

# ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago

For where two or three  
are gathered in my name,



I  
am

there among them.

Matthew 18:20



# ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆ Bethany     ◆ Immanuel     ◆ Lunder     ◆ Silver Lake     ◆ Winnebago

Ministers

Every member of the Parish

Pastors

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**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 10, 2023**

## COME, HOLY SPIRIT!

We joyfully welcome all guests who are worshiping 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**

Sing to the Lord a new song -

**praise God with joyful music,**

and singing and dancing.

**As God's faithful people we praise God with heart and voice.**

We glorify God as we follow Jesus' example

**of replacing injustice with justice, and hatred with love.**

As God's faithful people we glorify God with heart and voice.

With worshippers throughout the centuries, we offer you, O God, our thanksgiving and praise with music and song, because our lives are graced by your faithfulness and your glory.

**You delivered the Israelites of old from enslavement and death simply because you loved them.**

You delivered us from enslavement to sin and death through the sacrificial love of Jesus Christ.

**As the Passover marked a new stage in the history of the Hebrew people, so the death and resurrection of Jesus marked a new and blessed stage of humanity's relationship with you.**

Eternal God, your acts of grace astound us and fill us with unending songs of praise.

**We honor you with our worship and our lives in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Merciful and gracious God, when we remember that we have been clothed with Jesus Christ from the time of our baptism, we are filled with a sense of wonder and joy that you should care for us so deeply.

**Such care for us forces us to examine our response to such an outpouring of love on your behalf.**

Sadly, we confess that there are times when our words and actions, our weak or unconvincing witness deny the existence of your love stitched deep within the fabric of our lives.

When our behavior is patterned more on the values of the world than the values of Jesus:

**forgive us and weave your Spirit anew within us..**

When we clothe ourselves with habits which reflect our own selfish desires rather than the selfless nature of Jesus:

**forgive us and weave your Spirit anew within us..**

When the lives of neighbors are unravelling because of poverty, broken relationships, substance abuse, discrimination, and we fail to love them as Jesus loves us:

**forgive us and weave your Spirit anew within us.**

When we believe that we have to gather up the loose ends and tangled threads of our lives and our families and communities on our own:

**forgive us and weave your Spirit anew within us.**

Merciful God, take the frayed strands of our lives and weave them into something beautiful.

**This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

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

Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. And so I declare to you: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

**\*OPENING SONG** *“Oh, Sing to the Lord”*

vss. 1-4 ELW # 822

**\*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**

# Oh, Sing to the Lord

## *Cantad al Señor*



1 *Can - tad al Se - ñor un cán - ti - co nue - vo.*  
 1 Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.  
 2 For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders.  
 3 So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.  
 4 Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spir - it.  
 5 For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia!



*Can - tad al Se - ñor un cán - ti - co nue - vo.*  
 Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.  
 For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders.  
 So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.  
 Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spir - it.  
 For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia!

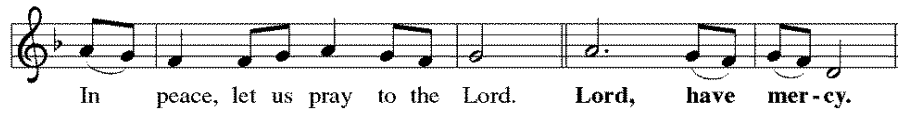


*Can - tad al Se - ñor un cán - ti - co nue - vo.*  
 Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.  
 For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders.  
 So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.  
 Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spir - it.  
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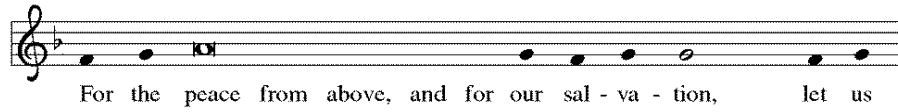


*¡Can - tad al Se - ñor, can - tad al Se - ñor!*  
 Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.  
 Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.  
 Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.  
 Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.  
 Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

**\*KYRIE**



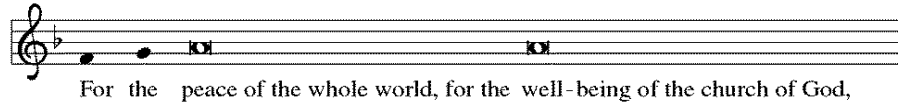
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer-cy.



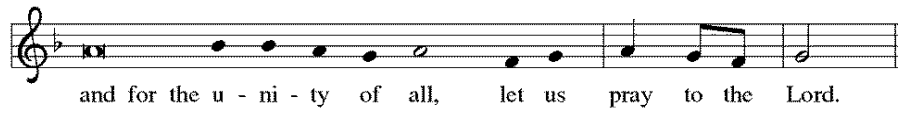
For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



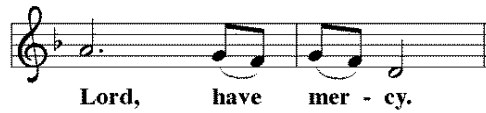
pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



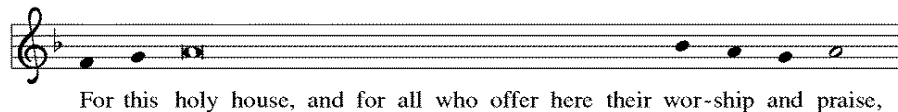
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



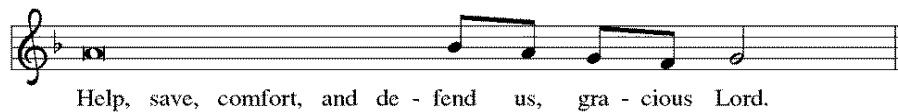
Lord, have mer - cy.



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.



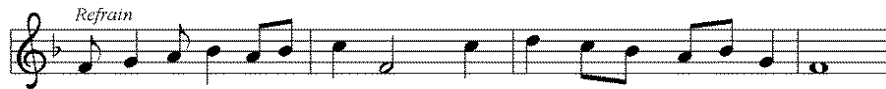
Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

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

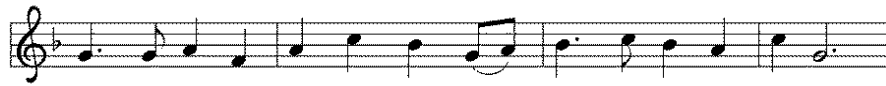
*Refrain*



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.

*Refrain*



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.

*Refrain*



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,

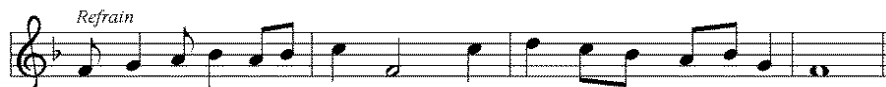


you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



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

*Refrain*



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 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** ✠

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

*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.*

## SCRIPTURE 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.*

<sup>7</sup>So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

<sup>10</sup>Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" <sup>11</sup>Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

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

## SCRIPTURE 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.*

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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 18:15-20

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup>But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### SERMON

Pastor Randy Baldwin

**SONG OF THE DAY** “*Blest Be the Tie That Binds*”

# 370

*Blest be the tie that binds  
our hearts in Christian love;  
the unity of heart and mind  
is like to that above.*

*Before our Father's throne  
we pour our ardent prayers;  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
our comforts and our cares.*

*We share our mutual woes,  
our mutual burdens bear,  
and often for each other flows  
the sympathizing tear.*

*From sorrow, toil, and pain,  
and sin we shall be free;  
and perfect love and friendship reign  
through all eternity.*

Text: John Fawcett, 1740-1817, alt.



**\*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**

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

...Merciful God, receive our prayer.

**\*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**



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.  
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.  
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.  
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."  
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."  
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**



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## No One Is Lost to God

Our relationship to God is bound together with our relationships to one another. We are church together. Whenever hurt or conflict arises in community, Jesus calls us toward reconciliation. But what about those times when, despite our most sincere efforts, the one who has caused us harm refuses to listen? What do we do when it doesn't feel safe to invite them back into relationship? Or what about those times when we ourselves choose to separate rather than return to a community that has refused to believe us?

Sometimes in our quest to do what's right, we might hold so tightly to our checklist for church discipline that we leave little room for grace. In such cases, we might keep the peace or avoid open disagreement without attending to the real wounds at the heart of any conflict. The truth is also that sometimes, whether for our own safety or our own self-respect, we may wisely choose to keep our distance from others who have refused to take to heart the harmful impact of their words or actions. Yet, even when we allow ourselves the space that we need, God remains present.

Jesus doesn't say that whatever we lose on earth will be lost in heaven. The operative word isn't *lose*, but *loose*—as in “release,” “set free,” or “let go of.” When we've responded in good faith to the conflicts that arise between us and have exhausted every option for reconciliation, Jesus invites us to tenderly acknowledge our failure, loosen our grip on the situation, and give that one over to God. We should never take this letting-go lightly. At the same time, we can trust that when we are left to release a member of our community into God's mercy, we do not lose them. For no one is ever lost to God.