

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

+ July 27, 2025 +
10:00 am



Redeemer Lutheran Church

*300 O'Neal Road
Greer, South Carolina
Office (864) 877-5876*



Ministers
Pastor
Parish Administrator
Director of Music Ministries

The People of Redeemer
The Rev. Elise T. Stringer
Mrs. Jackie Pitts
Mrs. Donna Cotter

Welcome to Redeemer Lutheran Church in the name of Christ our Lord.

Hearing Assistance is available NOW!

We are very excited and thankful to announce that we now have AudioFetch **Hearing Assistance** available for anyone who may need it. It is a downloadable, wireless, Bluetooth system to pair with your personal device. Please See an Usher, or the printed flyer on the table as you enter the Sanctuary for details.

WE WARMLY WELCOME ALL WHO WORSHIP WITH US on this Seventh Sunday After Pentecost! It is our hope and prayer that the God who destroyed death and made new life possible on this day will touch and transform your life for all the days to come. If you are a guest today, please sign our Guest Register by the Front Doors. If you have any questions please reach out to Pastor Elise or Jackie Pitts at the Church Office, (864) 877-5876.

IF YOU ARE SEEKING A CHURCH HOME, we invite you to consider making Redeemer that home. For more information about Redeemer Lutheran Church, becoming a member, and sharing your gifts in ministry, please speak with Pastor Elise or contact Jackie Pitts in the Church Office at (864) 877-5876. **We will receive new members again on Sunday, August 10.**

PERSISTENCE IN PRAYER IS ENCOURAGED BY JESUS AND WINS THE ATTENTION OF GOD WHEN ABRAHAM INTERCEDES FOR SODOM. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus—is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God's own. "When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me."

WE ENTER THIS SANCTUARY WITH REVERENCE FOR GOD

AND RESPECT FOR THOSE WHO MAY BE IN PRAYER.

PLEASE SILENCE ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

Our Persistent, Negotiating Prayer Life

Today's readings incorporate several themes: negotiation, commands, persistence, and expectation. And surrounding all these themes is a bigger theme: boldness. Abraham is bold in speaking with God, so bold in fact that he not only negotiates with the Almighty, the Almighty willingly grants his request. Abraham had no fear in speaking in such a way to God, because he knew that God was listening and appreciating his concern. The disciples, too, speak with boldness. They don't ask Jesus to teach them how to pray, they *tell* him to teach them how to pray. Their imperative sets up a pattern of imperatives as Jesus teaches them the prayer that has been prayed unceasingly in the church catholic. These themes continue in boldness as persistence is encouraged, even to the extent of being able to ask, search, and knock, knowing that the Lord says we will receive what we ask for. And God wants to give to those who ask God. We are to ask in boldness, which comes from being "rooted and built up in [Christ]" (Col. 2:7). Strengthened by the Lord's supper, we are filled with God's Spirit to speak boldly and to be persistent in our prayers, and to be ready to receive the things for which we ask. The question becomes, then, what is it we want and need?

The Prelude is a time for QUIET reflection and prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE DAY

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

ELW pg. 94

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

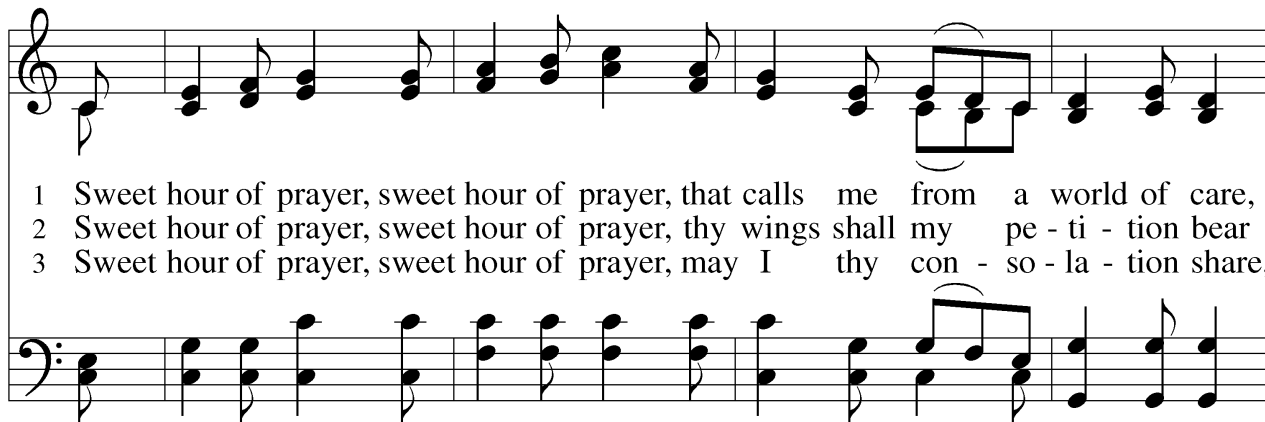
Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

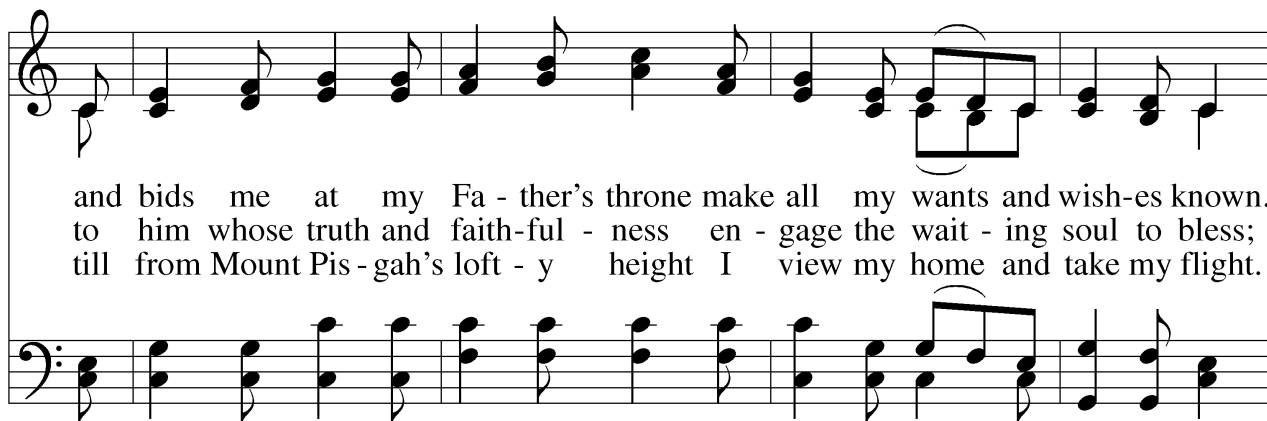
Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

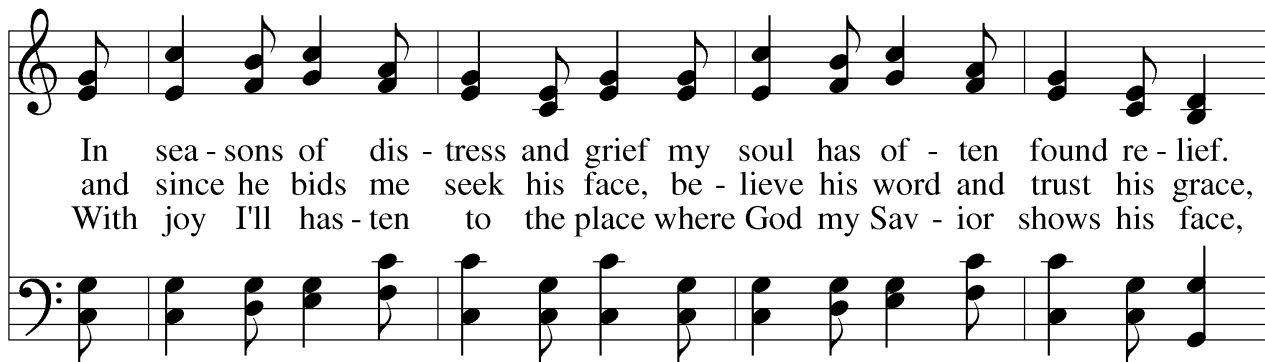
Amen.



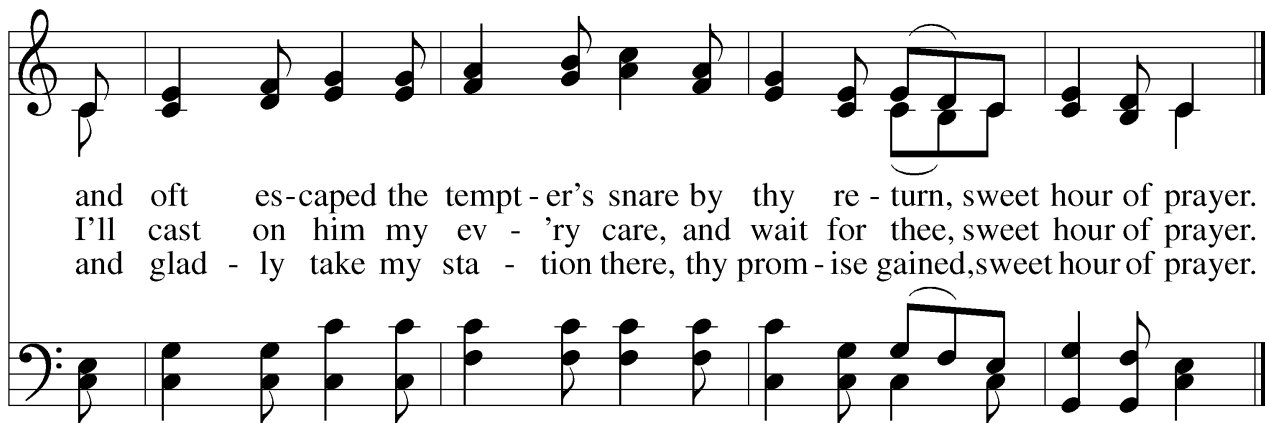
1 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, that calls me from a world of care,
2 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, thy wings shall my pe - ti - tion bear
3 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, may I thy con - so - la - tion share,



and bids me at my Fa - ther's throne make all my wants and wish-es known.
to him whose truth and faith-ful - ness en - gage the wait - ing soul to bless;
till from Mount Pis - gah's loft - y height I view my home and take my flight.



In sea - sons of dis - tress and grief my soul has of - ten found re - lief.
and since he bids me seek his face, be - lieve his word and trust his grace,
With joy I'll has - ten to the place where God my Sav - ior shows his face,



and oft es-caped the tempt - er's snare by thy re - turn, sweet hour of prayer.
I'll cast on him my ev - 'ry care, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.
and glad - ly take my sta - tion there, thy prom - ise gained, sweet hour of prayer.

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 P.138

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Elise Stringer

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Genesis 18:20-32

In today's reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom for the sake of the few righteous people there, including Abraham's nephew, Lot.

A reading from Genesis Chapter 18:

²⁰ Then the Lord said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹ I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know."

²² So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. ²³ Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶ And the Lord said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." ²⁷ Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸ Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹ Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰ Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." ³¹ He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." ³² Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 138

Your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands. (Ps. 138:8)

¹ I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with | my whole heart;
before the gods I will | sing your praise.

² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast | love and faithfulness;**

for you have glorified your name and your word a- | bove all things.

³ When I called, you | answered me;
you increased my | strength within me.

⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise | you, O Lord,
when they have heard the words | of your mouth.**

⁵ They will sing of the ways | of the Lord,
that great is the glory | of the Lord.

⁶ **The Lord is high, yet cares | for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty | from afar.**

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you | keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right | hand
shall save me.

⁸ **You will make good your pur- | pose for me;**

**O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works | of
your hands.**

SECOND READING: Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]

The writer of this letter warns the congregation in Colossae about "the empty lure" of philosophies and traditions that compromise faith. Through the gift of faith, the church is mystically connected with Christ in his death and resurrection which is enacted in baptism.

A reading from Colossians Chapter 2:

⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸ Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹² when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

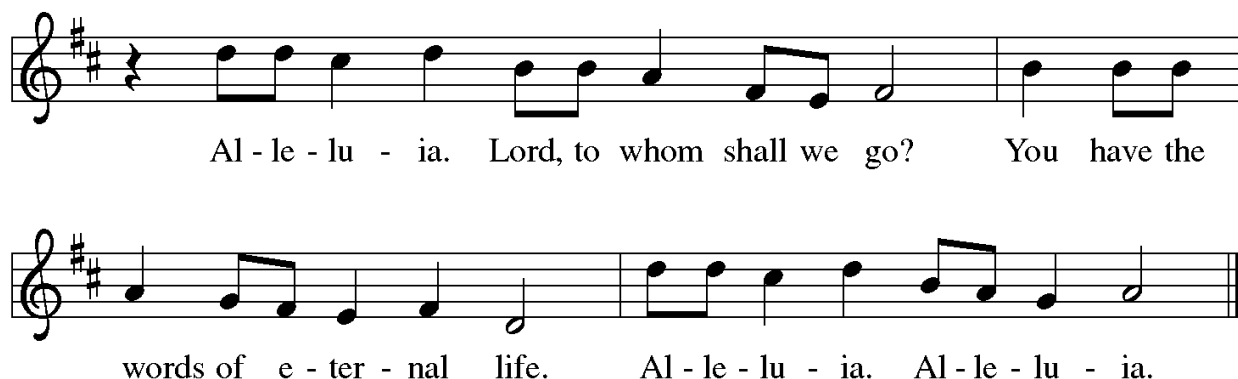
¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it. [

¹⁶ Therefore, do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food or drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or Sabbaths. ¹⁷ These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the body belongs to Christ. ¹⁸ Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, initiatory visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, ¹⁹ and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with a growth that is from God.]

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW pg. 142



GOSPEL: Luke 11:1-13

In teaching his disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to focus on God's coming reign, God's mercy, and the strengthening of the community. Jesus encourages his disciples to childlike trust and persistence in prayer.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 11th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ [Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."² So he said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, may your name be revered as holy. May your kingdom come. ³ Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴ And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial."

⁵ And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.'

⁷ And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹ "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? ¹³ If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

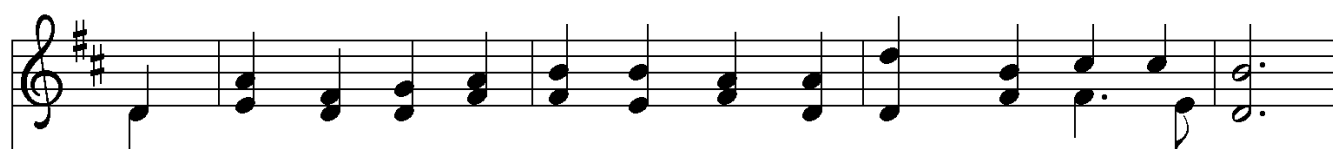
SERMON

Pastor Elise Stringer

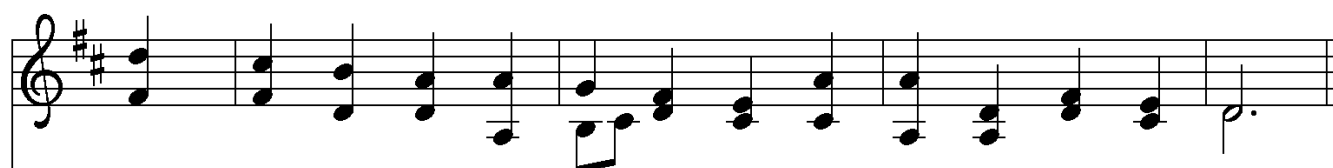
HYMN OF THE DAY

GIVE ME JESUS

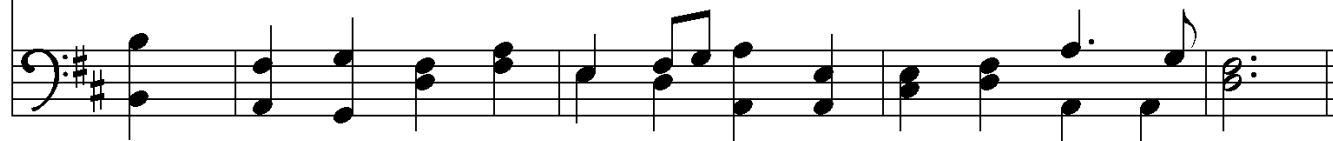
ELW #745



1 Lord, teach us how to pray a - right, with rev - 'rence and with fear.
 2 We per - ish if we cease from prayer; oh, grant us pow'r to pray.
 3 Give deep hu - mil - i - ty; the sense of god - ly sor - row give;
 4 Faith in the on - ly sac - ri - fice that can for sin a - tone;
 5 Give these, and then your will be done; thus strength-ened with all might,



Though dust and ash - es in your sight, we may, we must draw near.
 And when to meet you we pre - pare, Lord, meet us on our way.
 a strong de - sire, with con - fi - dence, to hear your voice and live;
 to cast our hopes, to fix our eyes on Christ, on Christ a - lone.
 we, through your Spir - it and your Son, shall pray, and pray a - right.



APOSTLES' CREED

The assisting minister may introduce the Creed.

Together with the whole church, let us confess our faith with 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

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

Loving God, create in your church a desire for union with you in prayer. Raise up leaders to teach Christ's devotion to prayer and model Christ's way of prayer, until all people experience prayerful unity with you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Reveal to humanity the sacredness of all creation. With the breath of your Holy Spirit, realign the balances of nature. Grant persistence in prayer and action for the sake of the earth, our common home. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Teach rulers of the earth to follow in your ways, caring for the lowly and having no preference for the powerful. Direct the heart of every person to seek your will on earth as in heaven. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

To all whose prayers are cries for help, give your good gifts, and satisfy their deepest needs. We pray especially for those on our prayer board and those we name before you now. Gather them to your constant, loving presence, that they may rest in the confidence of life with you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Center the ministries of this assembly on prayer and service. Guide our relationships in the wider community, being ready to assist those who seek help. Strengthen feeding, clothing, and housing ministries and community partnerships. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all who have gone before us. May we trust your steadfast love and continue in hope until we are united with all your saints. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

We share a sign of peace with others. We sit.



Thank you, Mr. Fred Brandt, for inviting us to pick blueberries and eat popsicles on a beautiful summer day.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Trumpet, Thomas Cotter
Trumpet, Henry Cotter

OFFERING HYMN

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*



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 the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Offered by the Assisting minister.

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 presiding minister greets the congregation and invites all present to give thanks.

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.

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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW p. 144



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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again. Amen.

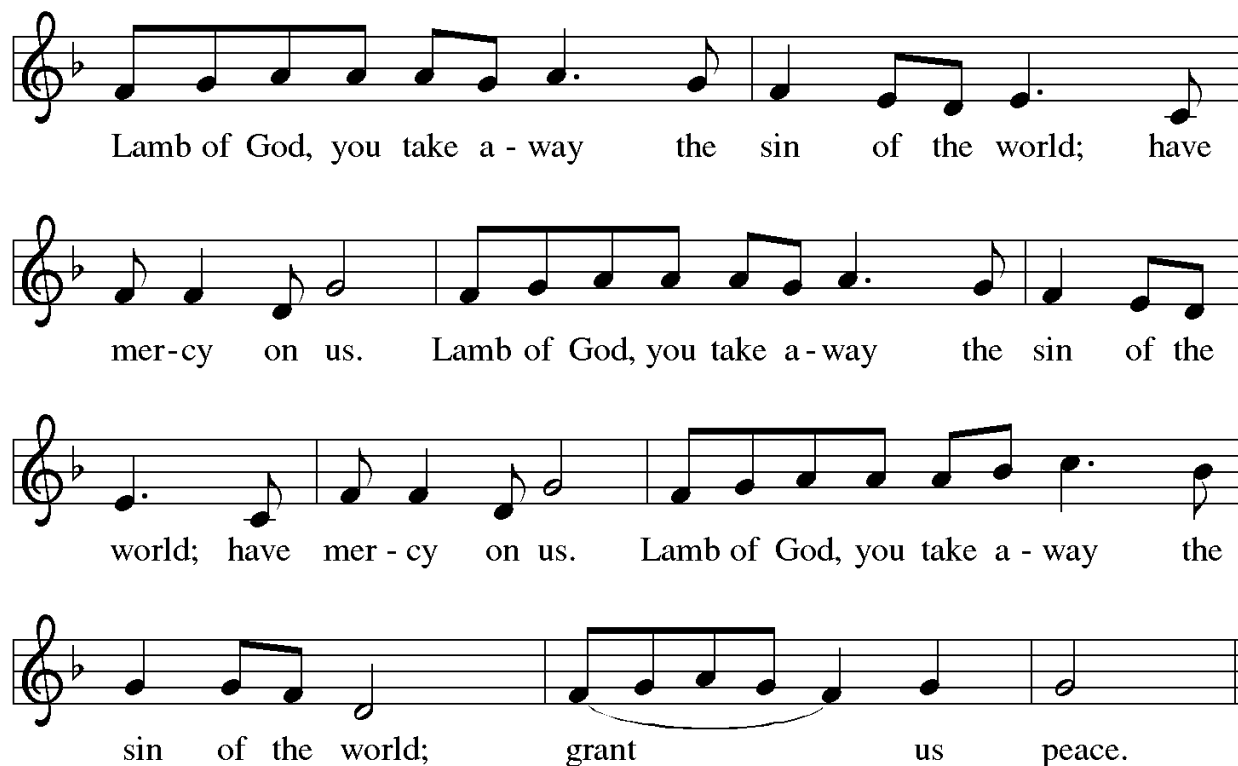
LORD'S PRAYER

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

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice. **Amen.**



COMMUNION HYMNS

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS
YOU SATISFY THE HUNGRY HEART

ELW #742

ELW #484

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Please stand.

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Offered by Assisting minister.

Let us pray: Oh 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.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.
Amen.

MISSION

REDEEMER'S MISSION IS: A lifelong family ministry of God's love!

SENDING HYMN *GO, MY CHILDREN, WITH MY BLESSING* **ELW #543**
(printed on next page)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Donna Cotter, Organist

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone.
 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.

Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.

In my love's bap-tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for-ev - er.
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com-fort stilled you.

Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free.

Serving Today

Ushers:	Gordon Johnson and Aaron Cornwell
Greeters:	Phil and Debbie Rhoads
Assisting Minister:	Del King
Lector 1:	Janet Thomas
Lector 2:	Chuck Pegram
Acolyte:	Henry Cotter
Crucifer:	Cooper Jackson
Cantor:	Jeffrey Stringer
Counters:	Del King and Harold Neel
Altar Guild:	Kaye Pegram and Janet Kelk
Flowers:	Given by Bob and Donna Cotter in honor of Thomas, The Trumpeter's, Birthday
Sheepdog:	BJ King, Sonny Lybrand, and Phil Rhoads
Nursery:	Lian King and Hannah Hester

Serving Next Week – August 3, 2025

Ushers:	Chuck Pegram and Brad VanPutten
Greeters:	David Henderson and Sonny Lybrand
Assisting Minister:	Catharine Kirby
Lector 1:	Michelle Meloon
Lector 2:	Renee Phillips
Acolyte:	Rose Lanning
Crucifer:	Dillon Howell
Cantor:	Chuck Pegram
Counters:	Del King and Harold Neel
Altar Guild:	Barbara Tate
Flowers:	Given by Bob and Donna Cotter in honor of Thomas, The Trumpet's, Birthday
Sheepdog:	Chris Felicia, Barbara Tate, Tom Lewis
Nursery:	Jenny Wiggers and Lily Childers

NOTES