



NATIVITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Celebrating 60 years of Caring, Witnessing, Serving



15th Sunday after Pentecost

10:15 a.m.

September 6, 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ELW - SETTING I

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INTRODUCTION

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.

P: = Pastor

W: = Worship Assistant

A: = All in Attendance

**indicates congregation should stand if able.*

PRELUDE Rhosmyedre R. Vaughan Williams

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.

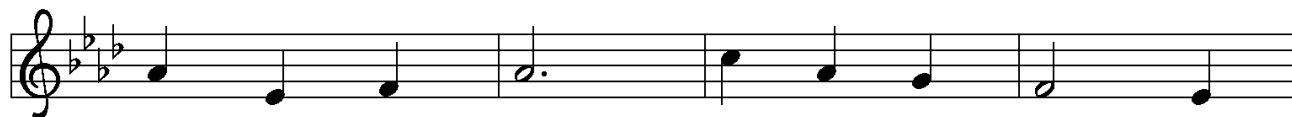
Silence is kept for reflection

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	Earth	and	all	stars!	Loud	rush - ing	plan - ets!
2	Trum - pet	and	pipes!	Loud	clash - ing	cym - bals!	
3	En - gines	and	steel!	Loud	pound - ing	ham - mers!	
4	Class-rooms	and	labs!	Loud	boil - ing	test tubes!	
5	Knowl-edge	and	truth!	Loud	sound - ing	wis - dom!	



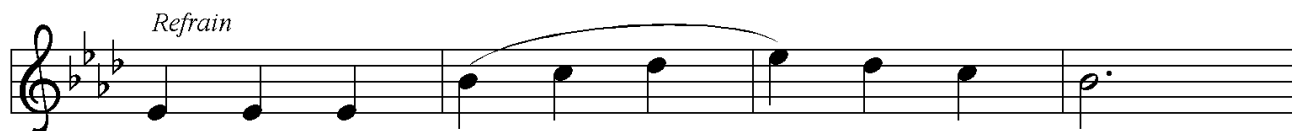
Sing	to the	Lord	a new song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a new song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a new song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a new song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a new song!



Hail, wind, and rain!	Loud	blow - ing	snow - storm!
Harp, lute, and lyre!	Loud	hum - ming	cel - los!
Lime - stone and beams!	Loud	build - ing	work - ers!
Ath - lete and band!	Loud	cheer - ing	peo - ple!
Daugh - ter and son!	Loud	pray - ing	mem - bers!



Sing	to the	Lord	a new song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a new song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a new song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a new song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a new song!



Refrain

God	has	done	mar	-	vel - ous	things.
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I	too	sing	prais - es	with a	new	song!
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Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987

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*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

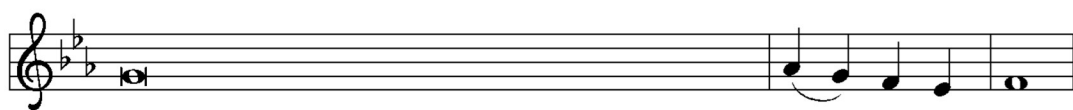
pg. 98



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



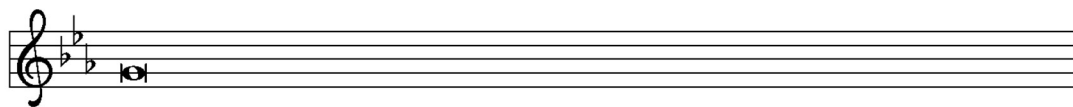
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



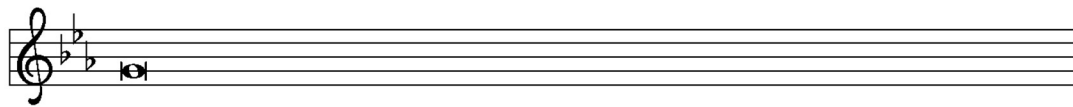
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



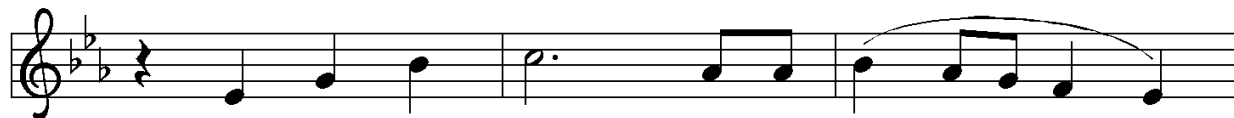
Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



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,

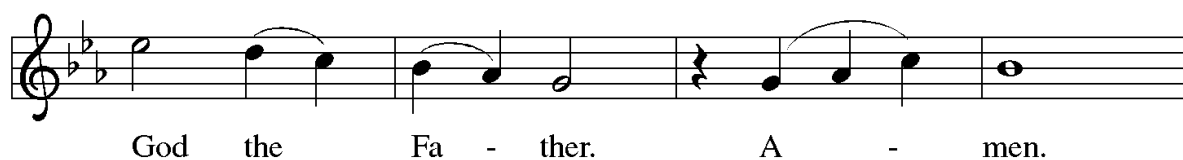
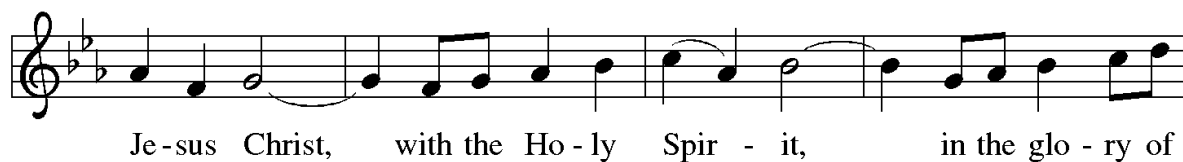
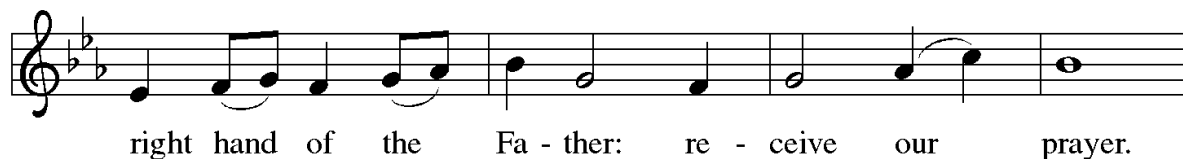
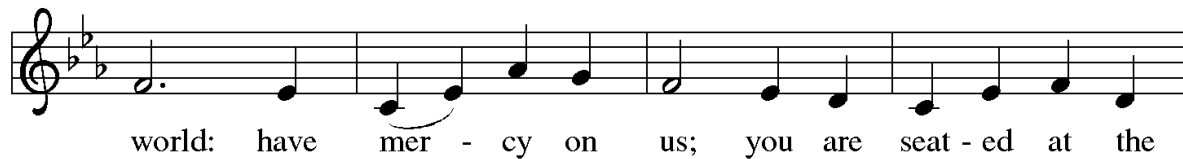


Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

Continued on next page

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE** *(Continued)*

pg. 99



***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: 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.

A: Amen

FIRST 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.

⁷ 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. ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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.

¹⁰ 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?” ¹¹ 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?

L: The Word of the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 119:33-40

I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)

W: ³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way [|] of your statutes,
and I shall keep it [|] to the end.

A: ³⁴ Give me understanding, and I shall [|] keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with [|] all my heart.

W: ³⁵ Lead me in the path of | your commandments,
for that is | my desire.

A: ³⁶ **Incline my heart to | your decrees
and not to | unjust gain.**

W: ³⁷ Turn my eyes from be- | holding falsehood;
give me life | in your way.

A: ³⁸ **Fulfill your promise | to your servant,
which is for | those who fear you.**

W: ³⁹ Turn away the reproach | that I dread,
because your judg- | ments are good.

A: ⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for | your commandments;
by your righteousness en- | liven me.**

SECOND 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.

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ 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, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

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

L: The Word of the Lord.

A: **Thanks be to God.**

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 Matthew, the 18th chapter.

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

***GOSPEL: 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.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ If that person 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. ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

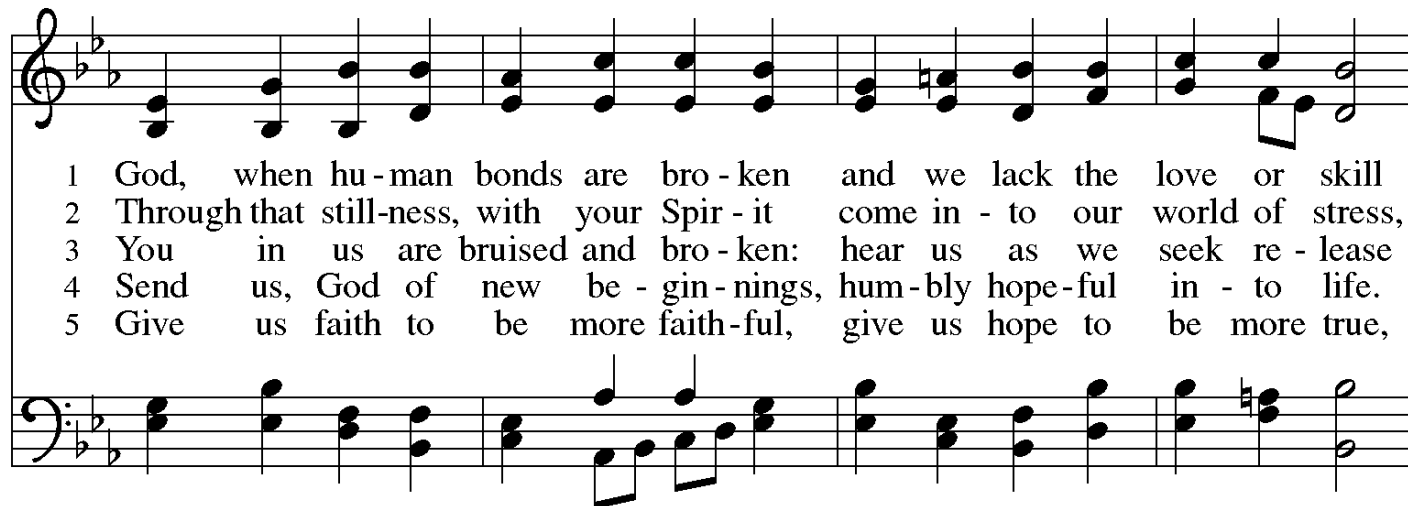
A: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Blessings of the Backpacks

Commissioning and Blessing of Sunday School teachers

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY: “God, When Human Bonds are Broken” ELW#603



1 God, when hu - man bonds are bro - ken and we lack the love or skill
2 Through that still-ness, with your Spir - it come in - to our world of stress,
3 You in us are bruised and bro - ken: hear us as we seek re - lease
4 Send us, God of new be - gin - nings, hum - bly hope - ful in - to life.
5 Give us faith to be more faith - ful, give us hope to be more true,



to re - store the hope of heal - ing, give us grace and make us still.
for the sake of Christ for - giv - ing all the fail - ures we con - fess.
from the pain of ear - lier liv - ing; set us free and grant us peace.
Use us as a means of bless - ing: make us stron - ger, give us faith.
give us love to go on learn - ing: God, en - cour - age and re - new!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

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

*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: Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

W: Proclaiming God, empower your church throughout the world to announce the words you give us. Open us to receive your word in unexpected ways. Hear us, O God,

A: Your mercy is great.

W: Forming God, renew the cycles of your creation that provide for the needs of all. Protect grasslands, marshes, swamps, and all places of transition. Heal communities crying out after disaster. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

W: Governing God, turn all who create, enforce, or interpret legislation away from selfish gain and toward your promise of good for all, especially the good of all who labor. We pray for all those who witness and experience violence and those who live amongst the cruelty and chaos of war. Hear us of God,

A: Your mercy is great.

W: Attending God, wake us up to any around us who are in need. Restore broken relationships, failing health, frayed emotions, and the hurts we carry with us. Especially *Jim Coon, Jane Stover* and all those whom we name in our hearts before you. Hear us, O God,

A: Your mercy is great.

W: Gathering God, resolve conflicts in this community through your righteousness and grace. Reconcile us to each other, making your good news known even through our imperfections. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

W: Loving God, all who die in faith have life with you. We give you thanks for the nearness of your salvation for all who have gone before us. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

P: Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

A: Amen.

***PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

A: And also with you.

OFFERTORY INTERLUDE Let all mortal flesh keep silence *Henry Coleman*

The musical score is written on six staves in treble clef, 7/8 time. It features a melody with eighth and quarter notes, including triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over the notes). The lyrics are printed below the staves, aligned with the notes.

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: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. 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 D major (two sharps). The melody is simple, using 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

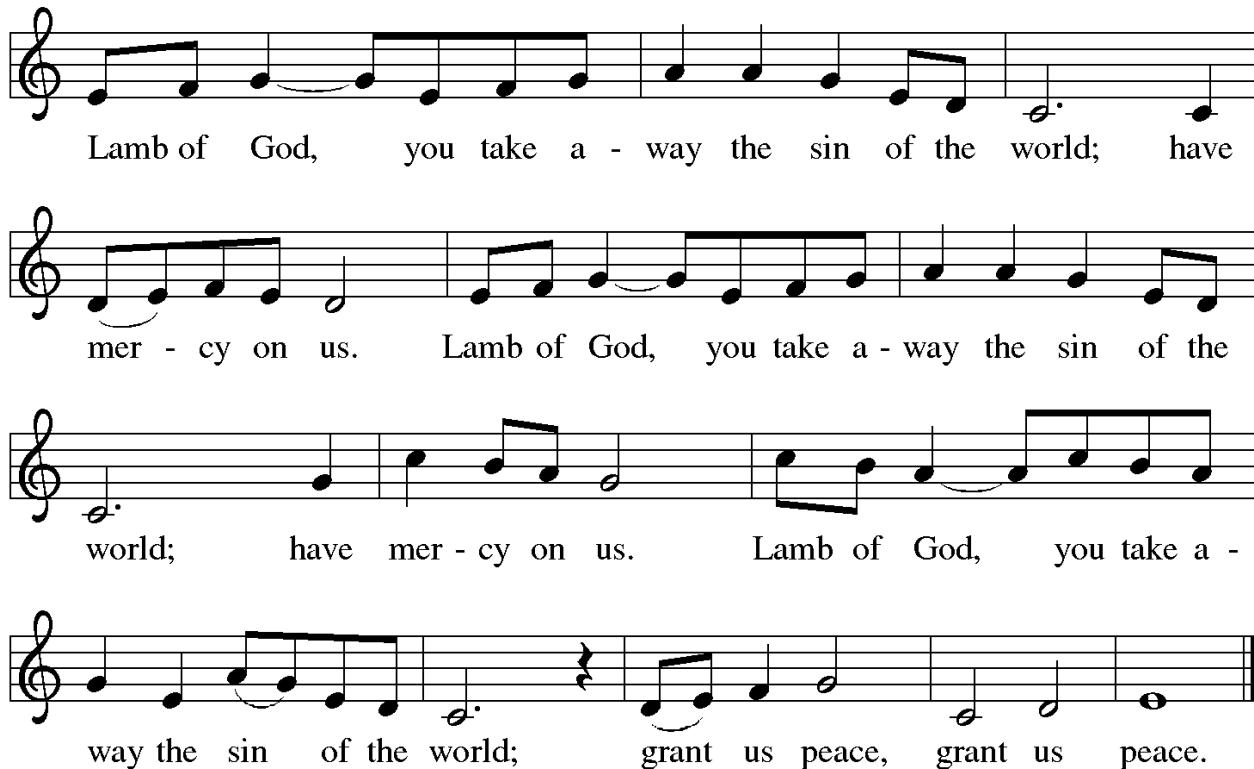
P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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:

“Let us Break Bread Together”

ELW#471

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

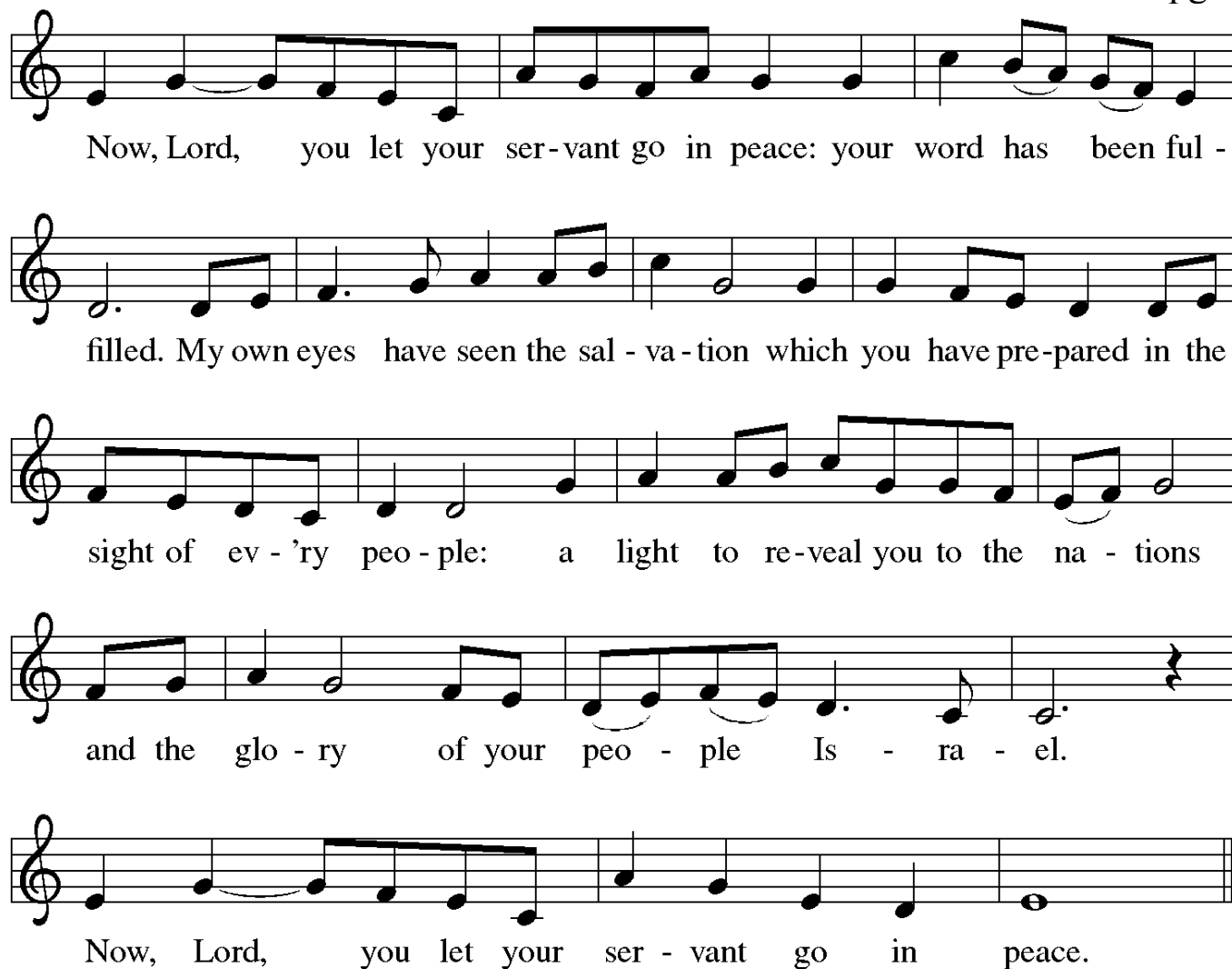
*TABLE BLESSING

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. Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

A: Amen.

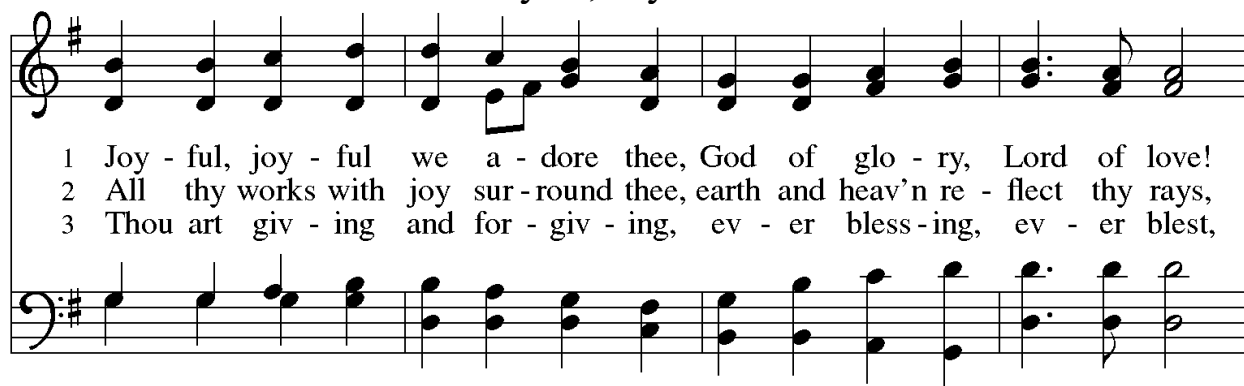
* BLESSING

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.

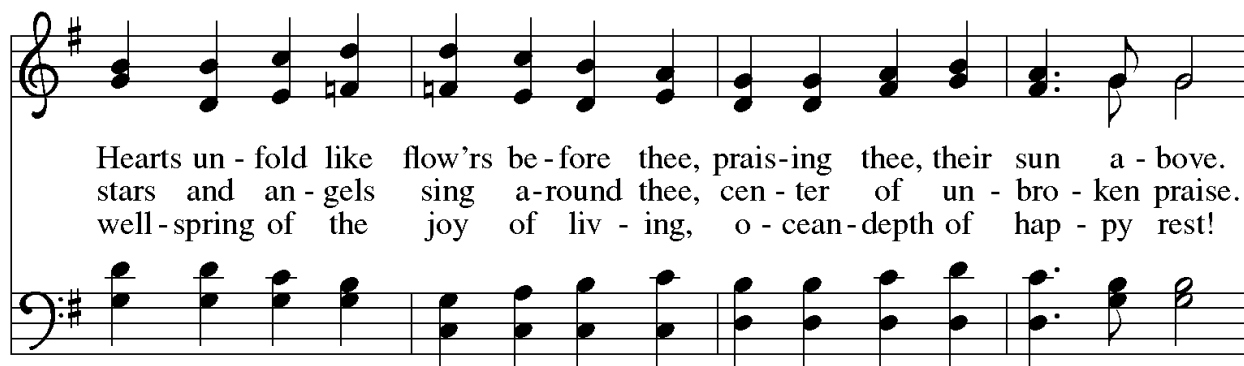
A: Amen.

***SENDING HYMN:** “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

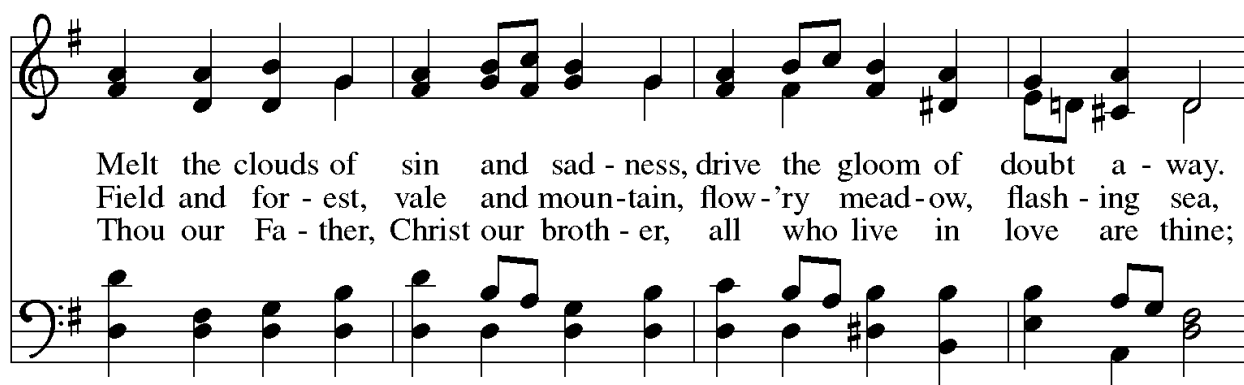
ELW#836



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

***DISMISSAL**

P: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

A: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE Processional *George Frederic Handel*

*** Announcements ***

Thank you to **Father James Dowds** for serving as our supply organist today.

Safety Fair next Sunday after worship! We will have blood pressure checks, an AED practice module, fire extinguisher demonstration/practice & discussions on how to handle emergency situations! If you have questions, please see Jean Chantz.

Sunday School for all ages will began this Sunday at 9:15am. Children's Sunday school will be on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. Adult Sunday school meets weekly. If you are interested in helping with Sunday School or have any questions, let Diana Mitchell or Pastor Jennifer know.

The **NHCO Sharing project “Coat Shop”** begins next Sunday. 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 11.



NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.nativitylutheranchurch15101.org

The Rev. Jennifer Soltis, Pastor

Organist: Father James Dowds

Worship Assistant: Tom Beecher
Lector: Judy Beecher
Usher: Ed Banks
Greeter: Carol Huffman
Videographer: Kim Brandt
Altar Guild: Diana Mitchell & Carol Messner
Offering Tellers: Tom Beecher & Heather Johnson

~~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~  
The flowers in the sanctuary are presented to the Glory of God  
~~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~

For the Week of Sept 6 - 12

MONDAY

AA meeting – 7p

TUESDAY

WELCA – 10a

THURSDAY

NA meeting– 7p

Council Meeting – 7p

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|           | <u>In Person</u> | <u>YouTube</u> | <u>Offering</u> |
|-----------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| August 30 | 34               | 23             | \$4,608         |

## **Pastor Jennifer's Office Hours This Week**

Wednesday 10-12 & Thursday 1-3

Or by appointment

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