



NATIVITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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www.nativitylutheranchurch15101.org

Caring, Witnessing, Serving



14th Sunday after Pentecost

10:15 a.m.

September 14, 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ELW - SETTING I

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INTRODUCTION

The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.

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.

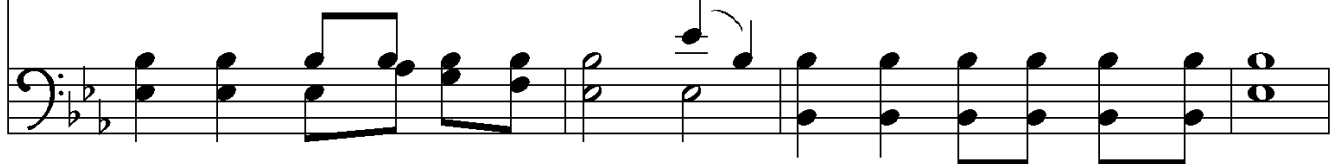
A: Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN: "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

ELW #789



1 Sav - ior like a shep - herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.
 2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard - ian of our way;
 3 You have prom - ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas - ant pas - tures feed us, for our use your fold pre - pare.
 keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
 bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



*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.

*KYRIE

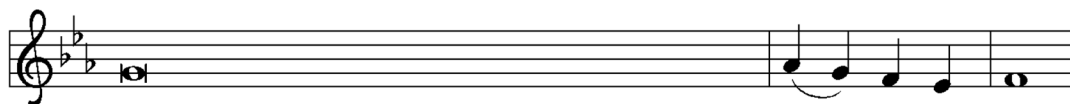
pg. 98



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



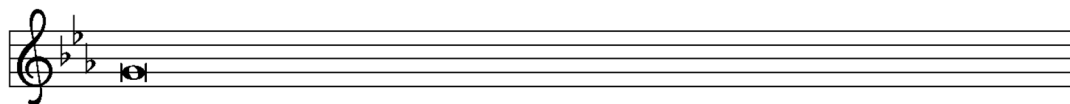
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



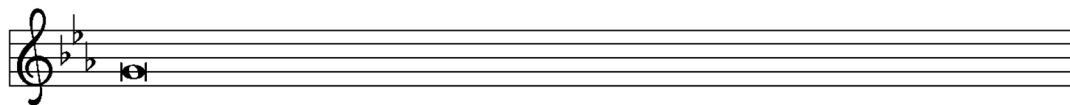
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

*KYRIE

(Continued)

pg. 98



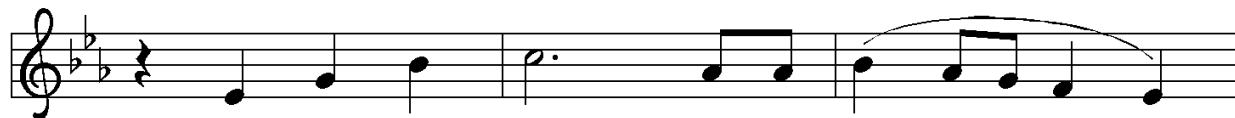
Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

pg. 99



Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



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. Lord Je - sus

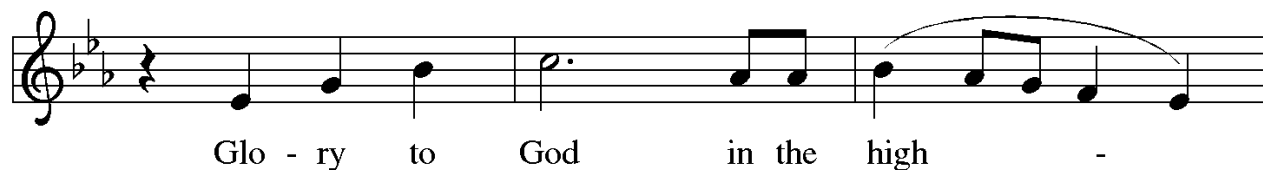
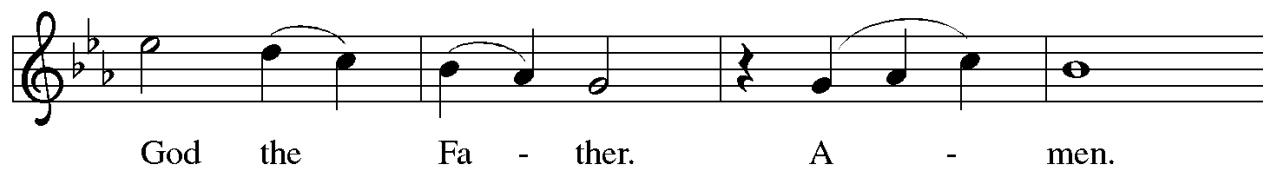
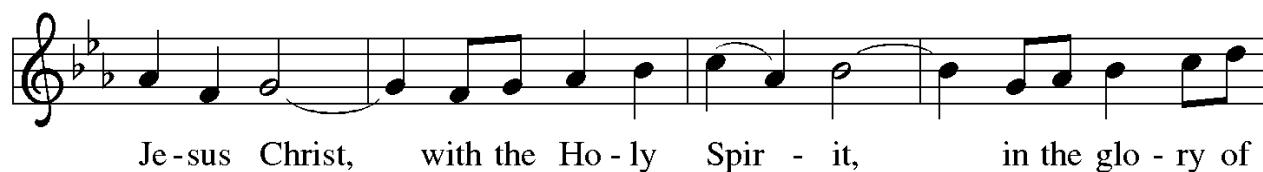
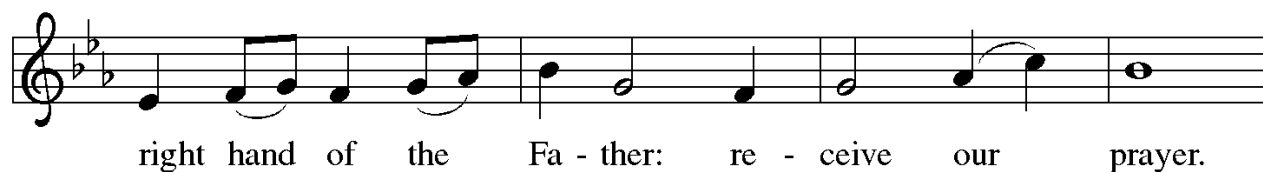
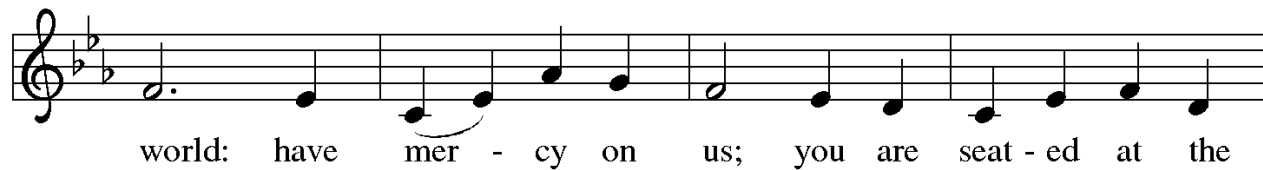


Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

Continued on next page



***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray. O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A: Amen

FIRST READING: Exodus 32:7-14

While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today's reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God's own people, and boldly asks for mercy for them.

⁷ The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸ they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " ⁹ The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰ Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation."

¹¹ But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " ¹⁴ And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

L: The Word of the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 51:1-10

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. (Ps. 51:1)

W: ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your ¹ steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out ¹ my offenses.

A: ² **Wash me through and through ¹ from my wickedness,
and cleanse me ¹ from my sin.**

W: ³ For I know ¹ my offenses,
and my sin is ev- ¹ er before me.

A: ⁴ **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil ¹ in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right ¹ in your judgment.**

W: ⁵ Indeed, I was born ¹ steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my ¹ mother's womb.

A: ⁶ **Indeed, you delight in truth ¹ deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom ¹ deep within.**

W: ⁷ Remove my sins with hyssop, and I ¹ shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- ¹ er than snow.

A: ⁸ **Let me hear ¹ joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken ¹ may rejoice.**

W: ⁹ Hide your face ¹ from my sins,
and blot out ¹ all my wickedness.

A: ¹⁰ **Create in me a clean ¹ heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- ¹ it within me.**

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

The letters to Timothy and Titus are called the pastoral epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.

¹² I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³ even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would

come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

L: The Word of the Lord.

A: **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

pg. 102

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.

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

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

***GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-10**

Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that their recovery brings joy in heaven.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸ “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON



- 1 There's a wide-ness
- 2 There is wel-come
- 3 For the love of
- 4 'Tis not all we



in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness of the sea;
for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;
God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;
owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der -
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy



lib - er - ty. There is no place where earth's sor - rows
in his blood. There is grace e - nough for thou - sands
ful - ly kind. But we make this love too nar - row
through the fall. Make our love, O God, more faith - ful;



are more felt than up in heav'n. There is no place
of new worlds as great as this; there is room for
by false lim - its of our own; and we mag - ni -
let us take you at your word, and our lives will



where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
be thanks-giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

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: Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

W: Merciful God, pour out your grace upon your church. Forgive us for the times when we have been unfaithful, and renew our commitment to your gospel of love. Empower us to live as a community of mercy. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

W: Merciful God, we ask forgiveness for the ways we have neglected and harmed this earth and its creatures. Confirm our commitment to care for all you have made, and grant us wisdom and strength to take action toward restoring your creation to its fullness. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

W: Merciful God, govern all who hold positions of power and authority. Instruct them to make just decisions that serve the common good. Make them instruments of your mercy in the world, working to heal divisions and promote peace. 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. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

W: Merciful God, we lift up all who suffer. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to those who are sick, grieving, or in pain. Especially *Pr. Jennifer, Adam Brandt, Charlene Ott, Mike Wilson, Anna Mae Webb, Linda Halcoussis, Andy & Katy Greer, the family & friends of Pr. Mont Bowser* and all those whom we name in our hearts before you. Give us compassionate hearts to accompany those who are hurting and courage to work for justice and mercy. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

W: Merciful God, bind us together as a community of forgiveness and love. Supply us with humility to seek forgiveness when we have wronged one another and generosity to extend mercy when we have been wronged. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

W: Merciful God, we remember in love those who have departed this life. Console those who mourn, and give them the hope of resurrection. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

P: We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

A: Amen.

***PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

A: And also with you.

OFFERTORY INTERLUDE

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff. It consists of six lines of music. The first line begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 7/8 time signature. The melody is composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some triplets indicated by a '3' over the notes. The lyrics are: 'We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an'. The second line continues the melody with the lyrics: 'of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our'. The third line has the lyrics: 'lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,'. The fourth line has the lyrics: 'all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.' The fifth line has the lyrics: 'We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:'. The sixth line ends with the lyrics: 'we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.' and concludes with a double bar line.

We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

W: Let us pray together.

A: Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and uses eighth and quarter notes with slurs. The lyrics are printed below each staff.

***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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed 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

pg. 112

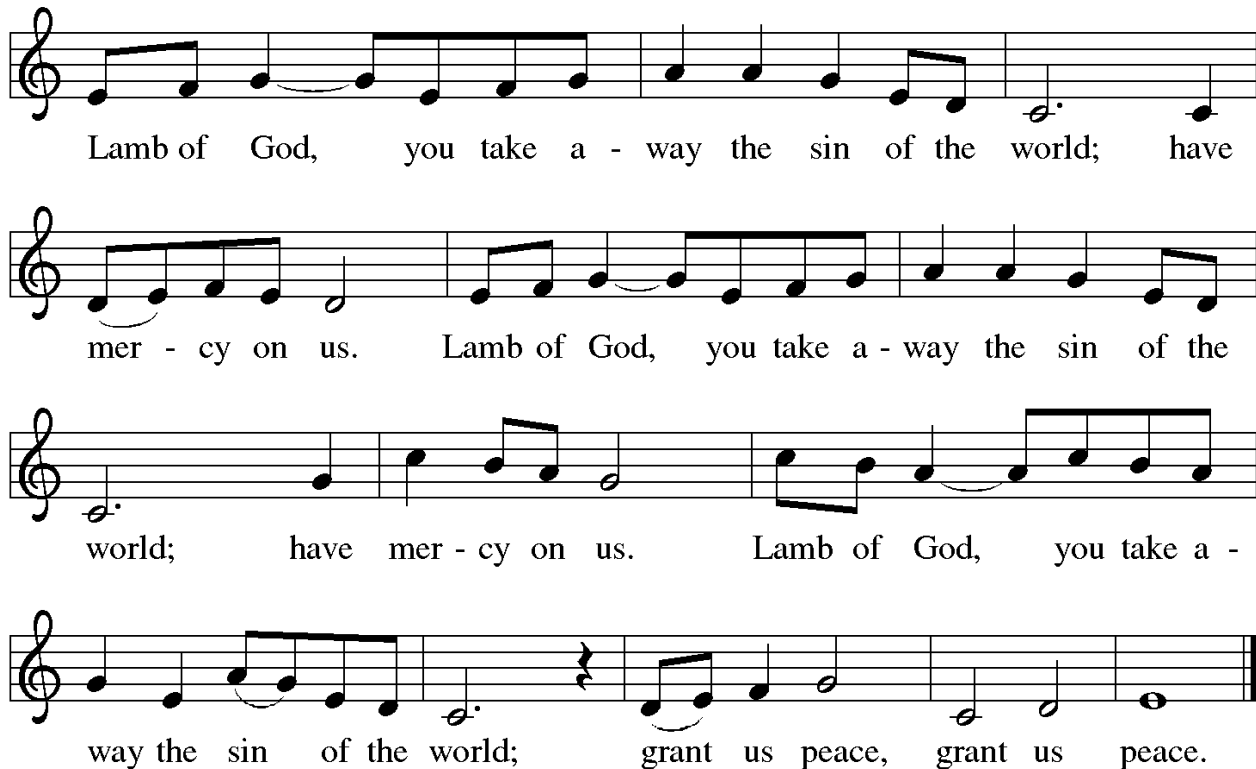
P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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

pg. 112



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:

"Amazing Grace"

ELW#779

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

*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

pg. 113



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions



and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

W: Let us Pray. O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

A: Amen.

* BLESSING

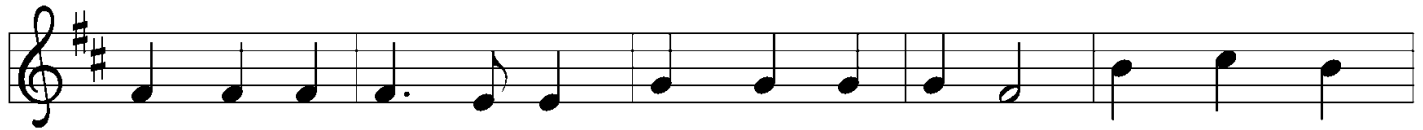
P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

A: Amen.

*SENDING HYMN:

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

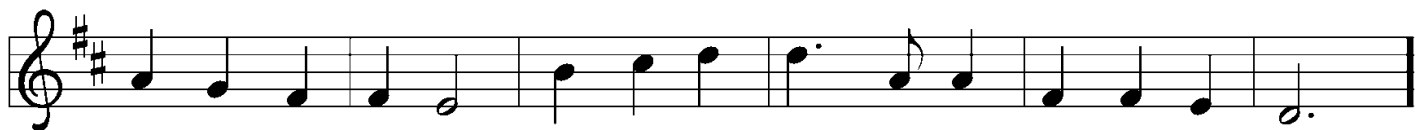
ELW#733



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me.

***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

A: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

*** Announcements ***

Thank you to **Pastor Peter Asplin** for filling in today for Pastor Jennifer.

Sunday School for all ages will begin NEXT Sunday, September 21 at 9:15am. We are in need of teachers for our Children's classes. Children's Sunday school will be on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. Adult Sunday school meets weekly and will be starting with a more informal gathering called "Coffee and Conversation" held in the fellowship hall. If you are interested in helping with Sunday School or have any questions, let Diana Mitchell or Pastor Jennifer know.

At the end of the month on Sunday, **Sept 28** join us for our **Applebee's Dining to Donate** restaurant fundraiser! Flyers available on the table in the Narthex. 15% of EACH bill is donated back to the church as long as diners present this flyer when they order! Take several and hand them out to friends and family!

The **NHCO Sharing project "Coat Shop"** has begun. They are collecting new coats to children ages infant to 18-years-old. New hats, scarves and gloves are also being accepted. Gift cards to purchase coats are also greatly appreciated. Coats can be hung on the designated area of the coat rack in the hallway by the nursery. Other items can go in the designated bins in the same area. This will run through October 12.

Nativity T-Shirts are available at a suggested donation amount of \$10 a shirt. We are currently taking orders and will place an initial order before the end of the month. If you would like a shirt, please let the office know and we will put you on the list with your desired size(s). Shirts are standard unisex sizes. Samples are hanging on the coat rack for reference if you are at church. Shirt money should be put in the church offering and specifically noted they are for T-Shirts.

