



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 20, 2026 at 8:45 & 11:15am

Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School

9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Prelude on SLANE
Paul Fey (b. 1998)

WELCOME

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 pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.
Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

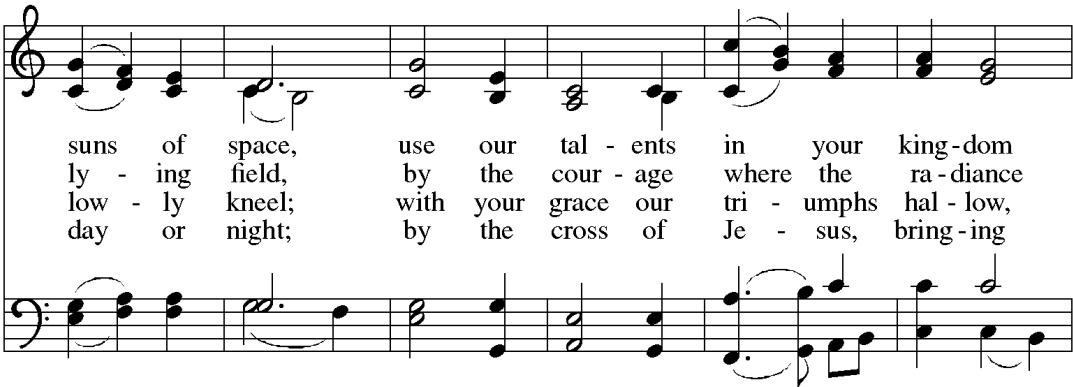
Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

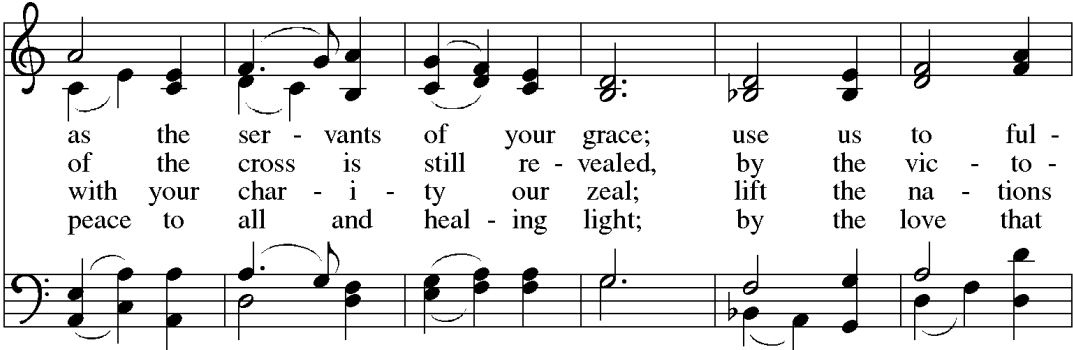
Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✚ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**



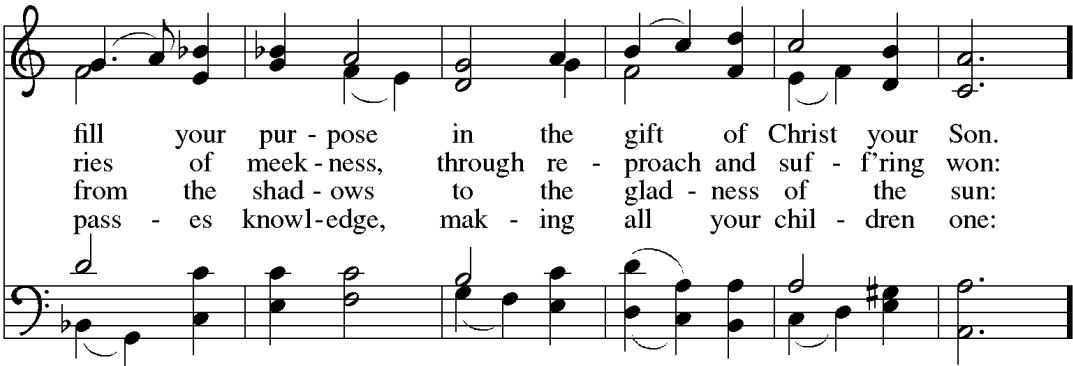
1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and
 2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -
 3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may
 4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent



suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom
 ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance
 low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,
 day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing



as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -
 of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -
 with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions
 peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that



fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.
 ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:
 from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:
 pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:

Refrain



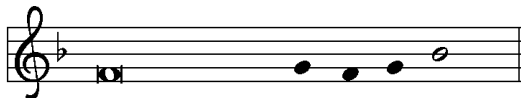
Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

GREETING

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

KYRIE

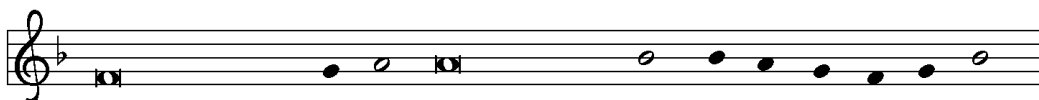
ELW Setting Six



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



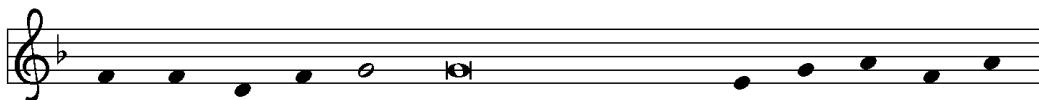
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of



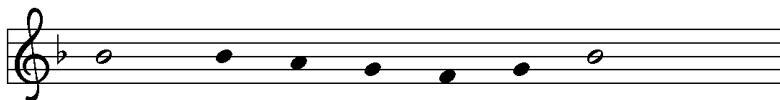
God, and for the uni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

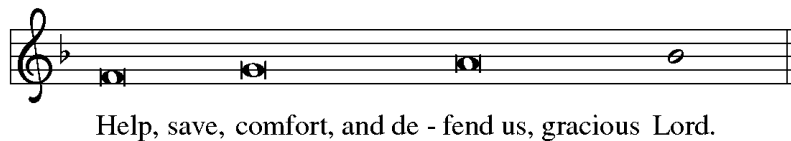
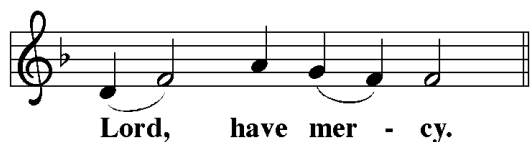


For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and



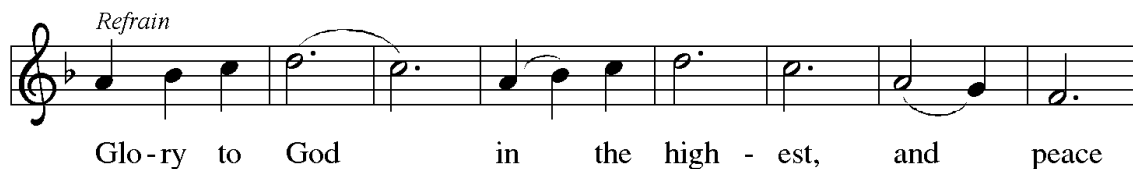
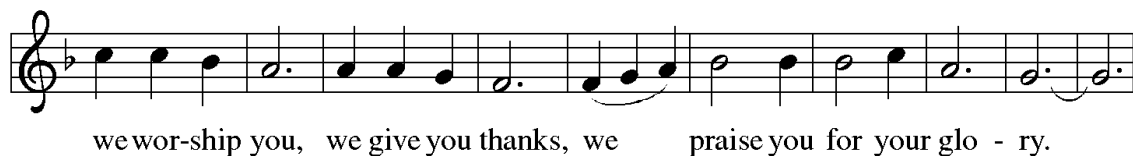
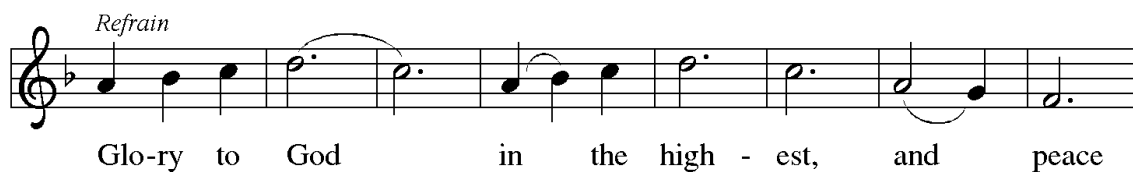
praise, let us pray to the Lord.

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CANTICLE OF PRAISE

ELW Setting Six



(Continued on the next page)



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right



hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Refrain
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a -

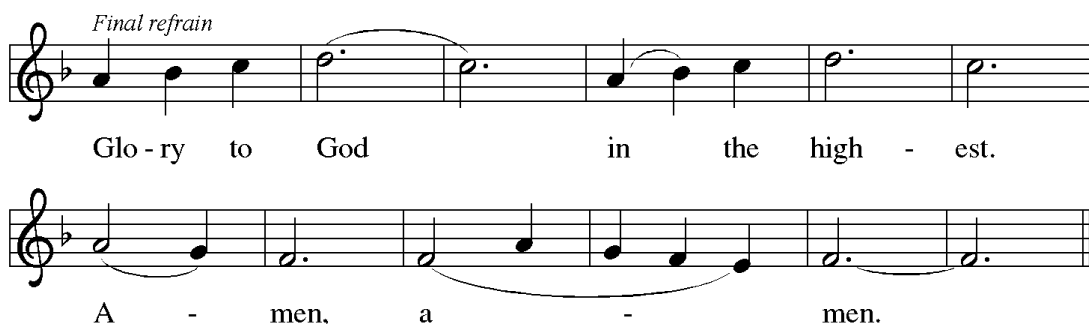


lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

(Continued on the next page)



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

THE WORD

FIRST READING

Jonah 3:10—4:11

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

When God saw what [the people of Nineveh] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?"

The Word of the Lord. / **Thanks be to God.**



- 1 I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.
- 2 Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.
- 3 Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.
- 4 One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.
- 5 I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.
- 6 They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.
- 7 They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.
- 8 The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

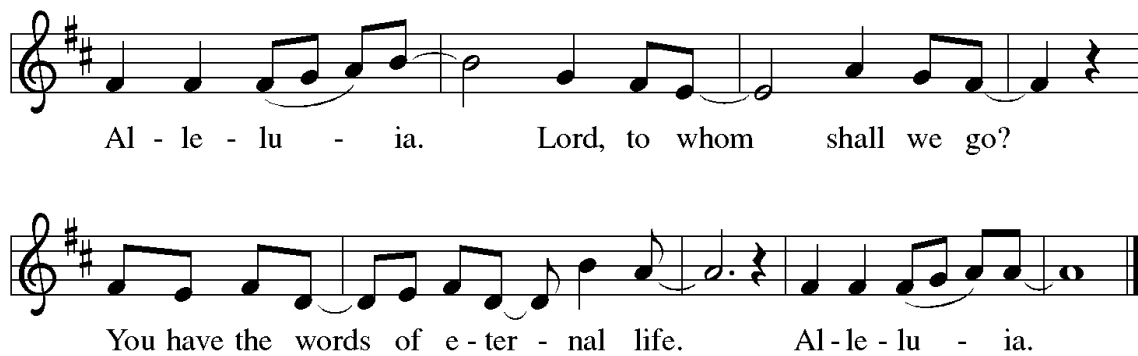
SECOND READING

Philippians 1:21-30

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The Word of the Lord. / **Thanks be to God.**



GOSPEL READING

Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Miller

1 Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for
 2 We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and
 3 Great God, in Christ you call our name and then re - ceive us
 4 Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and
 5 Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your

love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,
 cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains,
 as your own, not through some mer - it, right, or claim,
 call us friends. Suf - fer and serve till all are fed,
 joy to share. Give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty

though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our
 by so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by pow'rs and sys - tems
 but by your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse your
 and show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre -
 to turn from guilt and dull de - spair, and of - fer all that

heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.
 close con - fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.
 mer - cy seat and find you kneel - ing at our feet.
 a - tion sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.
 faith can do while love is mak - ing all things new.

APOSTLE'S CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love,
we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

After each portion of the prayers:

Hear us, O God.,
Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude:

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask,
and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

*All may share a sign of Peace.
Please be seated.*

THE MEAL

OFFERING

We invite you to give your offering online at saintlukegive.us or place it in the offering plate, or use this QR code with your device to securely give your Offering.

You may also mail your checks to:

Saint Luke Lutheran Church
9100 Colesville Road
Silver Spring, MD 20910



OFFERTORY MUSIC (8:45)

I Will Extol Thee
Alfred Fedak (1953)

*I will extol thee, my God and King, and bless thy name.
Everyday will I bless thee, I will bless thee and praise thy name forever.
Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.
I will extol thee, my God and King, and bless thy name evermore.*

OFFERTORY MUSIC (11:15)

I Sing the Mighty Power of God
arr. Cindy Blevins

*The offering is received and is presented at the altar.
Please stand.*

OFFERING HYMN

Take My Life and Let It Be

1 Take my life and let it be con-se-crated, Lord, to thee;

take my mo-ments and my days; let them flow in

cease-less praise; let them flow in cease-less praise.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system ends with a semicolon, the second with a comma, and the third with a period. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines that support the vocal melody.

OFFERING PRAYER

Please stand as you are able.

Let us pray.

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

(Continued on the next page)

It is indeed right that we should give thanks and praise, for 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Please pray in your own preferred language.

**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.**

**Padre Nuestro, que estas en los cielos,
santificado sea tu nombre,
venga a nosotros tu reino,
hagase tu voluntad,
asi en la tierra como en el cielo.
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada dia;
perdona nuestras ofensas,
como nosotros perdonamos
a los que nos ofenden;
y no nos dejes caer en la tentacion,
mas libranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino,
el poder, y la gloria,
por los siglos de los siglos. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites us to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Thanks be to God!

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

All are invited to the Lord's table, a table of grace and mercy. There are stations at the foot of the chancel steps.

Please stretch out your hand, palm up, to receive the host, the body of Christ.

(Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask your server)

Then receive in the individual cup the blood of Christ. You may deposit your cup in the basket near the side wall. Those who wish to receive a blessing instead of the Lord's supper are also encouraged to come forward. Those who wish to receive the sacrament in the pew, please inform an usher. All are welcome to the Lord's table.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:

The body of Christ, given for you. / The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*The communicant may say: **Amen.***

AGNUS DEI

Setting Six

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.

COMMUNION HYMN

ACS 1084—God, Be The Love to Search and Keep Me

1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
 2 Bind to my-self the name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -
 3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light - ning,
 4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
 5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that

move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
 es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
 strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
 light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
 hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:

Refrain
 O Christ, sur - round me; O Christ, sur - round me.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Please stand as you are able.

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

THE SENDING

BLESSING

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.

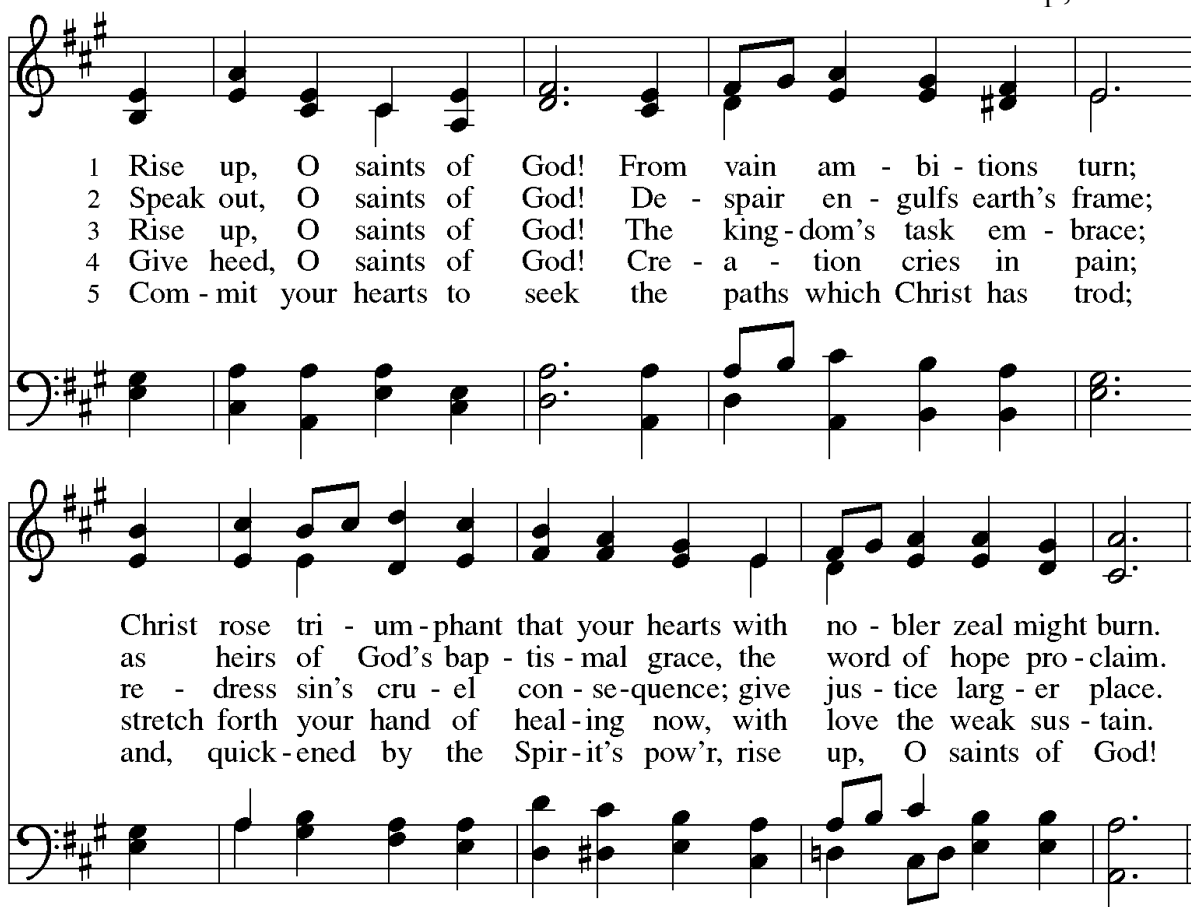
Amen.

The God of grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 669—Rise up, O saints of God!



1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;

Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
 as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
 re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
 stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
 and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
 Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Fanfare for Organ
Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens (1823-1881)

WORSHIP LEADERS

PRESIDING MINISTER

The Rev. Connie A. Miller
Senior Pastor

READERS

Tacy Downing
Andrew Vigliotta

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Deacon Kyle Warfield
Director of Outreach and High School Ministries

CRUCIFERS AND COMMUNION SERVERS

Becky Unkenholz
William Leader

The Rev. Richard Zawistoski
Confirmation Pastor

MUSICIANS

Adam Scott Graham
Director of Music

GOSPELLER AND COMMUNION SERVER 8:45

The Rev. Gary Nuss
Support Pastor

Ralph Watkins
Carillon Guild

Schola Cantorum

Robert Grace & Donna Nelson
11:15am Offertory Music

FAITH FORMATION FOR ALL AGES BEGINS TODAY **10:00 a.m.**

Check out all the opportunities!!
Pick up the flyer on the credenzas or check online at www.saintluke.us

LET'S TALK **10:10 a.m.** **Fireside Room**

ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission
Report back from Andrew Vigliotta
who spent a YAGM year in Mexico.
Thanks to so many for your support of this program

Come hear about Andrew's experience
and the mission and ministry
in Mexico City

TODAY'S MUSIC

ELW 688—Lord of Light

Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860-1953, alt.

Music: Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991

Tune: ABBOT'S LEIGH

ACS 1084— God, Be The Love to Search and Keep Me

Text: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, b. 1967

Music: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

Tune: GREEN TYLER

ELW 358—Great God, Your Love Has Called Us

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: Norman Cocker, 1889–1953

Tune: RYBURN

ELW 669—Rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, 1936-2009

Music: William H. Walter, 1825-1893

Tune: FESTAL SONG

Take My Life and Let It Be

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879

Music: Henri A.C. Malan, 1787-1864

Tune: HENDON

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THIS WEEK AT SAINT LUKE

Sunday, September 20

XVII PENTECOST

7:30 AM Tech Rehearsal
8:00 AM Schola Cantorum
8:45 AM Worship (English)
10:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Affirmation of Baptism
10:00 AM SLSHY+
10:00 AM Up for Discussion
10:00 AM The Gathering
10:10 AM LET'S TALK
11:15 AM Worship (English)
1:00 PM Worship (Spanish)
2:00 PM The Gathering

Monday, September 21

8:30 AM CDS Classes
4:00 PM La Sagrada Familia- Art

Tuesday, September 22

8:30 AM CDS Classes
10:00 AM CDS Music
1:30 PM Program Staff Meeting (Online)
7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal

Wednesday, September 23

7:00 AM Faith Connections (Online)
8:30 AM CDS Classes
10:00 AM CDS Chapel
10:00 AM Women in Community
3:45 PM La Sagrada Familia- After School
Tutoring
7:30 PM Schola Cantorum

Thursday, September 24

8:30 AM CDS Classes
4:00 PM La Sagrada Familia- En Camino
Tutoring
7:30 PM AA
7:30 PM Centering Prayer (Online)

Friday, September 25

8:30 AM CDS Classes
3:45 PM La Sagrada Familia- Music
6:00 PM AA

Saturday, September 26

9:30 AM AA
11:00 AM Al-Anon
3:00 PM SLSHY + Sunset Sailing
8:30 PM AA

Sunday, September 27

XVIII PENTECOST

7:30 AM Tech Rehearsal
8:00 AM Schola Cantorum
8:45 AM Worship
10:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM The Gathering
10:00 AM Affirmation of Baptism
10:00 AM SLSHY+
10:00 AM Up for Discussion
10:10 AM LET'S TALK
11:15 AM Worship
1:00 PM Advent Children's Ministry
Recording