

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Third & Terry, Longmont, Colorado

(303) 776-2800 | www.firstluth.org

Pastor: Garrett Struessel and Deacon Korra Looschen

Ordinary Time

Fifth Sunday of Pentecost

June 28, 2026 — 9:30 a.m.

Welcome to worship, we are glad you are with us!

GATHERING



PRELUDE

INTRODUCTION

The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

"All Are Welcome"

ELW 641 vs. 1,3,5

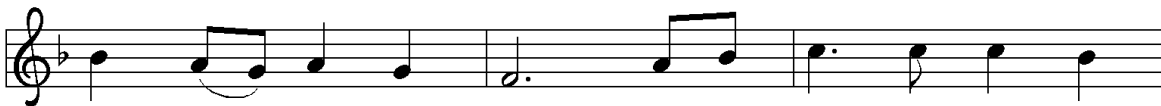
All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
claim the faith of Je - sus:
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
end to fear and dan - ger:
claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen
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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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

ANTHEM

“Laudate Dominium” by Mozart

Julianne Davis

Accompanied by Susan Bennett

READINGS

Jeremiah 28:5-9

Through a symbolic action Jeremiah insisted that Judah and all the surrounding nations should submit to the king of Babylon (Jer. 27). Hananiah contradicted the word of Jeremiah, who in reply insisted that Hananiah’s rosy prediction should not be believed until it came true. God confirmed the word of Jeremiah and sentenced the false prophet Hananiah to death (vv. 16-17).

⁵The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the Lord, ⁶and the prophet Jeremiah said, “Amen! May the Lord do so; may the Lord fulfill the words that you have prophesied and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the Lord and all the exiles.” ⁷But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. ⁸The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. ⁹As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the Lord has truly sent the prophet.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Romans 6:12-23

Sin is an enslaving power which motivates us to live self-serving, disobedient lives. Sin’s final payoff is death. We, however, have been set free from sin’s slavery to live obediently under God’s grace, whose end is the free gift of eternal life.

¹²Do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies, so that you obey their desires. ¹³No longer present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. ¹⁵What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶Do you not know that, if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God that you who were slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted ¹⁸and that you, having been set free from sin, have become enslaved to righteousness. ¹⁹I am speaking in human terms because of your limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness, leading to even more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification. ²⁰When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹So what fruit did you then gain from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²²But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the fruit you have leads to sanctification, and the end is eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

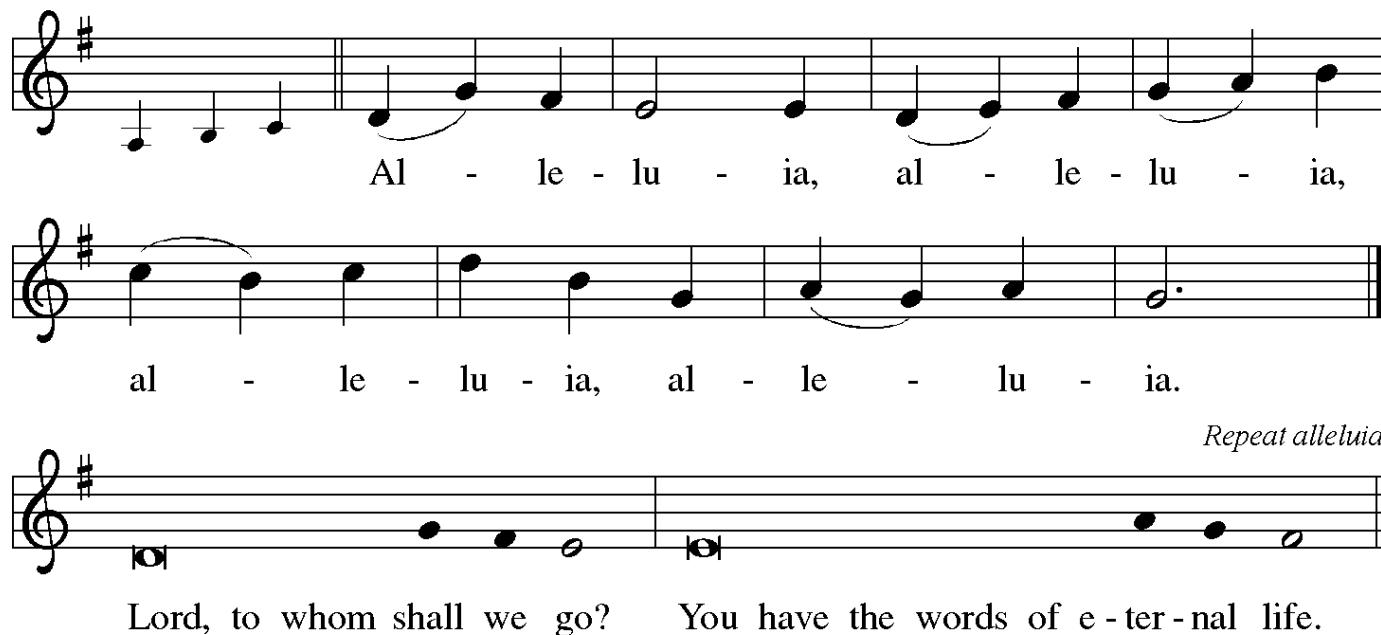
Word of God, word of life

Thanks be to God

CHILDREN’S TIME

Congregation: Please Rise for the Gospel Acclamation

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 10th chapter beginning at the 40th verse.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 10:40-42

When Jesus sends his disciples out as missionaries, he warns them of persecution and hardships they will face. He also promises to reward any who aid his followers and support their ministry.

[Jesus said to the twelve:] ⁴⁰ “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, ⁴² and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Garrett Struessel

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

Today, we welcome Mike Witmore, brother in Christ, led by the Holy Spirit to join us in Mission.

With the whole church, let us confess our faith, using the Apostle's 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.**

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Brother in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for this new member in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

We give you thanks for our new member whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others.

Let us welcome this in Christ to this community of faith.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

Mike Witmore

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also, with you.

MEAL

OFFERTORY

"Hear My Cry, O Lord"

Julianne Davis

Accompanied by Susan Bennett

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

Loving God,

we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also, with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

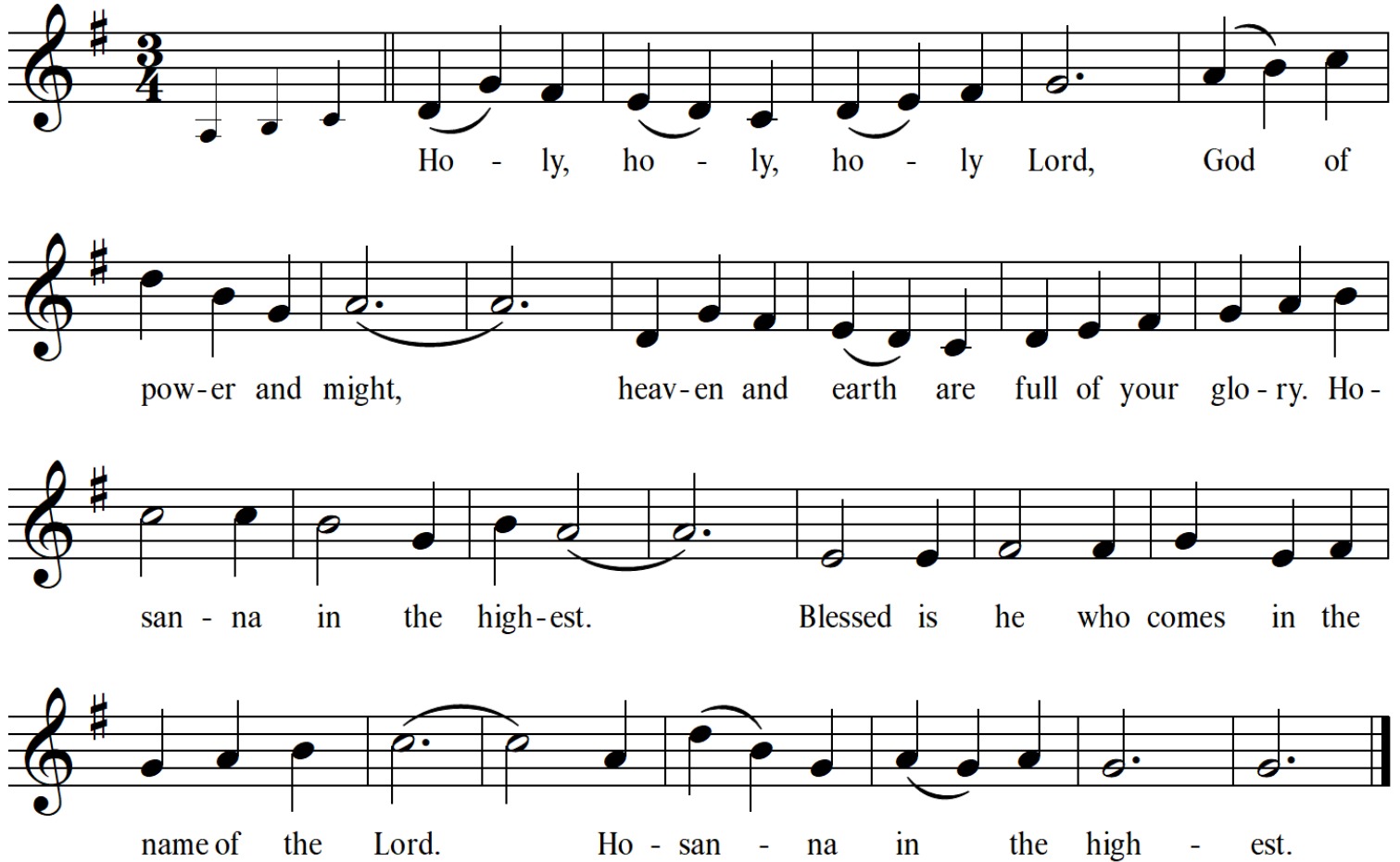
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Page 108



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

COMMUNION

All are welcome who come trusting in the gift of God's presence in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation, shared in this meal. "The body of Christ, broken for you," and "the blood of Christ shed for you," include the promise of the forgiveness of sin, life and salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord. The ushers will invite you to come forward for communion. We invite everyone to receive communion if you so desire. The invitation to receive Holy Communion is from Christ Jesus; therefore "all are welcome." In our serving communion trays, wine is darker red on the outside, and grape juice is the lighter color in the center. We serve only gluten-free bread prepared in a kitchen excluding wheat flour, to include everyone regardless of wheat-gluten sensitivities. Come, taste and see, that the Lord is good.

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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

"Let Us Break Bread"
"As the Grains of Wheat"
"Eat This Bread"

ELW 471
ELW 465
ELW 472

Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW 471

1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees; _____
2. Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees. _____
3. Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees; _____

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees. _____
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees. _____
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees. _____

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, O Lord have mer - cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: African American spiritual

BREAK BREAD TOGETHER
10 10 and refrain

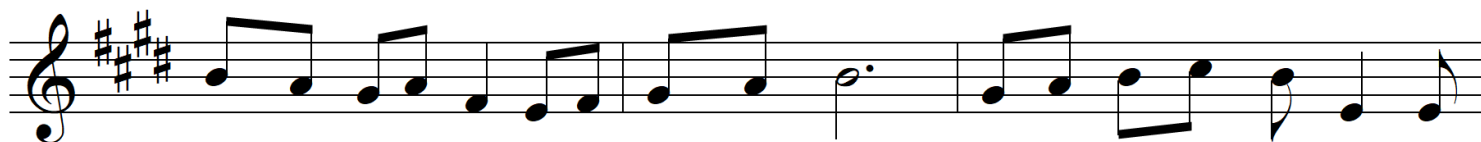
As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465

Refrain



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.



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



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

Refrain

Test: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931
Music: Carlton R. Young, b. 1926
Text and music © 1996 Hope Publishing Company

AS THE GRAINS
Irregular

Eat this Bread

ELW 472

"Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev-er be hun - gry.

The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. It features a melody of eighth and quarter notes. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst."

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. It follows the same musical notation conventions (treble and bass clefs, one sharp key signature, common time).

Text: Taizé Community
Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
Text and music © Les Presses de Taizé, admin GIA Publications, Inc.

BERHTIER
Irregular

COMMUNION BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Compassionate God,

through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

Amen

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

THANKSGIVING AND FAREWELL

THANKSGIVING AND FAREWELL LITANY

Pastor Garrett Struessel

June 27 and 28, 2026



Pastor Sara Wirth: Pastor Garrett, in February 2017, we called you to be our pastor: to proclaim God's Word, to teach the scriptures, to baptize new disciples into the Church of Jesus Christ, to announce God's forgiveness to us, and to preside at our celebration of the Lord's Supper. With the Gospel, you have comforted us in times of sickness and at the death of our loved ones. Sharing our joys and sorrows, you and your family have been important to our life together in the Church of Jesus Christ, in our service to this community, and in God's mission to the world.

Pastor Sara: On Tuesday, June 30, 2026, the congregation's call to you comes to an end. As you leave this community of faith and say farewell to one another, we give thanks for your ministry and pray for God's blessing.

Pastor Garrett: I thank you, the members and friends of First Lutheran Church, for the love, the kindness, and the support shown to me and my family during active ministry among you. Please forgive me for the times I have sinned or not met expectations. I am grateful for the ways my ministry has been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me love, grace, and all that I have learned here.

Congregation: We receive your thankfulness. We offer you our forgiveness and accept that you now leave to listen to what the Holy Spirit calls you to next. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask you for forgiveness for the times we have not served well with you. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.

Pastor Garrett: I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

Pastor Sara: Do you, Pastor Garrett, commend the congregation into the care of another pastor?

Pastor Garrett: I do, with God's help.

Pastor Sara: Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here?

Pastor Garrett: I do, with God's help.

Pastor Sara: People of God, members of First Lutheran, and with thanks to God for the ministry of Pastor Garrett among you, do you now release him from service as your pastor?

Congregation: We do, and we give thanks to God.

Pastor Sara: Pastor Garrett, with thanks to God for the members of this community and for their ministry with you, do you recognize and accept the completion of your ministry with First Lutheran Church?

Pastor Garrett: I do, and I give thanks to God.

Pastor Sara: On behalf of the Rocky Mountain Synod, I witness to the words spoken here: words of thankfulness, forgiveness, and release. We will hold you in our prayers. We pledge our support and love to you and wish you God's blessing.

Pastor Sara: Let us pray: God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future that rests in your care. The time we were together in your name saw our laughter and tears, our hopes and disappointments. We give you thanks for the countless ways our lives have been woven together in the tapestry of your church. Guide us as we hold

these cherished memories, but move us in new directions, until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with each other, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Congregation: Amen.

Pastor Sara: Pastor Garrett and members and friends of First Lutheran Church: your sisters and brothers in the Rocky Mountain Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America give thanks to God for the ministry you have shared. We promise you both our continued support and prayer.

Rejoicing in the blessings of God in this congregation and in the ministry of Pastor Garrett, with hope in God's abundant grace in years to come, I announce that this pastoral relationship is ended effective Tuesday, June 30.

Pastor Sara: 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.

Congregation: Amen. Thanks be to God!

SENDING HYMN

"Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak"

ELW 676 vs. 1,4

SENDING

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

WELCOME to Worship!

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP, and families can sit anywhere in the sanctuary, including the chapel near the front.

A NURSERY is available downstairs across from the Choir Room for children under 5. Follow the signs.

LARGE-PRINT BULLETINS & HYMNS are available from the ushers.

ADDITIONAL PARKING is available in the Ahlberg Chapel parking lot, one-half block north of the church on Terry Street.

RESTROOMS are located on the upper level of the church, along the hallway leading to the Big Room. There are handicap accessible restrooms on the lower level near the elevator, and in the Big Room.

WORSHIP SERVICES AND LIVE STREAMED AND RECORDED so that others may enjoy worship remotely. Please note that today's worship service is audio and video recorded for online sharing and archival purposes.

We love seeing you in worship!

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Preacher/Presider	Pastor Garrett Struessel
Worship Assistant	Deacon Korra Looschen
Council Hosts:	Kayla Morelli Dorothea Ekx
Ushers:	Todd Gould Holly Keenan
Reader:	Char Lemkee
Communion Assistants:	Dwight Tilford
Organist/Pianist:	Susan Bennett

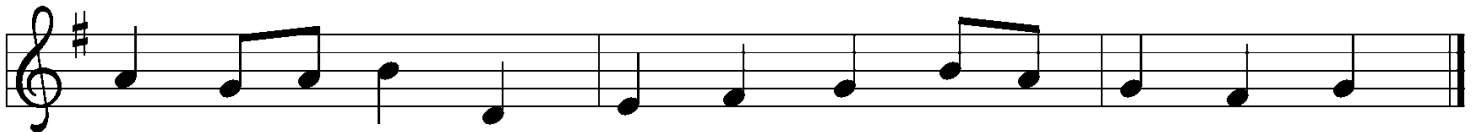
Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak



1 Lord, speak to us, that we may speak in
 2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead the
 3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach the
 4 Oh, fill us with your full - ness, Lord, un -



liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
 wan-d'ring and the wa - v'ring feet; oh, feed us, Lord, that
 pre - cious truths which you im - part; and wing our words, that
 til our ver - y hearts o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and



let us seek your stray - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.
 we may feed your hun - g'ring ones with man - na sweet.
 they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y a heart.
 glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.

Music: CANONBURY, Robert Schumann, 1810–1856