



EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 27, 2026 at 8:45 & 11:15am

Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School

9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Twelve Pieces, I-Prelujde in F
Théodore Dubois (1837-1924)

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.**

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 416—At the Name of Jesus



1 At the name of Je - sus ev - 'ry knee shall bow,
 2 At his voice cre - a - tion sprang at once to sight,
 3 Hum - bled for a sea - son, to re - ceive a name
 4 In your hearts en - throne him; there let him sub - due
 5 Chris - tians, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain



ev - 'ry tongue con - fess him king of glo - ry now.
 all the an - gel fac - es, all the hosts of light,
 from the lips of sin - ners un - to whom he came,
 all that is not ho - ly, all that is not true.
 on the clouds of glo - ry, with his an - gel train;



It is God's good plea - sure we should call him Lord,
 thrones and dom - i - na - tions, stars up - on their way,
 faith - ful - ly he bore it spot - less to the last;
 Crown him as your cap - tain in temp - ta - tion's hour;
 for all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on his brow,



who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.
 all the heav'n - ly or - ders in their great ar - ray.
 brought it back vic - to - rious when from death he passed.
 let his will en - fold you in its light and pow'r.
 and our hearts con - fess him king of glo - ry now.

GREETING

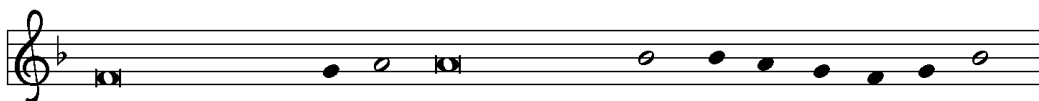
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.



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.



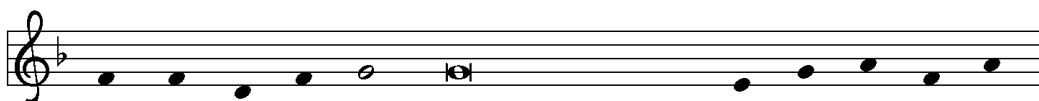
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of



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



Lord, have mer - cy.

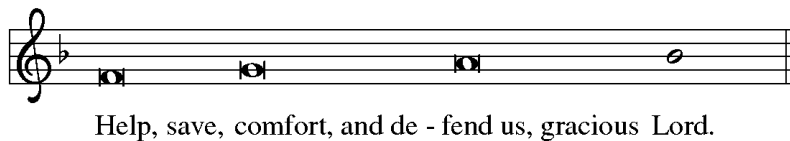
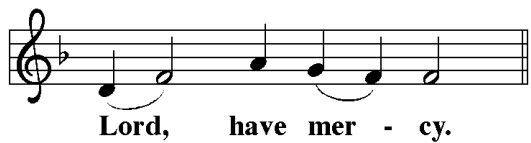


For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and



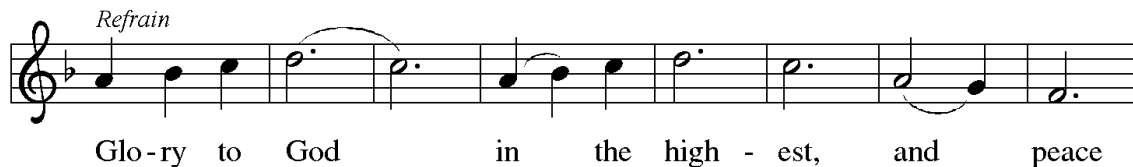
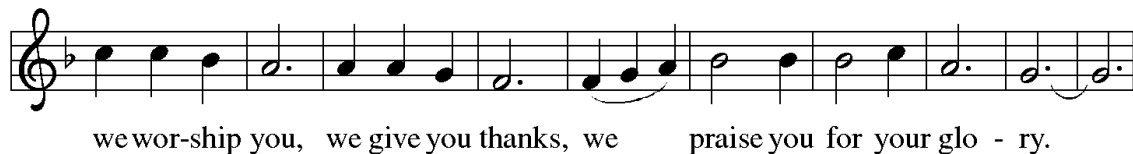
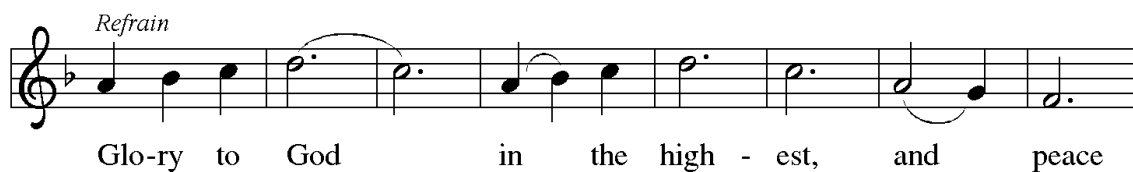
praise, let us pray to the Lord.

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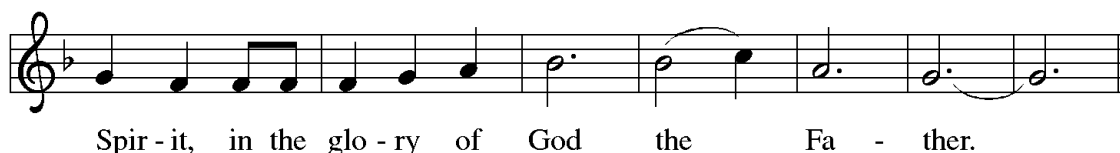
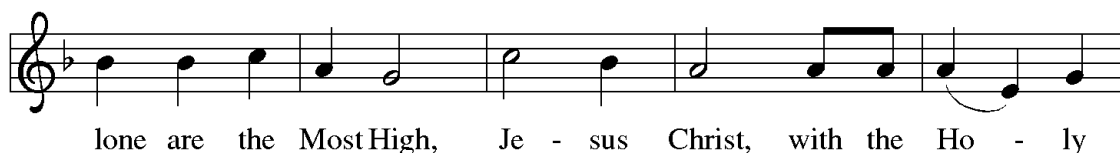
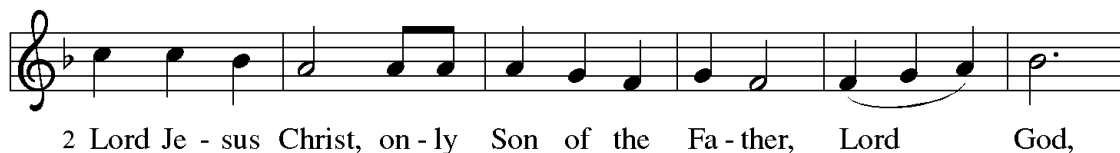


CANTICLE OF PRAISE

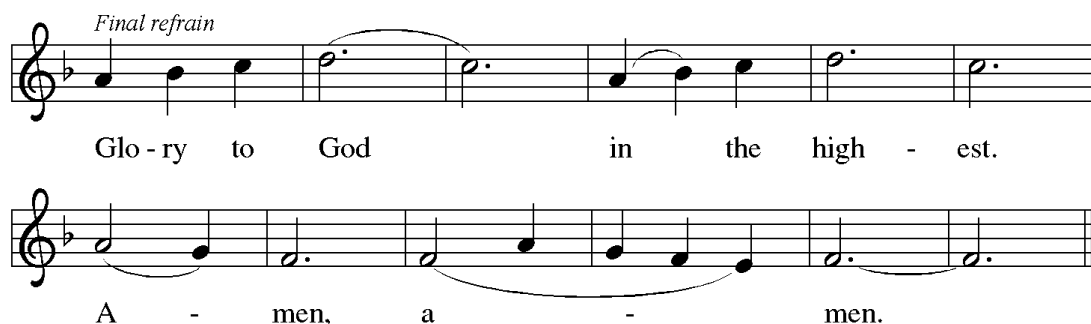
ELW Setting Six



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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

THE WORD

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die. Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Philippians 2:1-13

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Setting Six

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

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

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 21:23-32

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew. / **Glory to you, O Lord.**

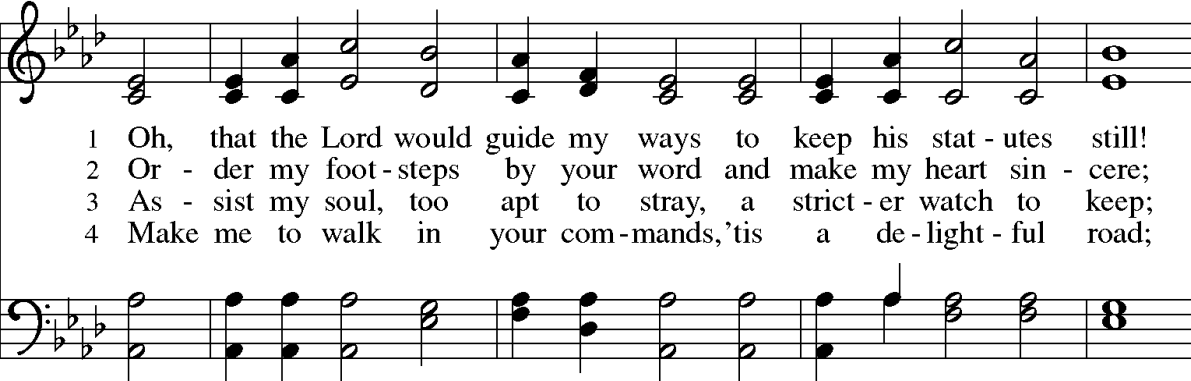
When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Ruth Ann Sipe



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
 2 Or - der my foot - steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;
 3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
 4 Make me to walk in your com - mands, 'tis a de - light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
 let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.
 and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.
 nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

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)

Call to Remembrance
Richard Farrant (1525-1580)

*Call to remembrance, O Lord, thy tender mercy and thy loving kindness
which hath been ever of old. Oh, remember not the sins and offenses of my youth,
but according to thy mercy think thou on me, O Lord, for thy goodness.*

OFFERTORY MUSIC (11:15)

REQUIEM, VIII. Pie Jesu
Andrew Lloyd Webber (b. 1948)

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 a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. It consists of three systems of staves. The lyrics are printed below the staves.

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

ELW 818—O Master, Let Me Walk with You

1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the
paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly
help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

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 517—Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and

by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
 Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
 u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife

and bring to naught all he has done.
 may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
 and lead us out of death to life.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Twelve Pieces, XII-Grand Chorus in B Flat
Théodore Dubois (1837-1924)

WORSHIP LEADERS

PRESIDING MINISTERS

Bishop Richard Graham 8:45
Bishop Emeritus, Metro DC Synod, ELCA

The Rev. Connie A. Miller
Senior Pastor

PREACHING MINISTER

The Rev. Ruth Ann Sipe
Lutheran Disaster Response of the Carolinas

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Deacon Kyle Warfield
Director of Outreach and High School Ministries

The Rev. Richard Zawistoski
Confirmation Pastor

COMMUNION SERVER 8:45

Melissa Groen
Director of Children's Ministries

READERS

Joan Nagiel
Kevin Moose

CRUCIFERS

Edward Perry
Willard Unkenholz

MUSICIANS

Adam Scott Graham
Director of Music

Alix Evans
Assistant Director of Music

Robert Grace
Carillon Guild

Schola Cantorum

FAITH FORMATION FOR ALL AGES

10:00 a.m.

Check out all the opportunities!!
Pick up a flyer on the credenzas.

LET'S TALK – THIS MORNING

10:10 a.m.

Fireside Room

JOIN BISHOP GRAHAM AND PASTOR MILLER

LET'S TALK – yes, let us do just that and check in about
all that is going on around us.

What is our response as God's people?
These are challenging times – yes, let us talk and share.

WE WELCOME THE REV RUTH ANN SIPE as our guest preacher this morning. The North Carolina Synod was the recipient of our 2025 Anniversary Offering to go toward assisting those touched by the flooding and storms. Pastor Sipe and her husband Pastor Ray Sipe serve together as the Disaster Coordinators for LDR Carolinas. They serve the North and South Carolinas in this capacity. Again, welcome Pastor Sipe!

LET'S TALK
Sundays 10:10 a.m.
What's Ahead

Sunday, October 4
Saint Luke: Caring for God's Creation

Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake
Sarah Redden, Outreach Coordinator
Saint Luke has become very Green, working with
IPC and we have definitely become partners.

Come hear about future possible Green plans for Saint Luke
with the help of IPC and so much we have already done.

How wonderful to be green and care for God's Creation!

Sunday, October 11
One Family, Two Faiths:
My Journey of Christian-Muslim Love and Understanding

Saint Luke member, Sunday Shomari
shares his life journey
in Tanzania
with a Christian mother and Muslim father

TODAY'S MUSIC

ELW 416

At the Name of Jesus

Text: Caroline M. Noel, 1817–1877

Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

Tune: KING'S WESTON

ELW 818

O Master, Let Me Walk with You

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836-1918, alt.

Music: H. Percy Smith, 1825-1898

Tune: MARYTON

ELW 772

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

Music: William H. Havergal, 1793-1870

Tune: EVAN

ELW 517

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr.

Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

Music: J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

Tune: ERHALT UNS, HERR

Take My Life and Let It Be

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879

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

Tune: HENDON

Washington Gladden (1836-1918) was called to the First Congregational Church in Columbus, OH in 1882 and remained there for 32 years. In 1883-84 he was known for his success in fighting the corrupt Tweed Ring, for arbitrating the Telegraphers' Strike and the Hocking Valley Coal Strike. He attacked John D. Rockefeller, Sr. for giving \$100,000 of "tainted money" to the Congregational Church's Foreign Missions program. Throughout his ministry he emphasized applying the gospel to life in America. He wrote "O Master, let me walk with thee" in 1879.

Mary Louise VanDyke, *Hymnological Researcher*

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THIS WEEK AT SAINT LUKE

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

Monday, September 28

8:30 AM CDS Classes
4:00 PM La Sagrada Familia- Art Program
4:00 PM Stewardship (Online)
5:30 PM Meet-the-Classroom community
Passport Night

Tuesday, September 29

8:30 AM CDS Classes
10:00 AM CDS Music
7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal

Wednesday, September 30

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

Thursday, October 01

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

Friday, October 02

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

Saturday, October 03

9:30 AM AA
11:00 AM Al-Anon
8:30 PM AA

Sunday, October 04

XIX PENTECOST

7:30 AM Tech Rehearsal
8:00 AM Schola Cantorum
8:45 AM Worship (English)
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 (English)
1:00 PM Worship (Spanish)
2:00 PM The Gathering