

welcome to worship
TIME AFTER PENTECOST
September 20, 2026



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

PRELUDE

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness
Wonderful Peace*

arr. Nordquist
Cooper

WELCOME

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, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.
Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, we **confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN 688

Lord of Light – 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: Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Miss Lauryn

READING

Jonah 3:10—4:11 (The Message)

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

¹⁰ God saw what [the people of Nineveh] had done, that they had turned away from their evil lives. God *did* have a change of heart about them. God decided not to destroy them after all.

⁴ ¹⁻² Jonah was furious. He lost his temper. He yelled at GOD, "GOD! I knew it—when I was back home, I knew this was going to happen! That's why I ran off to Tarshish! I knew you were sheer grace and mercy, not easily angered, rich in love, and ready at the drop of a hat to turn your plans of punishment into a program of forgiveness!

³ "So, GOD, if you won't kill them, kill *me*! I'm better off dead!"

⁴ GOD said, "What do you have to be angry about?"

⁵ But Jonah just left. He went out of the city to the east and sat down in a sulk. He put together a makeshift shelter of leafy branches and sat there in the shade to see what would happen to the city.

⁶ GOD arranged for a broad-leafed tree to spring up. It grew over Jonah to cool him off and get him out of his angry sulk. Jonah was pleased and enjoyed the shade. Life was looking up.

⁷⁻⁸ But then God sent a worm. By dawn of the next day, the worm had bored into the shade tree and it withered away. The sun came up and God sent a hot, blistering wind from the east. The sun beat down on Jonah's head and he started to faint. He prayed to die: "I'm better off dead!"

⁹ Then God said to Jonah, "What right do you have to get angry about this shade tree?"

Jonah said, "Plenty of right. It's made me angry enough to die!"

¹⁰⁻¹¹ GOD said, "What's this? How is it that you can change your feelings from pleasure to anger overnight about a mere shade tree that you did nothing to get? You neither planted nor watered it. It grew up one night and died the next night. So, why can't I likewise change what I feel about Nineveh from anger to pleasure, this big city of more than 120,000 childlike people who don't yet know right from wrong, to say nothing of all the innocent animals?"

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

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 520

Dearest Jesus, at Your Word – stanza 1 only

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16 (The Message)

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

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

20 ¹⁻² "God's kingdom is like an estate manager who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. They agreed on a wage of a denari a day, and went to work.

³⁻⁵ "Later, about nine o'clock, the manager saw some other men hanging around the town square unemployed. He told them to go to work in his vineyard and he would pay them a fair wage. They went.

⁵⁻⁶ "He did the same thing at noon, and again at three o'clock. At five o'clock he went back and found still others standing around. He said, 'Why are you standing around all day doing nothing?'

⁷ "They said, 'Because no one hired us.'

"He told them to go to work in his vineyard.

⁸ "When the day's work was over, the owner of the vineyard instructed his foreman, 'Call the workers in and pay them their wages. Start with the last hired and go on to the first.'

⁹⁻¹² "Those hired at five o'clock came up and were each given a denari. When those who were hired first saw that, they assumed they would get far more. But they got the same, each of them one denari. Taking the denari, they groused angrily to the manager, 'These last workers put in only one easy hour, and you just made them equal to us, who slaved all day under a scorching sun.'

¹³⁻¹⁵ "He replied to the one speaking for the rest, 'Friend, I haven't been unfair. We agreed on the wage of a denari, didn't we? So take it and go. I decided to give to the one who came last the same as you. Can't I do what I want with my own money? Are you going to get stingy because I am generous?'

¹⁶ "Here it is again, the Great Reversal: many of the first ending up last, and the last first."

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

SERMON

Pastor Katie

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Each petition concludes Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.***

*The prayers conclude ... We ask this in Jesus' name. **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 707

Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us -- stanzas 1, 2, 3

The assembly stands.

HOLY COMMUNION

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

Christ invites you to this table. All who are hungry and thirsty, come!

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.

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 HYMN 765

Lord of All Hopefulness

COMMUNION HYMN 712

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN 705

God of Grace and God of Glory

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy! Bring peace to the world. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Come, Thou Almighty King

arr. Unfried

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Assisting with Worship

Matt and Jacqueline Lepera, greeters

Fred Kofke, head usher

Fran Tieman, lector

Gail Dawson-White, assisting minister

Mick Bryan, Max Romig, sound booth

Joanne Gabel, Tyler Good, Diane Melcher, Cara Pepper, communion assistants

Frank and Victoria Mercuri, nursery

Karen Sandloop, altar captain

Pat Noll, sexton

Yongmee Bashore, guest musician

Katie Lyon, *Pastor*

Molly Haggerty, *Transition Pastor of Community Engagement*

Tom Yenser, *Deacon*

Jen Dauber, *Preschool Director*

Lauryn Lacis, *Director of Children's Ministry*

Arthur Wyse, *Visitation Pastor*

Crystal Shirk, *Office Manager*

Amy Rogers, *Financial Secretary*

Tom Scornavacchi, *Mission Developer*

Michelle Endy, *Room Coordinator*

Ken Lord, *Congregational Health Advocate*

Ellen Bryan, *Pastoral Care Coordinator*

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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. Children from age 3 to 2nd grade are invited to experience worship geared just for them – follow the CHILDREN'S CHAPEL leader to the privacy room after the Children's Message. Children will return to their families for communion. NURSERY is available for children preschool age and younger in Room F126.

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.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS this morning are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Solomon F. Peters, Jr. and Phyllis E. Peters, by their daughter, Dr. Ariana Peters Patnode.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS are 10am-3pm Monday-Thursday, and by appointment.

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 are always welcome! Items can be placed in the large bin next to the coatroom in the narthex.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION continues this fall in room F122 at 8:45am.

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION continues Sunday mornings throughout the fall - meet in the choir room Sunday mornings at 8:45am.

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.

CROP HUNGER WALK is October 11 – join team Atonement as we take steps to fight hunger in our own community. We are also accepting donations through Sunday, October 26. Make your check payable to "Atonement" with "CROP Walk" in the check memo or notes field for online donations.

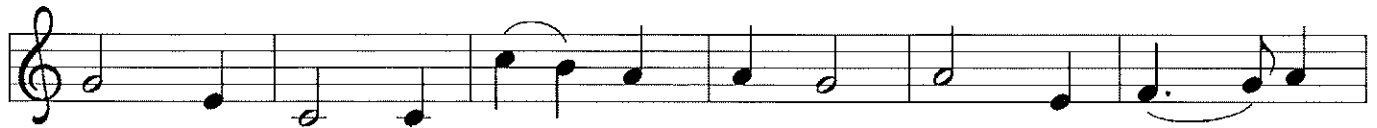
CONFIRMATION students meet in the privacy room today, 11:15am-12:15pm. Next week students will meet 5:30-7:30pm for youth group.

ATONEMENT SMALL GROUPS will begin meeting on Wednesdays in October at 7:30pm. FAITH & JUSTICE will meet the first Wednesday of each month, FAITH & RECOVERY will meet the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month.

MUSINGS IN MENOPAUSE SMALL GROUP, for women experiencing perimenopause or menopause, will continue to meet the THIRD Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm, following the Common Ground service. Join us as we share our experiences, laughter (and maybe some tears), conversation, and faith to help us navigate this sometimes-challenging time in our lives.

GATHERING HYMN 688

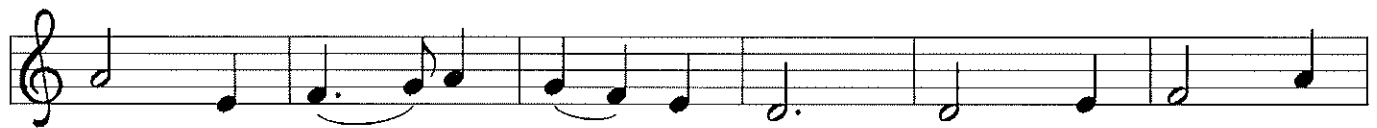
Lord of Light – stanzas 1, 2, 4



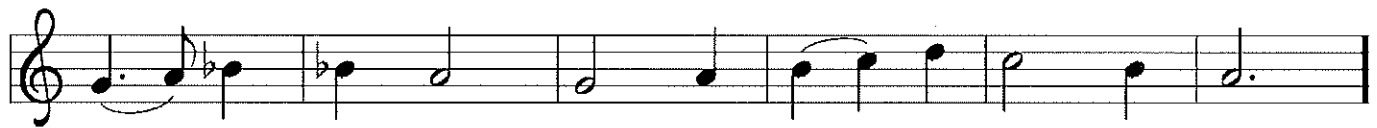
1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and
 2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -
 4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent



suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom
 ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance
 day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing



as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -
 of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -
 peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that



fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.
 ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:
 pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:



Refrain
 Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -

gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred

and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -

es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.

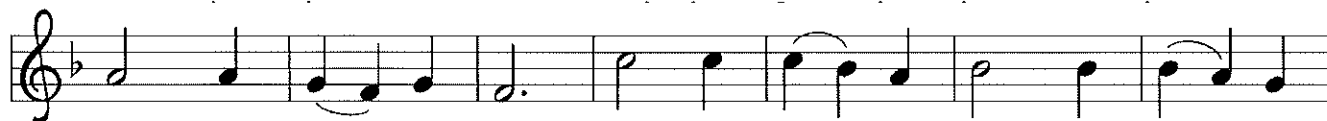
OFFERING HYMN 707 *Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us* – stanzas 1, 2, 3



1 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your life - blood
 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you glad - ly, free - ly,
 3 Won - drous hon - or you have giv - en to our hum - blest



as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -
 of your own. With the sun - shine of your good - ness melt our
 char - i - ty in your own mys - te - rious sen - tence, "You have



men - dous sac - ri - fice; and with that have free - ly giv - en
 thank - less hearts of stone till our cold and self - ish na - tures,
 done it all to me." Na - ked, sick, in pris - on, hun - gry—

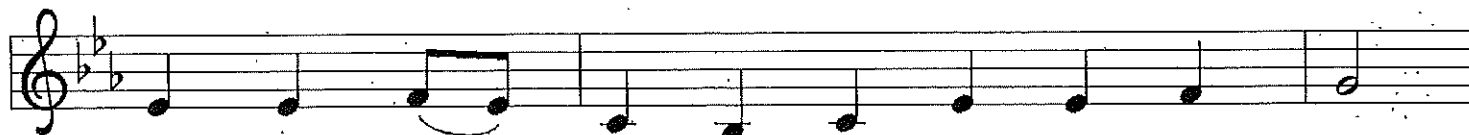


bles - sings count - less as the sand to the un - thank - ful
 warmed by you, at length be - lieve that more hap - py
 in the least, your face we view, say - ing by your



and the e - vil with your own un - spar - ing hand.
 and more bless - ed 'tis to give than to re - ceive.
 poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you."

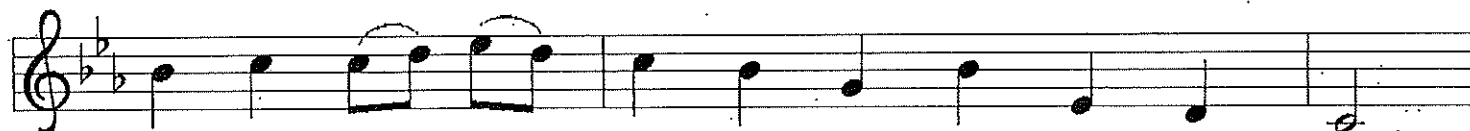
Lord of All Hopefulness



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
 2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
 3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
 4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
 whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
 your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
 whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day,
 your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
 your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
 your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

© Jan Struther, 1901-1953
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional
 Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

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712

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service



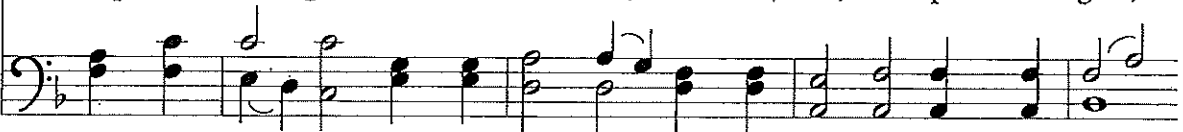
1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu - man need,
 2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;
 3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal-ing light
 4 Called by wor-ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer-cy's per - fect deed:
 still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
 in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up - on our quick-ened sight,
 to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;
 As you, Lord, in deep com-pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
 mak-ing known the needs and bur - dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,
 hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.
 by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.
 stir-ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun-dant life to share.
 that your ser - vants, Lord, in free-dom may your mer - cy know and live.



SENDING HYMN 705

God of Grace and God of Glory



- 1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.