

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

***Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2026***



"The Red Vineyards Near Arles" by Vincent van Gogh (1888)

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

Website Address:
www.holyspiritsecane.org
Church Email:
Holyspiritsecane@verizon.net
Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday 9am – 2pm

To all who are tired and need rest; to all who mourn, and need comfort; to all who are friendless and need friendship; to all who are homeless, and need sheltering love; to all who pray, and to all who do not pray; to all who sin and need a Savior; to whomsoever will, this church opens wide its doors and in the name of Jesus Christ, says Welcome!

Welcome to Holy Spirit! Thank you for joining us today to worship the Living God! Through prayer, music, the proclamation of God's word and the sharing of a meal together we offer praise to God! Please come again and invite others to come with you. You are always welcome here at Holy Spirit!

We welcome the participation of all in worship. This worship bulletin is inclusive and contains the order of worship and all music you will need to participate. We sit and stand where indicated (*) in reverence to God; do what is comfortable for you. The people respond where indicated in **boldface** type.

A: Worship Assistant C: Congregation P: Presider

If you are having difficulty reading the bulletin, we have enlarged print bulletins available. Please ask the usher.

Visitors, please fill out a communion card and place in the offering plate.

Members, please fill out a communion card at least once per month and place in the offering plate.

OUR MISSION
“KNOW CHRIST! GROW! SPREAD GOD’S LOVE!”

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ GATHERING +

(Please stand as you are able)

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: May we remember

C: That God created.

P: May we remember

C: That God liberated.

P: May we remember

C: That God fed.

P: May we remember

C: That God is *still* creating, God is *still* liberating, And God is *still* feeding us.

P: Let this be our story.

C: Let this be where we begin. Let us worship holy God.

***CONFESSIOIN AND FORGIVENESS**

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

P: Blessed be God: ✠ the one who forms us, Jesus who bears the cross, and the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

C: Amen.

P: Holy God,

C: We admit to remembering the wrong things.

We remember worldly lessons like, “Everyone for themselves,”

“An eye for an eye,” and “All is fair in love and war.”

And yet, we forget to trust in God’s grace and mercy for all of us,

To love our neighbors as ourselves,

And to live like the body of Christ.

Why is it so hard to remember the right things?

Release us from our muscle memory and self-imposed barriers.

Re-center us in a new place, a fresh place,

A space grounded in your love.

Open us up to receive your word anew,

And to consider stewardship not with the world’s rules,

But with your rules.

Help us remember.

With hope we pray, Amen.

**P: Beloved in Christ, God’s justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God’s compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a
new way for us. In Christ, ✝ all your sins are forgiven.**

C: Amen.

***GATHERING SONG: Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing
(ELW 807)**



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.

(Cont'd)



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
 Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
 he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood.
 Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing grace and mercy:

C: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

(Please be seated for the Liturgy of the Word.)

+ **WORD** +

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹ The word of the LORD came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³ As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 25:1-9

¹ To | you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³ Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴ **Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶ **Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and ¹ my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of
your goodness, O LORD.

⁸ **You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners ¹ in your way.**

⁹ You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any
partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my
joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full
accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty
conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let
each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others.
⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,
⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,

¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

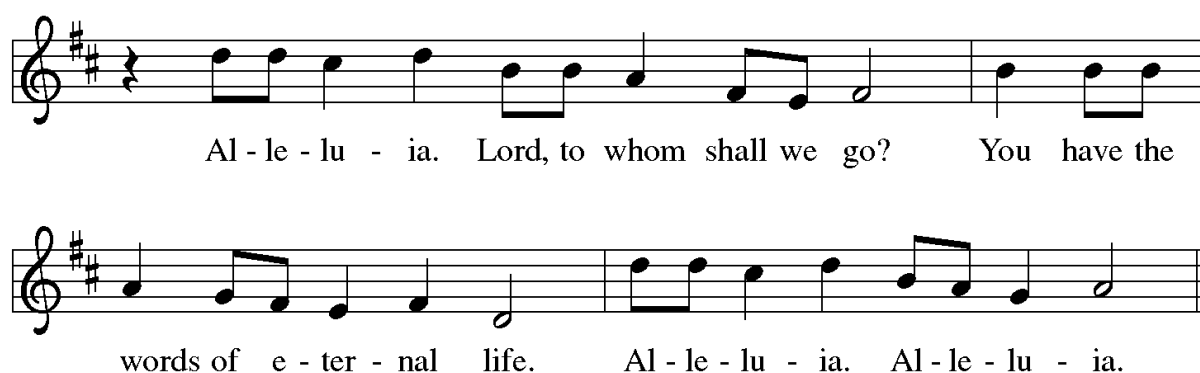
Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please remain seated.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Setting 3)



GOSPEL: *Matthew 21:23-32*

P: The Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’” ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid

of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.”²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went.³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go.³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

P: This is the Good News of the Lord.

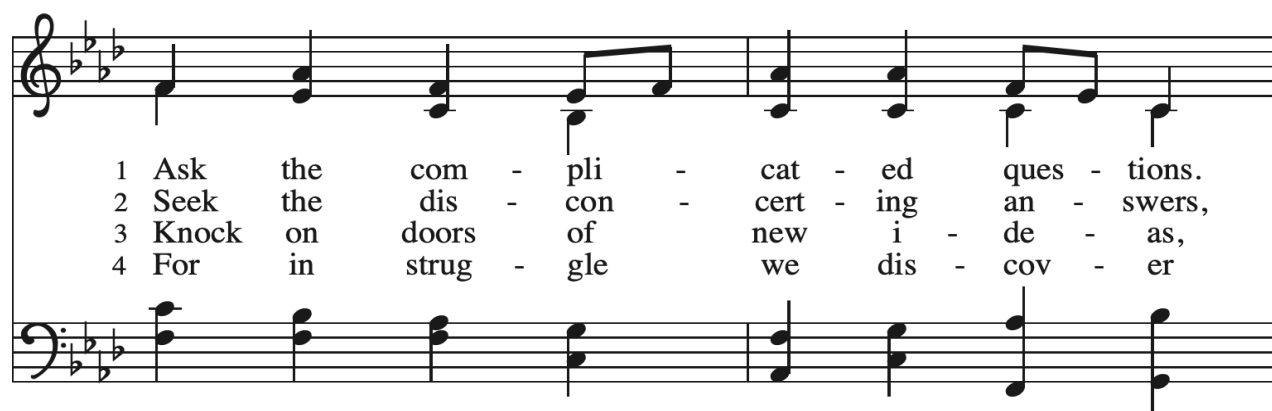
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

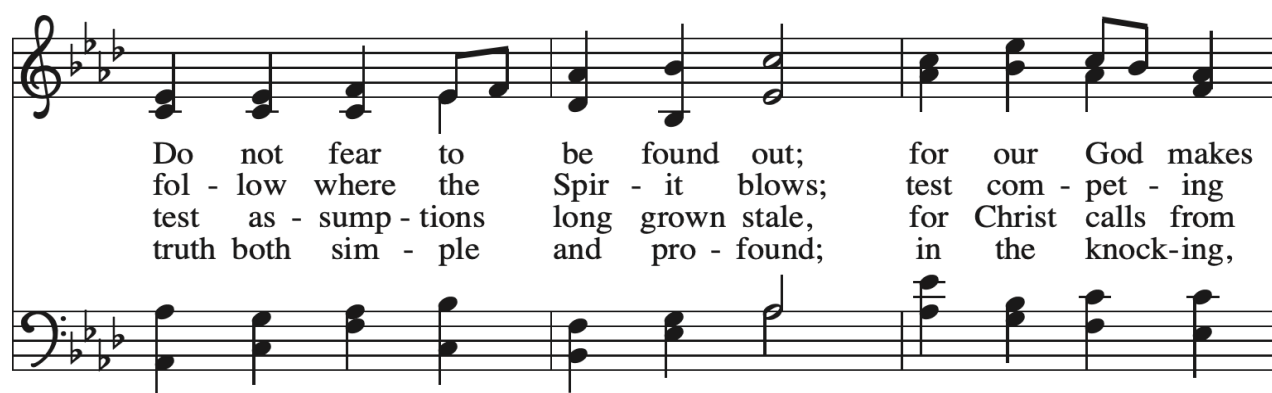
Rev. Christopher Drummond

(Please stand as you are able)

*HYMN OF THE DAY: Ask the Complicated Questions



1 Ask the com - pli - cat - ed ques - tions.
 2 Seek the dis - con - cert - ing an - swers,
 3 Knock on doors of new i - de - as,
 4 For in strug - gle we dis - cov - er



Do not fear to be found out; for our God makes
 fol - low where the Spir - it blows; test com - pet - ing
 test as - sump - tions long grown stale, for Christ calls from
 truth both sim - ple and pro - found; in the knock-ing,



strong our weak-ness, forg - ing faith in fires of doubt.
 truths for wis - dom, for in ten - sion new life grows.
 shores of won - der, dar - ing us to try and fail.
 ask - ing, seek - ing, we are o - pened, an - swered, found.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: RESTORATION, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. hymnal version

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Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

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***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.**

(Please remain standing)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(response after: Hear us, O God)

C: Your mercy is great.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

We greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, 'Peace be with you'.

“LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH”

*Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Parent, siblings all are we
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow,
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.*

(Please be seated for the Offering and The Great Thanksgiving.)

OFFERING:

A: We worship through our tithes and offering. Now let us joyfully respond to God's goodness, through our personal giving.

It is only through your giving that the ministry and mission of Holy Spirit continues. Many people give electronically and we thank all growing disciples in advance for their generous giving. Offerings can also be dropped in the mailbox or mailed in.

As the Offering is presented at the Altar, we sing:

DOXOLOGY

(ELW 885)

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:

A: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have.

C: Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.

(Please remain seated.)

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: God is with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

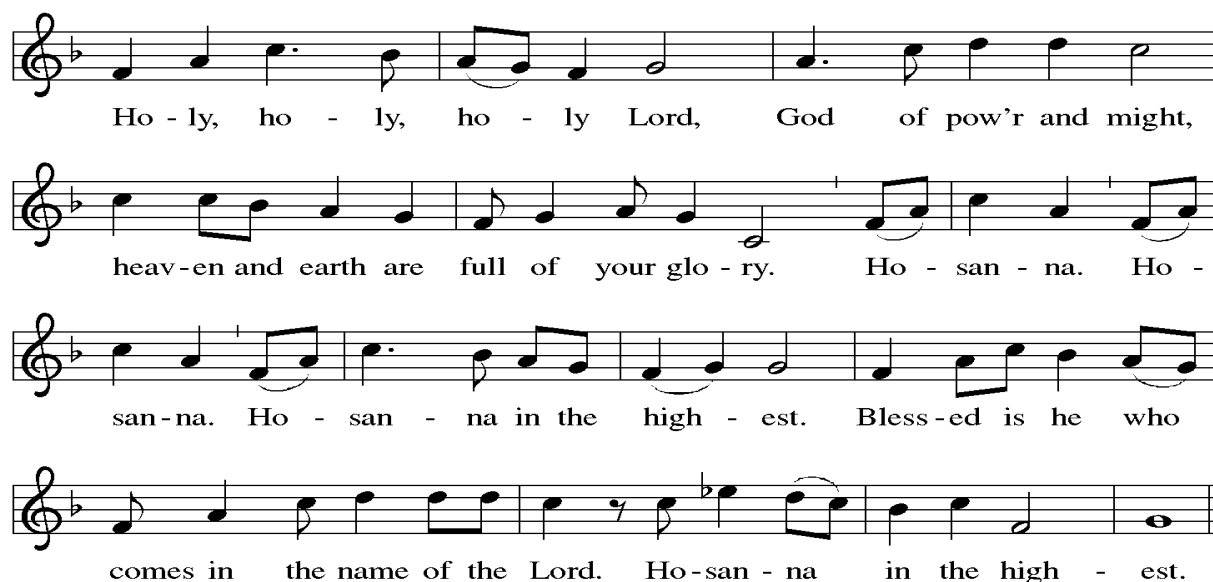
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy [...] And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven: we praise your name and join their unending hymn, as we sing:

(Setting 3)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

P: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

**C: You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.**

On the night before he died, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks,
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: We ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled ✝ with your heavenly benediction,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God—Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of life,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

C: Amen.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

P: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

C: have mercy on us.

P: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

C: have mercy on us.

P: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

C: grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In Holy Communion, we encounter the Real Presence of Jesus Christ as we reverently receive the consecrated bread and wine. Everyone is invited to receive this Sacrament—without exception; however, if you would prefer a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest and the pastor will know to give you a blessing. Gluten free bread is available.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

(Please be seated)

COMMUNION SONG: Take, Oh, Take Me as I am (ELW814)



Take, oh, take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be;



set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell

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(Please stand as you are able.)

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray. Eternal God,

C: You have graciously accepted us as living members of our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Savior. Amen.

+ SENDING +

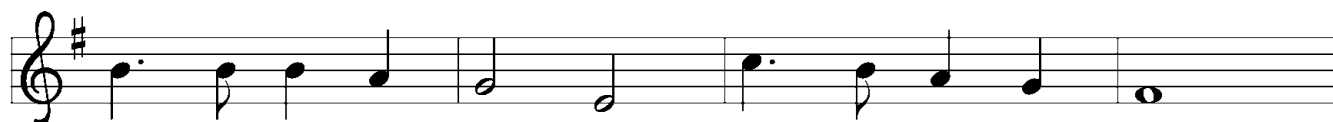
*BLESSING

P: Please bow your heads. [...] And the blessing of our most-loving God:

✠ Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of life be with you this day and always.

C: Amen.

*SENDING HYMN: On Our Way Rejoicing (ELW 537)



1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;



Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.
un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;

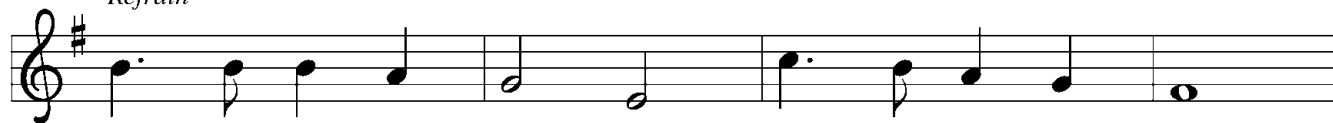


Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,



who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?
on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

Refrain



On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,



hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.

Music: HERMAS, Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879

*DISMISSAL

A: God is love.

C: Jesus teaches us to love.

A: Jesus will never leave us nor forsake us

C: Nothing can separate us from the love of God.

A: Therefore, let us go forth rejoicing in the power of God's Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.

ALTAR FLOWERS are dedicated to the Glory of God in loving memory of Robert Saunders by Lois Saunders.

Aug's Income: \$ 13,407

Aug's Expense: \$ 11,376 Average Attendance: 21

MINISTERS – ALL BAPTIZED PEOPLE OF GOD

Scheduled to serve 9/27

Alan S. – Assisting Minister

The Klines– Ushers

Downey/Deemer– Counters

Volunteer. – Altar

Scheduled to serve 10/4

Meghan G. – Assisting Minister

Gary P.- Ushers

Crepacks - Counters

Volunteer. - Altar

*******WEEKLY CALENDAR*******

Mon, Sep 28 5:00pm – She Moves Fitness (Hall)

6:30pm – Girl Scouts (Mtg Rm)

Tue, Sep 29 5:00pm – She Moves Fitness (Hall)

Wed, Sep 30 Homeless Meal

5:00pm – She Moves Fitness (Hall)

7:30pm - AA (Hall)

Thu, Oct 1 5:00pm – She Moves Fitness (Hall)

7:00pm – AA (Hall)

Sat, Oct 3 10:00am – AA (Hall)

11:00am – DA (Mtg Rm)

Sun, Oct 4 10:15am – Worship

12:30pm – Song of Praise

*******PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS*******

Healing:

*Annie Berner
Eileen Maloney
Lisa McDonough
Hugh Mullarkey
Lois Saunders
Betty Lake
Anne Rainsford
Dolores Maurer
Marie Schall
Jack Bierling
Joan & Harry Chaykun
Nikki Miller
Shirley May
Cookie Heaps
Stephen Colahan
Donna D'Agostino*

*Jackie Bernduer White
Jackie Dewitt
Maureen Colahan
John Turner
Nick Img
Sue Thomas
Jean Cilurso
Phyllis Horton
Lou Vallies
Linda Martin
Bill McVian
Suzie Thomas
Scott Ferguson
Johnathan Igoe
Sonya Baxter
Harry Collins*

(If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please call the office)

Also please remember in your prayers homebound members: Ruth Dell'Orefice, Jane Croghan, Diane Kuhn, Hank Kuhn, Janet Kline, and Bob Kerns.

Men & women in our armed forces, firefighters, police officers and emergency services personnel.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

ALTAR – We are in need of volunteers for October or November to set up and take down altar each week. Can you volunteer for a week? Please see sign up list on bulletin board in front of office.

BLESSING OF THE PETS – **Sunday, Oct 4 at 10:15.** Service will be held outside (weather permitting). Bring you furry companion or a picture of your loved pet to church on St. Francis of Assisi Sunday. All animals will be blessed as we give thanks to God for the love and joy they bring to our lives.

NURSERY SCHOOL MEETING – **October 13th at 6:00** in the Meeting Room.

COUNCIL MEETING – **October 13th at 7:00** in the Meeting Room.

COFFEE HOUR – **Oct 18** after service sponsored by Barb and Meghan.

REFORMATION SUNDAY – **Sunday, October 25th.** Wear your **red!!**

TRUNK OR TREAT – **October 26th 11:30am-12:30pm** in the parking lot. Please bring treats for the trick-n-treaters! Children are encouraged to contribute a canned or boxed food item for local Pantry.

ALTAR FLOWERS - **THANK YOU** everyone who signed up to sponsor altar flowers throughout the year. 2026 Flower Chart is now on the bulletin board. Please take a dedication form when you sign up and return to office. **Flowers are \$20 per vase.**

BULLETIN COVERS – There is a sponsor sign-up sheet to sponsor special bulletin covers for special occasions. The cost is \$15.00. Please see sign-up sheet outside the office.

BOTTLE CAPS – We are no longer collecting bottle caps. Thanks for your previous support of this project.



TRUNK OR TREAT

OCTOBER 25, 2026
starting at 11:30 a.m.

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
2545 Franklin Avenue, Secane, PA 19018
(back parking lot)

We welcome the community to join us by bringing the kiddos and/or if you would like to decorate your car and hand out candy. Please email us at holyspiritevents2545@gmail.com if you are bringing your car to participate with handing out candy.

We are asking for donations of non-perishable food for a pantry to help in these difficult times. Please help if you can.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

An Invitation to Grace

It is so easy and so tempting to build ourselves up at the expense of others. “I can’t imagine ever doing that.” “How can people live like that?” “Who would do such a thing?” At some point we all think or say these sorts of things. Like it or not, we use these words to comfort ourselves at the expense of others.

But all people stand in need of God’s grace. Each of this day’s readings shows us this reality. In the parable of the two sons, Jesus invites us to choose between two sons when neither fully does the will of their father. Here Jesus makes the point that we are all equally in need of God’s grace. Ezekiel proclaims God’s invitation, “Turn, then, and live” (Ezek. 18:32). This is an invitation that extends to all people from a God deeply desiring a loving and life-giving relationship with humanity.

In Philippians, we are reminded of Jesus’ act of grace on the cross, emptying himself, becoming sin so that all creation might be redeemed through him. In response, we discover a vision of the day in which all creation speaks with a unified voice, declaring that Jesus Christ is Lord.

This is a day of confession and forgiveness. We confess our need for God, our distance from God, and our failures before God. In response, to our joy, we discover again the grace of God outpoured. All humans are in need of God’s grace; God extends grace to all, and one day we will confess that salvation as one people. All of today’s readings reveal the way in which all humans are equal in the eyes of God.



Holy Spirit Lutheran Church and Nursery School
2545 Franklin Avenue, Secane, PA 19018
Office: 610-544-2707

OUR STAFF

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

Pastor – The Rev. Christopher Drummond

Director of Music – Samuel Stevenson

Office Secretary – Jeanne Warner

Holy Spirit Nursery School

Pre-K Teacher – Nancy Harris

Teaching Assistant – Colleen Hall

Pre-School & MMO Teacher – Shelly Avila

Teaching Assistant – Michelle Brackin

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