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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.*

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FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

*Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.*

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**HOLY COMMUNION**

***EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING FOUR, PAGES 147-155***

**GATHERING**

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

**\*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  
belong to our Creating God! Amen**

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\*GATHERING HYMN

*How Marvelous God's Greatness*

ELW 830

- 1 How marvelous God's greatness,  
how glorious God's might!  
To this the world bears witness  
in wonders day and night:  
in form of flow'r and snowflake,  
in morn's resplendent birth,  
in afterglow at ev'ning,  
in sky and sea and earth.**
  
- 2 Each tiny flow'ret whispers,  
the great life-giver's name;  
the mighty mountain masses  
his majesty proclaim;  
the valleys deep are hymning  
God's shelter for his own;  
the snow-capped peaks are pointing  
to God's almighty throne.**
  
- 3 The ocean's vast abysses  
in one grand psalm record  
the deep mysterious counsels,  
and mercies of the Lord;  
the icy waves of winter  
are thund'ring on the strand;  
and grief's chill stream is guided  
by God's all-gracious hand.**

**4 The starry hosts are singing  
through all the light-strewn sky  
of God's majestic temple  
and palace courts on high;  
when in these outer chambers  
such glory gilds the night,  
oh, what transcendent brightness  
is God's eternal light!**

Text: Valdimar Briem, 1848-1930; tr. Charles V. Pilcher, 1879-1961, alt.  
Text © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

**\*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 Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

**WORD**

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

**FIRST READING**

Ezekiel 33:7-11

*God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.*

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

*Prayed in unison by the congregation.*

**Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,  
and I will observe it to the end.**

**Give me understanding,  
that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.**

**Lead me in the path of your commandments,  
for I delight in it.**

**Turn my heart to your decrees,  
and not to selfish gain.**

**Turn my eyes from looking at vanities;  
give me life in your ways.**

**Confirm to your servant your promise,  
which is for those who fear you.**

**Turn away the disgrace that I dread,  
for your ordinances are good.**

**See, I have longed for your precepts;  
in your righteousness give me life.**

SECOND READING

Romans 13:8-14

*The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.*

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

\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 174

\*GOSPEL

Matthew 18:15–20

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

*Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.*

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

SERMON

## \*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.

Unite your church, O God. Grant us the gifts of repentance and reconciliation. Bless the cooperative work of churches in this community. Strengthen ecumenical partnerships; guide the work of the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Protect your creation, O God. Teach us ways that do not harm what you have entrusted to our care. Renew and enliven places suffering from drought, flood, storms, or pollution. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Turn nations and leaders from ways that lead to death. Shape new paths toward peace and cooperation, teaching us to recognize one another as neighbors. Guide legislators, civil servants, judges, and police toward laws that protect the well-being of all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Tend to all in need of your compassion. Hear the cries of those awaiting justice and those yearning for forgiveness. Give community to the lonely and neighbors to the outcast. Shelter all who are vulnerable in body, mind, or spirit, especially... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustain us in our work, O God, and give work to those who need it. Shape societies to ensure fair treatment for all who labor. Help us to love our neighbors in and through our work. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered in speech or silence.*

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in faith. As you equipped them, equip us with your protection and power, until with them we see your salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## \*PEACE

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



## MEAL

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*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.

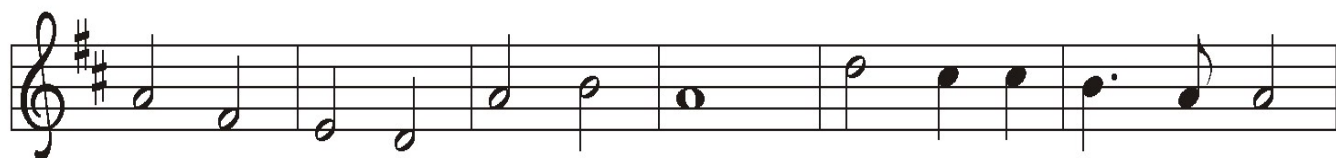
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

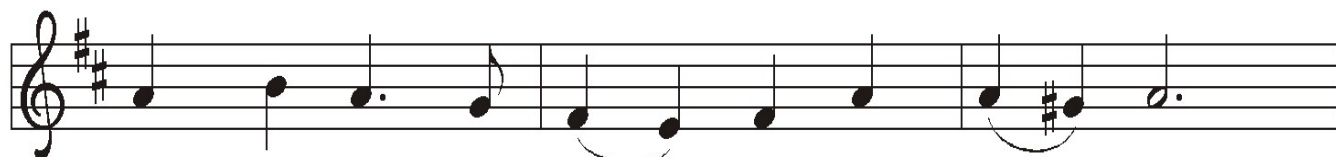
### \*PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS

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

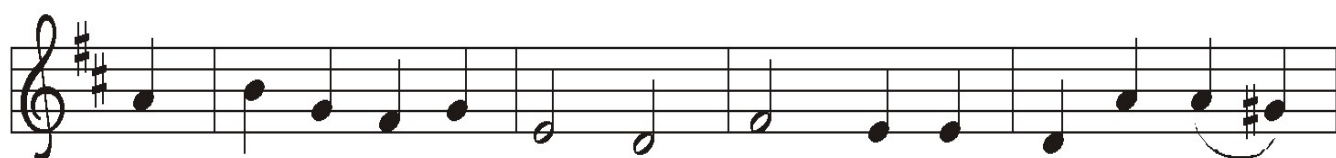
## \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



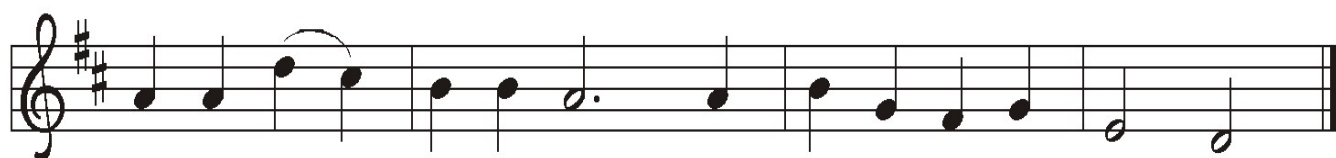
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



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

*Nearer My God, to Thee*

Anne Crosby Gaudet

**\*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

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*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

*Bind Us Together*

WOV 748

*Refrain*

**Bind us together, Lord**

**Bind us together**

**With cords that cannot be broken**

**Bind us together, Lord**

**Bind us together**

**Bind us together in Love**

**There is only one God,**

**There is only one King**

**There is only one Body,**

**That is why we sing. *Refrain***

**Fit for the glory of God,**

**Purchased by His precious Blood**

**Born with the right to be free**

**Jesus the victory has won. *Refrain***

**We are the family of God**

**We are the promise divine**

**We are God's chosen desire**

**We are the glorious new wine. *Refrain***

### \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace and joy. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SERVING IN THE LITURGY

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PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

Carrie Watkiss

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

HARPIST

Beverly Tarbox

SERVICE LEADER

Carrie Watkiss

LECTOR

John Kostelny

USHER

Fred Kuzel

LIVE STREAM

Paul Watkiss

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, 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, Pat Pileggi, Gail Purcell, Sandy Rossella, Stevie Singer, Peter Spilotro, Kathy Stenson, Gertrude Tarbox, Janie Tarbox and Mike Yavorski.

### Join Us for Our Next Autumn Outdoor Worship

**18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, October 1<sup>st</sup>**

Blessing of Pets and Animals

in Commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi,  
renewer of the church, died 1226.

### Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2023:</i>	\$2,524.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$1,020.00
<i>Shortage:</i>	\$1,504.00