

September 13, 2026

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN

All Are Welcome

ELW 641

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live, a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions: [Refrain]

Refrain: All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

2 Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true, where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew. Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace; here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: [Refrain]

3 Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat: a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet. Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space; as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: [Refrain]

4 Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known. Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face; let us bring an end to fear and danger: [Refrain]

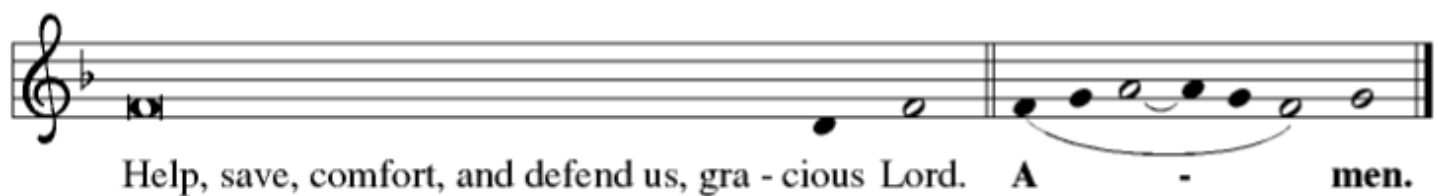
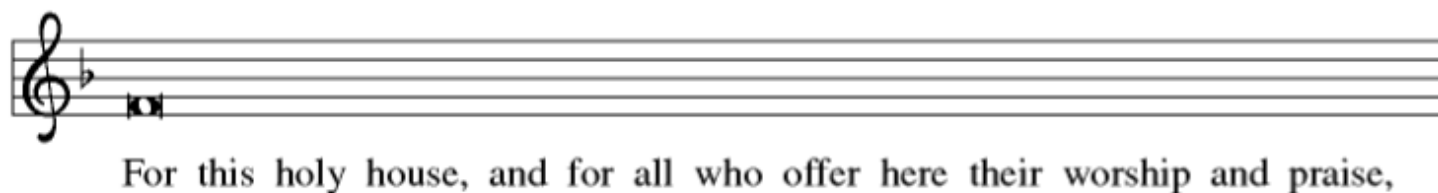
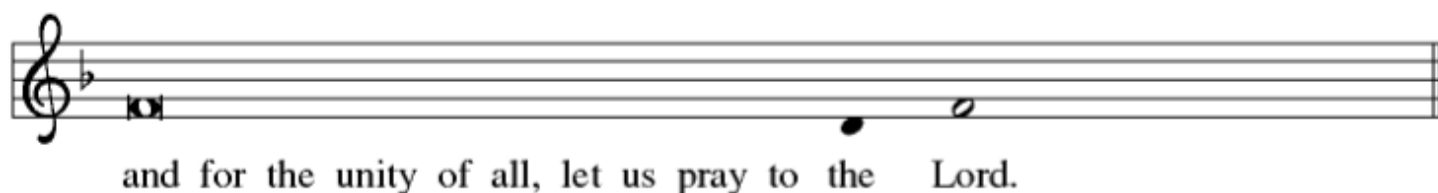
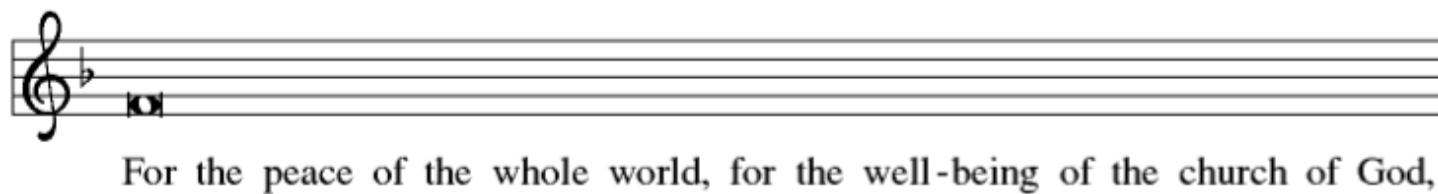
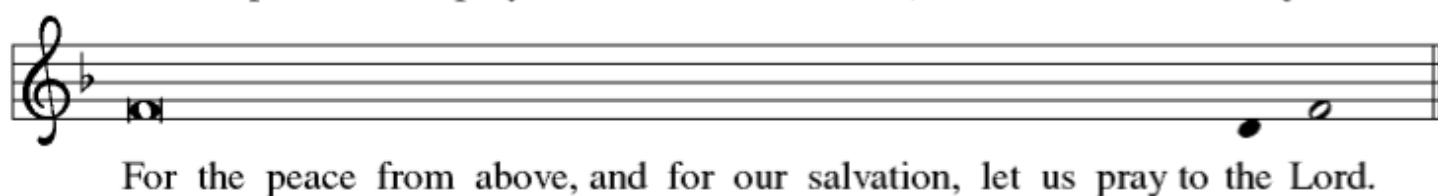
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word. Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: [Refrain]

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.**

KYRIE

ELW pg. 138



Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



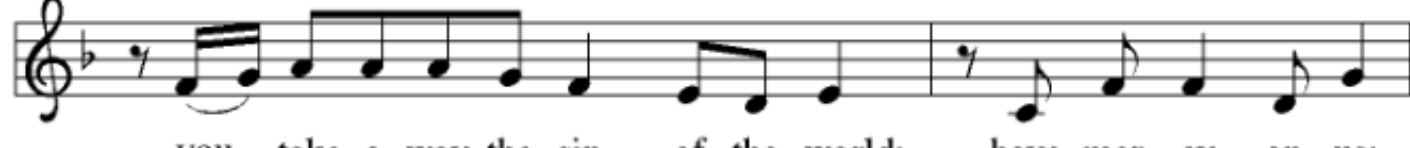
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



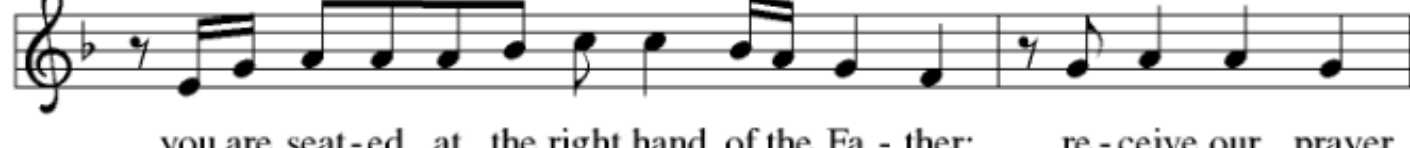
we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



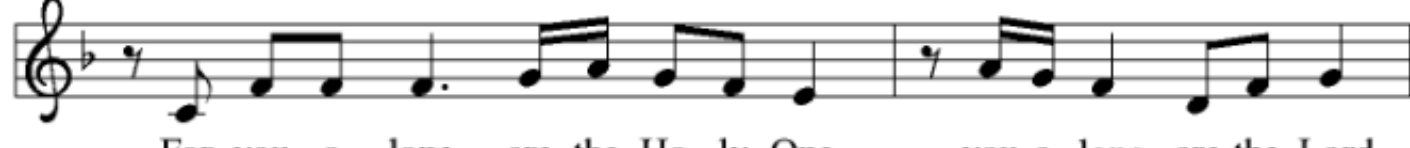
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



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



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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Candidates for baptism, sponsors, parents, and representatives of the congregation gather with the pastor at the font.

Pastor: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word, God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

The child is presented for baptism: We present Calen Michael Jablonski for baptism.

The pastor addresses those presenting the child: Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have this child baptized into Christ?

Response: **I do.**

Pastor: As you bring Calen to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with him among God's faithful people,
bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in his hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture him in faith and prayer,
so that he may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Calen grow in the Christian faith and life?

I do.

Do you promise to nurture Calen in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

I do.

Pastor, to representatives of the congregation: On behalf of this congregation and the whole people of God, do you promise to support Calen and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

We do.

Profession of Faith

The pastor addresses the parents and sponsors: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

The pastor addresses all who are assembled: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Thanksgiving at the Font

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that all those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Baptism

The pastor pours water on the candidate's head and says:

Calen Michael is baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Calen Michael with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

The pastor makes the sign of the cross on Calen's forehead and says:

Calen, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

Welcome

A lighted candle is given to Calen as a representative of the congregation says:

Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Pastor: Let us welcome Calen Michael, newly baptized.

Representatives of the congregation respond:

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share, as together we give thanks and praise to God and bear God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

R. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalms 103:8-13

⁸ Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;
⁹ **you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.**
¹⁰ You have not dealt with us according to our
sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.
¹¹ **For as the heavens are high above the
earth, so great is your steadfast love
for those who fear you.**
¹² As far as the east is from the west, so far have
you removed our transgressions from us.
¹³ **As a father has compassion for his
children, so you have compassion for those
who fear you, O Lord.**

Please stand as you are able.

FIRST READING

Romans 14:1-12

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions.
² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

R. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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



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

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 18:21-35

R. The holy gospel according to Matthew, the eighteenth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³ For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

R. The gospel of the Lord.
C. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

You may be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Adam Arends

HYMN OF THE DAY

Softly and Tenderly

ELW 608

1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me.

See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.

Refrain:

"Come home, come home!
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"

2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me? [Refrain]

3 Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me. [Refrain]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each petition ends with the words, "Hear us, O God, [...]" we respond, "your mercy is great."

PASSING OF THE PEACE

P. The peace of Christ be with you always.
C. **And also with you.**

MEAL

OFFERING

Lord God, **extend our faith so that even when we fail to see the fruit of our planted seeds, we may have the assurance that every inch of soil overturned will lead to a harvest someday. Amen.** We now bring forth our offering as a seed which God will nurture. *

OFFERTORY HYMN

Let the Vinyards be Fruitful

ELW 182

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather the harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A. Let us pray. **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.**

Please stand.

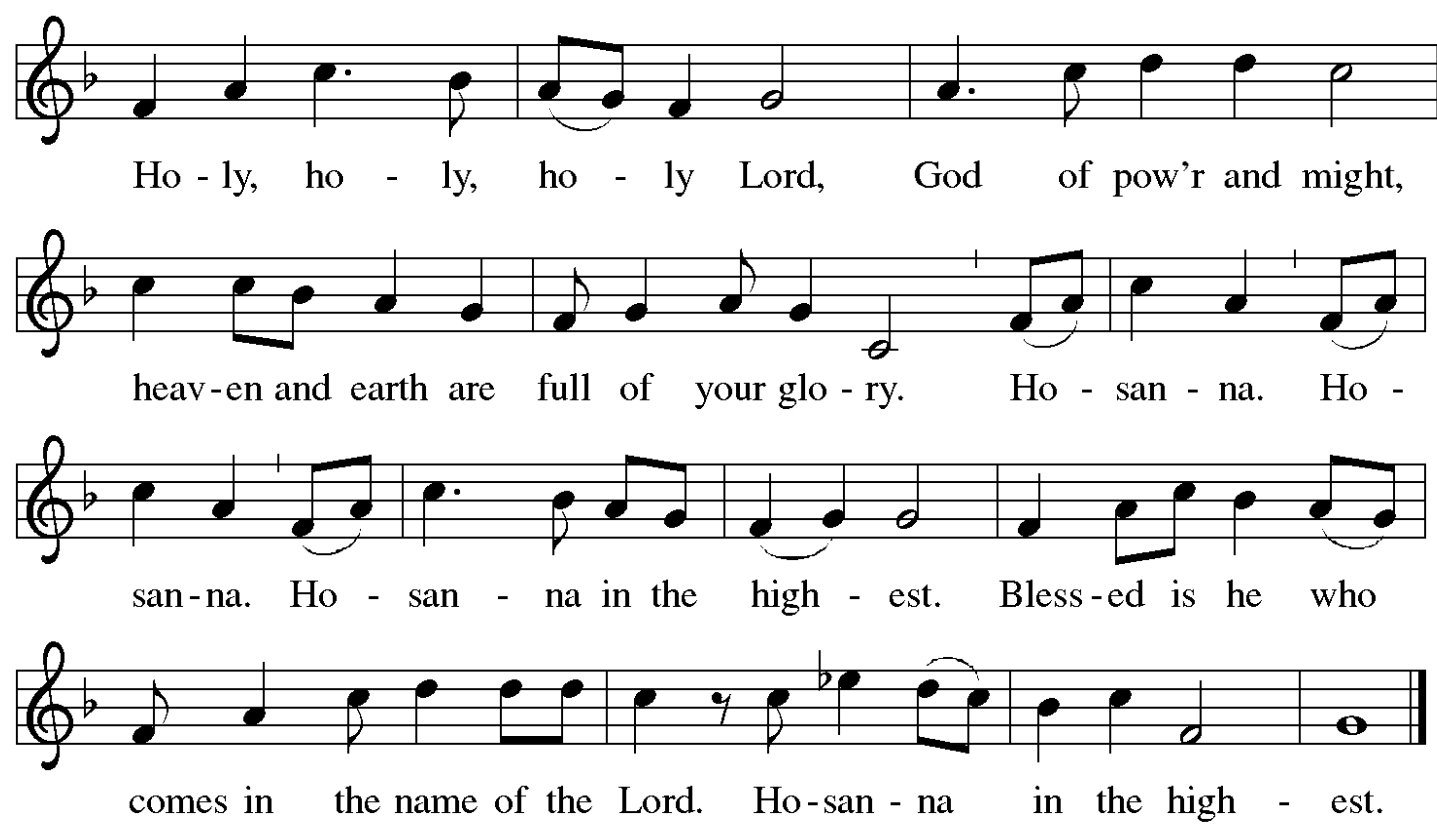
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
P. Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

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'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath. **We praise you, O God.**

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future. **We bless you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now. **We thank you, O God.**

In the night in which he was betrayed...

... Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER
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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

DISTRIBUTION

We invite all to the Lord's supper. You can pick up a cup as you come forward or use the elements at the entrance to the sanctuary. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are also available.

LAMB OF GOD

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.

COMMUNION HYMN

Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW 471

1 Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain:
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees. [Refrain]

3 Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees. [Refrain]

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465

Refrain: As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill were gathered into one to become our bread, so may all our people from all the ends of earth be gathered into one in you.

1 As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst, may we share the presence of your love.
[Refrain]

2 Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come, when all creation shares this feast with you.
[Refrain]

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

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

SENDING

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

ELW 742

1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
oh, what needless pain we bear --
all because we do not carry
ev'rything to God in prayer!

2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged --
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness --
take it to the Lord in prayer.

3 Are we weak and heavy-laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge --
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.

DISMISSAL

A. Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

Welcome to St. Timothy! St. Timothy Lutheran Church opens its doors and its arms in the Name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The Rev. Adam Arends, Pastor

pastor@sttimothygrandisland.com
Tim Dyet, Director of Music
Kim Yaeger, Communications Director
Church Office: 716-773-4400
communications@sttimothygrandisland.com



Worship Leaders:

Presiding Minister: Pastor Adam Arends

Assistant: Ms. Shari Miller

Usher: Mr. Greg Barker

Counters: Mr. Dennis Kaniecki, Ms. Dorine Fabio, Ms. Cheryl Wasson

Altar Guild: Ms. Liz Barker

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* Offering prayer from Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals, by Claiborne, Wilson-Hartgrove, Okoro; Zondervan, 2010.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Join us in welcoming Calen Michael Jablonski in baptism! We celebrate with parents Chad and Kimberly Jablonski and godparents Ryan Moss & Ashley Jablonski.
- Please plan on joining us after the service today for our congregational meeting to approve the budget and a potluck brunch.
- Choir is starting up again! We meet at 9 AM on Sunday mornings and are always looking for new members to join. If you're interested, please come!
- Rally Day and the Blessing of the Backpacks will be this coming Sunday. It will also be the final day for Harvest House and Grand Island Neighbors Foundation collections. Thank you for all your generous support!
- Bible study will resume Thursday, September 24th at 3 PM.
- Please take a moment to fill out a Sunday School enrollment form in the Narthex for any kids through confirmation age. Sunday School will start next week.
- Trinity Church is opening their Tom Burkman lecture series to us and will be held in their double door room at 2100 Whitehaven Rd, 7-8:30 PM on Wednesdays through 10/7. It will be on "The Journey from Text to Translation: Sorting Out the Differences in Bible Translations" from John W. Hilber, Ph.D, a retired professor of Hebrew and Old Testament. How did we get our Bible? Why do translations differ? The main goals are to help people feel more confident in their Bible - a good English translation is a trustworthy expression of the original Hebrew or Greek; and to help people understand the value of using multiple versions. In our meeting together, we will use class handouts, slides, and do practical, in-class exercises. No pre-registration is necessary.
- There's still time to register for the WELCA retreat, Being Open to God's Presence in Our Lives! It will be held Saturday, September 26 from 9:30-2 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Eggertsville and the registration deadline is 9/15. Registration forms are available upon request.
- Choir is starting up again! We meet at 9 AM on Sunday mornings and are always looking for new members to join. If you're interested, please come!

- Among those in your prayers, please hold: the family of Gerry Peete; Pr. Dan Hoffman; Tatum Michael Hill & family; Chris Toponak; Rich and Charlotte Craig & family; and Sarah Domster.

St. Timothy Lutheran Church
Congregational Meeting Agenda
September 13, 2026

- I. Call to Order and Confirmation of Quorum**
- II. Opening Prayer**
 - a. Pastor Adam Arends
- III. Budget proposal and vote**
 - a. Ryan Cummings
- IV. Constitution update proposal and vote**
 - a. Pastor Adam Arends
- V. Open Forum**
- VI. Motion to adjourn**