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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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SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

*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.*

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**HOLY COMMUNION**

**WITH THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM**

***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

*Sonata*

Beethoven

\*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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\*GATHERING HYMN

*Lord of Light*

ELW 688

\*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, 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**

WORD

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

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 should not I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites who do not know the difference between their right and left hands?*

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



*Prayed in unison by the congregation.*

**I will exalt you, my God and king,  
and bless your name forever and ever.  
Every day will I bless you  
and praise your name forever and ever.  
Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!  
There is no end to your greatness.  
One generation shall praise your works to another  
and shall declare your power.  
I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty  
and all your marvelous works.  
They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,  
and I will recount your greatness.  
They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;  
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.  
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.*

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

\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 174

\*GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1–16

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

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

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

PRESENTATION AND \*PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?  
**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?  
**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?  
**I renounce them.**

\*CREED

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?  
**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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**

\*THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

BAPTISM

\*WELCOME

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

\*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.

For the whole church of God: its leaders, missionaries, youth workers, chaplains, pastors, bishops, and all the baptized. Help us proclaim Christ crucified. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For all creation: seeds that are sown, fields that are harvested, winds that blow, rains that fall, animals that roam, and the fruits of the earth. Fill us with thanksgiving for these gifts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For the leaders of this world: presidents, prime ministers, monarchs, parliaments, elected representatives, and heads of corporations. Inspire them to do what is right and just. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For all who suffer in mind and body: the bullied and the shamed, the brokenhearted and the beaten-down, the sick and the dying, especially... Heal them with the encouragement of the gospel. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For the mission of this congregation, its ministries, stewardship, fellowship, outreach, homebound, children, volunteers, staff, and council. Make us a beacon of your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

In thanksgiving for the blessed dead: those martyred and those who gave themselves in love, those who died alone and those who died tragically, especially... that they, together with all your saints, be lifted up in your glory. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your mercy and goodness, we bring before you these prayers and whatever else you see that we need, in the name of the one who sets us free, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen**

**\*PEACE**

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

**MEAL**

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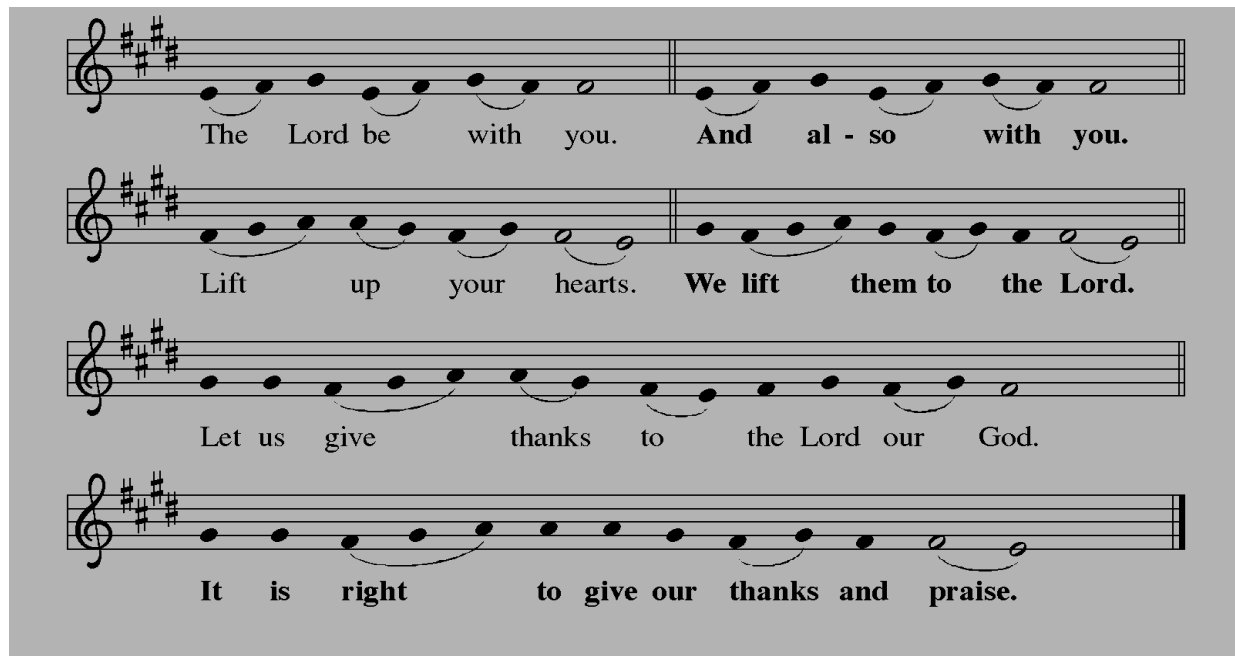
*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**\*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

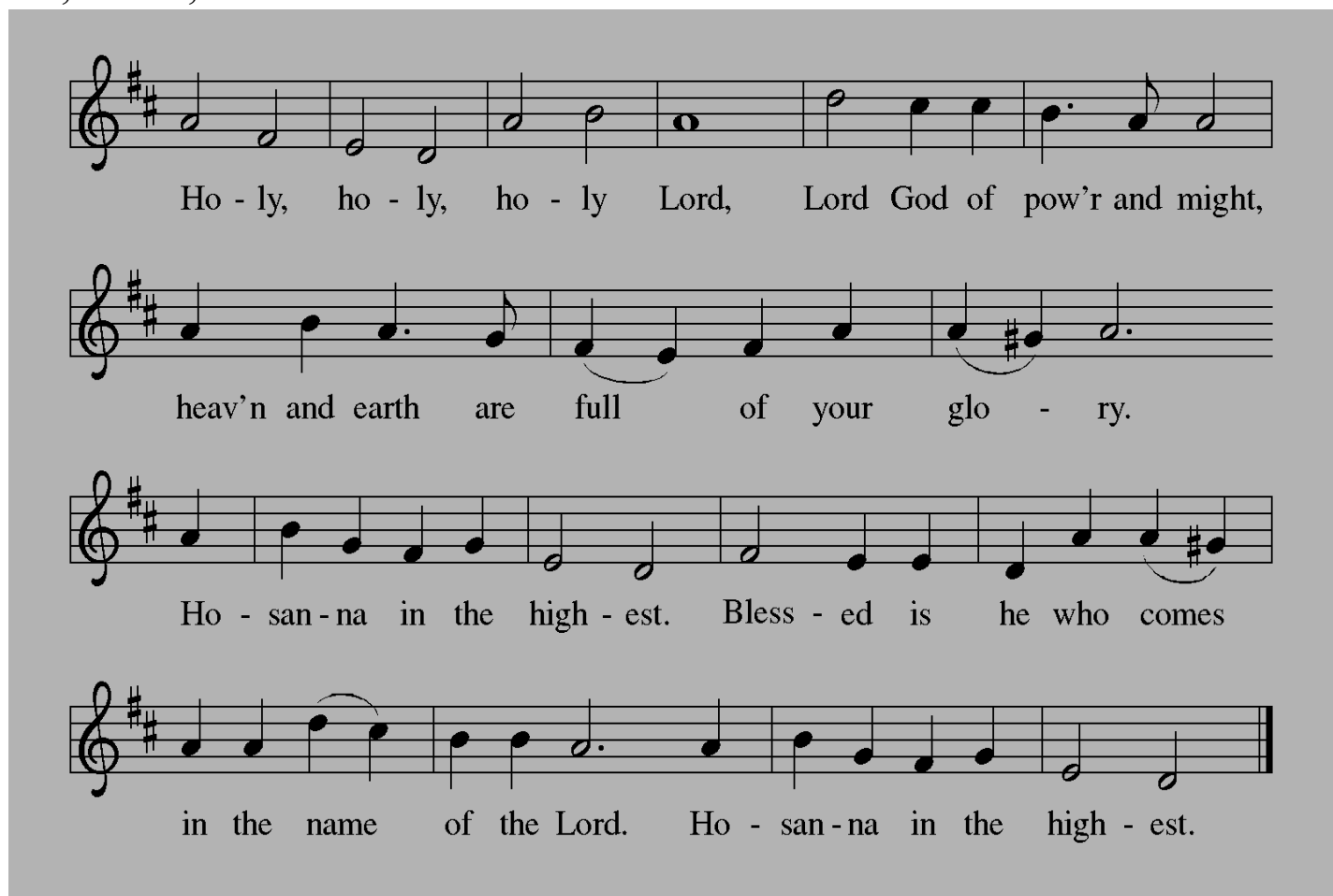


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## \*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**

*Faith Begins by Letting Go*

ACS 1004

**\*DISMISSAL**

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

**POSTLUDE**

*Waltz*

Shostakovich

**SERVING IN THE LITURGY**

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PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

Beverly Tarbox

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Brandon Michaels

LECTOR

Kristine Boike

GREETERS

John and Shirley Kostelny

USHER

Janet Broussard

LIVE STREAM

John Broussard

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, Marilyn Dunne, 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 Sacrament of Holy Baptism is celebrated today for **Maja Kubo-Hartsfield**, daughter of Bernard and Karin. As members of the body of Christ, we promise with her parents, Godparents and family to nurture the growth of Maja in the covenant of her baptism. We welcome this child into the Lord's family and receive her as a member with us of the body of Christ, a child of the same heavenly Father, and a worker with us in the dominion of God.

**The church office will closed** beginning tomorrow through Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. I will be back in the office on the 4<sup>th</sup>.—*Karen Rouleau, Administrative Assistant*

## UPCOMING COMMEMORATION

*Michael and All Angels*  
*Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>*

Michael the archangel, captain of the heavenly hosts, is remembered on this day along with the other angels and archangels. The word "angel" means messenger, and in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, these beings have a fully spiritual nature and no physical body.

### Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2023:</i>	\$2,524.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$1,660.00
<i>Shortage:</i>	\$ 864.00