

**Luther Memorial Lutheran Church
13047 Greenwood Ave N, Seattle, WA 98133
Worship for Sunday, 20 September 2026
+ 17th Sunday after Pentecost, Year A**

Actively Sharing Christ's Love in Community

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

Please Stand

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

Creation groans from overuse.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

**Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love
to others.**

Turn our hearts back to you.

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

Renew us to live as your holy people,

following the way of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Amen.

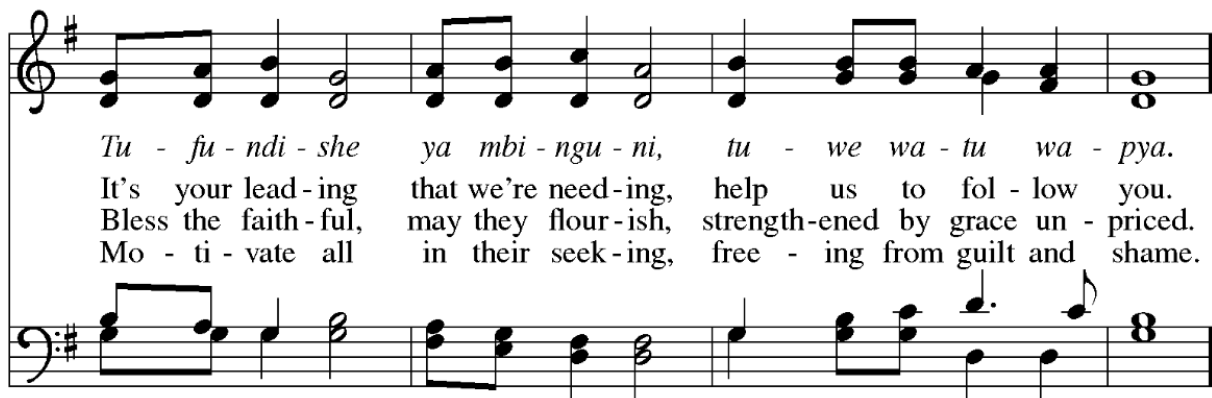
You may be seated.

Gathering Hymn #401

Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading



Njo - o kwe - tu, Ro - ho mwe - ma, M - fa - ri - ji we - tu.
 1 Gra - cious Spir - it, heed our plead - ing, fash - ion us all a - new.
 2 Come to teach us, come to nour - ish those who be - lieve in Christ.
 3 Guide our think - ing and our speak - ing done in your ho - ly name.



Tu - fu - ndi - she ya mbi - ngu - ni, tu - we wa - tu wa - pya.
 It's your lead - ing that we're need - ing, help us to fol - low you.
 Bless the faith - ful, may they flour - ish, strength - ened by grace un - priced.
 Mo - ti - vate all in their seek - ing, free - ing from guilt and shame.

Refrain



Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.
 Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.



Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.
 Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

4 Not mere knowledge, but discernment,
 nor rootless liberty;
 turn disquiet to contentment,
 doubt into certainty.

5 Keep us fervent in our witness,
 unswayed by earth's allure.
 Ever grant us zealous fitness,
 which you alone assure.

Text: Wilson Niwagila; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922
 Music: NJOO KWETU, ROHO MWEMA, Wilson Niwagila; arr. Egil Hovland, b. 1924
 English and Swahili text and tune © Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
 Arr. © Egil Hovland. Used by permission.

Apostolic Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray:

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

First Reading Jonah 3:10—4:11

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God had second thoughts about the calamity that God said would be done to them; and God did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you

did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 145:1-8

Please Read Responsively

I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.

**Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.

**One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.**

I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.

**They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.**

They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

**The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Second Reading Philippians 1:21-30

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For God has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for Christ as well—since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Please Stand

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Matthew 20:1-16

P: The holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 20th Chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “The dominion of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. “When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

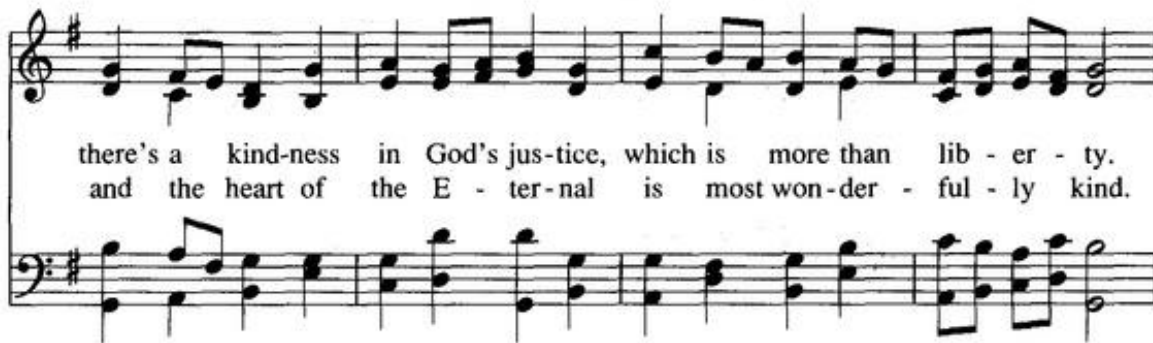
P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ

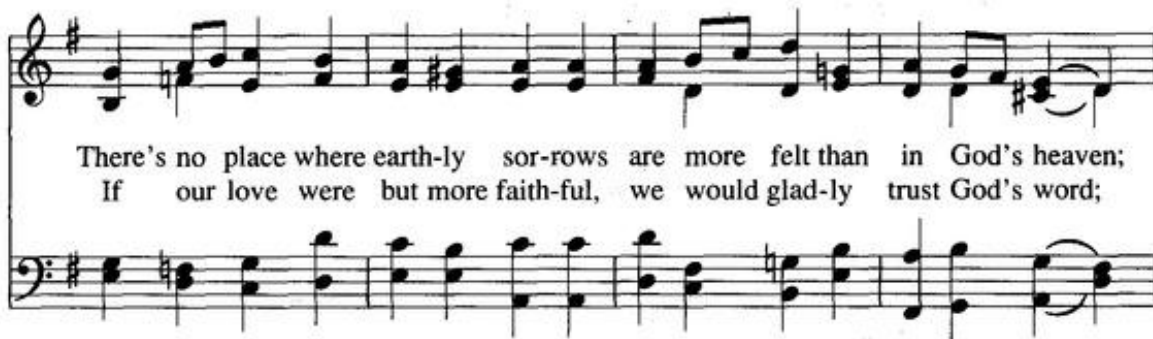
Sermon



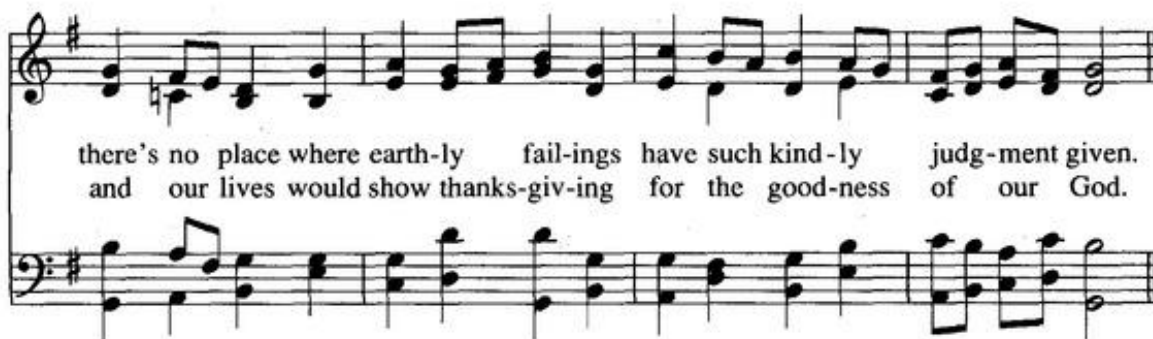
1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our minds;



there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib-er-ty.
and the heart of the E-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind.



There's no place where earth-ly sor-rows are more felt than in God's heaven;
If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word;



there's no place where earth-ly fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our God.

Of Huguenot Protestant ancestry, Frederick William Faber was influenced by the Oxford Movement and eventually became a Catholic priest. He wrote 150 hymns to correspond to the number of psalms.

Tune: IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.
Dutch melody
Arr. Julius Röntgen, 1906
Alternate tune: HOLY MANNA

Prayers and Peace

P: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

From your place in the congregation, feel free to share a sign of peace with other members of the assembly.

Offering

Offertory

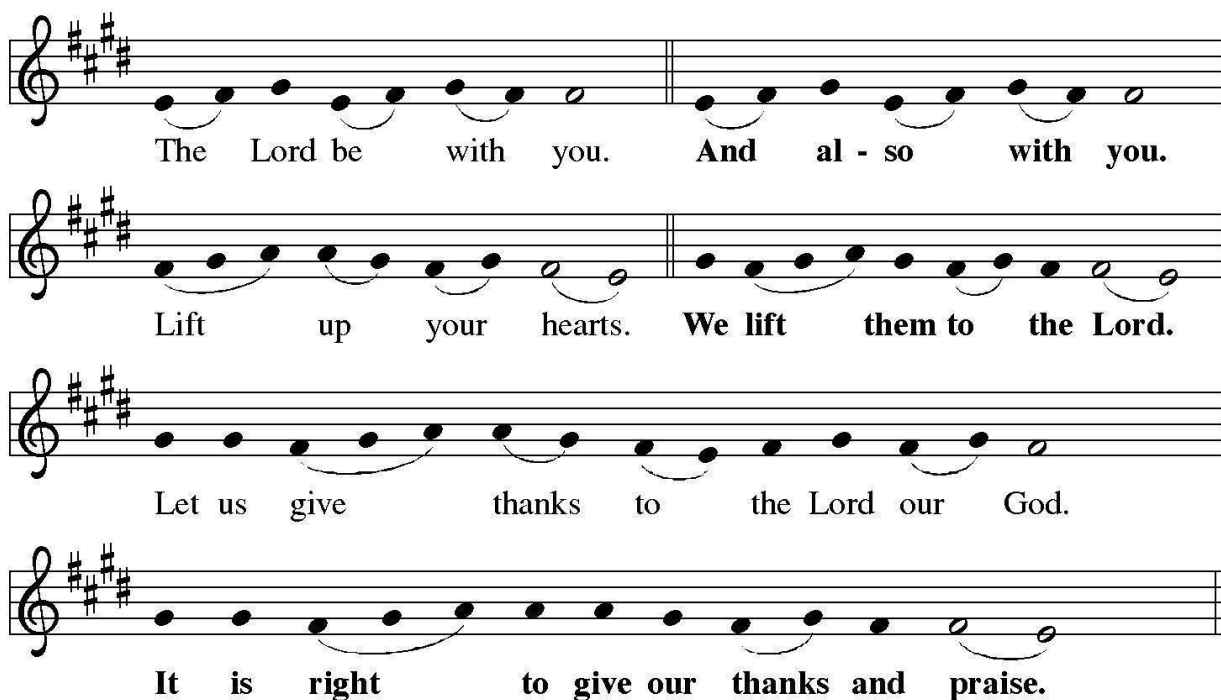
Offertory Prayer

Please stand

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving



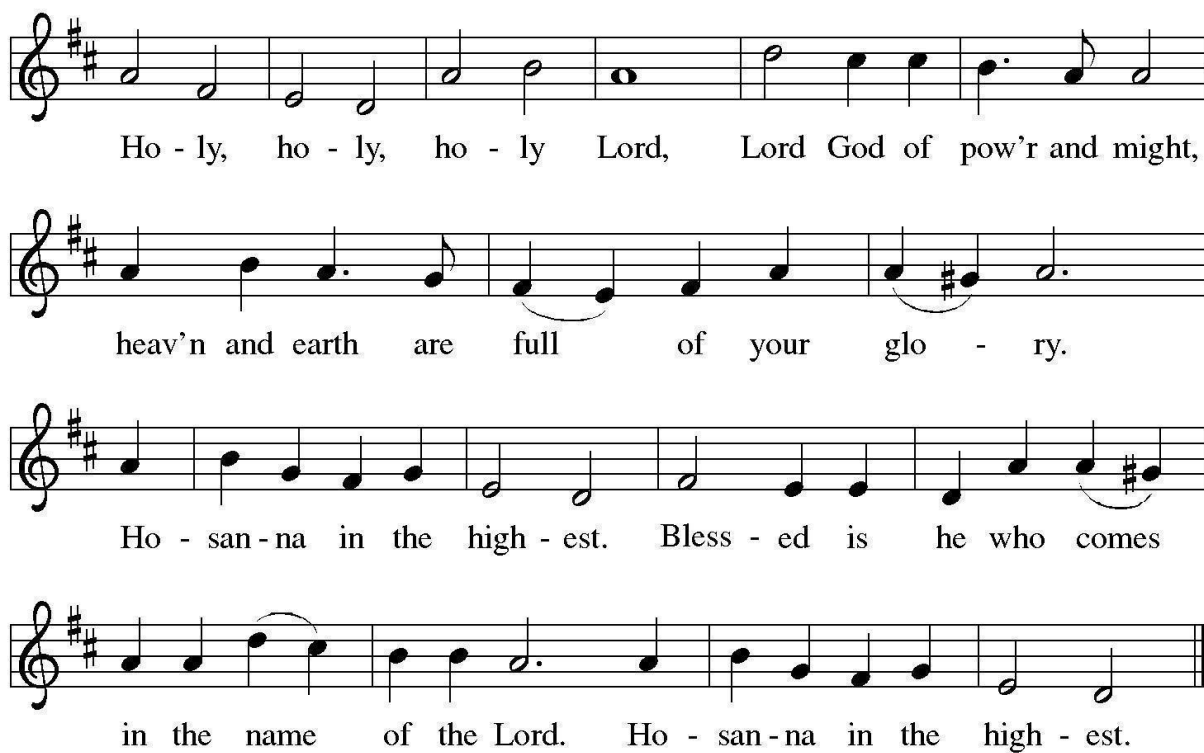
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

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:



Eucharistic Liturgy

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.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Distribution of Holy Communion

You may be seated

Please proceed up the center aisle to pick up a piece of bread from the Presiding minister and a glass of either wine or grape juice from the assisting minister.

There will be a basket off to the side where you can dispose of your used cup. The communion bread is all gluten free, but does contain honey. All are welcome to receive from Christ's table.

You may also come forward with your arms crossed to receive a blessing.

Communion Hymn #358

Great God, Your Love Has Called Us



1 Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for
 2 We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and
 3 Great God, in Christ you call our name and then re - ceive us
 4 Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and
 5 Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your

love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,
 cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains,
 as your own, not through some mer - it, right, or claim,
 call us friends. Suf - fer and serve till all are fed,
 joy to share. Give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty

though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our
 by so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by pow'rs and sys - tems
 but by your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse your
 and show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre -
 to turn from guilt and dull de - spair, and of - fer all that

heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.
 close con - fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.
 mer - cy seat and find you kneel - ing at our feet.
 a - tion sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.
 faith can do while love is mak - ing all things new.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: RYBURN, Norman Cocker, 1889-1953

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Music © Oxford University Press.

Communion Hymn #765

Lord of All Hopefulness



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901–1953
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional
Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

Post-communion Prayer

P: 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 your world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C: Amen.

Blessing

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.

Amen.

Sending Hymn #669

Rise Up, O Saints of God

1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;

Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Postlude

Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Today's Worship Leaders:

Pastor Sara Funkhouser
Chrissie Goldstein
Julie Moe
Mark Chapman & Colleen Lingappaiah
Julie Moe (1st & psalm)
Chris Foss (2nd)
Christine Lawson

Preacher/Presider
Musician
Communion Assistant
Ushers
Lectors

Altar Care

Next Week's Readings

First Reading: *Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32*
Psalm: *Psalms 25:1-9*
Second Reading: *Philippians 2:1-13*
Gospel: *Matthew 21:23-32*

Announcements:

Celebration for Beverly Today: After service today, you are invited to bring your coffee to Celebration Hall for cake to celebrate Beverly Mueller's 90th birthday, as well as her 25th anniversary of being a member at Luther Memorial! We hope you all will join us for this joyous celebration!

Mark Your Calendars: As we make our way toward Fall, you are invited to mark your calendars for two more special upcoming Sundays!

- September 27th: Our Fall Kick-Off, with a Potluck to follow worship!
- October 4th: Blessing of the Pets (yes, this means you are welcome to bring your pet to worship that morning!) If being in the worship space, especially with other animals, would not work well for your pet, we will also be scheduling a time for Pastor Sara to be outside to bless even more pets!

Food Pantry Volunteers Needed: As many of you know, we feed countless neighbors every week through our Little Free Pantry. None of that would be possible without all of your donations or those of you who volunteer your time to help stock the pantry every single day. We have a dedicated team who have faithfully been serving in this capacity for years, and they are looking for a few other folks to join their team! They are specifically looking for someone who is able to take over the Tuesday morning re-stocking shift, as well as any others who would be interested in being added to the list of back-up volunteers who can fill in when our regular weekday folks are out of town or otherwise unable to make it to church and need someone else to step in for them. If you are interested in learning more or have any other questions, please talk to either Pastor Sara or Diane. Thank you again for all that you do to help our neighbors access the food they need!

Book Club: Our next book club meeting will be on Saturday, September 26th at 9:30 A.M. on Zoom. We will be reading the book *Saoirse* by Charleen Hurtubise. All are welcome to join!

Seeking Worship Volunteers: As our worship community continues to grow, we would love to have more folks join our monthly rotation of worship assistants! We are currently seeking more people to add to our lector (reading) schedule, as well as our ushering team. Pastor Sara would also love to talk about bringing back assisting ministers to help with the prayers and general service leadership. If you are interested in any of these roles or have more questions about what they would entail, please email Pastor Sara!

Food Pantry Donations: We do not currently have a specific food pantry donation theme, but any donation you make is still greatly appreciated, as the need for food in our community remains high. Below are some specific items that are always requested:

- Canned chicken
- Canned fish
- Shelf stable milk
- Ramen noodles
- Canned fruit or fruit cups
- Bread
- Tortillas
- English muffins
- Bagels
- Tortillas
- Hygiene products: toothbrush, toothpaste, period products, soap, etc.

As the weather begins to cool off, we will hopefully be able to start putting out fresh produce again! In the meantime, if you have an abundance from your garden that you would like to share, please feel free to place it in the pantry, as many people greatly appreciate it.

Thank you so much for your generosity!

September Grief Group Schedule: Our grief group will be gathering during the following times in September. Due to scheduling challenges, there will not be a Saturday Zoom grief group this month, but there will be an additional in-person option. As always, if you are interested in the grief group, but are unable to attend any of these sessions, please talk to Pastor Sara.

- Wednesday, September 23rd at 10:00 A.M.
- Tuesday, September 29th at 10:30 A.M.

Upcoming Events

20	SEP, SUN	10:30 – 11:30am	In-Person & Live Stream Worship Sanctuary
		4 – 6pm	Skandia Society Rehearsal Celebration Hall
		6:30 – 7:30pm	NA Pink Progress Club Celebration Hall
21	SEP, MON	6:45 – 7:45pm	NA - Afterparty Group Celebration Hall
22	SEP, TUE	7 – 8pm	Church Council Meeting Zoom
24	SEP, THU	6 – 9:30pm	Sound Harmony Sanctuary
25	SEP, FRI	12 – 1pm	Pause for Prayer Zoom
		6 – 8pm	NAMI Library

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