APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE REVEREND JAY SERAFIN
7092 Main Street, Gloucester, VA 23061
(804) 693-9098 | apostles-elca.org | facebook.com/ApostlesELCA

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2024 | 10:00 AM

Our Mission is to be a Caring Inclusive Christian Community responding to God's grace through Worship, Service, and Sharing the Gospel.

RECONCILING *in* CHRIST

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

WELCOME TO APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH!

It is an honor to worship God with you this morning. We pray you experience the Spirit's loving presence as we share our words, our actions, and the Holy Meal.

If this is your first time worshipping with us, please fill out a card in the pew rack with your contact info. A restroom can be found by exiting the rear door of the worship space. It is directly in front of you to the right. Additional restrooms can be found in the back corner of the fellowship area, near the Pastor's office.

RECONCILING *in* CHRIST

We, the people of Apostles Lutheran Church, follow Paul's message to the Galatians (3:28): "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Believing that because we are all one in Christ, and created in God's image, all are welcome as beloved children of God. We welcome into the full life of the church all those whom God sends us. **Rejoicing in God's amazing diversity, we welcome people of all ages, races, gender identities, sexual orientations, and physical and mental abilities.** Centered in Christ, we commit ourselves to breaking down dividing walls and building a community where all are beloved.

FOR PASTORAL CARE

The Reverend Jay Serafin is our pastor. Pastor Jay's **schedule is noted in the calendar on the back of this bulletin.** Call Pastor Jay at 570-205-7506 or email him at j80j84@msn.com (preferred) or pastor.apostles@gmail.com. Messages can also be left on the Apostles answering machine 804-693-9098.

PRAYGROUND

Welcome to our youngest members! The area in the front of our sanctuary is for families and young children. There are quiet toys, books and drawing materials. **We ask two things: 1) sit in the front pews near your children** and **2) please sit with your children in the pews during the sermon.** They may return immediately after. Thank you and welcome!

NAME TAGS

Please wear your nametag! Guests: please fill out and put on a name tag before worship today. Blank nametags are in the baskets located in the pews.

GATHERING

Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them a flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

Prelude and Silent Prayer

Martin Luther said of music: "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world." Please take a moment to ***silence all cell phones.***

Welcome and Announcements

Please rise in body or in spirit. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Amen.

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #526

"God Is Here!"

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991
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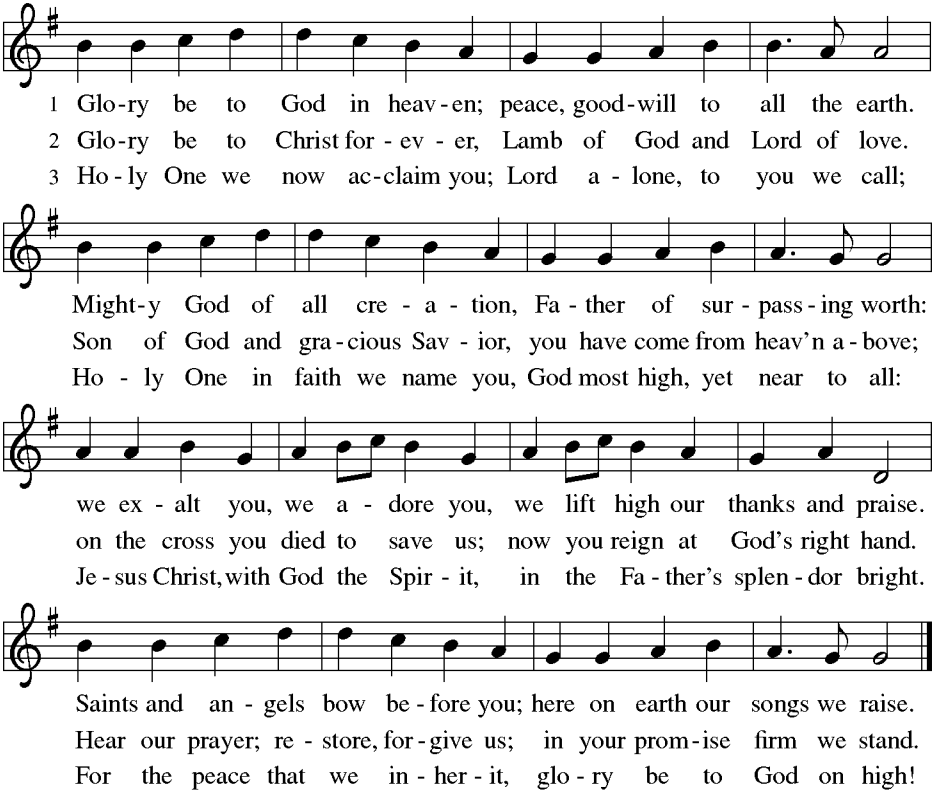
Apostolic Greeting

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

Canticle of Praise



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Agape Meal

Members of the gathering are invited to proceed to the banquet table and select food and drink to bring back to their place. Once all have returned to their places, the presider will continue.

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

God's love endures forever.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Sit

First Reading — Jeremiah 11:18-20

Today's reading tells of the suffering of the prophet Jeremiah, who announced God's word to Judah but was met with intense opposition and persecution. Jeremiah continues to trust in God in the midst of his suffering.

18 It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew;
then you showed me their evil deeds.
19 But I was like a gentle lamb
led to the slaughter.
And I did not know it was against me
that they devised schemes, saying,
"Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
so that his name will no longer be remembered!"
20 But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously,
who try the heart and the mind,
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

Response after the First Reading

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm — Psalm 54

[1]Save me, O God, | by your name;
in your might, de- | fend my cause.
[2]**Hear my | prayer, O God;**
give ear to the words | of my mouth.
[3]For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have | sought my life,
those who have no re- | gard for God.
[4]**Behold, God | is my helper;**
it is the Lord who sus- | tains my life. R

[5]Render evil to those who | spy on me;
in your faithful- | ness, destroy them.
[6]**I will offer you a | freewill sacrifice**
and praise your name, O Lord, for | it is good.
[7]For you have rescued me from | every trouble,
and my eye looks down | on my enemies. **R**

Second Reading — James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.

[13]Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. [14]But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. [15]Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. [16]For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. [17]But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. [18]And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. [4:]

[1]Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? [2]You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. [3]You ask and do not

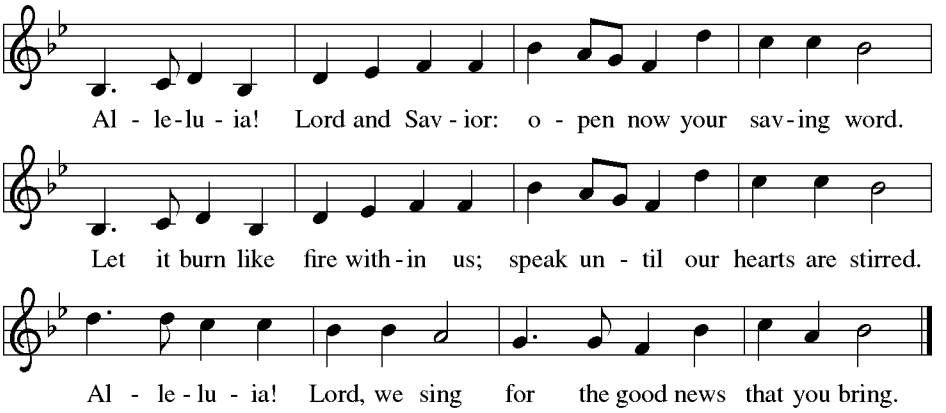
receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. [7]Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. [8a]Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Response after the Second Reading
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or in spirit.

Gospel Acclamation



The gospel is announced.
The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark the Ninth Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel — Mark 9:30-37

Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.

30 [Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to
know it; 31 for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed
into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again."
32 But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.
33 Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What
were you arguing about on the way?" 34 But they were silent, for on the way they had argued
with one another who was the greatest. 35 He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them,
"Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." 36 Then he took a little child
and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 37 "Whoever welcomes one
such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the
one who sent me."

The gospel concludes:
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

Sermon — Pastor Jay Serafin

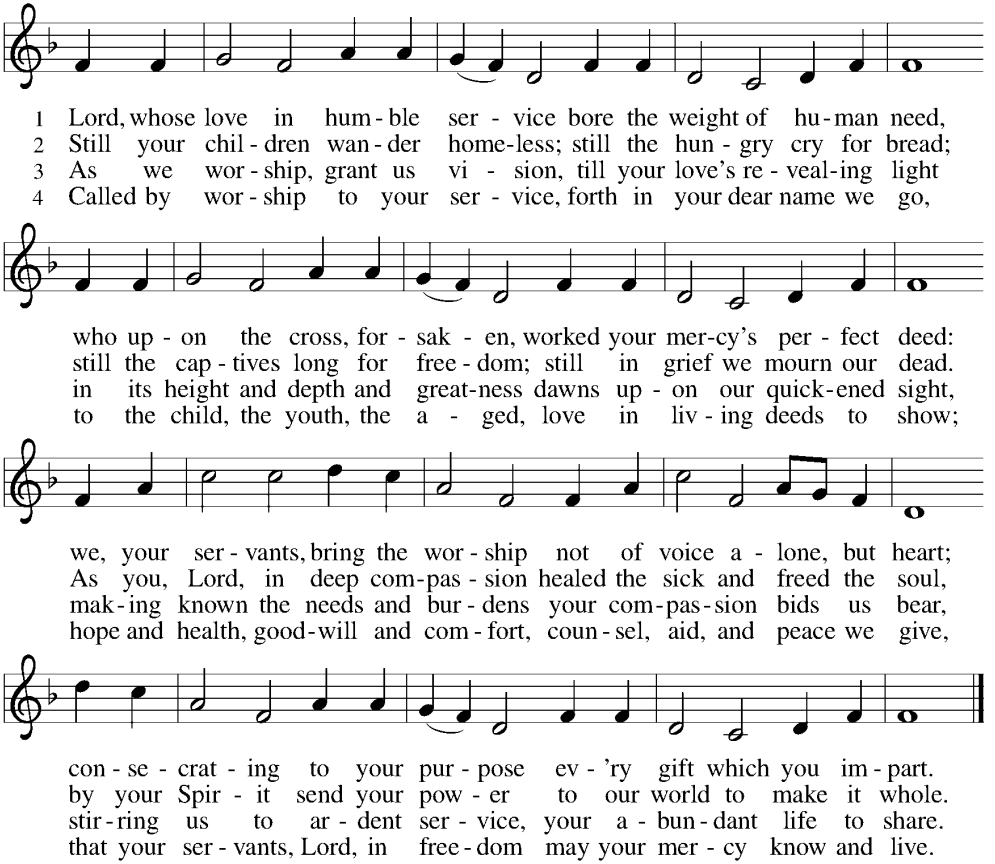
Silence is kept after the reflection.

Please rise in body or in spirit.

Hymn of the Day

ELW #712

"Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"



Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984
Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844
Text © Oxford University Press

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Affirmation of Baptism

Apostles Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith in 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
power of 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

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:
Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*We share a sign of Peace with our neighbors saying **Peace be with you** to which we respond **And also with you**.*

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

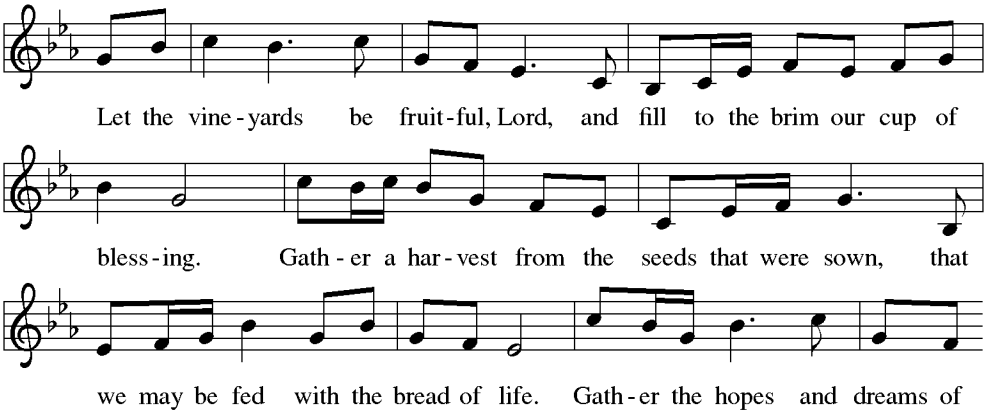
Sit

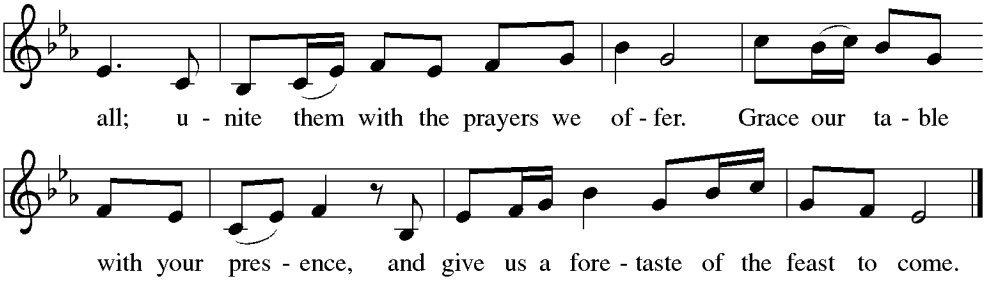
Offering

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. To give online:

- **Visit apostles-elca.org/contributions**
- **From your mobile phone, text the word GIVE to 844-215-5453**

Offertory Hymn — ELW #184





Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Please rise in body or in spirit

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

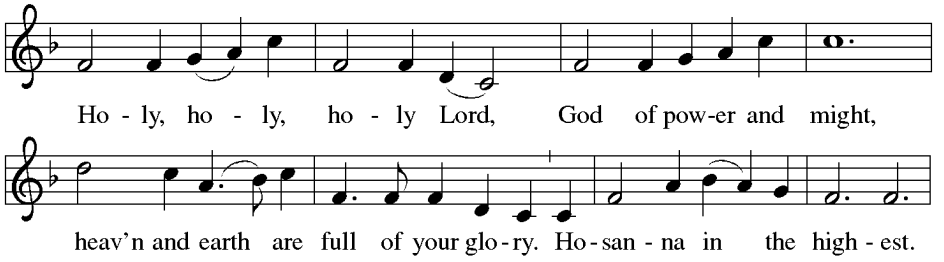
We lift them to the Lord.

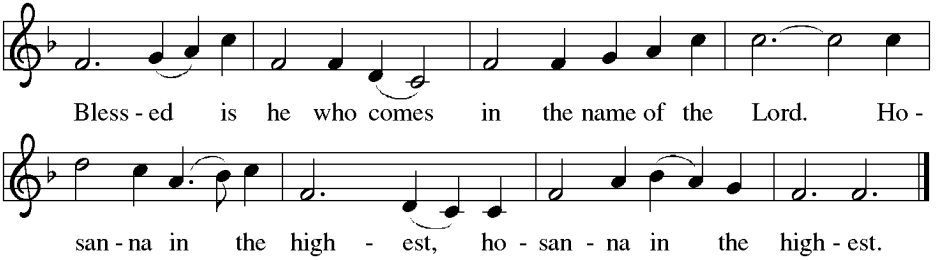
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The thanksgiving continues with the preface.

... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





The thanksgiving continues.
… with every breath.
We praise you, O God.

The great thanksgiving continues.
… into the future.
We bless you, O God.

The great thanksgiving continues.
… with us now.
We thank you, O God.

The great thanksgiving continues.
… we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

The great thanksgiving concludes.
… in your church without end.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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

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

Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

Sit

Communion

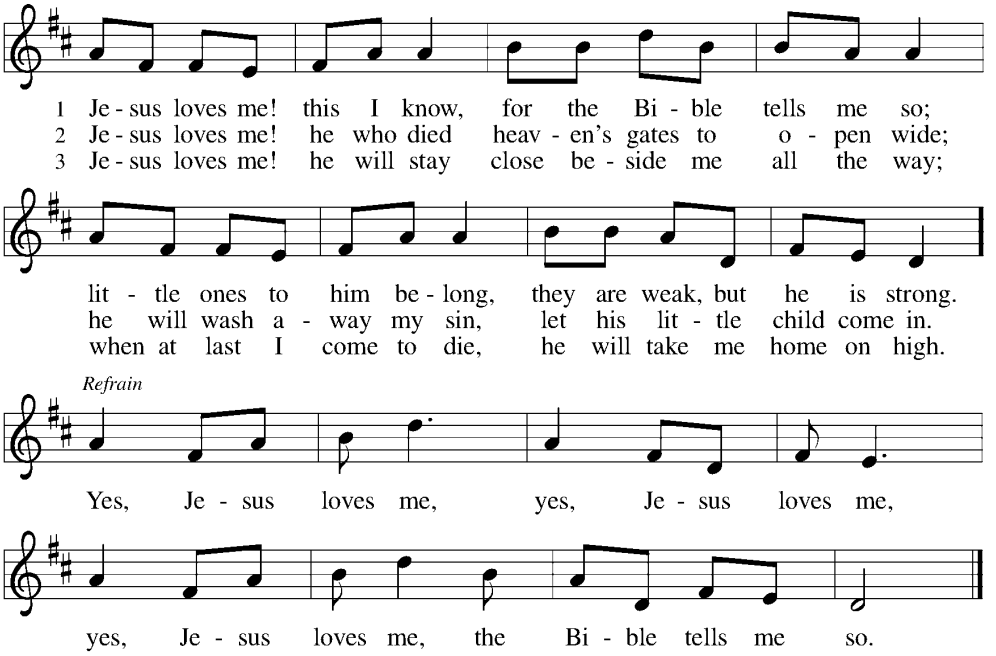
All are invited to join us at the Lord's table to receive the presence of Jesus through the bread and wine. Jesus himself invites you and Jesus turns no one away.

Distribution will take place at your table as you remain seated. The communion will be brought to you by the pastor and assisting minister. Receive the bread and consume it. Leave your empty glass on the table and it will be collected following worship.

Lamb of God

Hymn During Communion — ELW #595

"Jesus Loves Me!"



Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt.
Music: JESUS LOVES ME, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

After all have returned to their places, all rise in body or in spirit.

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

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission back into the world.

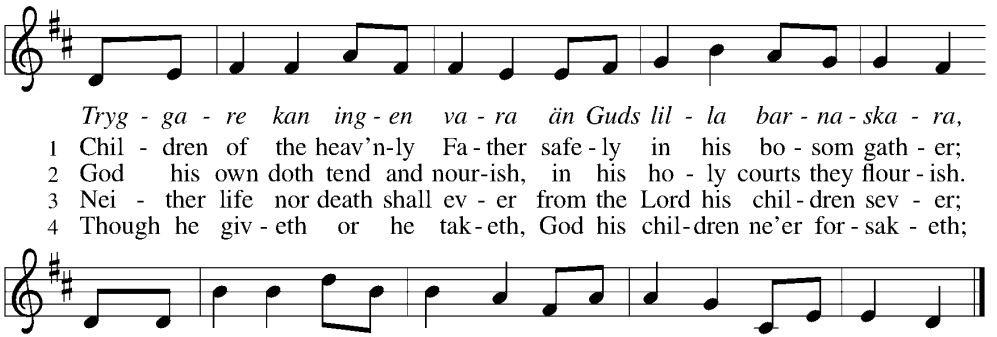
Blessing

God all mighty, God most merciful ☩ bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

Amen.

Sending Hymn — ELW #781

"Children of the Heavenly Father"



Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958
Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune
Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Special Congregational Meeting- Today!!

The Congregation Council has scheduled a special congregational meeting for this Sunday immediately following the worship service to review and vote on a constitutional amendment. **Please make plans to stay after worship.**

Worship Leaders

	Serving Today	Serving Next Week
Worship Leader/Preacher	Pastor Jay Serafin	Pastor Jay Serafin
Lay Assisting Minister	Doug Dalager	Linda Hodges
Lector	Christian Badger	Sue Turner
Acolyte	Reagan Jay	Ray Scholz
Accompanist	Janet Gomez	Janet Gomez
Altar Care	Christina Badger	Jamie Serafin
Communion Bread	Donna Ambrose	The Alberts
Greeter/Usher	Cynthia Lowe	Jason Lowe
Technology	Jason Lowe	Chris Hawkins

Servants for the Week

	Serving This Week	Serving Next Week
Cleaning Team	Scholz/Ambrose	Scholz/Ambrose
Tellers	Barbara Runk/Chris Hawkins	Nate Peterson/Ray Scholz
Fellowship Set Up	Janet Gomez	Ray Scholz
Fellowship Food	Agape Meal	Donna Ambrose/Ellen Quirk
Fellowship Clean Up	Alberts	Jamie Serafin/Barbara Runk

Readings For Next Sunday

First Reading:
Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29
The Lord's spirit comes upon seventy elders

Psalm 19:7-14
The commandment of the Lord gives light to the eyes

Second Reading:
James 5:13-20
Prayer and anointing in the community

Gospel: Mark 9:38-50
Warnings to those who obstruct faith

Thoughts for Today
The Most Challenging Spiritual Practice

The writers of today's readings express to God their fears about death and those who do evil. They rage against the cravings, coveting, envy, and selfish ambition that lead to disorder and war, within and around us. They describe one caught in this reality who is led to slaughter, tested with insult and torture, and faces a shameful death. Through our lenses we see Jesus. In fact, Jesus keeps describing what is going to happen to him, but his followers can't understand. They don't want to understand. Instead, they argue about who is greatest. Putting a quick end to that line of argument, Jesus brings a child into their circle. Embracing the child, Jesus invites disciples into humble service—this is how we draw near to God and God to us.

It is easy to be fearful in view of events outside us. It is easy to be thrown off course by feelings inside us or to work hardest for the wrong things. But Jesus invites us to practice what may be the most challenging spiritual practice of all. Jesus invites us to love our neighbor. Jesus asks that we look around for someone concrete to invest our time and energy in, someone who cannot necessarily return the favor. Jesus challenges us to receive others' ministry to us, since we are also little children in faith.

In real life, there is no way to avoid shame and death. At some point, it comes to each of us. However, for now, wherever we are, we can participate in God's way of life. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, disciples look where Jesus points and see those whom they can serve. They do not escape death but can know that resurrection is on the other side. Each day, God is with us through dying and rising.

Apostles Land Acknowledgement

Today we gather on the original and ancestral homelands of the Pamunkey, Mattaponi, Chickahominy, Rappahannock, and Nansemond peoples and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

Feeding the Multitude: World Hunger 50 Bible Study

"Everyone ate until they were full. They filled twelve baskets with the leftover pieces of bread and fish. About five thousand had eaten." (Mark 6.42-44 CEB)

All four gospel writers record the miracle of Jesus feeding the multitudes - with just five loaves of bread and two pieces of fish! From the everyday staples of bread and fish, provided by the crowd from what they already had, Jesus fed the multitudes - with food, with compassion, and with community. God is a God of abundance! Join Pastor Kelly Bayer Derrick as we engage this miracle story together. Let's explore the ways that Jesus invites us into this great picnic, joining in God's mission of abundant life as together we also share food, compassion, and community. **Tomorrow, Monday, September 23rd from 7:00 PM—8:15 PM on Zoom.** Register at https://vasynod.org/event/world-hunger-50-bible-study/.

50 Years - ELCA World Hunger

In 1974, there was a huge increase in famine in the world. In the United States, a prosperous group of Lutherans came together as Lutheran World Hunger with a goal of feeding people. In 50 years, this effort has evolved into ELCA World Hunger, a churchwide effort that is not only addressing world hunger but also teaching people to grow their own food and educating people on ways to sustain themselves. From now until the middle of October, we are asking for people to give over and above what they normally give to support the efforts of ELCA World Hunger so it can continue for the next 50 years!! Just use the world hunger envelopes or mark your check for "world hunger. There will be updates every week and check out the special display in the narthex. **Until all are fed ...**

Luther's Legacy for Laity

The study of "Luther's Legacy for Laity" will continue this coming **Wednesday, September 25th** – we have a sandwich at 6:00 PM and the study starts at 6:30 PM – we would LOVE to have you join us!!

Sacrament of Baptism – Next Sunday

In the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* baptismal service (p. 231), we welcome the newly baptized into the body of Christ and into the mission we share, which is a life of servanthood. The responsibilities addressed to the candidate and sponsors (p. 228) list what the baptized are welcomed into: Mark reminds us that this is serious business, not, in our time, a charming rite for a cute infant. We will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism during the worship service next Sunday – please join us for this wonderful celebration!!

Commemorations

When we are baptized, we are baptized into the body of Christ. We understand this body to be the communion of saints, a diverse witness of men and women across time and space. Throughout its history, the church has sought to lift up Christians who have been unique, exemplary people of faith. These are called commemorations. It is not that these people are perfect, as we are all both saint and sinner. Yet their lives point to how God's "extraordinary grace (works) in ordinary people." Our faith in God working in them can be a reminder of God's grace working in all of our lives. "The saints are to be remembered so that we may strengthen our faith when we see how they experienced grace and how they were helped by faith."

- On September 29th, we remember **Michael and All Angels.** Michael the archangel, captain of the heavenly hosts, is remembered on this day along with the other angels and archangels. The word "angel" means messenger, and in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, these beings have a fully spiritual nature and no physical body.

Please Keep in Your Prayers

Manning Freeman, Don Garfield, Ellen Quirk, Michael Schlemmer, Keith & Juanita Sturdy, George Thomas, Jewel Thomas, Lena Woodlief

Our Family and Friends

Patricia Armentor, Paul Bauer, **Darlene Bayline, Karen Bell** (Pam Moore's sister), **Bob and Dixie, Calli Bonfey, Patricia Boyd & Brad Zelmer, Amanda Brown, David Brown, Sally Burkholder, Amy Carter, the Clements family, Laura Clodfelter, Jackie Collier, Ben Davis** (friend of Donna Ambrose), **Tommy & Kathie Davis, Jenny DeSha, Colton Elliot** (Michael Schlemmer's cousin), **Emily, Laura Fleige** (Janet Gomez's sister)**, Teresa Floersheim-Miller** (Ingrid Peterson's mother), **Suzanne Gibson, Steven Godwin** (Juanita Sturdy's grandson), **Jimmy & Fay Gray** (Chris Hawkins' family), **Shirley Grimes** (Ben Grimes' mother), **Karen Guire, Mike Hall, Melvin Hawkins** (Chris Hawkins' father), **Chaneice Hayden** (Daniel Hayden), **Rosie Heins, Sherry Helpap, Carl & Kaleb Hess, Adam Hewko** (nephew of the Hansons), **Aris Hibbs** (friend of Ray Scholz), **Spencer Hodges, Suzanne Kinkade** (friend of Ellen Quirk), **the Little Family, Marion Lucier, Manuel, Lotte Mathias, Wayne Mathews, Michael, Sylvia Midgette** (grandmother of Krystle McMahan), **Debbie Minteins, Keith Morgan, Michael Oesterling, Carol Pascale** (Lynn Jaeger's mother), **Chastity Perkins** (co-worker and friend of Donna Ambrose), **Brad Person** (Lilly Frost's uncle), **Dick Peterson & his brother, Monique Raposa, Joan Ritter, Glen Robertson, Carol Schlemmer, James Schollian** (friend of Nancy Wagner), **Michael Scholz** (nephew of Ray Scholz), **Scott, Erin Seamonson** (Lara Jaeger), **Joseph Serafin** (Pastor Jay's father), **Kathy Shackleford, Elana Sierson, Fred Smith, Tammy Smith, Jean Sterling, Susie, Dave Wagner** (husband of Nancy), **Cathy Walker** (friend of Linda Hodges), **Chuck Webb** (Tina Britt's father), **Makenzie Webb** (niece of Tina Britt), **Elizabeth & Steven White, Cory Woodlief, Jim Wright** (Judy Wright's husband), **Logan and Shannon Wymer, Greg Yvonovich** (friend of Margaret & Ben Grimes), **Derek Zwiers** (friend of CK Ambrose)

Our sponsored children in Guatemala

Amayra, **Hugolino** and **Manuela**

Prayer Requests

There is a book located at the rear of the worship space for you to write any prayer requests you have for today. Fill out a "Prayer Request" (on the back of each pew) and place it in the offering plate to add a prayer request to the "Prayer List" included in the bulletin and the newsletter. **Please print legibly!**

THIS WEEK AT APOSTLES

SEPTEMBER 22, 2024 – SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

TODAY	**10:00 AM**	**Agape Worship Service**
	11:00 AM	Special Congregational Meeting
MONDAY	**10:00 AM – 2:00 PM**	**Pastor Jay in the Office**
	7:00 PM	World Hunger 50 Bible Study
	7:00 PM	AA
TUESDAY	7:00 PM	Al-Anon/AA
WEDNESDAY	**4:00 PM – 8:00 PM**	**Pastor Jay in the Office**
	5:00 PM	Worship Ministry Team
	6:00 PM	Luther's Legacy for Laity
FRIDAY		Girls Scouts
SATURDAY	6:30 PM	Young and Sober
SUNDAY	**10:00 AM**	**Worship Service / Sacrament of Baptism**
	11:00 AM	Coffee Fellowship

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO …

Keith and Juanita Sturdy – September 26th |
Jim and Judy Wright - September 28th

HAPPY BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY TO …

Jewel Thomas – September 28th

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