's name we pray, **Amen.**

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

In the name of God, Creator, † Redeemer, and Advocate, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN 693

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come – stanzas 1, 2, 4

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Miss Lauryn

READING

Romans 8:12-25 (The Message)

For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.

¹²⁻¹⁴ So don't you see that we don't owe this old do-it-yourself life anything. There's nothing in it for us, nothing at all. The best thing to do is give it a decent burial and get on with your new life. God's Spirit beckons. There are things to do and places to go!

¹⁵⁻¹⁷ This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike "What's next, God?" God's Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are. We know who God is, and we know who we are: God's children. And we know we are going to get what's coming to us—an unbelievable inheritance! We go through exactly what Christ goes through. If we go through the hard times with him, then we're certainly going to go through the good times with him!

¹⁸⁻²¹ That's why I don't think there's any comparison between the present hard times and the coming good times. The created world itself can hardly wait for what's coming next. Everything in creation is being more or less held back. God reins it in until both creation and all the creatures are ready and can be released at the same moment into the glorious times ahead. Meanwhile, the joyful anticipation deepens.

²²⁻²⁵ All around us we observe a pregnant creation. The difficult times of pain throughout the world are simply birth pangs. But it's not only around us; it's *within* us. The Spirit of God is arousing us within. We're also feeling the birth pangs. These sterile and barren bodies of ours are yearning for full deliverance. That is why waiting does not diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We, of course, don't see what is enlarging us. But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy.

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

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 694

Sing to the Lord of Harvest – stanza 1 only

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 (The Message)

Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁴⁻²⁶ [Jesus] told another story. "God's kingdom is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. That night, while his hired men were asleep, his enemy sowed thistles all through the wheat and slipped away before dawn. When the first green shoots appeared and the grain began to form, the thistles showed up, too.

²⁷ "The farmhands came to the farmer and said, 'Master, that was clean seed you planted, wasn't it? Where did these thistles come from?'

²⁸ "He answered, 'Some enemy did this.'

"The farmhands asked, 'Should we weed out the thistles?'

²⁹⁻³⁰ "He said, 'No, if you weed the thistles, you'll pull up the wheat, too. Let them grow together until harvest time. Then I'll instruct the harvesters to pull up the thistles and tie them in bundles for the fire, then gather the wheat and put it in the barn.'"

³⁶ Jesus dismissed the congregation and went into the house. His disciples came in and said, "Explain to us that story of the thistles in the field."

³⁷⁻³⁹ So he explained. "The farmer who sows the pure seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the pure seeds are subjects of the kingdom, the thistles are subjects of the Devil, and the enemy who sows them is the Devil. The harvest is the end of the age, the curtain of history. The harvest hands are angels.

⁴⁰⁻⁴³ "The picture of thistles pulled up and burned is a scene from the final act. The Son of Man will send his angels, weed out the thistles from his kingdom, pitch them in the trash, and be done with them. They are going to loudly complain, but nobody is going to listen. At the same time, ripe, holy lives will mature and adorn the kingdom of their Father.

"Are you listening to this? Really listening?

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

SERMON

Pastor Katie

The assembly stands.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition concludes God of grace, receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude ... through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus. Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

If you brought an offering or your pledge card today, please place it in an offering plate that ushers will pass at this time. Thank you for your generous gifts! Did you know you can give using a credit card? Scan the QR code to the right.



OFFERING HYMN 689

Praise and Thanksgiving

The assembly stands.

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy God, Three-in-One, you alone are holy.

The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars, beneath the sea, within each cell, with every breath. **We praise you, O God.**

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water, by night and day, across the wilderness, out of exile, into the future. **We bless you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life, near to those who suffer, beside the sinner, among the poor, with us now. **We thank you, O God.**

Following the words of institution...

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION

Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion at Atonement. Follow the directions of the ushers to receive bread and a pre-filled cup of wine or grape juice (in purple cups) from the communion assistants. Deposit your empty cup in the basket at the end of the front pew and return to your seat by the side aisles. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Children are welcome to receive communion with their parents' permission. We have been made aware that several trays have run out of grape juice in recent weeks. We are working to correct the situation, but in the meantime, please be assured that taking just the bread without the wine or juice is still receiving full communion, and with it all of the blessings that God bestows.

Please take a moment to sign and pass the attendance pads found in the pews, check in to Atonement on your favorite social media platform, share a photo with your digital community, and say something gentle in the spirit of Jesus!

COMMUNION MUSIC

Cantata No. 82, Ich habe genug (I have enough)
Artemis Drake, oboe

J. S. Bach

The words to this aria are a poem based on the Song of Simeon, Luke 2:29-32:

*I have enough, I have taken the Savior, the hope of the righteous, into my eager arms;
I have enough! I have beheld him, my faith has pressed Jesus to my heart;
now I wish, even today with joy to depart from here.*

The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
Amen.

BLESSING

May the Spirit give you grace never to sell yourself or others short.

Grace to risk something big for something good.

Grace to remember that the world is now too dangerous for anything but truth and too small for anything but love.

So may the Spirit take your mind and think through it.

May the Spirit take your lips and speak through them.

May the Spirit take your hands and do good with them.

May the Spirit take your heart and set it on fire. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Bring Forth the Kingdom of God

Leader: You are salt for the earth, O people:

All: salt for the kingdom of God!

Leader: Share the flavor of life, O people:

All: life in the kingdom of God!

Refrain (ALL SING):

Bring forth the kingdom of mercy, bring forth the kingdom of peace;

Bring forth the kingdom of justice, bring forth the city of God!

Leader: You are a light on the hill, O people:

All: light for the city of God!

Leader: Shine so holy and bright, O people:

All: shine for the kingdom of God! Refrain

Leader: We are a blest and a pilgrim people:

All: bound for the kingdom of God!

Leader: Love our journey and love our homeland:

All: love is the kingdom of God! Refrain

"Bring Forth the Kingdom," words and music by Marty Haugen. ©1986 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701243.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Bring forth the kingdom of God! **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

arr. Sowash

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Assisting with Worship

Susan Beam, greeter

Mick Bryan, head usher

Emmett Borrelli-Hoh, assisting minister

John Lehr, lector

Linda Lord, Oliver Lord, Diane Melcher, communion assistants

Crystal Shirk, Matt Shirk, sound booth

Susan Mehos, altar captain

Pat Noll, sexton

Katie Lyon, *Pastor*

klyon@atonementwyo.org

Molly Haggerty, *Transition Pastor of Community Engagement*

mhaggerty@atonementwyo.org

Tom Yenser, *Deacon*

tyenser@atonementwyo.org

Jen Dauber, *Preschool Director*

jdauber@atonementwyo.org

Lauryn Lacis, *Director of Children's Ministry*

llacis@atonementwyo.org

Arthur Wyse, *Visitation Pastor*

awyse@atonementwyo.org

Crystal Shirk, *Office Manager*

cshirk@atonementwyo.org

Amy Rogers, *Financial Secretary*

arogers@atonementwyo.org

Tom Scornavacchi, *Mission Developer*

tscornavacchi@atonementwyo.org

Michelle Endy, *Room Coordinator*

calendar@atonementwyo.org

Ken Lord, *Congregational Health Advocate*

klord@atonementwyo.org

Ellen Bryan, *Pastoral Care Coordinator*

ebryan@atonementwyo.org

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Atonement

5 Wyomissing Boulevard

Wyomissing, Pennsylvania 19610-2081

610-375-3512 ♦ www.atonementwyo.org

The Rev. Katie Lyon ♦ The Rev. Molly Haggerty ♦ Deacon Tom Yenser, director of music

WARMEST WELCOME to this congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America! We are a Lutheran church, but we're not just for Lutherans—we belong to our community.

CHILDREN are very welcome at Atonement! Activity bags and children's bulletins are available with the ushers. The nursery will not be staffed for the summer, but the PRIVACY ROOM at the back of the church is available for families who would like a little extra wiggles room.

RESTROOMS are located in the hall next to the worship space. A FAMILY RESTROOM with a changing table is also located in the Privacy Room at the back of the worship space.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS are Monday—Thursday, 10:30am—2:30pm or by appointment.

ATONEMENT VOLUNTEERS SERVE AT OPPORTUNITY HOUSE the third Saturday of every month. Contact Bob Eisenbrown at 484-332-8788 if you would like to join the team.

DONATING TO THE COMMUNITY AID THRIFT SHOP can benefit Common Ground. Use the code 50244 when you make a donation.

FOOD DONATIONS of canned goods, cereal, and other non-perishable, non-expired items for Lutheran Pantry are always accepted in the grocery cart in the narthex.

COMMON GROUND DONATIONS of clothing and toiletries can be placed in the large bin next to the coatroom in the narthex.

PRESCHOOL still has openings for Together Time, T/Th Toddlers, and 3-year-olds. Contact Jen Dauber at jdauber@atonementwyo.org for information.

OUR LANDSCAPING TEAM is looking for new members! Contact John Lehr for details at 610-304-6818 or johnt.lehr@gmail.com.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION continues throughout the summer at 9am in room F122.

YOUTH who have completed 6th-12th grade are invited to join Pastor Katie at the Western Berks Mission District Mini Mission Trip Monday, July 27. We will meet on Monday at 8:15am at Atonement and be back at Atonement by 5pm. Contact Pastor Katie at klyone@atonementwyo.org if you are interested.

MINISTRY MEAL SIGN-UP SHEETS are in the narthex. Join us for a meal while helping us focus on strategic planning and getting to know one another in the process.

USHERS NEEDED! Ushering is a great way to meet people and serve the Atonement community. The commitment is about one week per month. Please contact the office if you have questions or would like to be added to one of our usher teams.

PRETZELS will be for sale in the narthex following today's worship. \$2 per pretzel, cash or Venmo. Proceeds will go towards the preschool's 50th anniversary carnival celebration on September 13.

SUMMER CHOIR will sing next Sunday, July 26, as part of our Christmas in July celebration. All children, youth, and adults are invited to rehearse in the nave at 9:00am and sing together at 10:00am worship. No experience needed!



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.

2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;

4 E - ven so, Lord, quick-ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.

Gath - er then thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.

there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy gar - ner to a - bide.

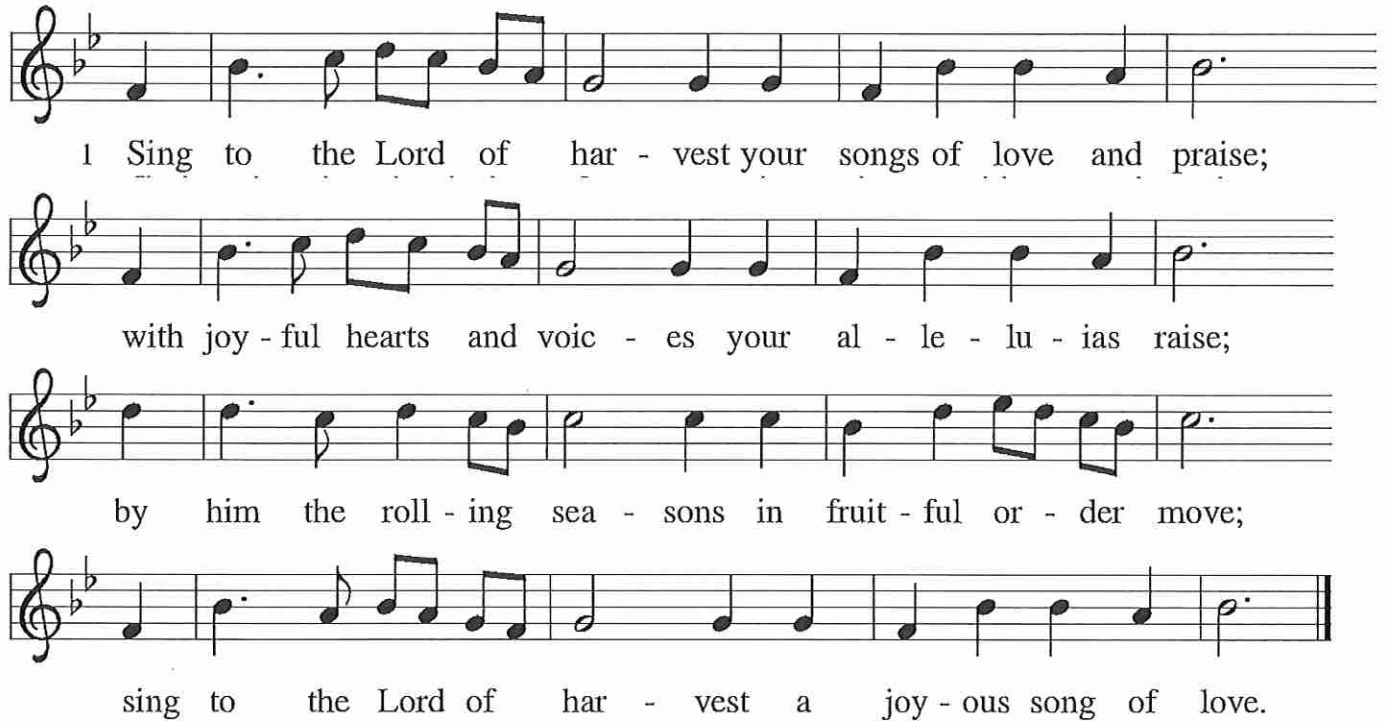


Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole-some grain and pure may be.

Come, with all thine an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 694

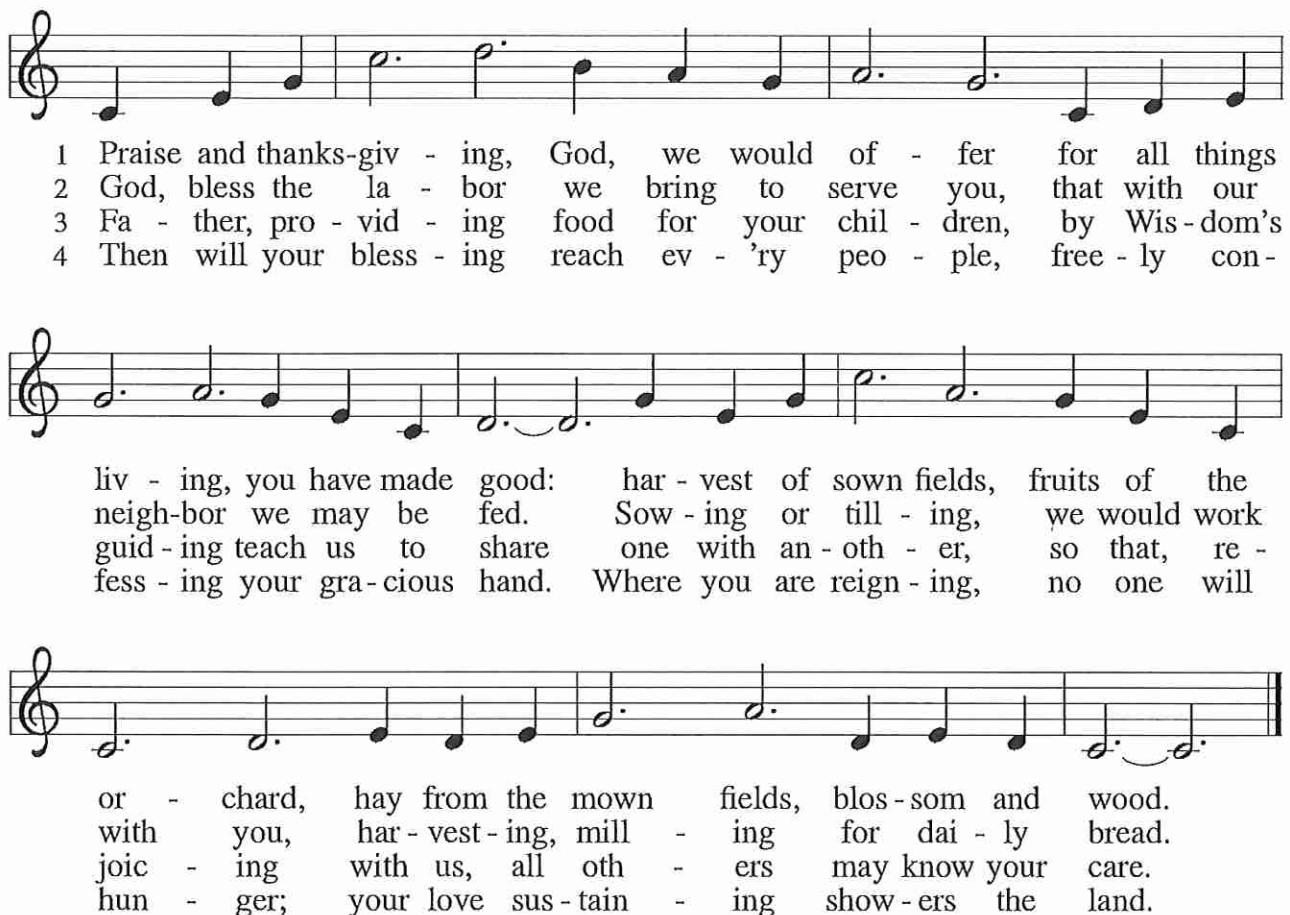
Sing to the Lord of Harvest – stanza 1



1 Sing to the Lord of har - vest your songs of love and praise;
with joy - ful hearts and voic - es your al - le - lu - ias raise;
by him the roll - ing sea - sons in fruit - ful or - der move;
sing to the Lord of har - vest a joy - ous song of love.

OFFERING HYMN 689

Praise and Thanksgiving



1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things
2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's
4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -

liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the
neigh - bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work
guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -
fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will

or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.
with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.
joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.
hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.



HELP US!
**CLOTHING
DRIVE**



Common Ground is in need of
clothing for Men and Women.

Pants

Shorts

T-shirts

Long Sleeves

Sneakers

Jackets

Socks & Underwear

**Drop off at Atonement during office hours
(Monday - Thursday 11am -2pm) or Sunday
morning.**



Opportunity House

Bring your
donations to
Atonement by
August 8

back to school and supply drive

WE CURRENTLY NEED:



- Clorox wipes and tissues
- pens, pencils, and colored pencils
- lined, construction, card stock and copy paper
- crayons, highlighters, and markers
- sticky notes and index cards
- regular and manilla folders
- regular and painters tape
- notebooks
- laminating sheets and sheet protectors
- staplers and staples
- backpacks and lunch bags
- art canvases and craft beads
- dry erase and permanent markers
- erasers and white out
- glue and scissors
- dry shampoo
- deodorant
- pencil sharpeners and cases
- watercolor paint
- regular and painters tape