

THE LITURGY OF WORD & SACRAMENT

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

SUNDAY, June 28, 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.

Come, All You People

Uyaimose



<p><i>U - ya - i - mo - se,</i> 1 Come, all you peo - ple, 2 Come, all you peo - ple, 3 Come, all you peo - ple,</p>	<p><i>ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;</i> come and praise the Most High; come and praise the Sav - ior; come and praise the Spir - it;</p>
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<p><i>u - ya - i - mo - se,</i> come, all you peo - ple, come, all you peo - ple, come, all you peo - ple,</p>	<p><i>ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;</i> come and praise the Most High; come and praise the Sav - ior; come and praise the Spir - it;</p>
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<p><i>u - ya - i - mo - se</i> come now and wor - ship come now and wor - ship come now and wor - ship</p>	<p><i>Zvi - no.</i> the Lord. the Lord. the Lord.</p>
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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...

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through 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: Second Kings 4:8-17

A reading from Second Kings.

⁸ One day Elisha was passing through Shunem, where a wealthy woman lived, who urged him to have a meal. So whenever he passed that way, he would stop there for a meal. ⁹ She said to her husband, "Look, I am sure that this man who regularly passes our way is a holy man of God. ¹⁰ Let us make a small roof chamber with walls and put there for him a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp, so that he can stay there whenever he comes to us."

¹¹ One day when he came there, he went up to the chamber and lay down there. ¹² He said to his servant Gehazi, "Call the Shunammite woman." When he had called her, she stood before him. ¹³ He said to him, "Say to her: Since you have taken all this trouble for us, what may be done for you? Would you have a word spoken on your behalf to the king or to the commander of the army?" She answered, "I live among my own people." ¹⁴ He said, "What then may be done for her?" Gehazi answered, "Well, she has no son, and her husband is old." ¹⁵ He said, "Call her." When he had called her, she stood at the door. ¹⁶ He said, "At this season, in due time, you shall embrace a son." She replied, "No, my lord, O man of God; do not deceive your servant."

¹⁷ The woman conceived and bore a son at that season, in due time, as Elisha had declared to her.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

Read responsively

¹ I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

² **I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

³ You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to my servant David:

⁴ **'I will establish your descendants forever
and build your throne for all generations.'** " *Selah*

¹⁵ Happy are the people who know the festal shout,
who walk, O LORD, in the light of your countenance;

¹⁶ **they exult in your name all day long
and extol your righteousness.**

¹⁷ For you are the glory of their strength;
by your favor our horn is exalted.

¹⁸ **For our shield belongs to the LORD,
our king to the Holy One of Israel.**

SECOND READING: Romans 6:12-23

A reading from Romans.

¹² Do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies, so that you obey their desires. ¹³ No longer present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

¹⁵ What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Do you not know that, if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that you who were slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted ¹⁸ and that you, having been set free from sin, have become enslaved to righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms because of your limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness, leading to even more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification.

²⁰ When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ So what fruit did you then gain from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the fruit you have leads to sanctification, and the end is eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Holy Ground

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "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 of lyrics: "Let us praise Je-sus now. We are stand-ing in His pres-ence on ho-ly ground." The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for congregational singing.

We are stand-ing on ho-ly ground. And I know that there are an-gels all a-round.

Let us praise Je-sus now. We are stand-ing in His pres-ence on ho-ly ground.

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.

[Jesus said to the twelve:]⁴⁰ “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.⁴¹ Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous,⁴² and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

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.

In Christ There Is No East or West



- 1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
- 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com-mu-nion find;
- 3 Join hands, dis-ci-ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com-mu-ni-ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser-vice is the gold-en cord close bind-ing hu-man-kind.
All chil-dren of the liv-ing God are sure-ly kin to me.
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941, alt.

Music: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949

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 treble and bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. 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." Chord symbols are placed above the notes: 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

Faithful God, establish your church to offer welcome and proclaim your peace. Nourish us so we can proclaim your hope to the world. Creator God, bring life to places experiencing drought, deforestation, and pollution. Help us to cultivate and care for the natural world around us. God of grace, **O Lord, hear my prayer...**

Loving God, bring an end to conflict and division. Sustain the work of prophets in our time, and work through world leaders to foster understanding, justice, and peace. Provider God, give your children what they need physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Bless caregivers as they show God’s hospitality through their generous service. Living God, lead us from death to life. Inspire new ministries and endeavors, renew established ones, and strengthen our welcoming presence to 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

"Beloved, God's Chosen" by Susan Palo Cherwien.

Choir

*Beloved, God's chosen, put on as a garment
Compassion, forgiveness, and goodness of heart.
Above all, before all, let love be your raiment
That binds into one every dissonant part.
Within, call forth Wisdom to dwell in you richly;
Let peace rule your hearts, and that peace be of Christ.
And from the heart's chamber, beloved and holy,
Let singing thanksgiving to God ever rise.*

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

The first system of music is in G major and 4/4 time. The vocal line begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, and D5. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady bass line of quarter notes: G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1, G1.

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

The second system continues the melody. The vocal line has a half note G4, quarter notes A4, B4, C5, and D5. The piano accompaniment continues with quarter notes: G1, F1, E1, D1, C1, B0, A0, G0.

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

The third system concludes the piece. The vocal line features a half note G4, quarter notes A4, B4, C5, and D5. The piano accompaniment continues with quarter notes: G0, F0, E0, D0, C0, B-1, A-1, G-1.

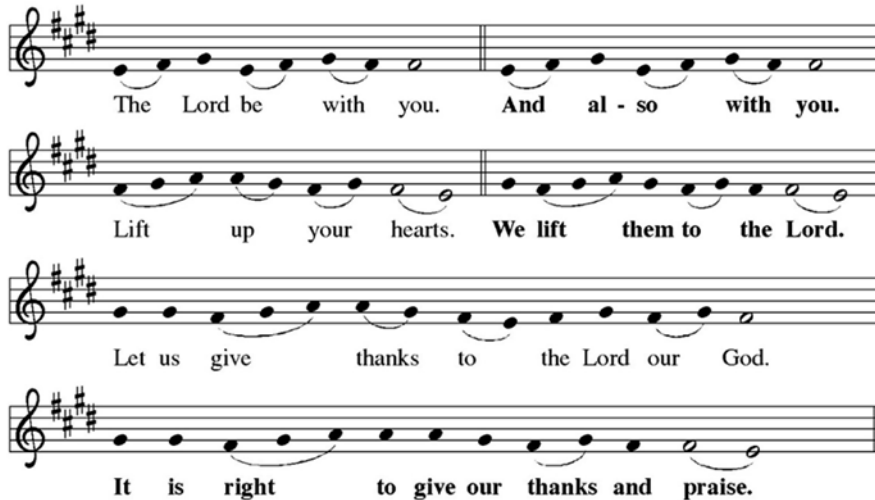
OFFERING PRAYER

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

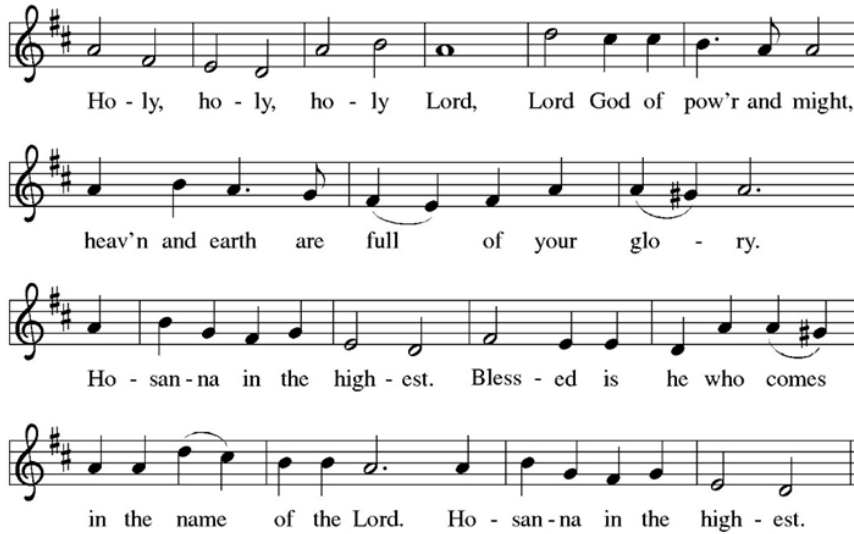


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

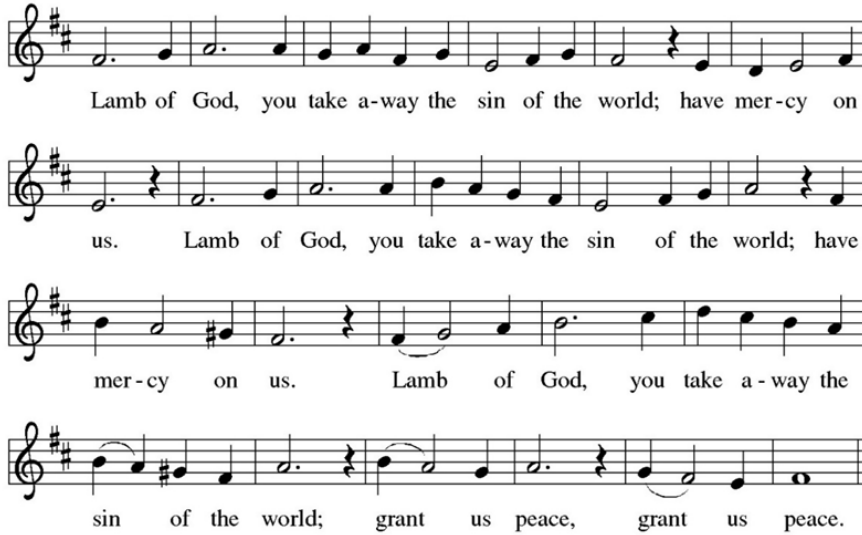
F F/E Dm Dm/C B♭ B♭/F F

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 consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass clef staff. The first system includes the lyrics 'Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name;'. The second system includes the lyrics 'Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name.' The music is in a 4/4 time signature and a key signature of one flat (B-flat).

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.**

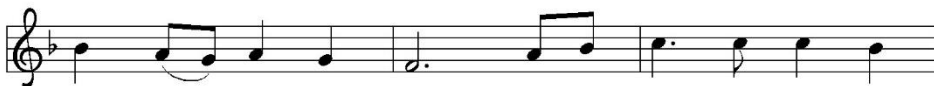
All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
 strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 claim the faith of Je - sus:
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 end to fear and dan - ger:
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

DISMISSAL

Praise God who loves us.
Praise God who cares.

POSTLUDE

Announcements

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. 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. 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 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—anonously!

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