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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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SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

*In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.*

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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.*

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**

*Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace*

ELW 716

**\*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, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, 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

Genesis 50:15-21

*After Jacob's death, the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.*

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

### SECOND READING

Romans 14:1-12

*This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.*

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

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 174

### \*GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

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

*When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.*

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

## SERMON

*Forgive Our Sings As We Forgive*

\*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.

Good and gracious God, we pray for the church. Bless the ministries of congregations in our community. Unite us in the proclamation of your life-giving gospel. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, you spoke light into being, you separated the waters, you formed the dry land. Protect and enliven the creation you so love, and make us willing partners in its care. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, you love all tribes, peoples, and languages. We pray for all who govern. Give them wise and generous hearts for those they serve. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Divine Healer, calm the anxiety of those who are wrongly accused, who suffer under crushing debt, or who are in prison. Reassure those who are lonely, impatient, brokenhearted, homebound, hospitalized, or ill, especially... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly; for our guests and visitors, for newcomers to this community, for those who are certain and those who doubt, and for all who seek you in this place. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

We remember and give thanks for the faithful of every age who did not live to themselves but lived to you, especially... Raise us with them on the last day. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit. **Amen**

**\*PEACE**

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

**MEAL**

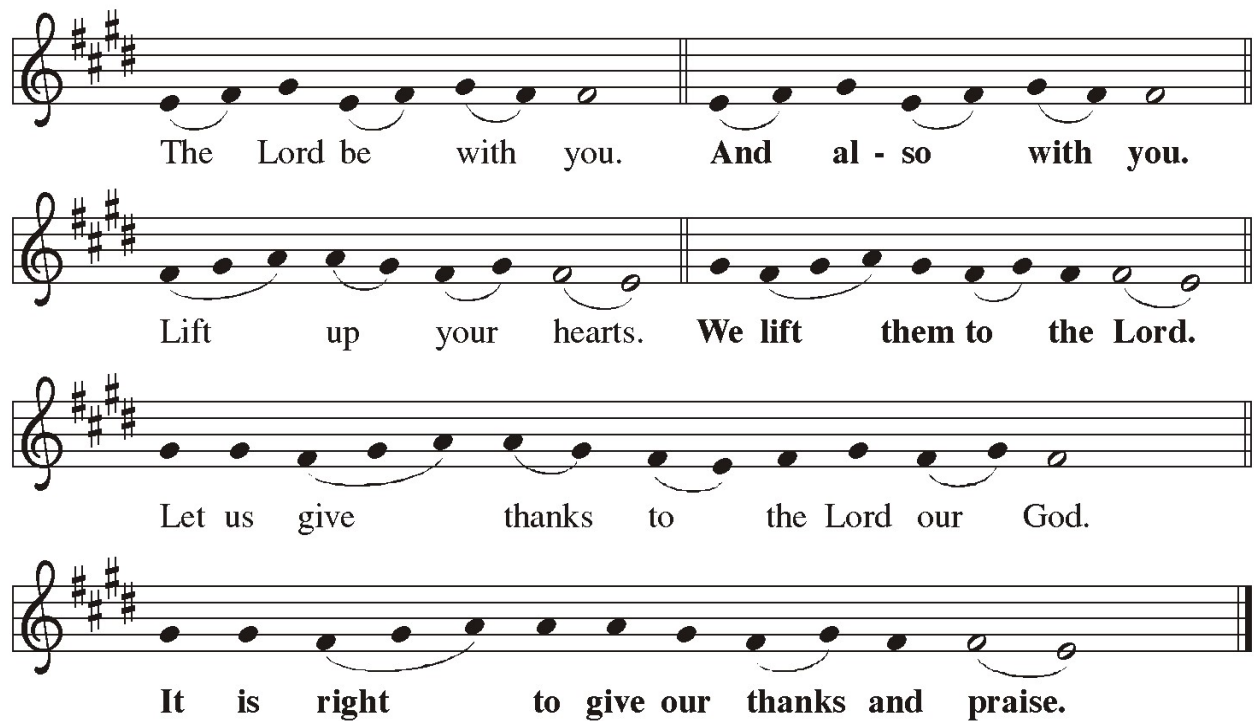
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*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**\*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.

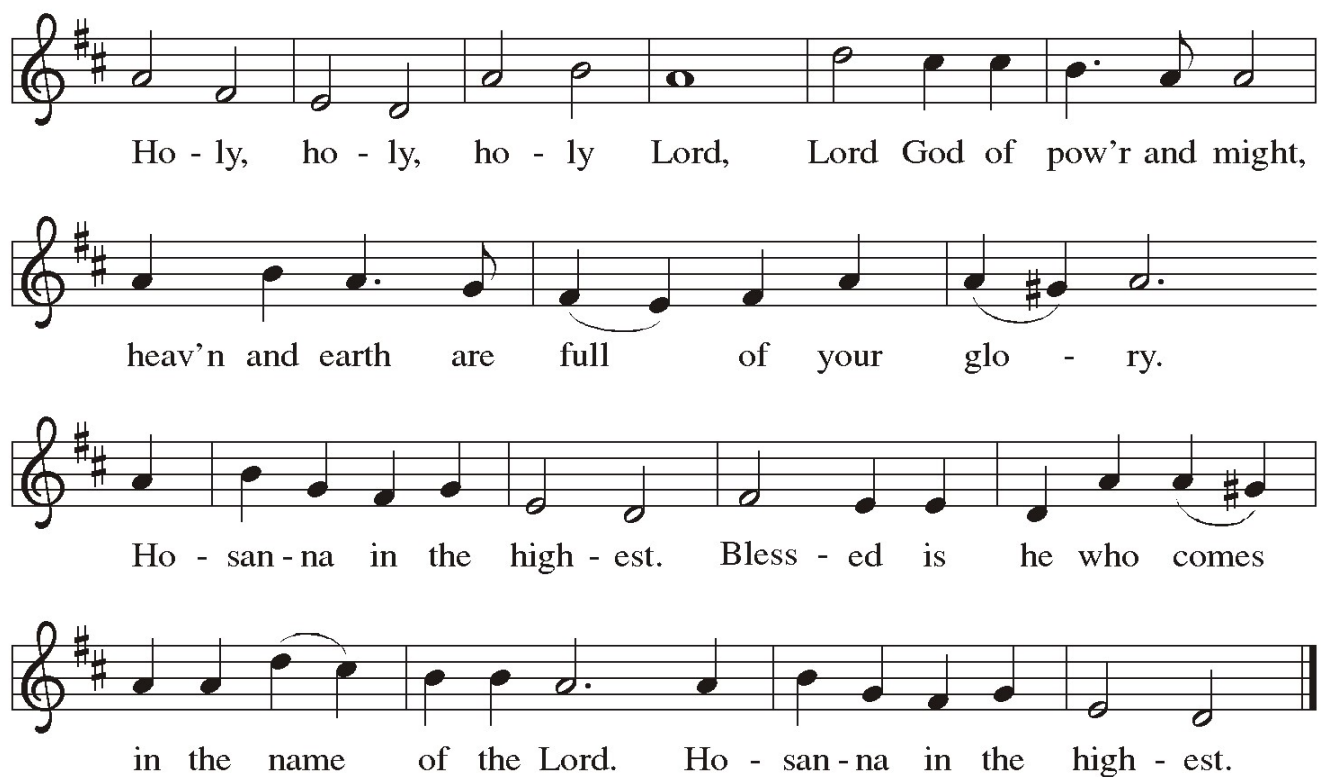
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.**

**\*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**

*Before the Waters Nourished Earth*

ACS 1049

**\*DISMISSAL**

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

**POSTLUDE**

*The Heavens are Telling*

Haydn

**SERVING IN THE LITURGY**

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PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

Carrie Watkiss

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Kristine Boike

LECTOR

Emily Bittner

GREETER

Ann Kmet

USHER

Rafael Martinez

LIVE STREAM

Fred Kuzel

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 and Janie Tarbox.

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

**The Next Autumn Outdoor Worship Service**

**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.

*The person who has come to know the weakness of human nature has gained experience of divine power. Such a person never belittles anyone... He knows that God is like a good and loving physician who heals with individual treatment each of those who are trying to make progress (St. Maximos the Confessor, ca. 580-662).*

**Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering  
September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

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

## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

***Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, died 1179***

***Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>***

A mystic who was widely influential within the church, Hildegard advised and reproved kings and popes, wrote poems and hymns, and produced treatises in medicine, theology, and natural history. She was also a musician and artist.

***Dag Hammarskjöld, renewer of society, died 1961***

***Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>***

A Swedish diplomat, Hammarskjöld served as the second Secretary General of the United Nations until his death in a plane crash while trying to negotiate peace in present-day Zambia. His journal, published as *Markings*, revealed the depth of his Christian faith.

***Nelson Wesley Trout, bishop, died 1996 (TFF)***

***Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>***

A native of Ohio, Trout served parishes in several parts of the United States before being elected bishop of the South Pacific District of the American Lutheran Church, the first African American Lutheran to serve in such a capacity.

***Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist***

***Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup>***

Matthew (or Levi) was a tax collector in Capernaum for the Roman government. Tax collectors were frequently despised for dishonesty and for assisting the occupiers. Jesus nevertheless showed love for them, and chose Matthew to be a disciple.

