

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 24, 2025

WELCOME

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Out of respect and in the spirit of truth, we acknowledge that we gather in community on land which is Treaty 7 territory and the traditional territory of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains. We honour the Blackfoot people past, present and future, and the Metis Nation of Alberta, Region III. May our actions and choices demonstrate open hearts, kindness, and compassion toward all who call this place home.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Next **Sunday, August 31**, we will celebrate communion with Rev Carolyn Langford presiding.

September 7 during worship, we will celebrate the volunteers who have helped at the Soup Kitchen over the years.

On September 14, during coffee, we will celebrate **Everybody's Birthday**. If you'd like to provide a cake for one of the months, please sign up in our Place of Welcome.

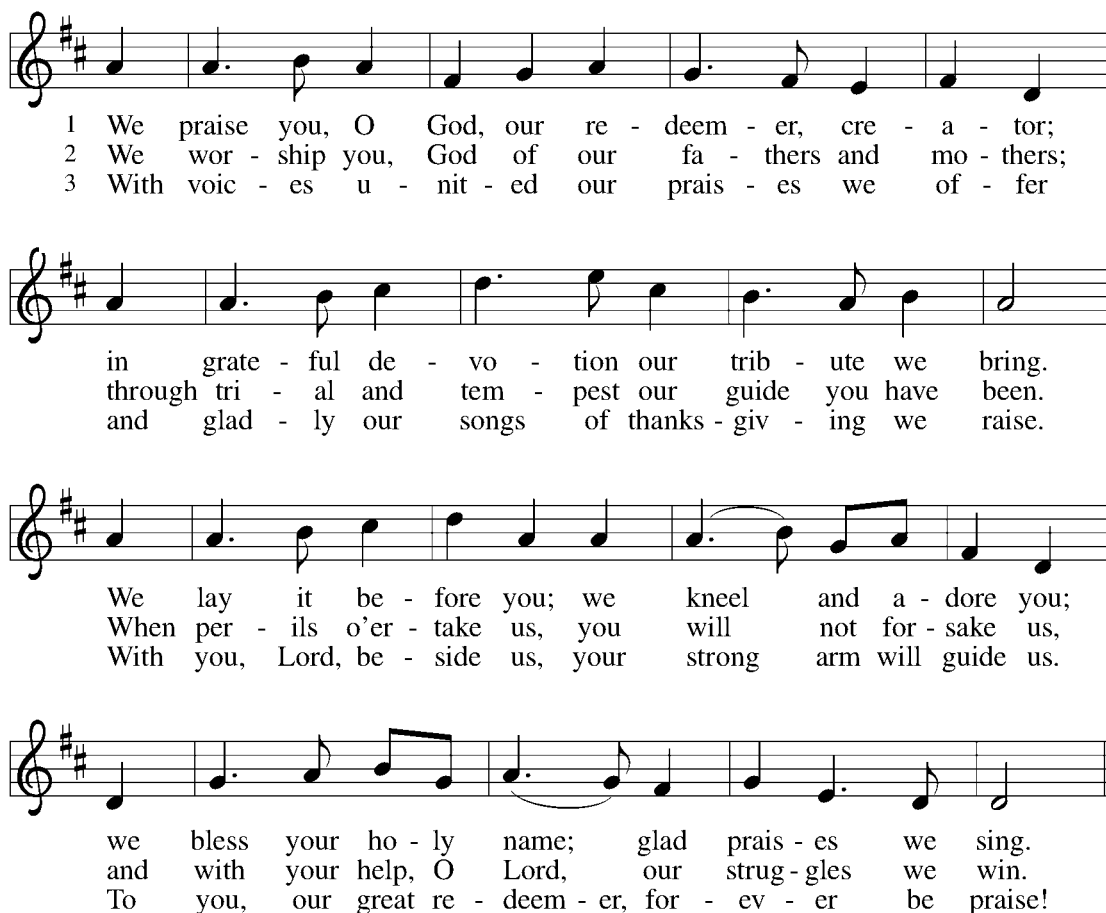
Last item – Report on National Convention (Carolyn E) — Intro, then show video, then a few comments

INTRODUCTION

Today's readings offer a clear identification of God's work. What is God doing? God is reaching out to the bound-up to release them captivity. God is satisfying the needs of the hurting. Today, too, Christ comes among us and sets us free.

Let us take a moment to center our hearts and minds.

GATHERING SONG "We Praise You, O God" – ELW 870



1 We praise you, O God, our re - deem - er, cre - a - tor;
2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and mo - thers;
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer

in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.
and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.

We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;
When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,
With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.

we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.
and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
To you, our great re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapt. Psalm 90)

God of our beginning,
From generation to generation, you have been our dwelling place –
our home where grace abounds.

Before the mountains were born, before the earth was formed –
You are. Timeless and Eternal.

We first dwelled with you as divine thought, then as children,
born of love and breathed into fertile earth.
We, your children, bear your image.

Now, here, we gather in praise and remembrance of the First Love.
Humbled in the expanse of your sovereignty, we seek to begin anew.

Pause for reflection

In the silence of our understanding, when words fail and hearts yearn to be made new,
we hear you calling from the kingdom of heaven within, "My children. Return."

"Return & Renewal (Confession & Forgiveness)" – LotB

Worship Leader (spoken slowly over the music)

Re - turn to the Lord your God who is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to ang - er and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Chords: C^{sus2}, C, C^{maj7}, E^b/B^b, E^b^{sus4}, A^b^{maj7}, G^m, F^{sus2}, A^b^{maj7}, B^b/F, C^{sus4}

Cantor

God of all mercy and consolation,
your love is steadfast. Your love is patient.
God of our near and far,
you meet us where we are -
each peak and valley of our lives.

Restore us by your Spirit's power.
Open our eyes to you, our source of life.
Come sanctify our hearts and minds.
May we walk your pathways to the glory of your name!

All

As in the Garden of our Unknowing,
We found division in worldly wisdom.
Long have we wandered from
the wisdom of your love -
Help us to find our way back home.

Forgive us, Lord, as we forgive,
heeding the call to love as you have loved.
Let Mercy reign in ev'ry heart.
May the Way of Christ be the pattern of our lives.

Down through the ages, your love is changeless-
across the nations, each generation.
You are the cleansing rain.
you wash away our pain,
and by your grace we have been saved.

*Return to the Lord your God
who is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding
in steadfast love...*

Return & Renewal

Confession & Forgiveness

Ben & Caitlin Johnston-Urey

God of all mer - cy and con - sol - a - tion, your love is stead - fast.
As in the Gar - den of our un - know - ing, we've found div - is - ion

Your love is pat - ient. God of our near and far, you meet us where we are -
in world - ly wis - dom. Long have we wand - ered from the wis - dom of your love

Each peak and val - ley of our lives. Re - store us by
Help us to find our way back home. For - give us, Lord,

your Spir - it's power. Op - en our eyes to you, our source of
as we for - give, heed - ing the call to love as you have

life. Come sanc - ti - fy our hearts and minds.____
loved. Let Mer - cy reign in ev' - ry heart.____

May we walk your path - ways to the glor - y of your name!____
May the Way of Christ be the pat - tern of our lives.____

Down through the age - s your love is change - less, a - cross the na tions,

each gen - er - a - tion. You are the cleans - ing rain. You wash a - way our pain,

and by your grace we have been saved._____

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God of our Unending,
your love is as boundless as the heavens.
Your grace is a river that flows without ceasing.
In Jesus, you weave yourself into the fabric of our humanity-
Divine Mercy made manifest in our own time.

Therefore, Beloved, hear the good news:
In love you were made, and to love you shall return.
In the name of †Jesus Christ every distance is bridged,
Every division is healed, and every heart is made whole.
May Christ be your heart's everlasting desire.
May the Words of Life be ever upon your lips! **Amen.**

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Our Lord is with you.
And also with you.

It is our delight to pray. God of life, you have always guided us and given us strength on the path that leads to you; you who in your Son, Jesus Christ, loved us and healed our ailments of hatred, resentment, and hypocrisy: grant that now, accompanied by your Holy Spirit, we may silence our noise and listen to your Word, which seeks to incorporate us into a new reality of love and inclusion.

Through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. **Amen.**

The congregation is invited to sit.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

READING: Hebrews 12:18-29 *Two readers*

- One Using images of Moses, the writer presents a striking vision of the new covenant of God made possible in Christ. There is no longer fear; only awe in the new promise in Christ into which we are invited.
- Two You have not come to something that can be touched,
One a blazing fire, and darkness,
Two and gloom, and a tempest,
One and the sound of a trumpet,
Two and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them.

Two (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.")
 One Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.")

Two But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,
 One and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,
 Two and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven,
 One and to God the judge of all,
 Two and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,
 One and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant,
 Two and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Two See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking;
 One for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven!

Two At that time his voice shook the earth;
 One but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven."
 Two This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.

One Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe;
 Two for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

a brief pause

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "The Living Word" LotB

**In the beginning was the Word,
 The Living Word of God,
 The Light of Life Unending.**

**You shine in us as ancient starlight,
 in our Book of Memories and Future Dreams.**

**Sing we halle, hallelu!
 You are the Word of Life Eternal.
 Holy Wisdom, found within!
 You speak to us and we remember:**

"I am the Book no one can close,
The Story of our time, before all time, together.

I am the Voice that never falters,
I, the Echo of Beyond.
I am the Way, the Truth, the Life,
the Living Word."



In the Beg - in - ning was the Word, the Liv - ing Word of God, the
Light of Life Un - end - ing. You shine in us as an - cient
star - light, in our Book of Mem - o - ries and Fu - ture Dreams.
Sing we hal - le - lu, hal - le - lu!
Lord, to whom shall we go?
You are the Word of Life E - ter - nal. Ho - ly Wis - dom,
found with - in! You speak to us and we re - mem - ber:
I am the Book no one can close, the Sto - ry of our time, be -
fore all time, to - geth - er. I am the Voice that ne - ver
fal - ters, I, the Ech - o of Be - yond. I am the Way, the
Truth, the Life, the Liv - ing Word.

The gospel reading and sermon for today have been prepared and shared by Deacon Michelle Collins, Assistant to the Bishop, Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Synod.

GOSPEL: Luke 13:10-17

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day." But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?" When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

The gospel of our risen Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "O Christ, Your Heart Compassionate" ELW 722 (v 1-3)



- 1 O Christ, your heart, com - pas - sion - ate, bore ev - 'ry hu - man pain.
- 2 As once you wel - comed those cast down and healed the sick, the blind,
- 3 O Christ, cre - ate new hearts in us that beat in time with yours,



Its beat - ing was the pulse of God; its breadth, God's vast do - main.
so may all bruised and bro - ken lives through us your help still find.
that, joined by faith with your great heart, be - come love's o - pen doors.



The heart of God, the heart of Christ com - bined in per - fect rhyme
Lord, join our hearts with those who weep that none may weep a - lone,
We are your bod - y, ris - en Christ; our hearts, our hands we yield



to write God's love in hu - man deeds, e - ter - ni - ty in time.
and help us bear an - oth - er's pain as though it were our own.
that through our life and min - is - try your love may be re - vealed.

APOSTLES' CREED

We 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 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.

PEACE

May peace be within, and ever before you.
And also with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of Rest and Renewal, may the offerings of our lives reflect your timeless rhythm of doing and being, action and rest. Help us to freely offer what you have given, the fruits of your Spirit flowing from our wellspring within. May our hearts and thoughts be lifted up in radiant alignment with you, O God: in love we were made, in love we live, and to love we shall return. In you, we are made complete. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

A brief silence.

You crown your church with steadfast love and mercy, O God. Give your church the courage to proclaim and practice your love that liberates, and welcomes the those who are marginalized and forgotten. Guide your people continually in our baptismal covenant to strive for justice and peace and to use our diverse gifts in service to the whole people of God. Hold in your care Bishop Susan Johnson as she retires and Bishop-elect Larry Kochendorfer and Cathy during this time of transition. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You satisfy the needs of all creatures. Protect the habitats of fish and birds, the Oldman River and all life it sustains. Repair ecosystems damaged by misuse, neglect, or natural disaster, that all creation may thrive. We give thanks that harvest has begun. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You make your ways known to all people. Inspire the rulers and leaders of nations with your compassion and mercy. Raise up community organizers to restore places and people affected by violence, poverty, and inequality. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You look on mercy on all who are afflicted. Heal those suffer mental, emotional, or physical distress, especially Myrtle, Alice, Don and Carol, Arne, Kate, Karen, Janet C, Janet D, Dave, Tiffany, Corrie, Alice, Kyra, Patrick, Joel and Ellen, Linda, Shirley, Nikola, Derek, Hugh and Ally, Jim, Donna, Helga, Margaret and Clayton, Nancy, Sheila, Cindy, Heather and Alan and those we name silently now . . . [silence]. Grant us the willingness to accompany them with presence and listening. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You call us to delight in the sabbath. Renew our bodies, minds, and spirits in this worshiping assembly and as we worship online. Give rest to all who lead our congregation in worship, study, and service. Bless those who pray for others, that their time with you will encourage their hearts. Be near to Dan and Margaret Banmann and Donald and Carol Bengtson. Hold Pastor Joel, Vanesa, and Hans in your care, that together we may view this time of waiting and anticipation as a gift from You. Together may we find in your Word the strength to fix our eyes on you and live for your glory. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Generations bless your holy name. We give you thanks for the communion of saints who have gathered in prayer and praise in this place. We lift up Isobel Karl and family as they mourn the passing of Reinhold. We also pray for Kate Black and family and all others who grieve Reinhold's death. Support us in your love until we rest forever in you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom. **Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

SUNG BENEDICTION: Hope Everlasting (Romans 15:13)

Oh, where do we go from here?
Whom do we follow, which path do we take?
We'll follow wherever You lead.
We'll follow Your heart's desire,
And seek to be Your peace for a world in need.

Now, may the God of all hope
fill you with joy and peace, by faith,
And may your hope everlasting,
by the power of the Spirit, abound!
(repeat this section twice more)

Oh, where do we go from here?

Whom do we fol - low, which path do we take?

We'll fol - low where - ev - er you lead. We'll

fol - low your heart's de - sire, and seek to be your

peace for a world in need.

opt. round

Now, may the God of all hope fill you with joy and

peace by faith, and may your hope ev - er - last - ing,

by the pow'r of the Spi-rit, a - bound!

SENDING

God is. Love does.

In the footsteps of grace, we follow!

COPYRIGHT PERMISSIONS

1. **"We Praise You, O God"** Public Domain
2. **"Return & Renewal", "The Living Word", "Hope Everlasting" and spoken liturgy** from *Liturgy of the Beloved*. Text & Music: Ben, Caitlin, Madelyn & Leo Johnston-Urey © 2024 Johnston-Urey Music. All rights reserved. Used with permission.
3. **"O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate"** Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923, Music: Ellacombe Werkmeister, Gesangbuch der Herzogel, Hofkapelle, 1784, Text © GIA Publications. Reproduced under OneLicense.net #A-712444.

Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from
ONE LICENSE, License #A-712444, and CCLI License #547407. All rights reserved.