

14th Sunday after Pentecost - Now the Feast
September 14, 2025 – 8:15 & 10:45 am

Accompanist

Dave Vagts

Liturgist

Lois Kern/Vickie Boelman

Jen Christy

† indicates stand as able

Gathering

Prelude

Blessed Assurance

Rex Ratzlaff

Welcome

† Confession and Forgiveness

We confess our sins before God and one another.

Holy God,

You have created us in your image, protected and nourished us, and called us into your work of justice. Yet while we profess these truths, we forget who we are and whose we are. We put our trust in ourselves, in material goods, and in worldly powers instead of trusting you. We prioritize our comfort over our neighbor's needs. Call us back to you, God. Forgive us our failings, and direct us back onto the path you would have us tread.

Hear the good news, siblings in Christ. You have been created in wholeness, claimed in love, and forgiven according to God's boundless grace. Nothing—even the worst we do or fail to do—can separate us from the love of our God. Receive this forgiveness with joy, in the name of Jesus, our savior and friend. **Amen.**

† Gathering Hymn: Faith of Our Fathers

ELW 813

Faith of our fathers, living still

in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword.

Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy
whene'er we hear that glorious word.
Faith of our fathers, holy faith,
we will be true to you till death.

Faith of our mothers, daring faith,
your work for Christ is love revealed,
spreading God's word from pole to pole,
making love known and freedom real.
Faith of our mothers, holy faith,
we will be true to you till death.

Faith of our sisters, brothers too,
who still must bear oppression's might,
raising on high, in prisons dark,
the cross of Christ still burning bright.
Faith for today, O living faith,
we will be true to you till death.

Faith born of God, oh, call us yet,
bind us with all who follow you,
sharing the struggle of your cross
until the world is made anew.
Faith born of God, O living faith,
we will be true to you till death.

Liturgy of the Word

† 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

Refrain

Assistant: *Congregation:*

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord, have mer-cy,
Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy. *to Verses*

Assistant: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all . . . (to Refrain)

Assistant: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word . . . (to Refrain)

Assistant:

Help, save and de - fend us, O

Congregation:

God. A - men.

† Now the Feast

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion

sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;

praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has
freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of
God; to make all things new.

† *Prayer of the Day*

Holy God, You did not withhold even your own Son, who willingly gave his life for the redemption of the world. Teach us to trust that you are always giving what is good to us, even when we give nothing in return. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Choir Anthem: Walk by Faith

Adult Choir

Faith Stepping Stone—Second Grade Bibles

Kids, when they brought you for baptism, your parents promised to place in your hands the Bible, the Holy Scriptures, to nurture your lives in faith and in prayer, to help

you share the message of Jesus Christ through word and action, to care for others and all that God has made, and to work for the mercy, justice, and peace of God wherever you are. On that same day, the congregation promised to help your parents fulfill their promise. Today, we are going to keep that promise together.

As you grow, reading has become part of your daily life. You are getting old enough to read the Bible, talk about it with your parents, friends, and teachers at church, and learn from the Bible what it means to be children of God.

The Bibles that your parents are about to present to you are gifts from your congregational family.

Parents or other caregivers, please give your children their Bible, saying, “This is the Word of the Lord.” And kids, please respond, “Thank you, and thanks be to God!”

People of God, do you promise to support and encourage these parents, grandparents and children as they continue to walk as disciples of Jesus?

We will, with God’s help.

Let us pray. Gracious God, your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Bless these Bibles, the parents who give them, and the children who receive them. Speak your word to them, so that they may know the promise of your love, trust the goodness of your grace, follow you, and live as your children, now and forever. Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

READING: Genesis 21: 1-3; 22: 1-14

The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. Sarah conceived and bore Abraham

a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him.

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.”

So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.” Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, “Father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” Abraham said, “God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So the two of them walked on together. When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I

know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place “The Lord will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”

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

† **Gospel Acclamation:**

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Optional Repeat*

† **GOSPEL: John 1: 29**

The Holy Gospel according to John the 1st chapter.

Glory, to you, O Lord.

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

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

Children’s Sermon

Pastor Beth

Sermon

Pastor Beth Wartick

† **Hymn of the Day: *Blest Be the Tie That Binds***

ELW 656

Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the unity of heart and mind
is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes,
our mutual burdens bear,
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.

From sorrow, toil, and pain,
and sin we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign
through all eternity.

† 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

Confident that our God hears and answers our cries, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

God of promise, you do not bestow gifts only to take them away again. Train our eyes and hearts upon your steadfastness, so that we also might be found faithful to your covenant. God of promise, **Hear our prayer.**

You do not ask that we slaughter animals to appease you, but rather that we responsibly steward all the riches and resources of your creation. Forgive our missteps and help show us how we can be part of healing this beautiful but wounded planet. God of promise, **Hear our prayer.**

Many in this world suffer from the threat of abuse and maltreatment by those more powerful than themselves. Make us to work for a society where such crime is neither persistent nor tolerated. God of promise, **Hear our prayer.**

Lord, your presence is balm to those who suffer illness or long for wholeness. Feed them on your promises and surround them with your healing, especially Chris, Sandi and the family of Carrie Lynn. God of promise, **Hear our prayer.**

For all your faithful children who have gone forward to pave the way, so that we might worship without fear of persecution, we give you thanks. Shine their light ever before us as we strive to continually follow you. God of promise, **Hear our prayer.**

We lift all these prayers, and those of our hearts, to your loving

care, O God. Receive them and restore our hope in your promises. In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

† *Peace*

Offering

RLC Ministry relies on your generosity. You can make a gift in support of our ministry by placing it in the offering plates as they are passed, or by scanning the QR code to give securely online.



Thank you!

† *As The Grains of Wheat*

Congregation:



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath - ered in - to one to be - come our bread;



so may all your peo - ple from all the ends of earth be



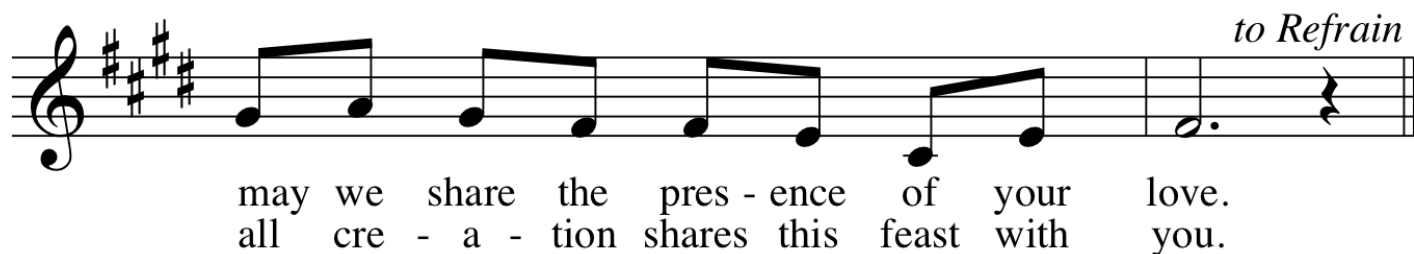
gath - ered in - to one in you.

Verses



1. As this cup of bless - ing is shared with-in our midst
2. Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

to Refrain




may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

† *Offering Prayer*

You do not ask of us more than we can give you, O God, but instead give us more than we can possibly need. We return now these gifts, a sacrifice for the well-being of the world, out of gratitude for all that has been sacrificed on our behalf. In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

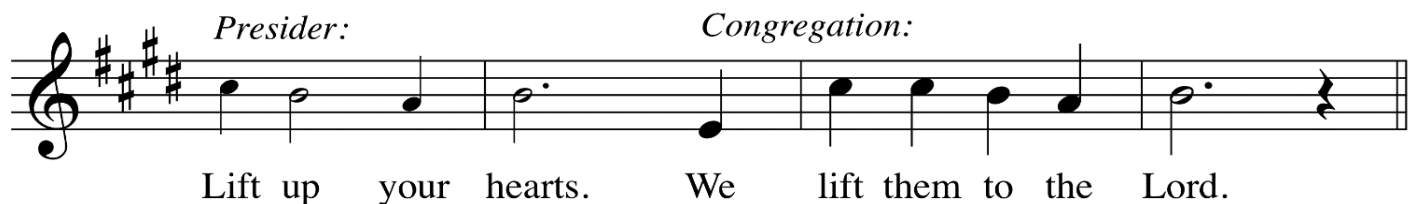
† *The Great Thanksgiving*

Presider: *Congregation:*



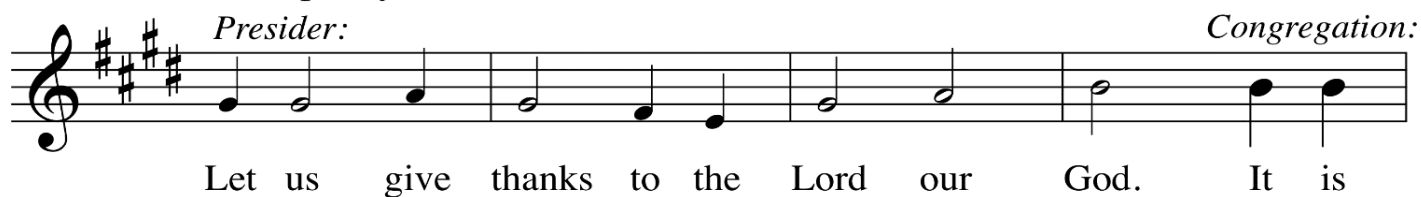
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Presider: *Congregation:*



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: *Congregation:*



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is



right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is our duty and delight...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Congregation:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and



might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!



Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Pastor: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Congregation:



A - men. Come, Lord Je - sus.



A - men. Come, Lord Je - sus.

Pastor: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Congregation:



A - men. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it.



† *Through Christ, With Christ, In Christ*



† *Lord's Prayer*

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

*Nuestro padre en el cielo,
santificado sea tu nombre,
venga tu reino,
hágase tu voluntad,
en la tierra como en el cielo.*

Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.

*Perdónanos nuestros pecados
como nosotros perdonamos
los que pecan contra nosotros.*

*Sálvanos del tiempo de la prueba.
y líbranos del mal.*

Por el reino, el poder y

and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

*la gloria es tuya,
ahora y siempre. Amén.*

Communion

If you are communing from home, receive the bread with these words "The Body of Christ given for you" and the cup with "The blood of Christ shed for you."

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
you break the chains of ha - tred and
you are the way of jus - tice and
you are the way of mer - cy and



world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
fear:
peace:
love.

Final Stanza

Congregation or Assistant:



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn: Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

ELW 623

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood,
from thy riven side which flowed,

be of sin the double cure;
cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands
can fulfill thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone;
thou must save, and thou alone.

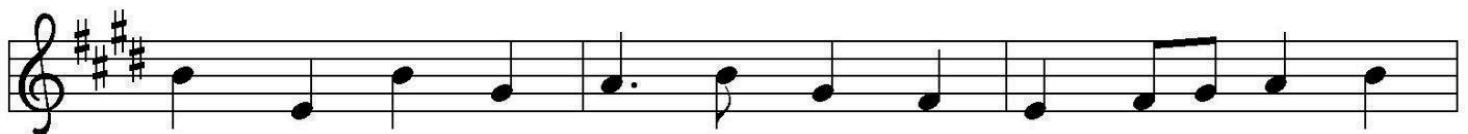
Nothing in my hand I bring;
simply to thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to thee for dress;
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
when mine eyelids close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown,
see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.

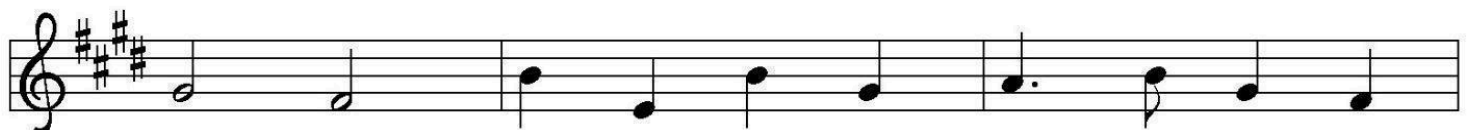
Sending

Announcements


† Song of Blessing




1	Praise	to	you,	O	God	of	mer -	cy:	thanks	be	to	you	for -
2	From	of	old	you	loved	and	sought	us:	thanks	be	to	you	for -
3	Praise	to	you,	O	God	of	mer -	cy:	thanks	be	to	you	for -



ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:
 ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us:
 ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:


3rd time to Coda  1 2




thanks be to you for - ev - er!
 thanks be to you for - ev - er!
 thanks be to you for -




Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your love, re -




mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us. *to stanza 3*

 *Coda*



ev - er! Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

† Blessing

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

† Dismissal

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
 Thanks be to God.

Postlude