

welcome to worship
COMMON GROUND SUNDAY

Spiritual Recovery Service
September 14, 2025

Welcome to this Holy place where we meet God with all our vulnerabilities and strengths, with all our fears and anxieties, with all our love and hopes. Here we do not need to hide or pretend or be anything other than who we are. Come into this place and be touched by the Spirit, the spirit who loves, forgives, and heals.

WE ARE WELCOMED

Greetings and Announcements

Centering Music:

We Will Not Fear

Tom Witt



Though the earth shall change, though the moun-tains trem-ble,



though the wa - ters rage, you, God, are here.



Though the na - tions war, though the peo - ples bat - tle,



though the em - pire fal - ters, we will not fear.

Text: Rolf Vegdahl, b. 1955, and Tom Witt, b. 1957, based on Psalm 46

Music: WE WILL NOT FEAR, Tom Witt

Text and music © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

We say the 12 Steps together

1. We admitted we were powerless - that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. We came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. We made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood God.
4. We made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. We admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. We were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. We humbly asked God to remove our shortcomings.
8. We made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. We made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. We continued to take personal inventory, and when we were wrong, promptly admitted it.
11. We sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, as we understood God, praying only for the knowledge of God's will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to others and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

WE ADMIT OUR WRONGS AND ARE FORGIVEN

We make a public confession. During this time, we reflect on the ways that we have acted out on our character defects causing harm to our relationships with God, one another, and ourselves.

Let us admit the exact nature of our wrongs in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination. (think of it as a 10th Step if that helps)

We confess together:

God of mercy and grace, we come to you in our brokenness to share with you the ways we have acted out causing harm to you, to our neighbors, and to ourselves. We ask that you hear and forgive us of our faults, whether intentional or accidental, and, for Jesus sake, restore us to wholeness.

We are forgiven:

God sees our brokenness (vulnerability) and hears us when we share our faults. God's love for us is stronger than any wrongdoing we ever did or will ever do. God's love comes to us through Jesus, who died for us, rose again, and brings us new life. In the name of + Jesus Christ, our wrongs are forgiven.

We sing a song:

God, We Gather As Your People

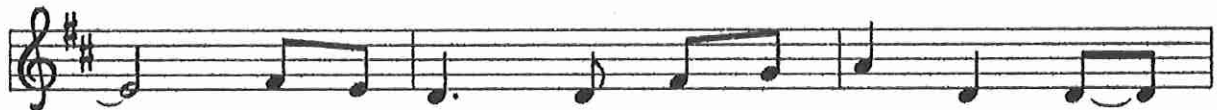
WELCOME BE OUR SONG



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -
2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be
3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and
4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.
free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,
shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.
wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we
that they nev - er have a rea - son to
May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your
As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they



trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.
doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.
love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.
join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.

Refrain



Oh, may our hearts and minds be o-pened, fling the church doors o-pen wide. May there be room e-nough for ev-'ry-one in - side. For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be - long. May that wel - come be our song.

We pray together:

Forgiving God, grant us the courage to make amends for the wrongs we have done, grant us the wisdom to know when it would do more harm than good, and the willingness to let go of the outcomes. Amen.

Children's Message

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

We gather to listen for the word of God in song, prayer, 12-step literature, and scripture.

We listen to each other and to a message of delight, comfort, healing and promise.

We listen for the very presence of God, our higher power in our midst.

Step of the Month:

We made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

We hear a reading from 12-Step Literature:

The direct amends we make in words are crucial to our recovery, but that's only part of the process. Living those amends means allowing the changes in our personalities and our behavior to become reliable and consistent in the lives of those we care about. We do this whether the people we care for are changing or not, whether they forgive us or not, whether our relationship becomes what we wish for or not. When we clean up our side of the street, we can feel easier in our hearts and spirits. But that by no means obligates anyone else to clean up their part, nor does it suggest that our families will magically transform into what we always wished they were. More likely, we learn to make peace with the families we have, and to accept the reality of who they are. We learn to meet them where they are without conditions or expectations.

Living Clean, the Journey Continues, pages 152-153

We hear a reflection:

Saying "I'm sorry," or apologizing for causing harm, is only part of the forgiveness equation. The other and perhaps even more powerful phrase is "I forgive you." "I forgive you" acknowledges that what you did hurt me deeply, but I decided to let it go. I will not hold it over you or hold it against you. The slate has been wiped clean. I have chosen to give you another chance. The relationship has been restored.

Addiction and Recovery, A Spiritual Pilgrimage, Martha Postlewaite, pg. 105



1. When you come to the desert alone
And your strength is almost gone
And the fear overshadows the dawn
You are still surrounded by love

2. When your world seems to fall apart
All that's left is a broken heart
And you're not even sure where to start
You are still surrounded by love
We will still surround you with love.

We hear a reading from Scripture: Luke 15:11-24 (The Message)

Then [Jesus] said, "There was once a man who had two sons. The younger said to his father, 'Father, I want right now what's coming to me.'

"So the father divided the property between them. It wasn't long before the younger son packed his bags and left for a distant country. There, undisciplined and dissipated, he wasted everything he had. After he had gone through all his money, there was a bad famine all through that country and he began to feel it. He signed on with a citizen there who assigned him to his fields to slop the pigs. He was so hungry he would have eaten the corn-cobs in the pig slop, but no one would give him any.

"That brought him to his senses. He said, 'All those farmhands working for my father sit down to three meals a day, and here I am starving to death. I'm going back to my father. I'll say to him, Father, I've sinned against God, I've sinned before you; I don't deserve to be called your son. Take me on as a hired hand.' He got right up and went home to his father.

"When he was still a long way off, his father saw him. His heart pounding, he ran out, embraced him, and kissed him. The son started his speech: 'Father, I've sinned against God, I've sinned before you; I don't deserve to be called your son ever again.'

"But the father wasn't listening. He was calling to the servants, 'Quick. Bring a clean set of clothes and dress him. Put the family ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Then get a prize-winning heifer and roast it. We're going to feast! We're going to have a wonderful time! My son is here—given up for dead and now alive! Given up for lost and now found!' And they began to have a wonderful time.

"All this time his older son was out in the field. When the day's work was done he came in. As he approached the house, he heard the music and dancing. Calling over one of the houseboys, he asked what was going on. He told him, 'Your brother came home. Your father has ordered a feast—barbecued beef!—because he has him home safe and sound.'

"The older brother stomped off in an angry sulk and refused to join in. His father came out and tried to talk to him, but he wouldn't listen. The son said, 'Look how many years I've stayed here serving you, never giving you one moment of grief, but have you ever thrown a party for me and my friends? Then this son of yours who has thrown away your money on whores shows up and you go all out with a feast!'

"His father said, 'Son, you don't understand. You're with me all the time, and everything that is mine is yours—but this is a wonderful time, and we had to celebrate. This brother of yours was dead, and he's alive! He was lost, and he's found!'"

We share our stories:

Anyone is invited to briefly share a minute or two how what they have heard makes sense in their lives, to express thanks, fear, gratitude, doubt, and witness to the hope they have heard.

We hear a message:

Pastor Tom

We sing a song:

Closer

Text from Ps. 51; Music by Terry Butler

1. Search me, oh God, and know my thoughts, noth - ing is hid - den from
2. Cre ate in me a clean heart, re - new a right spir - it in

You. Lead me a - long Your path of life
me. Make of me, Lord, a serv - ant who

that I may walk in truth. Bring me clos - er, clos -
walks in hu - mil - i - ty.

er, clos - er to You, my Lord. Bring me clos - er,

clos - er to Your ways, to Your will, to Your heart.

We pray for all people, for the world, and those not with us:

We sing in response:

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Ken Medema

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943

Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema

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WE SHARE A MEAL

We eat and drink a feast together! In our communion we remember we are never alone, for God joins us in this meal, and God makes us who we are: loved and forgiven.

We pray the Lord's Prayer:

**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.**

Holy Communion & Offering

Everything in our lives— our money, our talents, our possessions, our time, and our passions— has been entrusted to us by God for use according to God's will.

Generosity is a spiritual practice that acknowledges all that God has done for us and given to us. Generosity and service are inherent in Step Twelve as "we carry the message to others and practice these principles in all our affairs."

Today's offering will be split between Common Ground Recovery Community and Atonement Lutheran Church. If you brought an offering, please place it in the offering plate in the front or back of the church as you come up for communion. You can also give online by scanning the QR code.



Music during communion

The Communion Song (Remembrance)

ELW 461

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

Maher & Redman

HOLY MANNA

We say the Serenity Prayer:

**God, grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change,
the courage to change the things we can,
and the wisdom to know the difference.**

We sing Amazing Grace:

**Amazing grace! How sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.**

WE ARE SENT

*Having been fed and nourished by God's presence in Word and Sacrament,
we are sent forth to love and serve others.*

We receive a blessing:

May God bless you with discomfort, at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships so that you may live Deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears, to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain to joy

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in the world,
So that you can do what others claim cannot be done to bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.

In the name of the father, and the Son + and the Holy Spirit. And the whole church says, **AMEN**

We share a sign of peace:

The peace of the Lord is with you always.

And also with you.

Remember, Jesus said, **"You are the light of the world"** So may your light shine brightly, reflecting God's love wherever you go and lighting the path for others to follow.

Postlude

Assisting with Worship

Fred Kofke, head usher ♦ Fran Tieman, lector
Yvonne Gilbert, Linda Lord, Oliver Lord, Barb Mishler, communion assistants
Crystal Shirk, Matt Shirk, audio visual
Karen Sandloop, altar captain ♦ Kaia Arana Lyon, sexton
Frank & Victoria Mercuri, nursery
Stephen Longenecker, Cara Hart, musicians



There are two places where **COMMON GROUND** meets for worship:
Atonement Wyomissing - Wednesday meal at 6:00, service at 7:00 PM
Trinity Reading – Worship Sunday at 2pm, meal at 2:40pm

EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT ALL OUR WORSHIP SERVICES AND EVENTS!!!

For more information contact Pastor Tom Scornavacchi at PastorTom@cgrcommunity.org

COMMON GROUND RECOVERY COMMUNITY

A ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

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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! Together we are on the journey of discipleship with Jesus, who guides us from worship to formation, from formation to fellowship, and from fellowship to Christ-like servanthood.

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

HEARING DEVICES are available for those who have trouble hearing the service—ask an usher or stop by the sound booth on you way into the worship space if you would like one.

CHILDREN are very welcome at Atonement! Activity bags and children's bulletins are available at the entrance to the worship space. Children from 3 years of age 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.

CHURCH NURSERY for preschool aged children and younger is in Room F126 during 10:00 am worship.

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.

FAITH FORMATION for adults will continue throughout the fall in room F122 at 9am. Children will resume meeting Sunday, September 21.

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

DONATIONS FOR COMMON GROUND are being collected in the large bin next to the coatroom in the narthex. You can also donate using our Amazon wish list, available by going to atonementwyo.org and selecting Common Ground from the top menu of the home page.

FELLOWSHIP SUPPER will be served every Wednesday at 6pm in Lundin Hall, followed by Common Ground worship at 7. Everyone is invited!

Rabbi Brian Michelson will be coming again to talk about the Hebrew Bible on Sunday, October 19 during the faith formation hour:8:45-9:45 in Lundin Hall. All are welcome to attend.

CROP HUNGER WALK teams are forming for Sunday, October 12. To join Team Atonement or make a donation, use the link found on the home page of atonementwyo.org. Contact Michelle Endy at calendar@atonementwyo.org with questions.

BLESSING OF THE QUILTS will be September 28. Lutheran World Relief will then send them around the world to those in need and shipping costs are quite high. If anyone would like to donate to LWR to help defray shipping costs, please make a check out to Atonement with LWR in the memo line.

HOT DOGS, HAMBURGERS will be served on the lawn today after worship. Everyone is invited to stay for lunch and fellowship!

PORTABLE SHOWER TRAILERS will be parked in our parking lot this morning. Please take a minute to see how Atonement is reaching out with other local churches to provide this service to those in need.

PICKLEBALL play is on a break while the gym floor is being refinished. Check the weekly announcements for when we will resume Sunday afternoon play.

