

**Gethsemane Lutheran Church
Pastor Lee Welker
August 23, 2026
13th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Gathered by the Spirit
Fed by Jesus
Sent to live God's Love**

**Gethsemane Lutheran Church
Neighborhood Connection**

6810 E. 10th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46219
317-357-7369

www.gethsemanelc.com
info@gethsemanelc.com

Pastor Lee Welker, Cell – 616-485-2362
Email – pastorwelker@yahoo.com

Council President – Alice Steffen – 317-371-0488
Council Vice President – Jesse Herzberg – 317-358-9850

Welcome to worship today. Our prayer is that we may meet our Holy God in song, word, activity, and prayer.

Introduction

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

*[Congregation's responses are printed in **BOLD** type.]*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

GATHERED

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose compassion endures forever.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
**we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot
free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy
and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's
name we pray,
Amen.**

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy
burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ☩ Son, and
Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.
Amen.



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 he - 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!

GREETING

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

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE



☐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



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



① Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



☐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



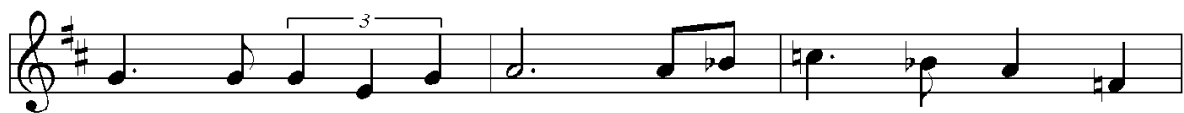
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



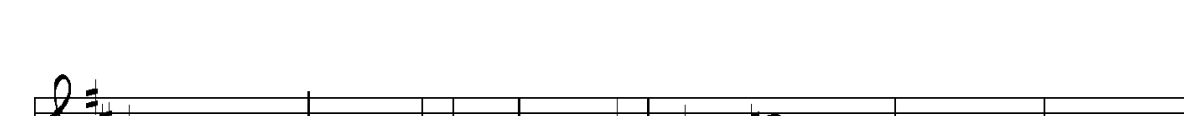
② Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



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



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



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



I For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

II



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



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



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth,



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: O God, with all your faithful followers of every age,
**we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form
us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the
world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 51:1-6

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.

Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah, who bore you, for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation, for a teaching will go out from me and my justice for a light to the peoples. I will bring near my deliverance swiftly; my salvation has gone out, and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. Lift up your eyes to the heavens and look at the earth beneath, for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats, but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM READING PSALM 138 *(read responsively)*

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;

I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

On the day I called, you answered me; you increased my strength of soul.
All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord, for they have heard the words of your mouth.

They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord.
For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he perceives from far away.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.
The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord,

endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

SECOND READING Romans 12:1-8

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Please stand, as you are able)



GOSPEL Matthew 16:13-20

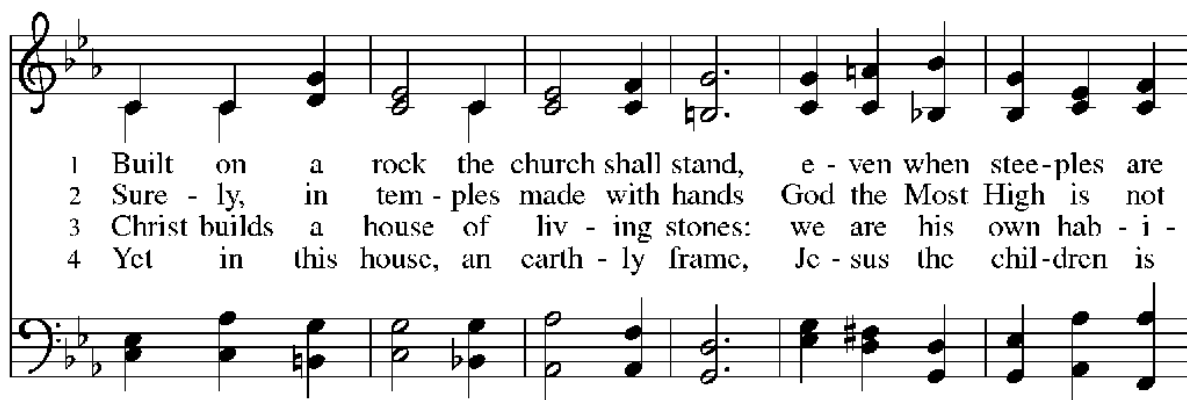
At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, 16th chapters,
Glory to you, O Lord.

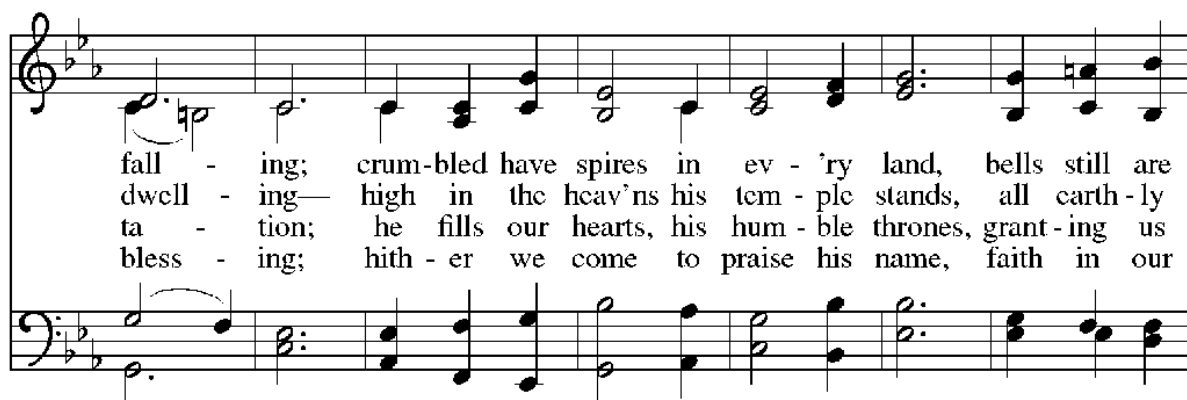
Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ

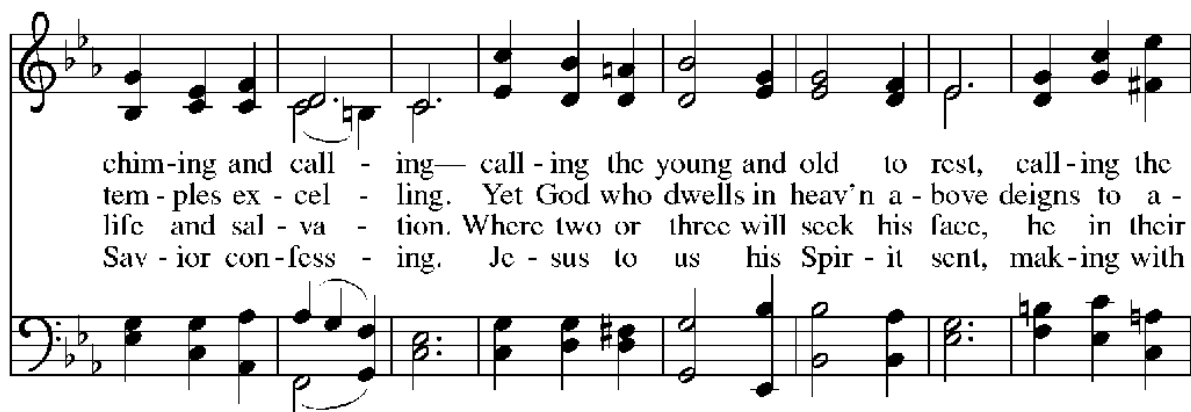
SERMON



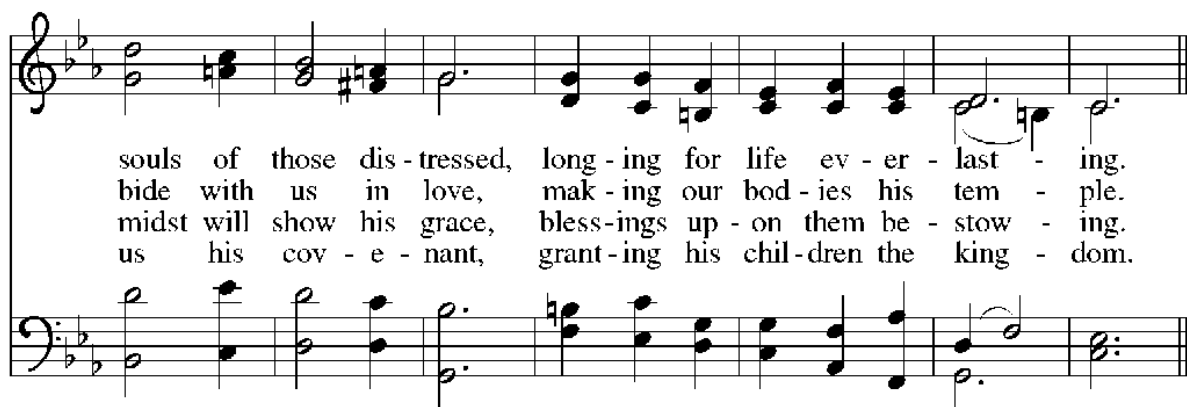
1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee-ples are
 2 Sure - ly, in tem - ples made with hands God the Most High is not
 3 Christ builds a house of liv - ing stones: we are his own hab - i -
 4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil-dren is



fall - ing; crum-bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are
 dwell - ing— high in the heav'ns his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly
 ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us
 bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our



chim-ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call-ing the
 tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -
 life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their
 Sav - ior con-fess - ing, Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak-ing with



souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.
 bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
 midst will show his grace, bless-ings up - on them be - stow - ing.
 us his cov - e - nant, grant-ing his chil-dren the king - dom.

5 Through all the passing years, O Lord,
grant that, when church bells are ringing,
many may come to hear your Word,
who here this promise is bringing:
“I know my own, my own know me;
you, not the world, my face shall see;
my peace I leave with you. Amen.”

APOSTLES' CREED

Together let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each prayer petition ends, *Merciful God,*
Our response, **receive our prayer.**

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

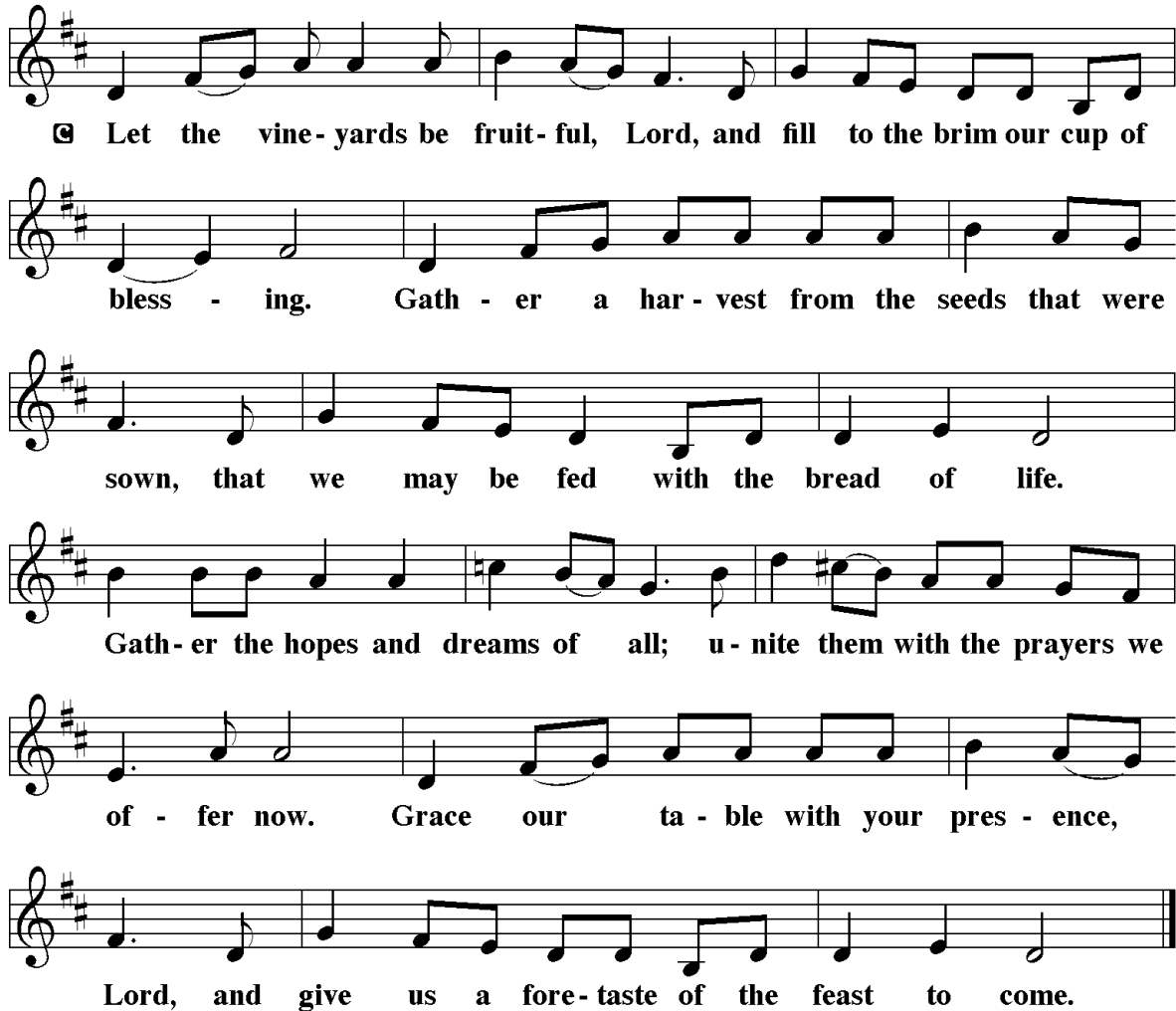
And also with you.

You may share the peace of Christ with one another

OFFERING

MEAL

OFFERTORY



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
Lord, and give us a fore- taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Loving God,
**we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you
and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your
abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit
abiding with us now and forever. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

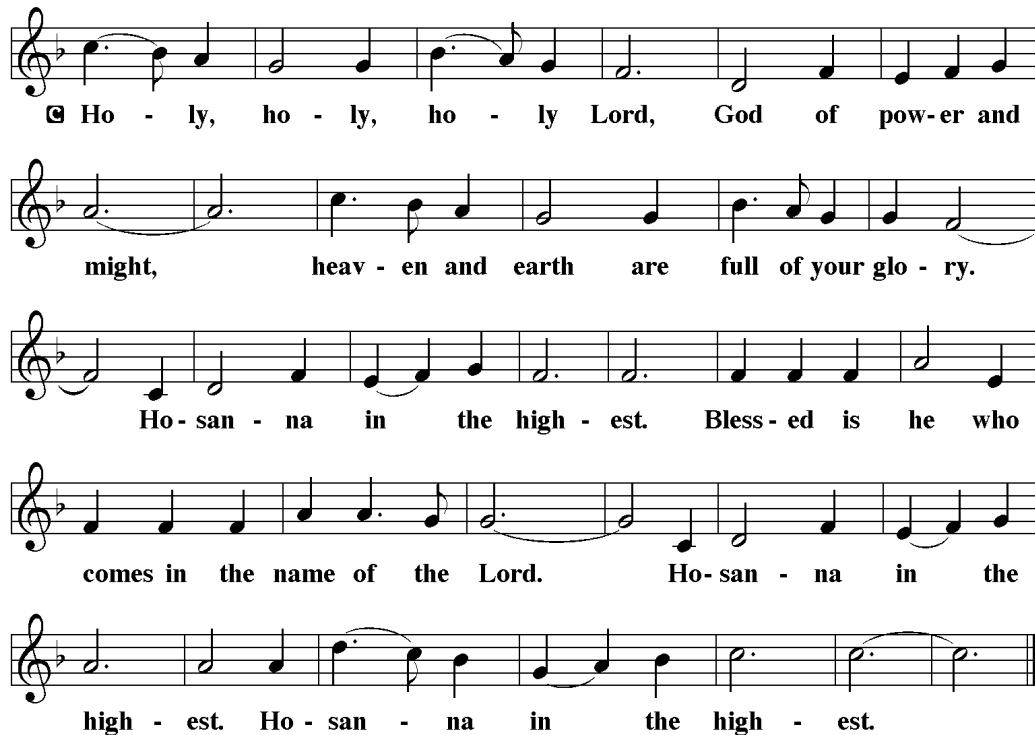
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times.....
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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**

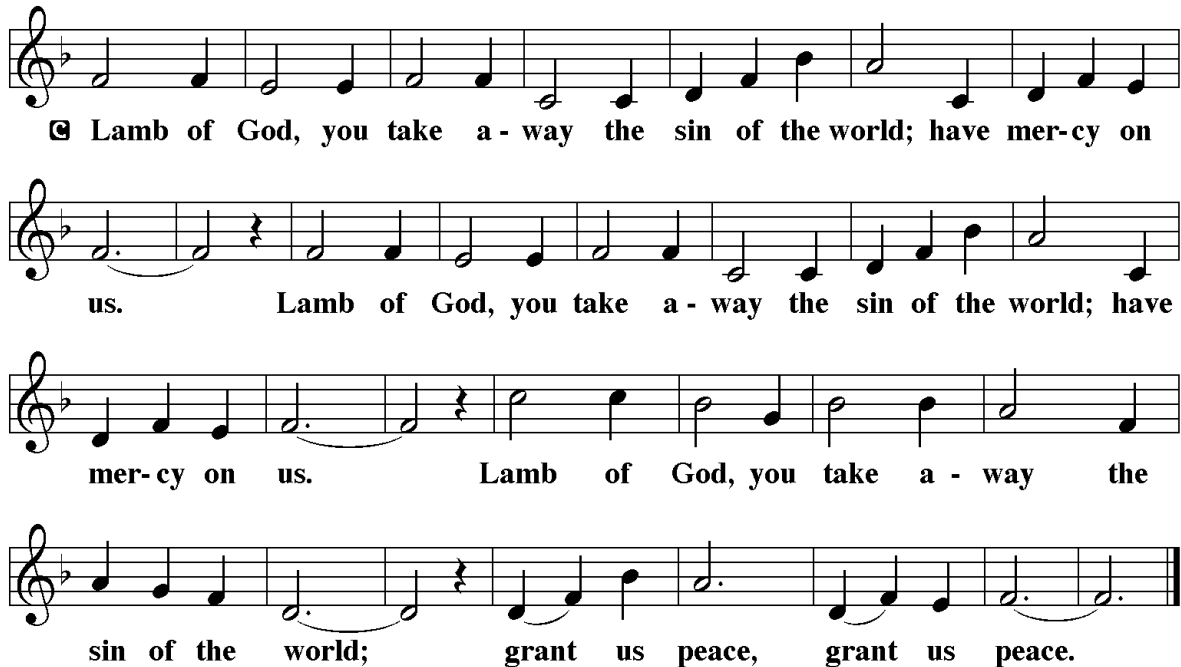
**as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

Assisting Minister will be communed first so that those on Zoom can partake in the communion before the congregation:

The Body of Christ given for you.

The Blood of Christ shed for you.



☒ 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.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus the Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Compassionate God,

through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

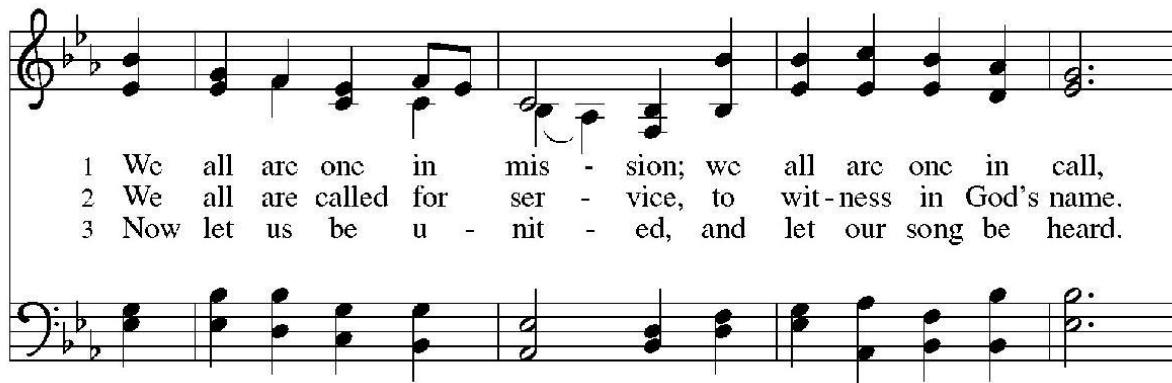
Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

Amen.

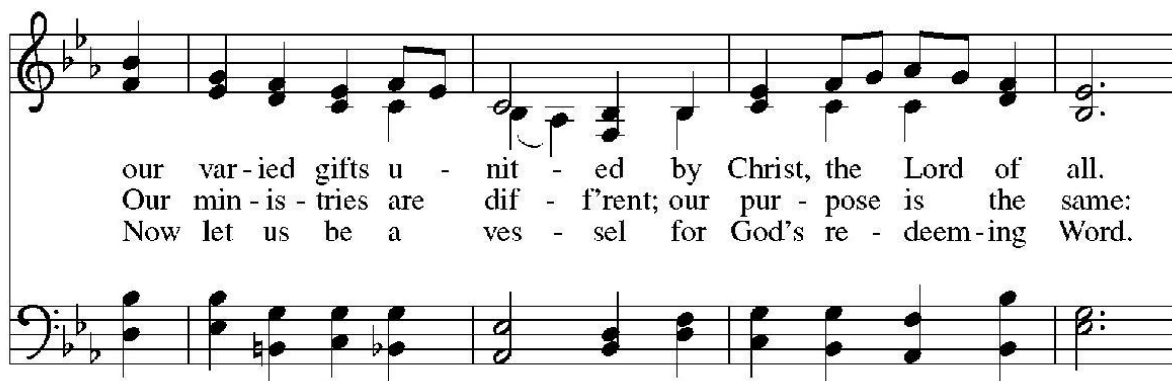
HYMN

576

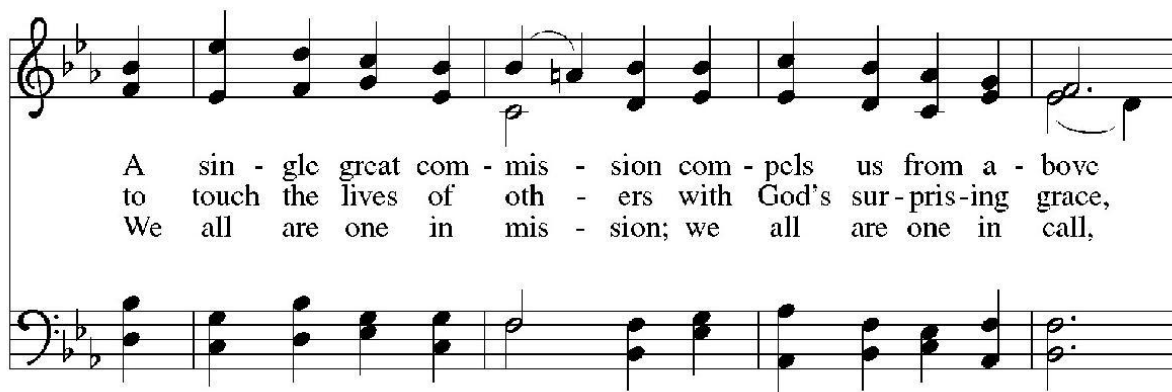
We All Are One in Mission



1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit - ness in God's name.
3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
so ev - ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

POSTLUDE

BIRTHDAY BLESSING

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

+++++

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Music portions of the Liturgy, With One Voice, Setting 5. Reprinted under Augsburg Fortress license 44230

+++++

Texts for **August 30**: Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalm 26:1-8; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

+++++

Attendance at last week's service was 27 and 2 on Zoom and YouTube.

Calendar for the Week

Saturday, August 29 – Honey Farm Tour to Hunter's Honey Farm in Martinsville, time to be determined. If anyone is interested in going, we can meet in the parking lot at Gethsemane to carpool together. If that's not convenient, then we can meet you there once we establish our departure time. The cost is \$5.00 per person and there are several tours that they offer. The ones that need reservations are the Beehive Tour, the Honey House Tour, the Hayride Tour, and the Forestry Tour. The two that require no reservations are Bottle Your Own Bear of Honey and Roll Your Own Beeswax Candle. They also have products for sale in their store.

What we need to know is the following:

1. If you would like to go, yes or no.
2. Are you able to drive from Gethsemane and how many additional people can fit into your vehicle.
3. If unable/not available to drive, how many seats are needed.
4. If you are interested in one of the tours that need reservations let us know. The times for the tours are on their website www.huntershoneyfarm.com. The Hayride Tour requires a minimum of 10 guests.
5. Are any special accommodations needed for transportation and mobility? If interested, please let Connie Jarvis know by Thursday August 20th so any needed reservations can be made.

Upcoming Events

Save the Date: Honey Festival Coming Sept. 18–20!

“Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.” — Proverbs 16:24

Mark your calendars for our upcoming community Honey Festival weekend:

- * **Friday, Sept. 18 (7:00 PM):** “Revelation: A Rehearsal” — Solo dramatic performance by Dr. David Burke, followed by talk-back & refreshments.
- * **Saturday, Sept. 19 (1:00 PM – 6:30 PM):** Festive Fun on the Commons! Beekeeper demos, live music, puppetry, honey tastings, baked treats, games, garden tours, and an evening wiener roast.
- * **Sunday, Sept. 20 (10:30 AM):** Festive Worship featuring special music, the word, and the dramatic finale of Revelation.

Help Spread the Sweetness: Bundles of 10 invitation flyers are available in the narthex today! Please pick up a bundle on your way out and pass them along to family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors with a warm, friendly invitation to join us. (Full details and schedule available at www.Gethsemanelc.com.)

The ICAN Food Pantry is at Downey Avenue Christian Church, 111 S. Downey Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46219. They appreciate all of the food and toiletry donations that are provided to them through Gethsemane Lutheran Church. Their website is www.icanfoodpantry.com. They have an Amazon wish list on their webpage where you can select items on their list, order and pay for them, and they will be mailed directly to Downey Avenue Christian Church. Thank you for any and all donations.

ICAN - Irvington Community Advocacy Network – Office located at Irvington United Methodist Church, 30 N. Audubon, Indianapolis, IN 46219

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Phone: 317-322-9645

Email: ICANCenterIrvington@gmail.com

Program Director: Brady Briggs

Potential Assistance and Referral Services for: *Food Pantries, *Clothing Closet, *Employment and Resumes, *Applications for Assistance, *Continuing Education, *Transportation Assistance

If the office is closed and you are in need of immediate assistance, please call 211 or go to findhelp.org.