

**Gethsemane Lutheran Church
Pastor Lee Welker
August 17, 2025
10th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Gathered
Fed
Sent**

**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

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great “cloud of witnesses.” In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

GATHERED

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

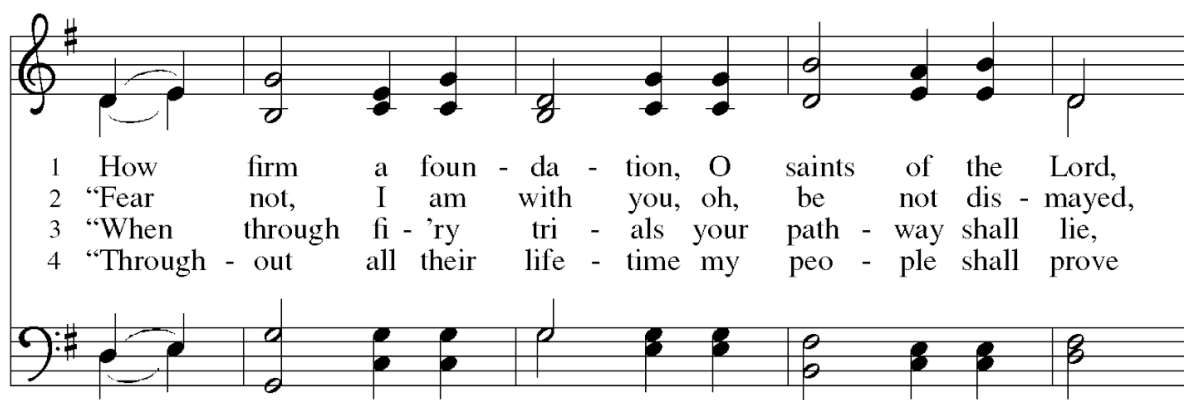
Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of ☩ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

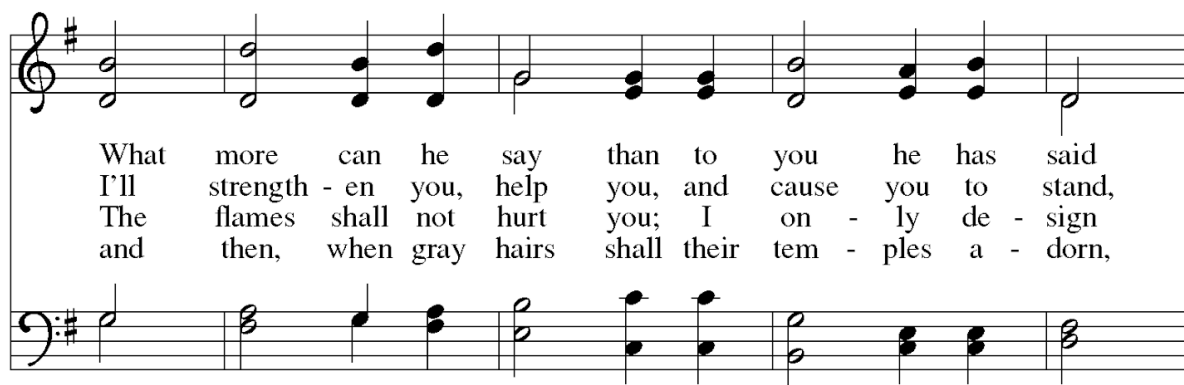
Amen.



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
 4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
 my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

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.



☐ 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;



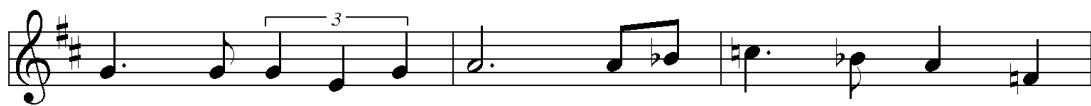
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



☐ 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, judge eternal,
 you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your
 zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of
 bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to
 look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ,
 our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING Jeremiah 23:23-29

Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, “I have dreamed! I have dreamed!” How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM READING Psalm 82 *(read responsively)*

God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment:

“How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked?

Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.

Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”

They have neither knowledge nor understanding; they walk around in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

I say, “You are gods, children of the Most High, all of you;

nevertheless, you shall die like mortals and fall like any prince.”

Rise up, O God, judge the earth, for all the nations belong to you!

SECOND READING Hebrew 11:29—12:2

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

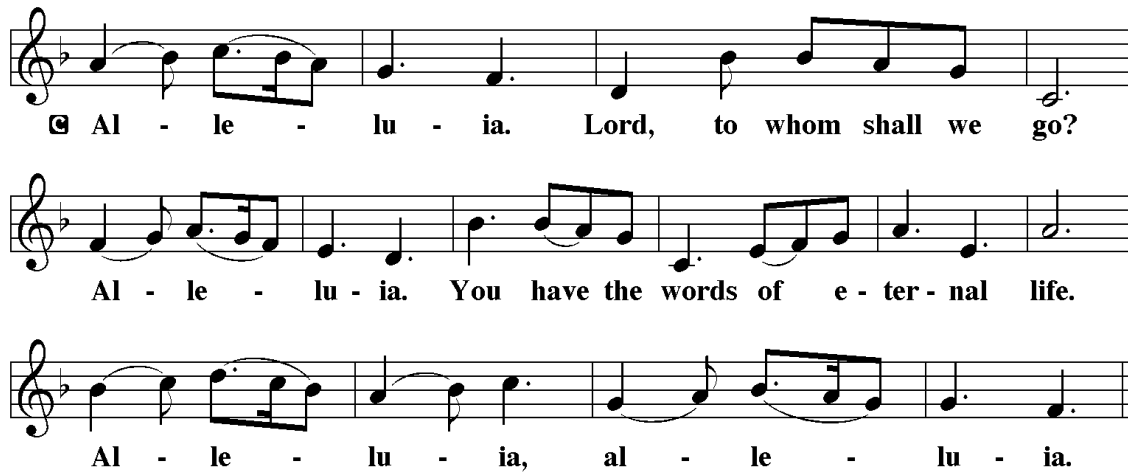
Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Please stand, as you are able)



GOSPEL Luke 12:49-56

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, 12th chapter,

Glory to you, O Lord.

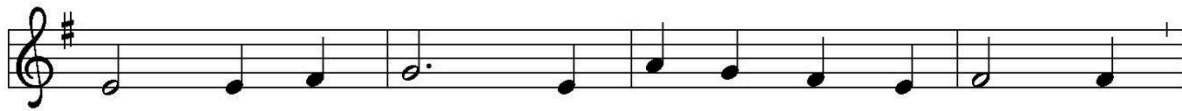
[Jesus said:] “I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON



1 By gra - cious pow'rs so won - der - ful - ly shel - tered,
 2 Yet is this heart by its old foe tor - ment - ed,
 3 And when this cup you give is filled to brim - ming
 4 Yet when a - gain in this same world you give us
 5 By gra - cious pow'rs so faith - ful - ly pro - tect - ed,



and con - fi - dent - ly wait - ing come what may,
 still e - vil days bring bur - dens hard to bear;
 with bit - ter suf - f'ring, hard to un - der - stand,
 the joy we had, the bright - ness of your sun,
 so qui - et - ly, so won - der - ful - ly near,



we know that God is with us night and morn - ing,
 oh, give our fright - ened souls the sure sal - va - tion,
 we take it thank - ful - ly and with - out trem - bling
 we shall re - mem - ber all the days we lived through
 we live each day in hope, with you be - side us,



and nev - er fails to greet us each new day.
 for which, O Lord, you taught us to pre - pare.
 out of so good and so be - loved a hand.
 and our whole life shall then be yours a - lone.
 and go with you through ev - 'ry com - ing year.

APSTLES' 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, *God of grace,*
Our response, **hear 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 PRAYER

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

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

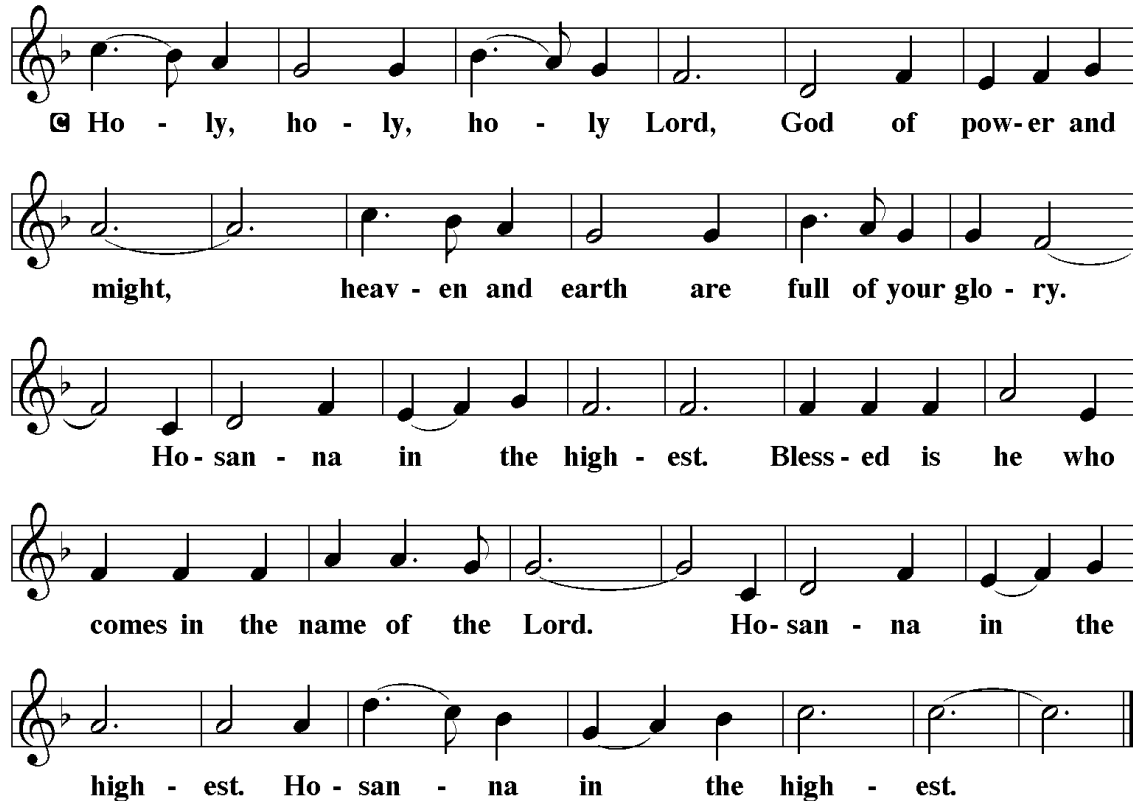
Lift up your hearts.

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, our duty and our joy,.....
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**

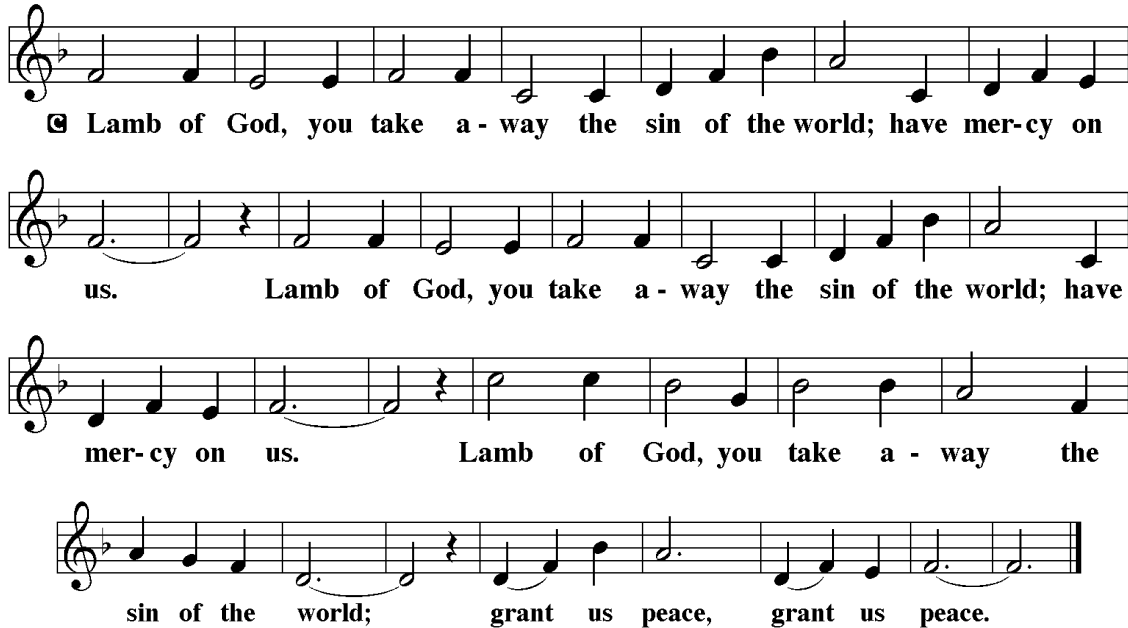
**as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

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. Mothering God,

you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.

BENEDICTION

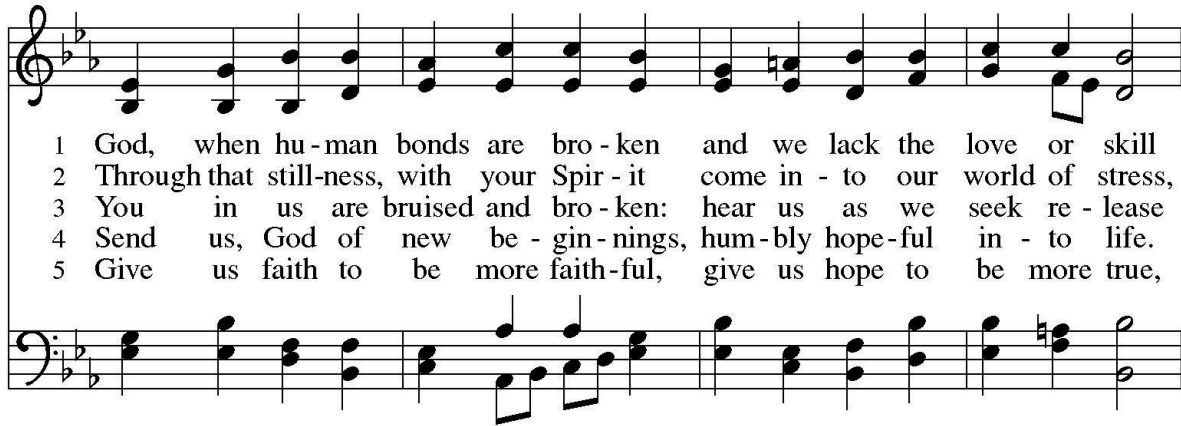
The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ✠ bless you and give you peace.

Amen.

HYMN

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God, When Human Bonds Are Broken



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!

POSTLUDE

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

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Texts for **August 24**: Isaiah 58:9b-14; Psalm 103:1-8; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

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Attendance at last week's service was 24 and 3 Zoom and YouTube.

Calendar for the Week

No events this week

Upcoming Events

September 27-28 - CREATION I.N.C. Original Live Music & Performance

Special Offering – Our newest member Abby Vesga who is attending Luther Seminary online will be in Minnesota in September for “in-person” classes. This will require her to have some expenses like Food, Lodging and Travel. The Church Council has agreed to take up special offerings starting next week through August to help with these expenses. Please use a pew envelope and write Abby Vesga Special Offering on it.

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: Kari Burns

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.