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Dennis J. Lauritsen, Pastor
David B. Richards, Parish Musician
Karen Rouleau, Administrative Assistant



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

During the Prayers of Intercession, you are invited to add your own prayer(s) either in speech or in silence as indicated by the line: "Other intercessions may be added here." You may wish to use this insert to write down your prayer(s) which you may then offer aloud during that time. If you wish to have your prayers added to the Prayer of the Church during the coming weeks, please remove and place this card in the offering plate.

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 3rd, 2023 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

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

HOLY COMMUNION

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING FOUR, PAGES 147-155

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

***WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

based upon Psalm 8 and Genesis 1

“O Lord, our Lord, the majesty of your name fills the earth!

Your glory is higher than the heavens.”

We gather to praise you!

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...”

“O Lord, our Lord, the majesty of your name fills the earth!

Your glory is higher than the heavens.”

We gather to celebrate you!

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...”

And God saw that it was good...”

We gather to celebrate our God.

“O Lord, our Lord, the majesty of your name fills the earth!

Your glory is higher than the heavens.”

We gather to worship you!

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...”

And God saw that it was very good...”
We gather to worship our God!
**All praise, honor, majesty and power
belongs to our Creating God! Amen**

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***ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Trusting God’s promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Let us pray.

Eternal God our creator, in you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God + forgives us all our sins. **Amen**

***GATHERING HYMN**

For the Beauty of the Earth

ELW 879

***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.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

WORD

God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 15:15-21

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Romans 12:9-21

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

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 174

*GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21-28

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew... **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

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

SERMON

*CREED

God has made us his people through our baptism into Christ, living together in trust and hope we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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

Strengthened by the Spirit who gives us words to speak and hearts that care, let us bring our hopes and needs to God who listens.

O Lord, you know and see all that your baptized people accomplish across the church universal. Prove us and try us; test our hearts and minds as we walk in faithfulness with you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As the summer breezes wane, and forests and foliage begin their colorful journey into fall, make us ever mindful of these earthly blessings and renew our zeal to care for your creation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Teach us to live peaceably with all nations, our enemies, and those who seek to do us harm. Bring light into the dark corners of the world and give courage to organizations that seek to overcome evil with good. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

When our pain is unceasing, give us patience in suffering. When our wounds refuse to be healed, remember us with your mercy. When hope seems lost, remind us that you are with us always. Especially we remember... . Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As we rally our congregation's time, talents, and resources, remove the stumbling blocks that hinder our desire to put you first. Give us the courage to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Other prayers may be added here in speech and silence.

We remember with gratitude those who have died, especially... Through the lives of your saints, show us how to hold fast to what is good. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your loving hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen**

*PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

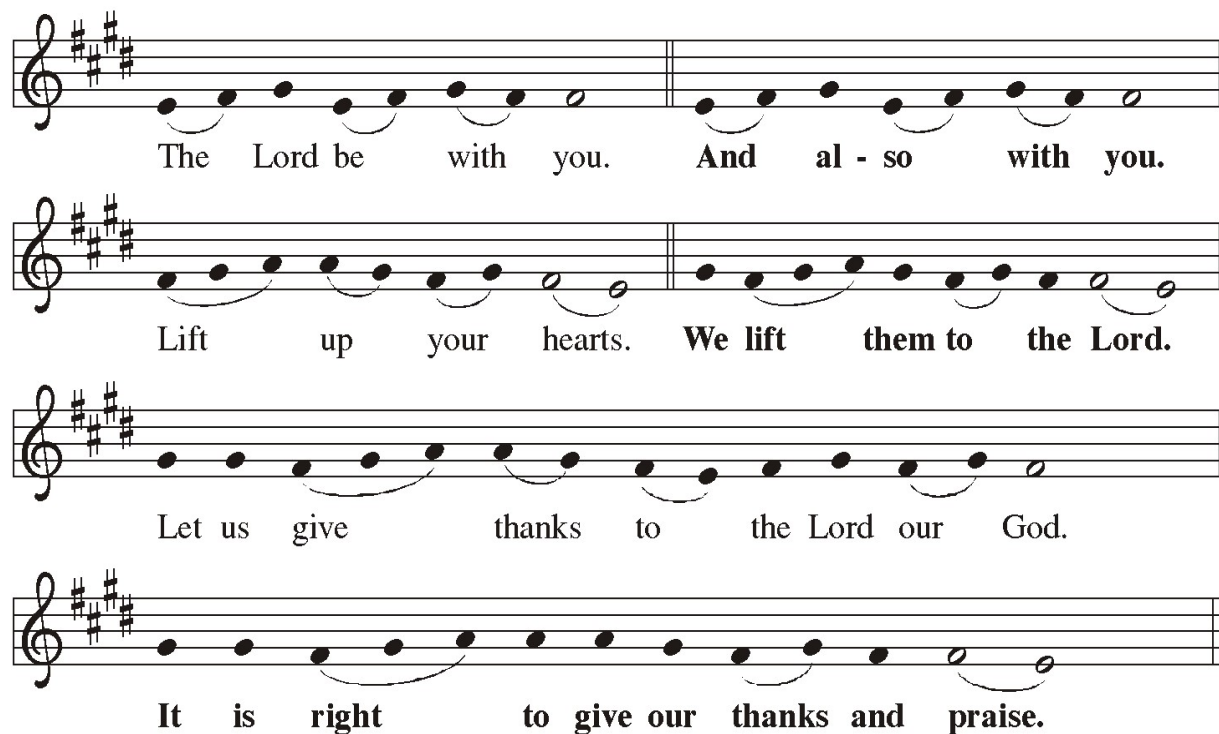
MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

*DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

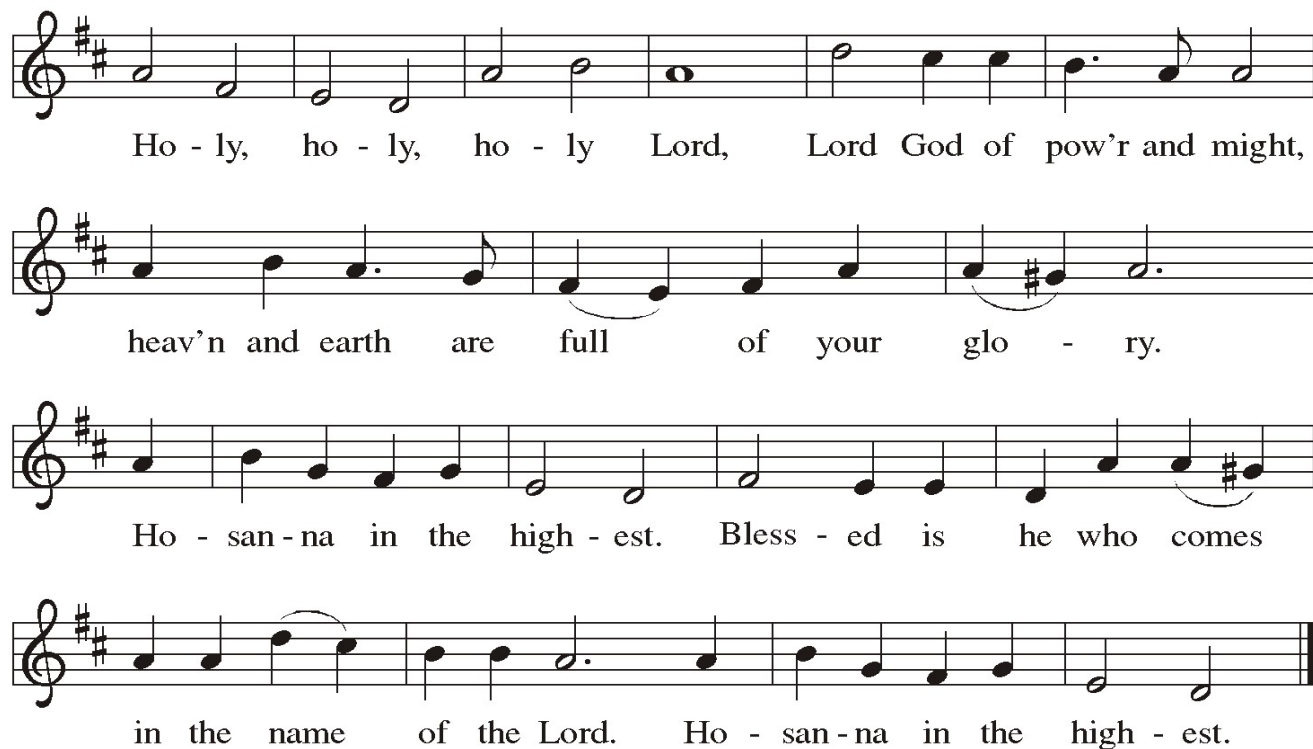
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with light and life;
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:
the promise to Israel,
the rescue from Egypt,
the gift of the promised land,
the words of the prophets;
and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,
who proclaimed the good news in word and deed
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,
we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we who share in Christ's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants
of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

**Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever. Amen**

*LORD'S PRAYER

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
Our Lord's body let us take together.

DISTRIBUTION

***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. Almighty God, we give you thanks that you have fed us with this heavenly food. In your grace and by your Spirit, help us to be what we celebrate, the body of Christ in the world. Send us out, renewed by this sacramental meal, to do the work you have given us to do: to witness for Christ, to love you with singleness of heart, and to serve you with clarity of purpose; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***BENEDICTION**

The blessing of the living God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, surround and sustain you, keep you from harm, and fill you with courage. **Amen**

***SENDING HYMN**

God Whose Giving Knows No Ending

ELW 678

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace and joy. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SERVING IN THE LITURGY

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

Emily Bittner

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Jane Lauritsen

LECTOR

Jane Lauritsen

GREETERS

John and Shirley Kostelny

USHER

John Kostelny

LIVE STREAM

Charles Matthies

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTAN

Jane Lauritsen and Fred Kuzel

IN THE PRAYERS...

Members of the Congregation: Anne Gavac, Helen Gaydusek, Karole Gaydusek, Elaine Haase, Anita Horak, Luddy Kovalsky, Mildred Mendel, Lois Mika, George Pagurko, Mildred Riban and Mary Sasuta. **Friends and Relatives of the Congregation:** Wally Bisping, David Basek, James and Lori Broussard, Dan and Mary Costello, Eric Dennison, Tom Duran, Barbara Dykes, Denise Fricano, Ron Kelly, Nicole Kisiel, Rev. James Kuemmerle, Lenyce Lawrenson, Delores Linden, Darlene Loughlin, Mary Frances Mason, Michele Mason, Donald Neal, Julie Patron, Pat Pileggi, Gail Purcell, Sandy Rossella, Stevie Singer, Peter Spilotro, Kathy Stenson, Gertrude Tarbox, Janie Tarbox and Mike Yavorski.

Please let us know when people may be removed from the prayer list, and we will offer a prayer of thanksgiving for their healing!

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

*Peter Claver, priest, missionary to Colombia, died 1654
Saturday, September 9th*

Born into Spanish nobility, Claver became a Jesuit missionary, and served in present-day Colombia. His ministry was focused on the enslaved people who arrived there. He gave them food and medicine, learned their dialects, and taught them Christianity.

Dear Creator of all, thank you for summer! Thank you for the warmth of the sun and the increased daylight. Thank you for the beauty we see all around us and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy your creation. Thank you for the time we have to be with friends and family, and for the more relaxed pace of the summer season. Draw us closer to you this summer. Teach us how to pray no matter where we are or what we are doing. Warm our souls with the awareness of your presence and light our path with your word and counsel. As we enjoy your creation, create in us pure hearts and a hunger and thirst for you.

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering August 27th, 2023

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2023:</i>	\$2,524.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$.00
<i>Shortage:</i>	\$.00

LABOR DAY PRAYER

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops



As the sun rises to bring in the new day: We remember those who descend into the earth, their work begins in darkness, pulling from the earth, the resources we steward.

We remember those who work inside a building away from the light and brightness of the day.

We remember those who work outside in the harsh elements of our world, the bitter cold and sweltering heat of extremes.

We remember those who do not have a job to go to, who are struggling to meet the needs of their daily living expenses, for whom the day becomes long and arduous.

As the sun sets to bring in the evening of rest:

We remember those who work in the night.

We remember those who are trying to recover from their labor and toils of the day.

We remember those who participate in unsafe and dangerous work.

We pray for a renewed sense of dignity in their lives and in their work.

God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the worker. Make a place in our hearts for compassion to the men and women who labor tirelessly for basic necessities. Ensure a place for those who are struggling to find work. Grant us your wisdom to greet and care for those who are unable to work due to illness or circumstances that prevent their participation. Be with the children who are not able to run and play, but instead must put in a hard day's work to help their family afford to eat, to live. Be with us all, Christ Jesus, as we go about the busyness of our work. Hold us accountable not only for our actions, but most importantly to each of our neighbors. May we continue to work together to bring about your reign! We ask this in your holy name, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen