

THE LITURGY OF WORD & SACRAMENT

Third Sunday after Pentecost

SUNDAY, June 14, 2026 10:00AM

REGULAR PRINT = PRESIDING MINISTER OR ASSISTING MINISTER

BOLD PRINT = CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES

✠ = AT VARIOUS POINTS THROUGHOUT THE SERVICE, THE SIGN OF THE CROSS MAY BE MADE BY ALL IN REMEMBRANCE OF THEIR BAPTISM

The red EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP service book and hymnal is used for the liturgy.

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

(We Stand)

*Words to be spoken or sung by the assembly are indicated in **bold type**.*

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,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name,
through
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

Confession and Forgiveness

When we don't know how or what to pray, the Spirit knows.

When all we can muster are sighs and groans, the Spirit knows those also.

When we feel that we aren't even worthy to approach God, the Spirit goes before us and with us and God welcomes us with arms open. Let us confess our sins together, saying . . .

By desiring instant results to most things these days, we confess that we forget what it's like to be patient. We find ourselves neglecting the needs of others because we run out of time to be kind to other than ourselves. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit in me.

When we persistently make self-centered decisions rather than Christ-centered ones, our understanding of your goodness and faithfulness is weakened and our discipleship lacks credibility. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit in me.

In this aggressive world, it's easy to believe one can't get anywhere by exercising a spirit of gentleness or even self-control. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit in me.

Gracious and merciful God, grant us your forgiveness and your love so that we may truly care for one another. Refresh and renew us with the Holy Spirit so that we are fruitful and vital disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen!

Those who are in Christ are a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God with whom we have been reconciled through Christ. (2 Cor. 5:17-18)

Thanks be to God!

Call to Worship: Psalm 71

God alone is our refuge and hope, our shelter and protection. From our very first breath to our last, God's love and compassion never fails. So come, lift your voices in praise to God. Bear witness to God's acts of mercy and love. Proclaim God's glory to all who will listen.

Let's worship God together.

Here I Am, Lord



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

II Corinthians 13: 13

And also with you.

LITANY OF WELCOME

God has shown us what is good, and what then is required of us?

**To act justly; to love mercy;
and to walk humbly with our God.**

Micah 6: 8

Jesus says, "Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me,
and anyone who welcomes me
welcomes the One who sent me."

Matthew 10: 40

The Spirit says, "Come."

**Let each one who hears the Spirit say, "Come,"
for all are welcome here.**

Revelation 22: 17

In this service, let us draw near to our Reconciling Redeemer,
who knows our hearts and is able to mend our souls,
to strengthen and sustain us,
to reconcile our broken relationships and heal our wounds.

Let us worship God now

With words that proclaim God's inclusive love,

With works that bring forth God's powerful justice,

And with worship that rejoices in God's wondrous presence,

Now and always,

Amen!

HYMN OF PRAISE

As the Wind Song through the Trees

Shirley Erena Murray, 1931-2020

Lim Swee Hong, 1963-

1. As the wind song through the trees, as the stir - ring of the breeze,
2. As the rain - bow af - ter rain, as the hope that's born a - gain,
so it is with the Spir - it of God, as the heart made strange - ly warm,
so it is with the Spir - it of God, as the green - ing in the spring,
as the voice with - in the storm, so it is with the Spir - it of God.
as the kite high on a string, so it is with the Spir - it of God,
Nev - er seen, ev - er known where this wind has blown
mak - ing worlds that are new, mak - ing peace come true,
bring - ing life, bring - ing pow'r to the world,
bring - ing gifts, bring - ing love to the world,
as the danc - ing tongues of fire, as the soul's most deep de - sire,
as the ris - ing of the yeast, as the sweet wine at the feast,
so it is with the Spir - it of God.
so it is with the Spir - it of God.

The PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray...

God of compassion, you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and psalm.

FIRST READING: Exodus 19:2-8a

A reading from Exodus.

² [The Israelites] journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain.³ Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the Israelites: ⁴ 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now, therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, ⁶ but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites."

⁷ So Moses went, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. ^{8a} The people all answered as one, "Everything that the LORD has spoken we will do."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 100

Read responsively

¹ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

² **Serve the LORD with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.**

³ Know that the LORD is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

⁴ **Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him; bless his name.**

⁵ For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever
and his faithfulness to all generations.

SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-8

A reading from Romans.

¹ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

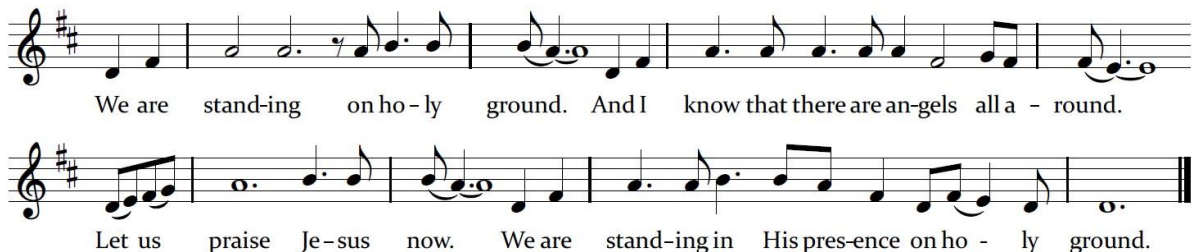
⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Holy Ground



The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text: "We are stand-ing on ho-ly ground. And I know that there are an-gels all a - round." The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "Let us praise Je-sus now. We are stand-ing in His pres-ence on ho - ly ground." The piece concludes with a double bar line.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL: Matthew 9:35—10:8 [9-23]

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁵ Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were

harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;³⁸ therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

^{10:1} Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness.² These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee and his brother John;³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus and Thaddaeus;⁴ Simon the Cananaean and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not take a road leading to gentiles, and do not enter a Samaritan town,⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.⁷ As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’⁸ Cure the sick; raise the dead; cleanse those with a skin disease; cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. [⁹ Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts,¹⁰ no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff, for laborers deserve their food.¹¹ Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave.¹² As you enter the house, greet it.¹³ If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.¹⁴ If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town.¹⁵ Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

¹⁶“I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.¹⁷ Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues,¹⁸ and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the gentiles.¹⁹ When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you at that time,²⁰ for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.²¹ Sibling will betray sibling to death and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death,²² and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.²³ When they persecute you in this town, flee to the next, for truly I tell you, you will not have finished going through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.”]

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Pastor Steven

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

All People That on Earth Do Dwell



1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the
 2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with - out our
 3 Oh, en - ter then his gates with praise; ap - proach with
 4 For why? The Lord our God is good: his mer - cy
 5 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, the God whom



Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with mirth, his
 aid he did us make. We are his folk, he
 joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his
 is for - ev - er sure; his truth at all times
 heav'n and earth a - dore, from us and from the



praise forth tell; come ye be - fore him and re - joice.
 doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
 name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
 firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.
 an - gel host be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.

Text: William Kethe, d. c. 1594

Music: OLD HUNDREDDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561

A Statement of Faith from the Uniting Church in Australia:

**We believe in God,
sovereign in grace and love,
maker of all things.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
the eternal Word of God,
the firstborn of a new creation.**

**We believe in God's eternal Spirit,
pledge and foretaste of the future,
given that we may not lose the way,
who has endowed us with a diversity of gifts.**

**We are a pilgrim people
on the way to the promised goal.**

**On this way,
we are called to live and work
within the faith and unity
of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**In this unity,
we offer our worship, witness and service
and receive one another in love and joy.**

**We are being led to the free obedience
of the children of God,
and so we look with yearning and hope
to the final reconciliation of humanity with God,
and the renewal of all creation.**

Alleluia. Amen.

The service then continues with the prayers of intercession.

Prayers of the Church and Response

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system has the lyrics: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; when I call, an-swer me." The second system has the lyrics: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; come, and lis-ten to me." The piano accompaniment features chords such as Em, Em/D, Am/C, D, G/B, C, Am, B in the first system, and Em, Em/D, Am/C, D, Em/G, Am7, B, Em in the second system.

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silent

God of freedom, you ransomed Israel from slavery to be a holy people. As we observe Juneteenth this coming week, free us also to be a people who proclaim your liberating love. God of creation, you call all the earth to make a joyful noise to you. Let us join the chorus of the natural world in proclaiming your glory. God of grace, **O Lord, hear my prayer...**

God of comfort, you provide for those in need. Bring an end to addiction. Comfort people as they God of the nations, you sent Jesus as peace for all of humankind. Bring an end to war and conflict, bring hope to places devastated by destruction, and sustain those who advocate for peace. God of grace, you pour hope and love into our hearts in times of shame and doubt. Protect those experiencing housing insecurity. Uplift anyone struggling with hopelessness, illness, or other worries. God of all, you call your children to serve in a plentiful harvest. Give us the wisdom to know how best to serve our local community and our neighbors. God of grace, **O Lord, hear my prayer...**

We lift up before you, O God, the members of our human family around the world—for those who are afflicted or suffering at this time—for those who need healing, for those who require bread or shelter, for those who live in violent homes and communities, for those who are grieving, and for those whose needs are known to you alone, especially those we remember silently or in our hearts with voice upon our lips (*pause*) Ava Jarvis (*granddaughter of Marc & Jill Mann*) David Cossey (*stepfather of Ben Bullock*); Maria Gallego (*mother of Pastor Steven*); Tiffanie Reeves; Joe Black (*father of Lynn Black*); Bill Black (*brother of Lynn Black*); Sharon Baldwin; Tracy Hamiter; Connie Pool; Emmy Reeves; Bobbie Prosser; Sarah Trani; Jeff Harrell; James Deckle; Sharon May (*wife of Peggy Thompson*). Merciful God, **O Lord, hear my prayer...**

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

The assembly remains standing for sharing the Peace.

PEACE

ELW pg. 106

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you!

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say,
"Peace be with you," or similar words.*

The assembly is seated.

The OFFERING & OFFERTORY

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

Offertory Anthem

"I Will Enter His Gates with Thanksgiving"

Choir

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Anonymous

Louis Bourgeois, 1551

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow In heav'n a - bove and

earth be - low! One God, three Per - sons we a - dore,

To whom be praise for - ev - er - more! A - men.

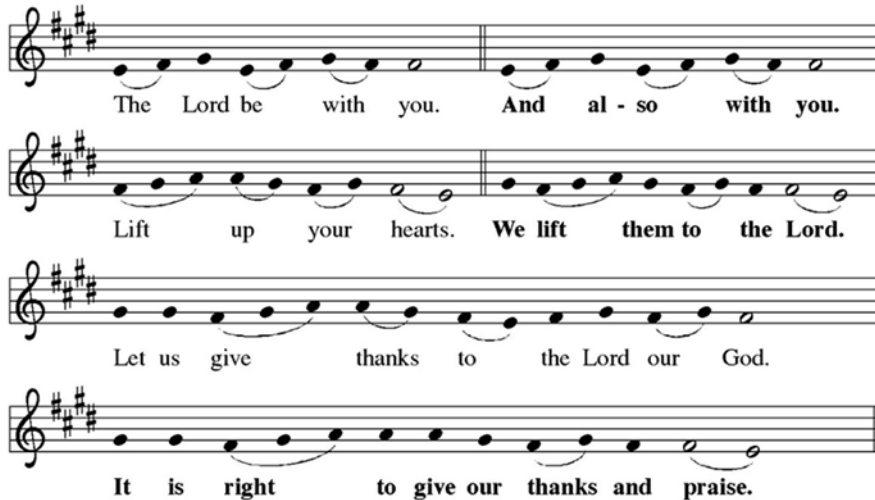
OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

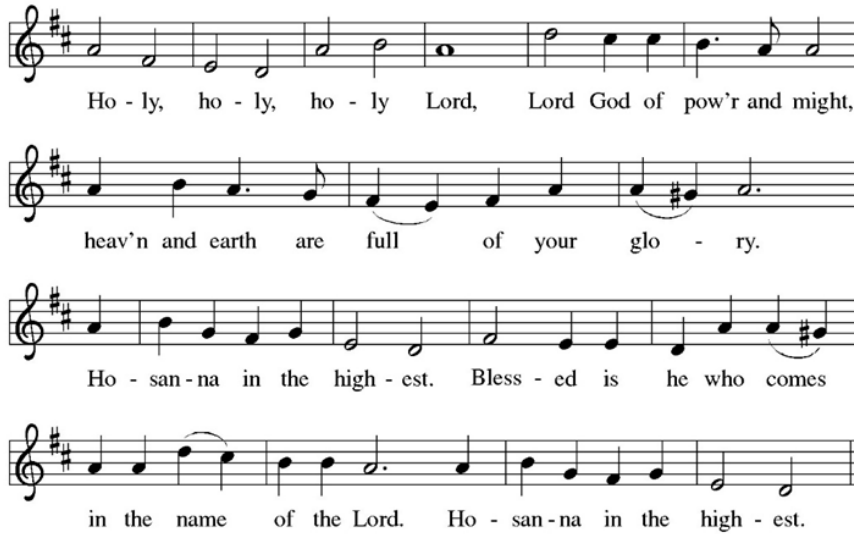


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE and SANCTUS

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection,
you pour out the fire of your Spirit,
uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
 Your mercy is everlasting
 and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
 Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
 Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
 Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
 to the land of milk and honey.
 Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
 Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
 Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 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.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord's Prayer

C7 F F/E Dm Dm/C B♭ C F
Our Fa - ther in heav-en, hal-low-ed be your name;

C7 F F/E Dm Dm/C B♭ Gm F
Your king-dom come, Your will be done on earth as in heav-en.

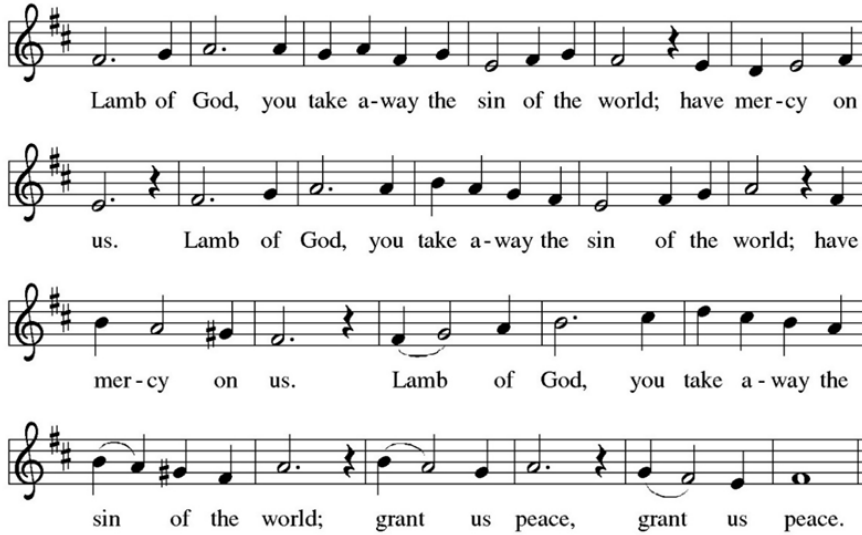
B♭ Am Gm Dm Gm C
Give us this day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins

E♭ Dm B♭ Gm C7
as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.

F F/E Dm Dm/C B♭ B♭/F F
Save us from the time of trial and de - liv-er us from e - vil,

B♭ Am Gm F E♭ Dm Gm C7 F B♭ Gm F
for the king-dom, the pow'r, and the glo-ry are yours, now and for - ev - er.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

THE COMMUNION OF THE BELOVED

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR WORSHIP IS THIS SHARED MEAL

ALL ARE WELCOME to join us as members of God's family in Christ, as we share in this powerful gift of God's love and grace for the whole human family. We gather around the altar, kneeling or standing, wherever there is a place. The presiding minister offers wheaten wafers but can provide a gluten free wafer by request.

The assisting minister offers individual cups of wine (red) or grape juice (white) for you to choose. The church also affirms our Lord's full presence in, with, and under each element alone. If you prefer to commune in your pew with a prepackaged communion set, please alert an usher.

COMMUNION SONG

When Peace, like a River *It Is Well with My Soul*



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

COMMUNION HYMN

Jesus, Lamb of God

Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name;

Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Jesus, Lamb of God'. It is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The score consists of two systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (bass clef). The lyrics are: 'Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name;' for the first system and 'Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name.' for the second system. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

The assembly stands and the presiding minister says a table blessing.

THE TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen!**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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

SENDING HYMN

ELW#712 (Red book)

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.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984
Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844
Text © Oxford University Press

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DISMISSAL

Praise God who loves us.
Praise God who cares.

POSTLUDE

Announcements

Dear Reformation family,

Church council is calling a congregational meeting to provide an update on church finances and solicit the congregation's input on how to build on current momentum and address current financial challenges.

Please join us at 11:30 in the fellowship hall on Sunday, June 14, as we provide more detailed financial information, share options we may pursue, and ask for your input as we collectively discern our next steps.

Attached is an announcement with some additional details, with more to come during the meeting. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me, Pastor Steven, or any other member of council if you have questions. We look forward to seeing you then.

Best wishes,

Matt Klopfenstein, Council President

Congregational Meeting June 14, 2026

Reformation Lutheran Church council is calling a congregational meeting to provide an update on church finances and solicit the congregation's input on how to build on current momentum and address current financial challenges.

The Challenge: we have a structural deficit of approximately \$40,000 - \$50,000 per year, and we are facing cashflow challenges.

Please join us as we provide more detailed financial information, share options we may pursue, and ask for your input as we collectively discern our next steps.

Background: Reformation has approved deficit budgets for at least the past five years. The church saw a decline in membership and congregational giving after 2022 when Pastor Tim left. Membership further declined during the two-year interim period. Council has adopted lean budgets that have accurately projected expenses, but revenue has not met expenses, which have increased due to inflation and maintenance needs for our aging property. We still possess reserve funds, but they have been significantly depleted, and our remaining funds are primarily in our endowment and a dedicated organ repair fund, which are not easily accessible due to the church's constitution or their restricted nature.

During the interim period the synod suggested that Reformation look to share a pastor with another congregation, because they did not believe we had the means to call a fulltime pastor.

The congregation took a leap of faith to call a fulltime pastor, pledging to use our remaining reserves because we believe that God is still using this congregation and that a new minister could help lead the church into a new season of ministry.

Pastor Steven answered our call, and shares our belief that God is still using Reformation to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly as a community seeking to embody God's love and inclusive welcome. Since joining us we have seen growth in membership and the launch of new opportunities for fellowship, learning, service, and outreach.

Reformation is experiencing a rebirth. Our challenge is to extend the runway financially to allow this rebirth to continue.

100TH ANNIVERSARY

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

Join us as we honor

100 YEARS OF FAITH, FREEDOM, HERITAGE & COMMUNITY

Sunday, June 21st, 2026
Worship Service – 10:00 AM

Guest Preacher
Rev. Leroy Cannon
John Corley Temple Talk
Meal Provided (Cash Donations)
Immediately Following Service

Topics:

- Black Lutherans in the South
 - Harvey Huntley Jr
- African American Lutherans at Reformation

Come worship, celebrate, and fellowship as we honor the spirit of Juneteenth and a century of ministry together.

100 Years of Faith, Freedom & Community

Sunday Bible Study – 9:15 AM

Join Pastor Steven each Sunday at 9:15 AM as we explore trees throughout Scripture and their connection to humanity, including reflection on the Tree of Life.

VBS at Reformation

If you are interested in helping out with VBS this August please let pastor Steven or Stephanie Garcia know.

Sesquicentennial State Park

We are looking to have a church picnic in the park. You can rent pedal boats, kayaks, and canoes, play on the playground, and go for a walk. There is also a sand volleyball court, a dog park, and a splash pad. Let the pastor know if this is something that you are interested in, and then we will choose a weekend to go.

Youth opportunity

Grace Works 2026 will take place June 28–July 2. This local servant camp is open to Midlands youth who are rising 6th graders through recently graduated 12th graders. Home base will be Ebenezer Lutheran Church downtown. The cost is \$50 per participant. Youth will gather daily from 8:00–8:15 AM with pick-up at 5:00 PM. On Sunday, June 28, participants will meet at Ebenezer Lutheran Church from 5:00–7:00 PM. Please let Pastor Steven know if your youth would like to participate or if you are interested in serving as a volunteer.

Flower Arrangements

During our talent show, Jill Mann showed off amazing flower arrangements. Folks shared that they would love to learn how to do what she does, and she agreed to lead a session. Please let pastor Steven know if this is something that you would be interested in. The pastor will work to pick a date that works for Jill.

Baking

Pastor Steven is looking for people who love to bake and are willing to teach others how to bake their favorite recipes. If this is something you would like to lead, please let the pastor know.

GriefShare

Grief is something that is hard to deal with on your own. We are trying to start a support group where people can lean on each other to help manage life through grief. If this is something that you believe would be helpful, please let pastor Steven know.

REFORMATION LUTHERAN IS AN INCLUSIVE, LGBTQIA+ AFFIRMING congregation



that believes Christ calls us to serve others with joy. Safe Space Dinners, a ministry for homeless LGBTQIA+ youth, including people of color. The ministry is simple. On the second and fourth Thursday of each month, these youth (14-23 years old) are offered a safe space and time to gather for a time to rest and recharge, a home-cooked meal, a haircut, and a backpack of items they will find helpful in their day-to-day life. There are always a number of games to play, including video games. Sometimes we have entertainment from the community. There is no preaching, no conversion therapy attempts; only support and comfort. This is a ministry of giving – nothing more.

Do Justice:

Below is information on ways to contact your elected officials to voice your opinion on issues.

SOUTH CAROLINA ISSUES

SC state legislative issues: [SC Womens' Rights and Empowerment Network \(WREN\)](#) keeps you informed about legislation that affects women's rights in the state. The [American Civil Liberties Union of South Carolina](#) is broader in scope and addresses all legislation affecting civil liberties. Both sites have an "Action" section which allows one to sign petitions and call or write state officials regarding issues. Each organization also provides talking points for calls and letters; prewritten letters which can be modified are also provided. It's easy to identify your legislators on both websites.

The URLs below take you to the action section of each organization:

scwren.org/act-now

aclusc.org/actions

NATIONAL ISSUES

A popular national website for letters and petitions is [resistbot](https://resistbot.com). It provides an easy way to write or petition both federal and state legislators. Choose from a variety of already written letters and petitions, or write your own. Emailing officials is free with the service, or you can buy "coins" to either fax or send your correspondence via first class mail.

The URL is below:

resist.bot/petitions

If you prefer to call your federal legislators, [5Calls](https://5calls.org) provides the names and phone numbers of your Congressperson and Senators, and scripts for a variety of national issues that you can use when calling them. It also provides additional talking points for each issue so that you can customize your message.

The URL is below:

5calls.org

Ask the Pastor

Have a question about the Christian faith, worship, Scripture, or life?

Pastor Steven welcomes your questions—anonmously!

Wondering why we celebrate Holy Communion? Curious about the meaning of the hanging cross in our sanctuary? Have questions about theology, marriage, Lutheran beliefs, prayer, baptism, or other topics of faith?

Simply write your question on the blank sheet provided in the back of this bulletin, or pick up an "Ask the Pastor" form from the table in the Narthex.

Place your question in the offering plate during worship. Questions may be submitted anonymously.

Listen for additional details and answers from Pastor Steven through future newsletters, educational forums, classes, and church communications.

No question is too simple or too complex. We invite you to ask, learn, and grow in faith together.

ASK YOUR QUESTION