



NATIVITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4517 Mt. Royal Blvd., Allison Park, PA 15101
(412) 346-4971 e-mail: NativityLC@verizon.net
www.nativitylutheranchurch15101.org

Caring, Witnessing, Serving



3rd Sunday after Pentecost

10:15 a.m.

June 29, 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ELW - SETTING IV

-----*-----

INTRODUCTION

We have no good apart from God. That makes Jesus' call to follow him an invitation to freedom. This is freedom to revel in the Spirit's fruit: love, joy, peace, and patience. This is freedom to not be imprisoned by anything that would keep us from the fullness of the life God has given us. This is the path of life.

P: = Pastor

W: = Worship Assistant

A: = *All in Attendance*

**indicates congregation should stand if able.*

PRELUDE

GATHERING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

P: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship:

(a moment of silence for reflection as we prepare our hearts and minds for worship.)

***ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

pg. 94

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

A: Amen

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

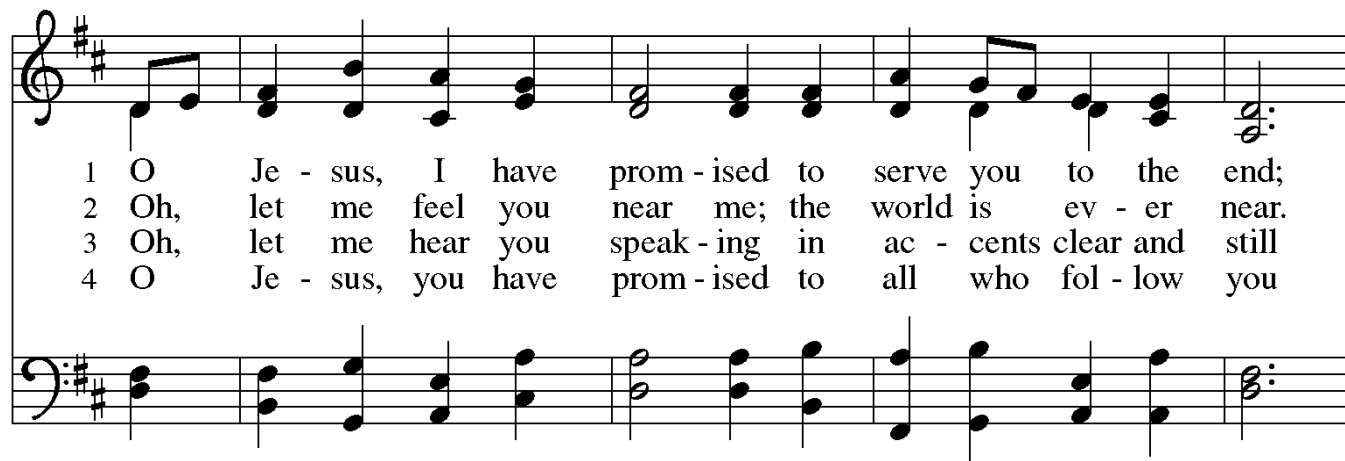
Silence is kept for reflection

P: Most merciful God,

A: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

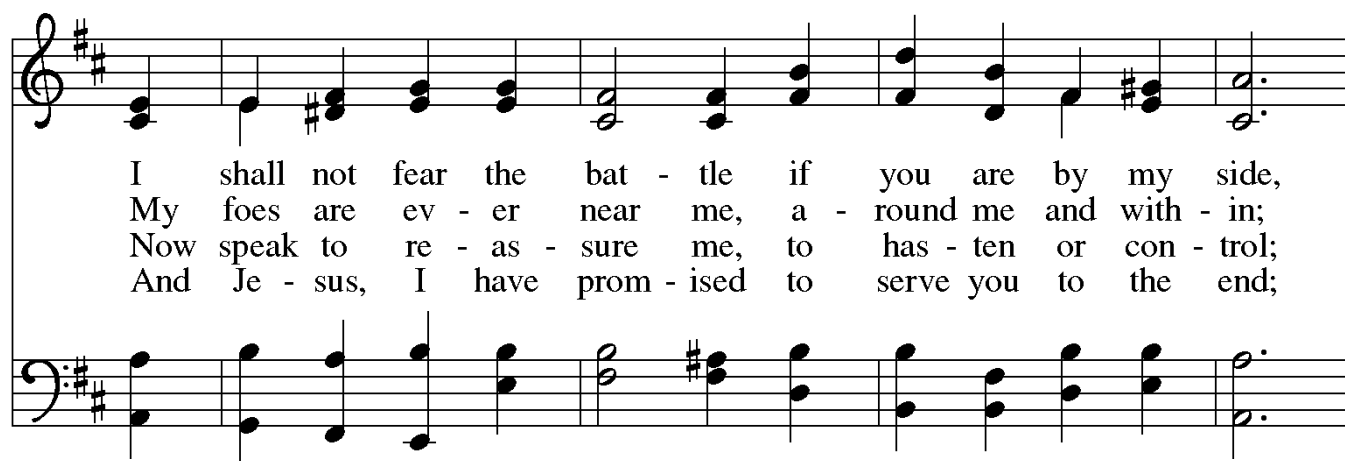
A: Amen.



1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
 2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
 3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still
 4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
 I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
 that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
 but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
 now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.
 oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

***GREETING**

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

A: And also with you.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray. Sovereign God, ruler of all hearts, you call us to obey you, and you favor us with true freedom. Keep us faithful to the ways of your Son, that, leaving behind all that hinders us, we may steadfastly follow your paths, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A: Amen

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21

In the story preceding today's reading, the prophet Elijah flees for his life to the security of God's mountain. There God reveals to Elijah that there are still other faithful people in Israel and commissions him to anoint new leaders, including his own successor, Elisha.

¹⁵ Then the LORD said to [Elijah,] "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place."

¹⁹ So he set out from there, and found Elisha son of Shaphat, who was plowing. There were twelve yoke of oxen ahead of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle over him. ²⁰ He left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." Then Elijah said to him, "Go back again; for what have I done to you?" ²¹ He returned from following him, took the yoke of oxen, and slaughtered them; using the equipment from the oxen, he boiled their flesh, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

L: The Word of the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 16

I have set the LORD always before me. (Ps. 16:8)

- W: ¹ Protect me, O God, for I take ref- ¹ uge in you;
I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good a- ¹ bove all other.”
- A: ² **All my delight is in the godly that are ¹ in the land,
upon those who are noble a- ¹ mong the people.**
- W: ³ But those who run after ¹ other gods
shall have their troubles ¹ multiplied.
- A: ⁴ **I will not pour out drink offerings ¹ to such gods,
never take their names up- ¹ on my lips.**
- W: ⁵ O LORD, you are my portion ¹ and my cup;
it is you who up- ¹ hold my lot.
- A: ⁶ **My boundaries enclose a ¹ pleasant land;
indeed, I have a ¹ rich inheritance.**
- W: ⁷ I will bless the LORD who ¹ gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night ¹ after night.
- A: ⁸ **I have set the LORD al- ¹ ways before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall ¹ not be shaken.**
- W: ⁹ My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spir- ¹ it rejoices;
my body also shall ¹ rest in hope.
- A: ¹⁰ **For you will not abandon me ¹ to the grave,
nor let your holy one ¹ see the pit.**
- W: ¹¹ You will show me the ¹ path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures for- ¹ evermore.

SECOND READING: Galatians 5:1, 13-25

For Paul, the freedom Christ gives is not permission to do whatever we want. It is the invitation to be what we could not be otherwise. The power and guidance of Christ's Holy Spirit produce a different kind of life, one marked by the fruit of this Holy Spirit.

¹ For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵ If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶ Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

L: The Word of the Lord.

A: **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the ninth chapter.

A: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

***GOSPEL: Luke 9:51-62**

Jesus is unwavering in his commitment to his mission in Jerusalem and will not be swayed by pettiness. In a series of striking cases in point, he calls his disciples to a similar single-mindedness.

⁵¹ When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; ⁵³ but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” ⁵⁵ But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ Then they went on to another village.

⁵⁷ As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” ⁵⁹ To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” ⁶⁰ But Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” ⁶¹ Another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” ⁶² Jesus said to him, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON



1 “Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 “Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 “Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 “Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

***THE APOSTLES' CREED**

P: Let us now confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

A: 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 INTERCESSION**

W: Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

W: Guide your church, O God. Anoint us for service and make us messengers of your peace. Emboldened by the witness of Christians throughout history, send us to proclaim your reign come near. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

W: Protect this world, O God. Watch over fields and fruit trees, foxes and birds, the pleasant land beneath us and the sun and moon above. Keep us mindful of the rich inheritance you have given us in the natural world. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

W: Counsel our leaders, O God. Make them steadfast in seeking justice and unable to be shaken as they pursue peace. Lead them by your Spirit to listen and respond to the people they govern. We pray for all those who witness and experience violence, especially the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, Iran, and wherever conflict and war exist in the world and bring justice to each community. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

W: Uphold all who suffer, O God. Give refuge to those of us who know rejection, and shelter to those of us who have nowhere to lay our heads. Bring any who are sick into your healing presence. We especially pray for *Hank Ablauf, Carol Johnson, Cynthia Pulkowski, Nancy Coon, Anna Mae Webb, Linda Halcoussis, Andy & Katy Greer, Carol Bednar, Pr. John Cawkins, Pr. Tony Schneck and the family and friends of Peg (Margaret) Gismondi* and all those whom we name in our hearts before you. Give all your fullness of joy. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

W: Set free this assembly, O God. Grow your Spirit's fruits within us and within our congregation's ministries. Set our faces always on you, that we might live in the freedom to which you have called us. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

W: Embrace all your saints, O God. We thank you for the faithful departed. Let us rejoice that you do not abandon us to the grave but lead us on the path of life. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

P: Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

A: Amen.

***PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

A: And also with you.

OFFERTORY INTERLUDE

OFFERTORY*“Create in Me a Clean Heart”****ELW #188**

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: 'Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right'. The second staff continues: 'spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your'. The third staff continues: 'pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -'. The fourth staff continues: 'store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,'. The fifth staff concludes: 'and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.' The score ends with a double bar line.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

W: Let us pray together.

A: Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING:

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

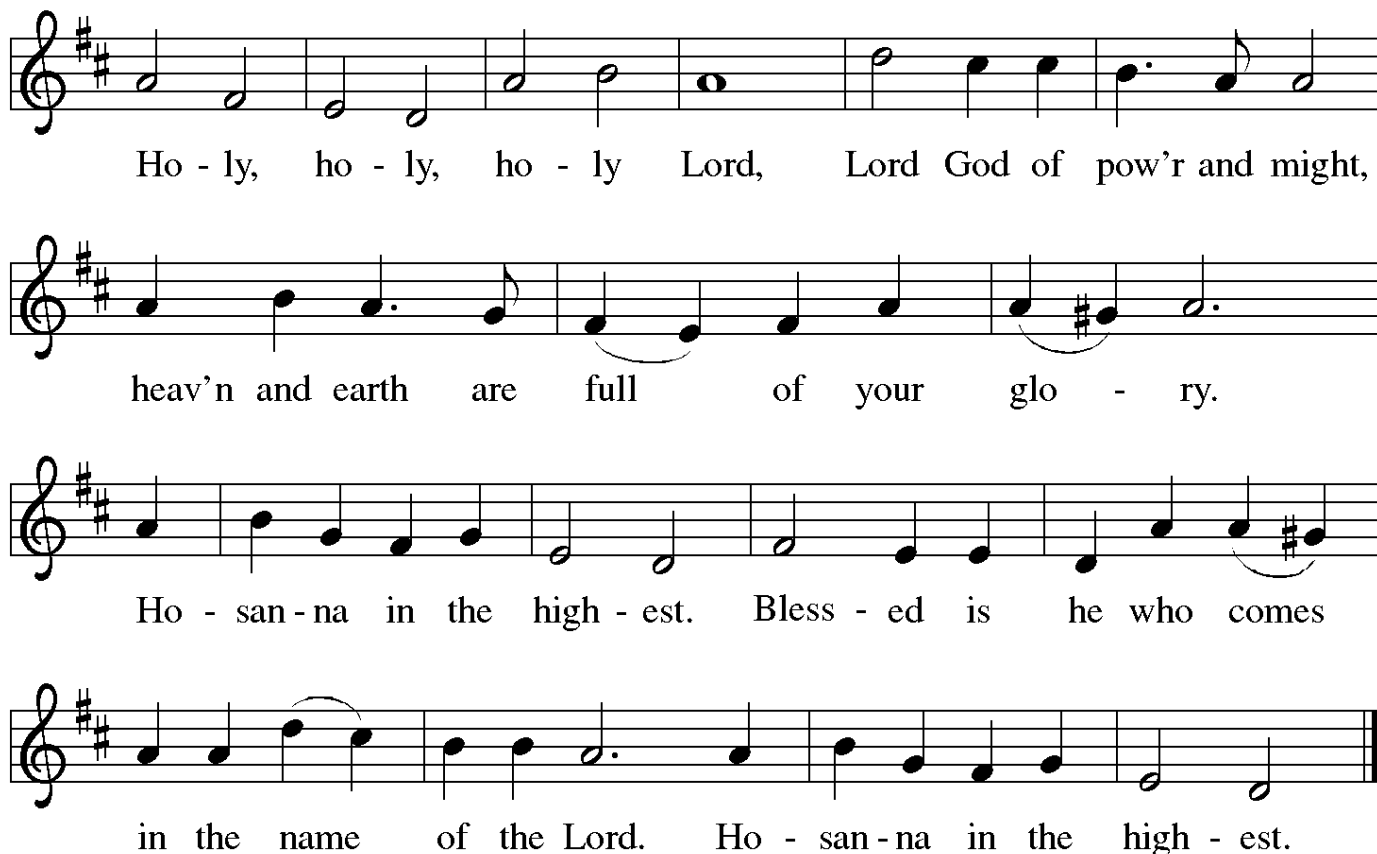
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*THE PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, 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.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

A: 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.

*THE PRESENTATION: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come for all is now ready.

LAMB OF GOD:



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



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

There is a grape juice option in cups located in the communion trays for those who wish to abstain from wine. If you desire a gluten free wafer in lieu of the bread for communion, please let Pastor know.

TABLE HYMN:

“Be thou my Vision”

ELW#793



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



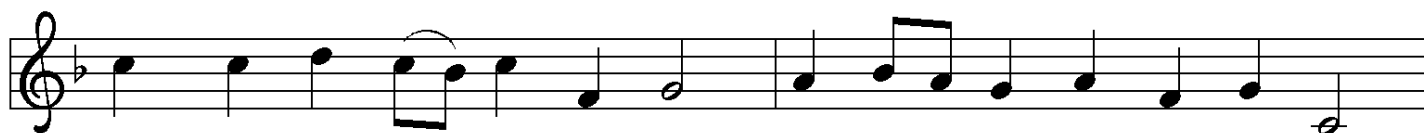
wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

*TABLE BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

A: Amen

*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE: "Thankful Hearts" ELW#204



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

W: Let us Pray. Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

A: Amen.

* BLESSING



Let us bless our God: praise and thanks to you.



May God, Cre - a - tor bless us and keep us, may



Christ be ev - er light for our lives, may the



Spir - it of Love be our guide and path, for



all of our days. _____

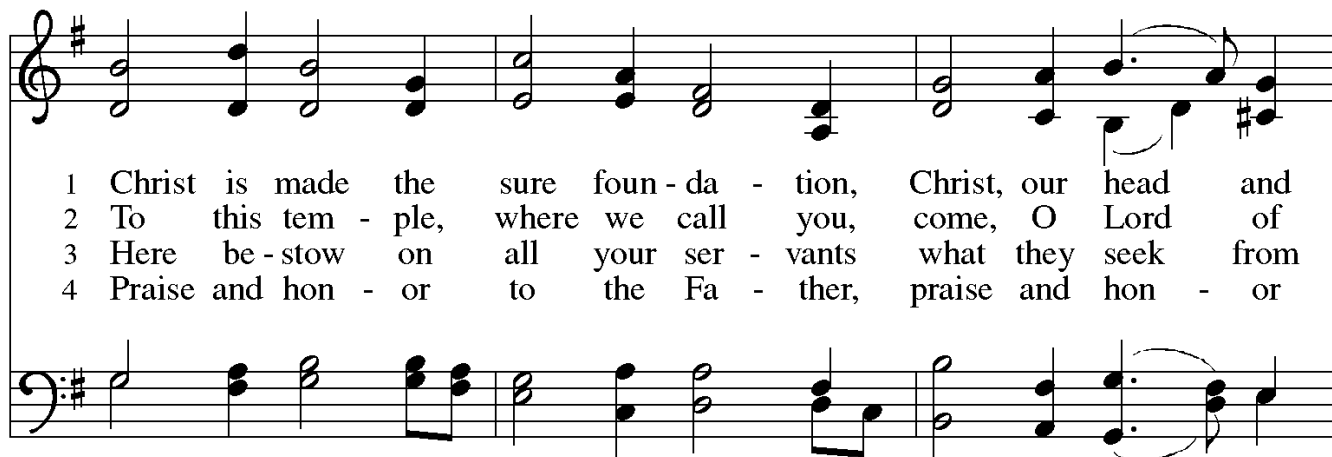


A - men.



*SENDING HYMN: "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation"

ELW #645



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
 3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from
 4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
 hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,
 you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
 to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
 hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est
 with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
 ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and



help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
 in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
 one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

A: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

* Announcements *

Our **next newsletter will be a combined July/August edition**, which is tentatively scheduled to be published the first week of July. Please have any articles and items of interest into the office **TODAY**.

We are looking for offering tellers to assist with **counting the weekly offering**. You will count with a council member. Signups are posted across from the Nursery and also available [on-line](#). Additionally, **weekly worship helpers are also needed**.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY OFFERING - Each year the collected offering supports a ministry special to the heart of our synod. The 2025 Offering Designation: The Levi Fund is a new synod fund created in honor of Bishop Kurt Kusserow's tenure as our synod's bishop. In Numbers, the Lord told Moses, "Bring the tribe of Levi near, and set them before Aaron the priest so that they may assist him." It was a demonstration that leaders do not work alone. And so, by underwriting the salaries of critical synod staff positions, the goal of the Levi Fund is to ensure that our next bishop is able to have the necessary support to fulfill the duties of the office. If you wish to donate to this fund, please designate it on your envelope as "The Levi fund" and we will be sure to send it to the synod. Thank you.

We continue to collect for NCHO's **Back to School collection** which runs through the end of July. You can place donations in the bins under the coatrack in the hallway. Specific items include: pens, pencils, sharpeners, highlighters, markers, binders, pocket folders, TI graphing calculators, loose leaf paper, notebooks, 24 packs of crayons, erasers, glue sticks, rulers, scissors, colored pencils and new backpacks. See the flyer on the bulletin boards for more information.

