

MT. TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Growing a deeply connected family of faith

1000 B Avenue · West Columbia · South Carolina · 29169 · 803.796.5948

www.mttaborlutheran.org



9:15 AM - August 30, 2026 - 14th Sunday after Pentecost

ALIVE! Worship Service

INTRODUCTION

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

Spirit, Open My Heart

Refrain



Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of



liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing



and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.



- 1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
- 2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
- 3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of



kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to

Refrain



fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, Irish melody; adapt. Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953

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Music © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

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Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers
3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night - time
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll
5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as

Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to
on the road; we are here to help each oth - er
of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,
laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row
Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to

let you be my ser - vant, too.
walk the mile and bear the load.
speak the peace you long to hear.
till we've seen this jour - ney through.
let you be my ser - vant, too.

Text: Richard Gillard, b. 1953

Music: THE SERVANT SONG, Richard Gillard; arr. Betty Pulkingham, b. 1928

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Take My Life That I May Be

Refrain/Estrillo



To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -
Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,



da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón
to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;



y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.
let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.



1 Que mi vi - da en - te - ra es - té
1 Take my hands and let them move
2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,
3 Take my voice and let me sing
4 Take my will and make it thine;



con - sa - gra - da a ti, Se - ñor;
at the im - pulse of thy love;
not a mite would I with - hold;
al - ways, on - ly for my King;
it shall be no lon - ger mine;



que a mis ma - nos pue - da guiar el im -
take my feet and let them be swift and
take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry
take my lips and let them be filled with
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall



Refrain/Estrillo

pul - so de tu a - mor.
beau - ti - ful for thee.
pow'r as thou shalt choose.
mes - sag - es from thee.
be thy roy - al throne.

PEACE

Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church

Growing a deeply connected family of faith

Whether by Blood or Baptism, we are family here. Let us share the peace of Christ with each other.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS

KYRIE

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all; for this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, **let us pray to the Lord.**

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord, **let us pray to the Lord.**

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family; for life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord, **let us pray to the Lord.**

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word; that you nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord, **let us pray to the Lord.**

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

HYMN OF PRAISE

Praise

Verse 1 *ALIVE Soloists, congregation remains seated*

I'll praise in the valley
Praise on the mountain
I'll praise when I'm sure
Praise when I'm doubting
I'll praise when outnumbered
Praise when surrounded
'Cause praise is the water
My enemies drown in

Pre-Chorus *Congregation stands & sings*

As long as I'm breathing
I've got a reason to

Chorus 2

Praise the Lord oh my soul
Praise the Lord oh my soul
I won't be quiet
My God is alive
How could I keep it inside
Praise the Lord oh my soul
Praise the Lord oh my soul

Bridge

I'll praise 'cause You're sovereign
Praise 'cause You reign
Praise 'cause You rose and defeated the grave
I'll praise 'cause You're faithful
Praise 'cause You're true
Praise 'cause there's nobody greater than You

Chorus 2

Praise the Lord oh my soul
Praise the Lord oh my soul
I won't be quiet
My God is alive
How could I keep it inside
Praise the Lord oh my soul
Praise the Lord oh my soul

A reading from Romans.

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

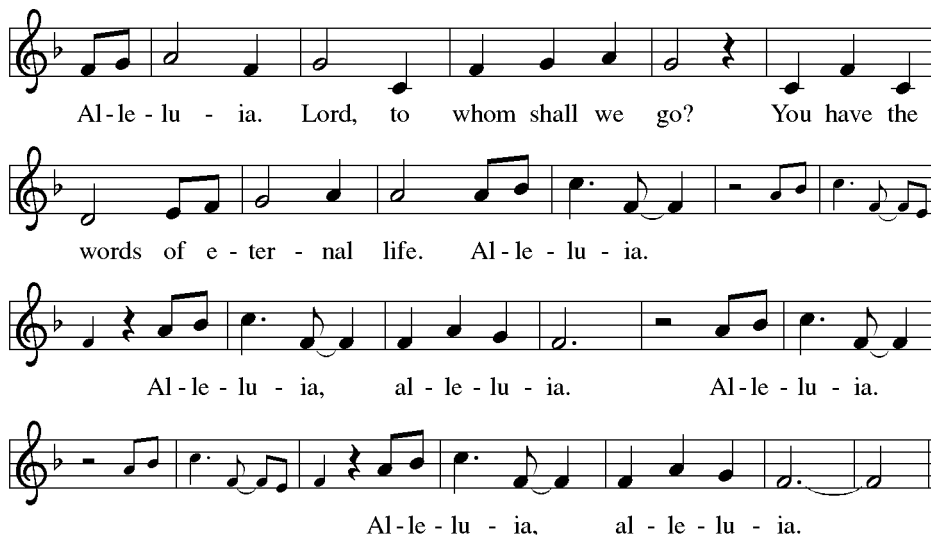
⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰ Instead, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21-28

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”

²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Nathan Gragg

ANTHEM

Step by Step with Lead Me, Lord

Strasser and
Wesley/arr. Schram

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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.**

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.**

OFFERTORY

Create in Me sing twice

Musical score for the Offertory "Create in Me". The score is written in G major, 4/4 time, and consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are: "Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, that I might serve you; cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, that I might be re - newed. So fill me and heal me, and bring me back to you. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, that I might serve you." The chords are: F, C/E, C/D Dm, Dm/C, Bb, Gm, C7sus, C7, F, C/E, C/D Dm, Dm/C, Gm, F/A, C, F, Am7, Dm7, Am7, Dm7, Gm7, Gm/D, C7sus, C7, F, C/E, C/D Dm, Dm/C, Gm, F/A, C, F.

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, that I might serve

you; cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, that

I might be re - newed. So fill me and

heal me, and bring me back to you. Cre -

ate in me a clean heart, O God, that I might serve you.

Text and music: Mary Rice Hopkins

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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, 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.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

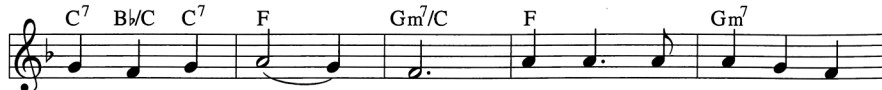
SENDING HYMN

Bind Us Together

Refrain



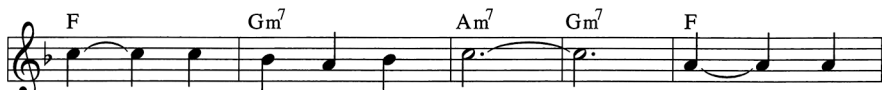
Bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er with cords that



can - not be bro - ken. Bind us to - geth - er, Lord,



bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er in love.



1 There is on - ly one God. There is
2 You are the fam - 'ly of God. You are the



on - ly one King. There is on - ly one Bod - y;
prom - ise di - vine. You are God's cho - sen de - sire, . . .



that is why we can sing:
you are the glo - rious new wine.

DISMISSAL
POSTLUDE

ALIVE! Musicians

<i>Gale McLeod, Co-Director</i>		<i>Ricky Lusk</i>
<i>Irelou Moye, Co-Director</i>	<i>Lyndsey Ebener</i>	<i>Julie Ann Payne</i>
<i>Beth Branham</i>	<i>David Moye</i>	<i>Ed Redmond</i>
<i>Leah Conrad</i>	<i>Erin Hall</i>	<i>Roxanne Rich</i>
<i>Brett Ebener</i>	<i>Vaughn Hall</i>	<i>Sarah Smith</i>
<i>Clark Ebener</i>		<i>Jessica Gibbons</i>

Worship Assistants

<i>Lector</i>	<i>Wendy Spainhour</i>
<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Ed & Grace Fuson</i>
<i>Greeter</i>	<i>Grace Fuson</i>
<i>Acolyte</i>	<i>KateLynn Parker</i>
<i>Livestream coordinators</i>	<i>Pam Hoskins, Kendrick Kerr</i>



The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Tommy and Janet Smith’s 60th wedding anniversary which they celebrated on August 28th, by Randy and Elizabeth Klapman. Congratulations!

Today’s bulletin covers are given to the Glory of God in honor of Tommy Smith’s 80th birthday, September 7th and Tommy and Janet Smith’s 60th wedding anniversary, August 28th. They are given by Eric & Natalie Smith; Kim & Benjie Smith; and Jensen, Cooper, Frazier, Ariel & Jade Redmond.

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Welcome to Mt. Tabor. We are glad that you have chosen to worship with us today! If you are a visitor, please fill out and return the attendance card in your pew rack so we may have a record of your attendance. Our ushers and greeters will be glad to answer any questions you may have about our worship service. We hope that you will experience the presence of the Risen Christ today!

Lord Teach Us To Pray:

As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the following members of our church family, who celebrate the anniversary of their baptism this week: Hunter Dinkins, Rick Dinkins, Jeffery Smith, Alexis Fabian, Baker Morris, Betsy Sippel, Randy Roddy.

Most Recent Prayer Concerns:

Nancy Stone-Collum, John Morris, Michael Gayden, Murray Hoskins, Christie Cook, Michael Bradshaw, Abby Grace Roof, Liliana Stork, Tammy Quarles, Hoa O'Kelley, Sally Kleber, James Campbell

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

Jeanie & Paul Jacobs, Rachel Bundrick, Karen Holton, Sandra Baker, Paul & Carolyn Dufries, John Conrad, Bruce Merchant, Judy Jordan, Luther Swicegood, Alice Pollock, Sadie Howard, Elmer Sundlie, Paul Addy, Pastor Jerry & Janice Livingston

Family & Loved Ones of Mt. Tabor:

Derek Rickenbaker, Mike Baxter, Ed & Monica Emmer, Adrian Moldovan, Mike McCarn, Heather Topolski, Daryl Tarte, Paul Price, Andy Granger, Mary Oliver, Meryn Rawl, Russell Grant, Sherwood Williams, Al Roberts, Don Ackerman, Paula Miller, Chet Popkowski, Linda Wright, Beth Franklin, Ronnie Crim, Shirley Spruill, Russell Altman, Eddie Porter, Eddie Broughman, Julie Johnson, Lewis Tankersley, Danny Baker, Suzanne Oxner Stello, Dr. Chris Wicker, William & Janet Wood, Judy Lazarczyk, Robbie Burgess, Ronnie Boland, Tonia Boland, Andy Rauch, Peggy Roessler, John Bailey, John Sharpe, Bishop Ginny Aebischer, Zach Wash, Tyler Corbitt, Nancy Waugh, Emily Waugh, Sam Waugh, Laura Ann Merrill

Members of Mt. Tabor Serving in the Military:

Adam Davis, Samuel Davis, Scott Hash, Alex Morris

Family and Loved Ones Serving in the Military:

Justin Casteel, Josh Watson, Jacob Henry Burgan, Caleb Neff

Family of:

Jackie Sox, John Jowers, Mona Myers

Worship Leaders

Rev. Wade T. Roof, III, Senior Pastor

Rev. Rus Stilwell, Pastor of Visitation

Mr. Kevin Davis, Director of Music