

ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago



**“But who do
you say
that I am?”**

Matthew 16:15, NRSV



ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆ Bethany ◆ Immanuel ◆ Lunder ◆ Silver Lake ◆ Winnebago

Ministers

Every member of the Parish

Pastors

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Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 27, 2023

COME, HOLY SPIRIT!

We joyfully welcome all guests who are worshipping with us this morning.

We ask you to please sign our guest register. God's Spirit has empowered us to be an united community of faith and encourages us to be a neighbor to all.

SPIRIT, SET OUR HEARTS ON FIRE!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Hymns are from the Green Hymnal.

(Stand as you are able)*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

✠ GATHERING ✠

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God

*CONFESSION

*Confession

The presence of God-with-us;

saves us from being overwhelmed

by anything that threatens us.

Praise God who hears us and answers us;

Our help is surely in God who made heaven and earth.

God our Help and our Redeemer, if you had not chosen to become a part of our lives, through the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, where and who would we be?

Helpless! -helpless without you - and so we offer our heartfelt thanks and praise, for such evidence of your care for us.

In and through Jesus, we have become more deeply aware of your goodness and mercy.

As your presence enabled him to live courageously, so you strengthen us to live boldly through the gift of the Holy Spirit - your empowering presence in us.

We pray that our worship and our daily living will resonate with our gratitude and praise for your presence with us, and all your gracious gifts to us.

This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

Merciful God, you have graced our lives with the life of Jesus, and we rejoice that our lives are forever linked with him through baptism.

This enables us to recognize and proclaim Jesus as your Son, and our Lord and Savior.

In him, our lives - our minds and our hearts are transformed and renewed so that we may discern in your will for the world, all that is good and acceptable and perfect.

We confess, however, that there are times when our actions and our words seem to be conformed more to the values of this age than to doing your will.

If we believe that our faith experience is superior to the way others have come to faith and so fail to recognize and share the humility that life in Christ possesses.

Forgive us

If our relationships are so shaped by bitterness and jealousy, that we fail to recognize and share the joy that life in Christ reveals.

Forgive us

If we exclude people from our fellowship through our prejudice and discrimination; and so fail to recognize and share the love that life in Christ imparts.

Forgive us

If selfishness and greed so corrode our lifestyles that we fail to recognize and share the generosity that life in Christ delights in.

Forgive us

Merciful God, so transform us with the life of Christ and renew us in his image that the grace, humility and compassion which marked his life will be clearly visible in and experienced through our lives; so that we who are one body in Christ may delight in sharing the gifts you graciously give us for both the building up of this community of faith and the communities where we live and work and play.

This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

***EXPERIENCING GOD'S GRACE – THE GOOD NEWS**

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, to whom we have been reconciled through Christ.

Thanks be to God!

***OPENING SONG**

"You Are Holy"

ELW # 525

You Are Holy

Du är helig

1*



Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer
You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

2



Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,
You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

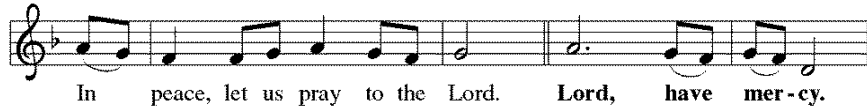
***APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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

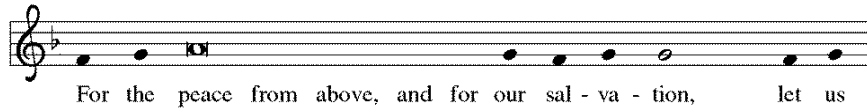
And also with you.

***SHARING THE PEACE**


***KYRIE**



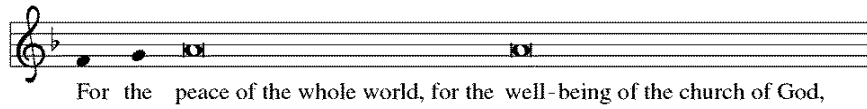
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer-cy.



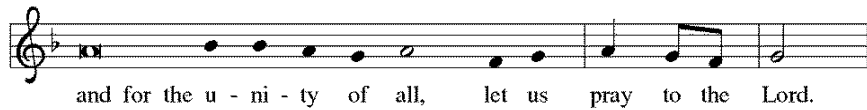
For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



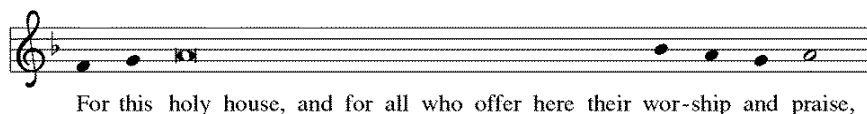
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



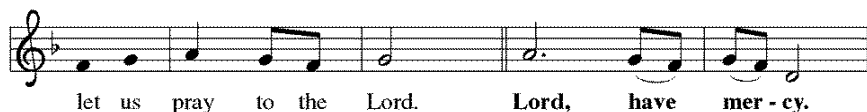
and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



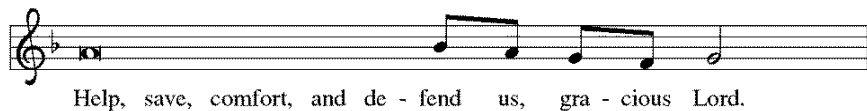
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

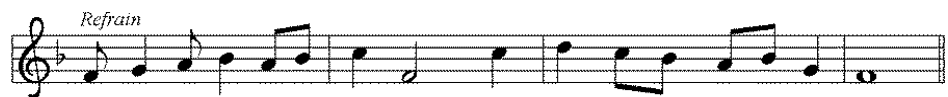


Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - - men.

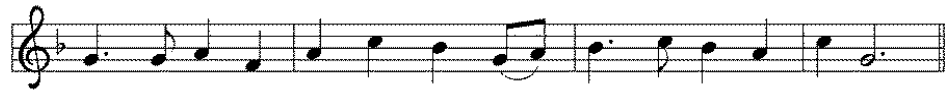
***CANTICLE OF PRAISE** “Glory to God...”



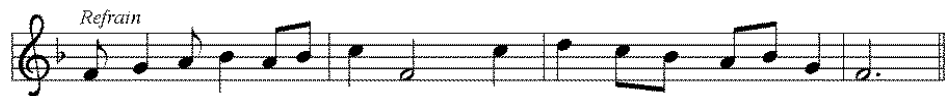
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



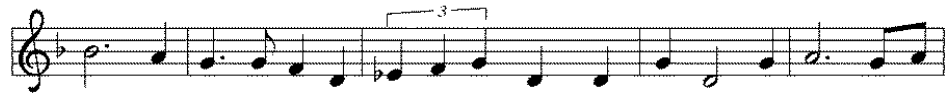
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



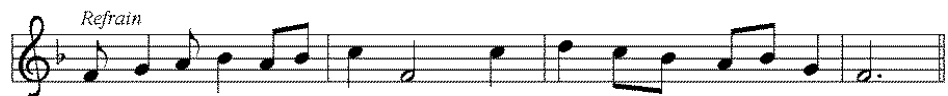
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



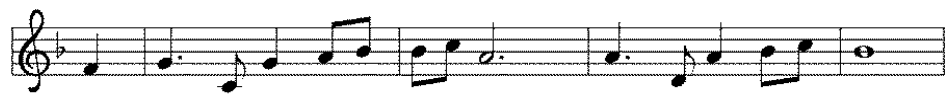
God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



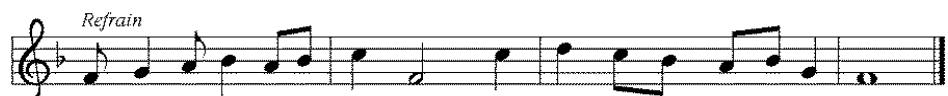
3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir-it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

God speaks to us in scripture, reading, preaching, and song

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 51:1-6

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.

¹Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,
you that seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

²Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

³For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places,
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation;
for a teaching will go out from me,
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,
my salvation has gone out
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats;
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 12:1-8

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

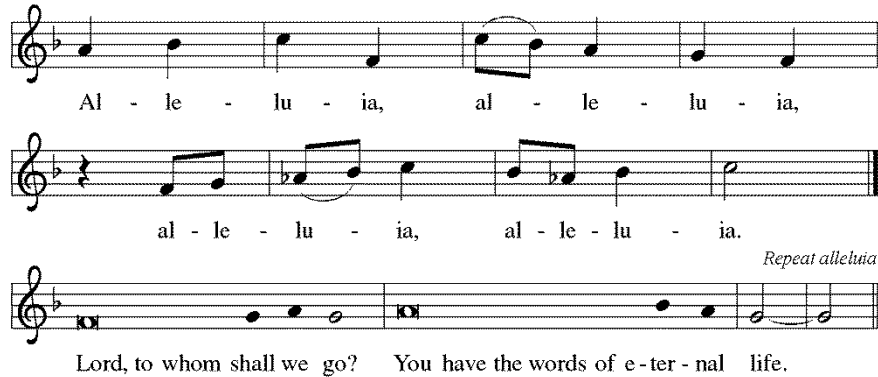
¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many

members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

*GOSPEL READING

Matthew 16:13-20

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

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

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Bill Peters

SONG OF THE DAY "Beautiful Savior"

518

*Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man! Truly I'd love thee,
truly I'd serve thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown.*

*Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring; Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer, he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.*

*Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
bright the sparkling stars on high; Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer than all the angels in the sky.*

*Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor,
praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!*

Text: Gesangbuch, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904

***APOSTLES' CREED**

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 THE COMMUNITY**

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

...Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

✠ **THANKSGIVING** ✠

God invites us to respond to His grace

OFFERING

***OFFERTORY SONG** *"Create in Me..."*

ELW # 186

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.*

✠ **SENDING** ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission in the world

***BLESSING**

***THREE-FOLD AMEN**

***RINGING OF THE BELL**

*Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
 To God the creator triumphantly raise.
 Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
 Who still guides us on to the end of our days.
 God’s banners are o’er us, His light goes before us,
 A pillar of fire shining forth in the night.
 Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished
 As forward we travel from light into light.*

*His law he enforces, the stars in their courses
 And sun in its orbit obediently shine;
 The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
 The deeps of the ocean proclaim him divine.
 We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
 With glad adoration a song let us raise
 Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
 "To God in the highest, Hosanna and praise!" Amen.*

Words: Katherine K. Davis b. 1892 Tune: *Welsh folk tune*

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude



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Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 27, 2023

Dare We?

There are lots of possible truthful answers to Jesus’ question “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” (Matthew 16:13): prophet, teacher, storyteller, healer, wonder-worker, rabble-rouser, friend, exorcist, Nazarene, Jew, son of Joseph. We come to know one another from many angles: in experiences and relationships; by what others say; on Facebook, Twitter, the six o’clock news; at Monday coffee group, happy hour; through factory newsletters, class yearbooks. One might be, all at once, author, gardener, mother, felon, philanthropist, swimmer.

Jesus begins by asking what people say about him—what’s the word on the street? As expected, responses are a mixture of religious, political, and personal perspectives. Then Jesus cuts closer, exacting from his disciples their answer. “Who do *you* say that I am?” (Matt. 16:15). It might seem that he’s quizzing the group with a trick question to see who answers rightly and thus gets rewarded with keys to the kingdom of heaven.

Peter’s answer gains him the glory. If that episode was all Matthew’s gospel recorded, we might conclude that Peter did, in fact, recognize Jesus more clearly than the others. But every one of the disciples had made that very same confession, “You are the Son of God,” in the safety of a seaworthy boat with Jesus on a calmed sea (Matt. 14:33). In this sense, Peter’s response was predictable.

However, Matthew bothers to write that this happened in Caesarea Philippi, also known as Paneas, site of a famous shrine to Pan, god of shepherds. Named for Caesar, the emperor, and Philip, ruler of the region, it is identified with imperial power. In the context of tremendous political and religious forces, Jesus asks, “Who do you say that I am?”

In this sense, it is a brave confession when Peter names Jesus—not Caesar—as Chosen, Lord, and presence of God. Jesus’ way of blessing the world contradicts all that empire is about. On that confession the church is called to stand—today. Dare we?