



Sunday, September 6, 2026

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
300 Queen Street
Northumberland, PA 17857
(570) 473-3770**

**sjelc300@ptd.net
www.stjohnslutherannorry.org**

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee ELW 836

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.

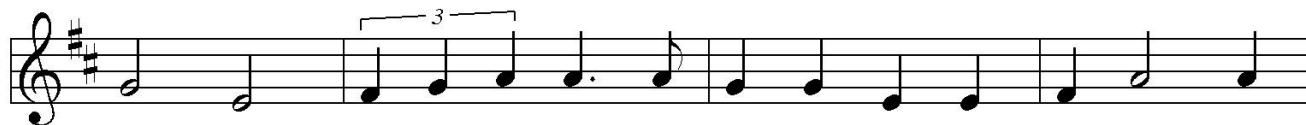
HYMN OF PRAISE



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



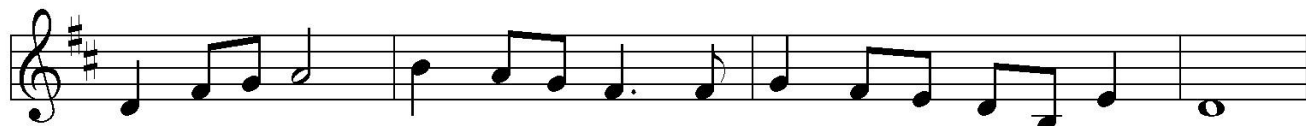
☐ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



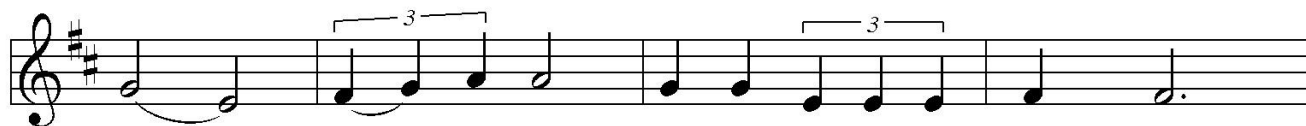
wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



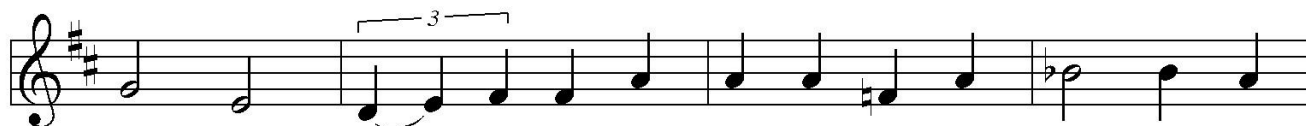
☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



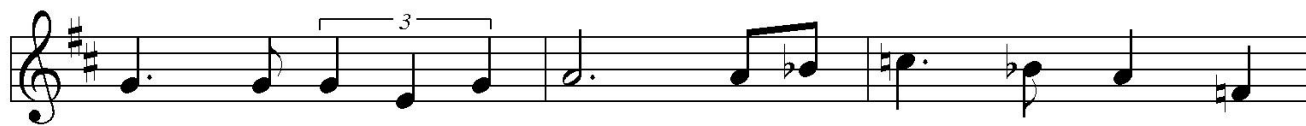
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



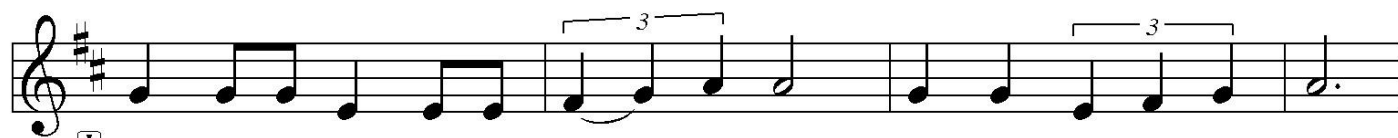
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



☐ Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



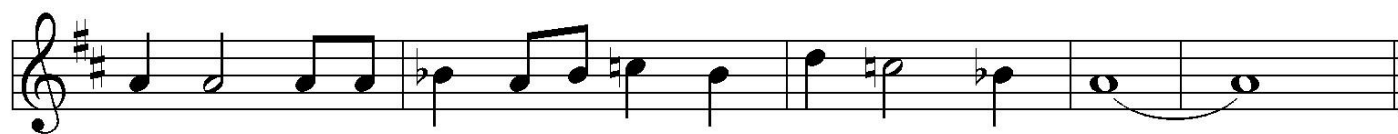
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



I For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
II



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.



☐ Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth,



and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 33:7-11

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. ¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Word of God.

Word of Life.

PSALM 119:33-40

read responsively

REFRAIN: *I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)*

³³ Teach me, O Lord, the way | of your statutes, and I shall keep it | to the end.

³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your teaching; I shall keep it with | all my heart.**

³⁵ Lead me in the path of | your commandments, for that is | my desire.

³⁶ **Incline my heart to | your decrees and not to | unjust gain. R**

³⁷ Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood; give me life | in your way.

³⁸ **Fulfill your promise | to your servant, which is for | those who fear you.**

³⁹ Turn away the reproach | that I dread, because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for | your commandments; by your righteousness enliven me. R**

SECOND READING

Romans 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in

quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God.

Word of Life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:15-20

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you O Lord.

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person

refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

God When Human Bonds Are Broken

ELW 603

APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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**

THE PRAYERS

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

Proclaiming God, empower your church throughout the world to announce the words you give us. Open us to receive your word in unexpected ways. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Forming God, renew the cycles of your creation that provide for the needs of all. Protect grasslands, marshes, swamps, and all places of transition. Heal communities crying out after disaster (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Governing God, turn all who create, enforce, or interpret legislation away from selfish gain and toward your promise of good for all, especially the good of all who labor. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Attending God, wake us up to any around us who are in need. Restore broken relationships, failing health, frayed emotions, and the hurts we carry with us. (*We pray especially for . . .*) Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gathering God, resolve conflicts in this community through your righteousness and grace. Reconcile us to each other, making your good news known even through our imperfections. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, all who die in faith have life with you. We give you thanks for the nearness of your salvation for (*name/s, and*) all who have gone before us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

You may share a sign of peace with your neighbor

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS



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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in
love to our neighbors, today and always.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

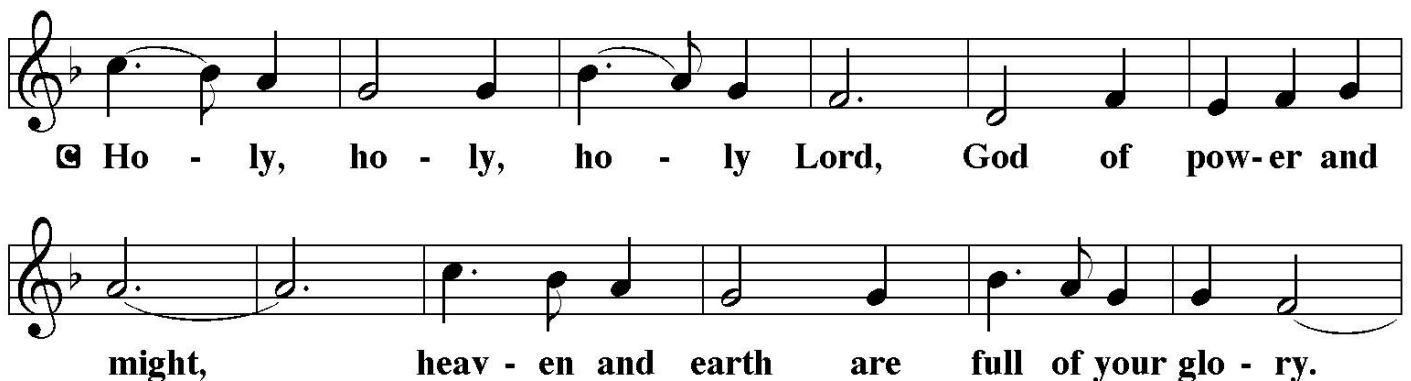
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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.

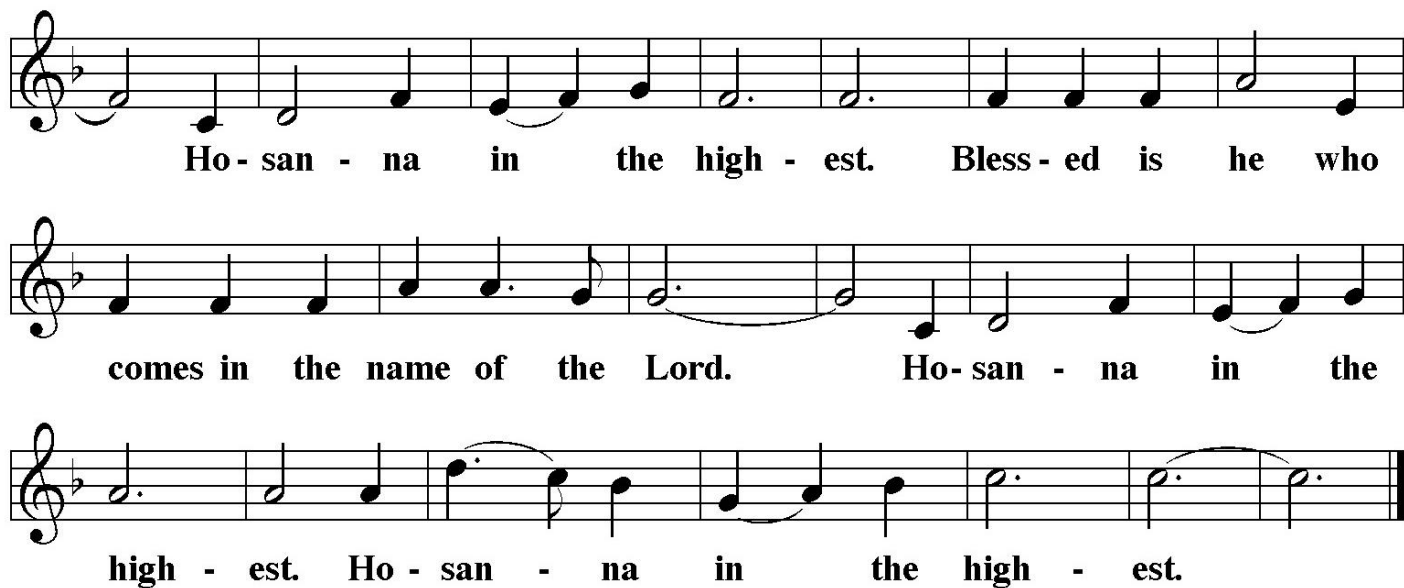
PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places
offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our
Lord; 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 the
Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join
their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes or measures.



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

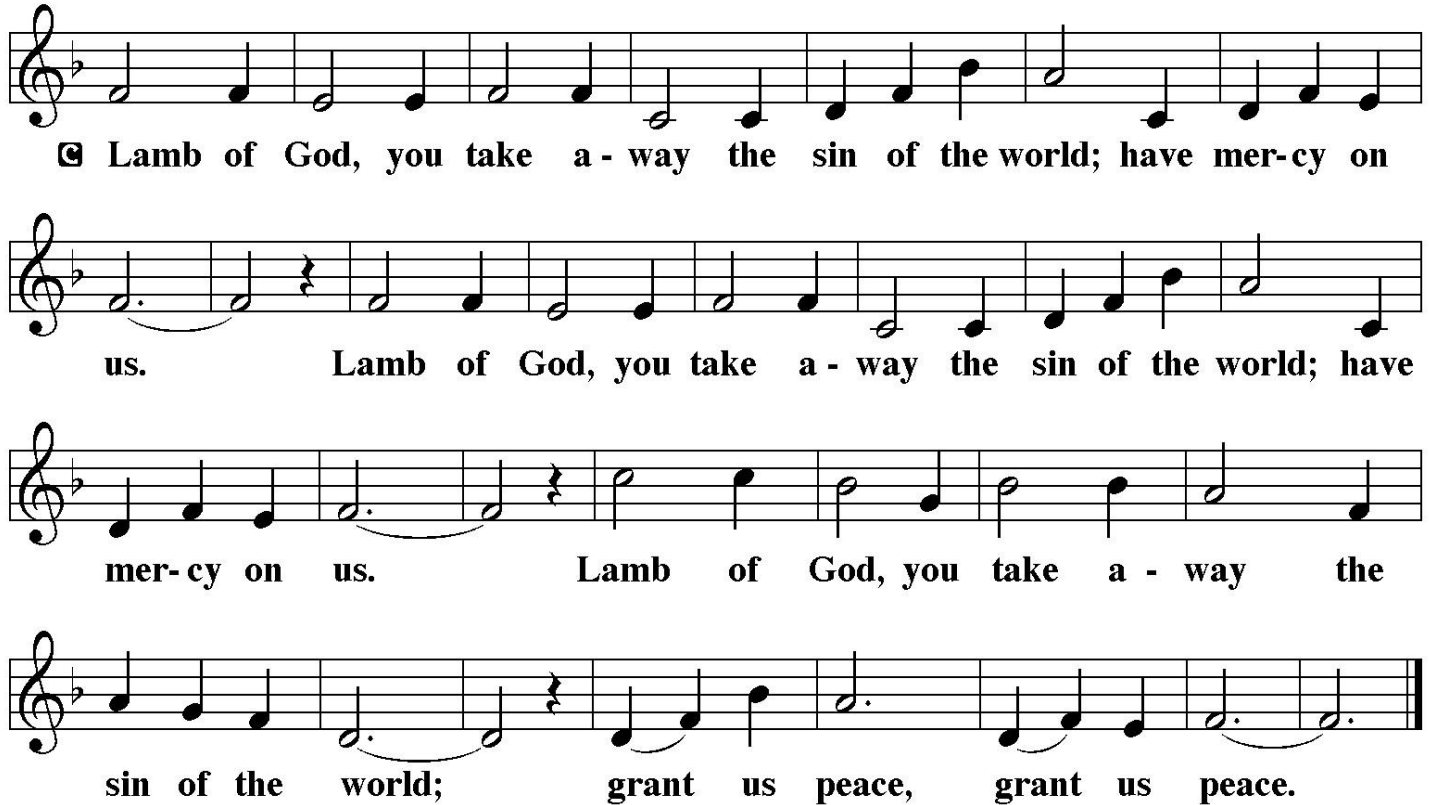
Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

COMMUNION HYMN



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

*The assembly may be seated. Communion will be served at the altar rail.
Wine or grape juice is available.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

POST CANTICLE HYMN

Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -
 one what God has done. Let all who seek the
 Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
 Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and
 lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
 giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

BLESSING

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of grace ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG Go My Children With My Blessing ELW 543

DISMISSAL

We go now to be a light in our community, **to make Christ known to all through nourishing, serving, and faith. Thanks be to God.**

Pastor

Rev. Karla S. Leiby

Director of Music

William Jacavage

Greeter

Trish Long

Lector

Ann Thieman

Acolyte

Cameron Lehman

Communion Assistant

Brenda and David Herbert

THE ALTAR FLOWERS, BULLETINS and CANDLES are presented in memory of Tom Snyder by Robyn Snyder and family.

Today we welcome and are led in worship by Pastor Ann Zimmerman.

Children's Sunday School classes begin Sunday, September 13th, following worship service. All children are invited to attend.

Would you like to become a ding-aling? On **Sundays, September 13th and 20th**, the Director of Music, aka Bill, will be having an Intro to Bell Ringing following worship service at 10:15 a.m. You will learn about the different notes that we play, the counts, and music annotations. This is for all interested in joining Bell Choir and for our current ringers it is a refresher. Please join us as we praise God through music. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bill. We hope to see you there ! ***Our regular weekly practices will resume on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. beginning on September 24th.***

Seafarer satchel bags are available for pickup on the table in the rear of the sanctuary. Please assemble the satchel with sweatshirts and t-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M, L, XL or 2XL. **Satchels need**

to be returned to the church no later than October 25th in order to be shipped to the Seafarers International House in New York.

Pick the size you will be purchasing, M, L, XL or 2 XL.

- 1 sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded
- 3 pairs of socks – thermal or white gym, no ankle socks
- 1 t-shirt
- 1 knitted winter cap (matching scarf optional)
- 1 can of nuts or large bar of chocolate
- A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

This month's Special Pink Envelope is designated for Haven Ministries. The Quiet Cash/Noisy Coin is being collected for ELCA World Hunger.

PRAYERS: Bob Haile; Jim Herbert; Helen Peters; Connie Freitsch; Jeanne Hafer; Marty Rafter

HOMEBOUND and CONTINUED PRAYERS: PRAYERS: Chris Eisely; Kaye Wolfe; Barb Eisley; Jason Gulden; Helen Snyder; June Diehl; Nevin Brungard; Nancy Hendricks; Betty Yerg; Jane Ressler; Bill Wagner; David Bartholomew; Marti Row

Mark Your Calendars! Celebrating Five Years of Ordained Ministry!

This September, St. John's celebrates a milestone worth giving thanks for the 5th anniversary of The Reverend Karla Leiby's ordination.

Pastor Leiby's history with St. John's stretches back to September 2018, when she joined our congregation as Vicar through the Cooperative Program with the Upper Susquehanna Synod and United Lutheran Seminary, serving in that role through May 2021. That season of shared ministry planted the seeds for what was to come. On August 1, 2021, following a trial service, the congregation voted unanimously to call her as our pastor. One week later, on August 8, 2021, she led her first service as

our called pastor, and on August 21, 2021, she was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament — a moment that marked the beginning of a new chapter for both Pastor Leiby and our church family.

In the five years since, we have walked together through worship, milestones, challenges, and everyday moments of faith — a ministry built on the foundation of that beginning. And as we look ahead, we give thanks for the ministry still to come, trusting in God's continued guidance for Pastor Leiby and St. John's together as we continue to be a light in our community, making Christ known through nourishing, serving, and faith.

Mark your calendars now! Join us as we celebrate this anniversary — honoring our past, giving thanks for our present, and looking forward to the future — on **Sunday, September 27, 2026**, following worship. More details will follow in the coming weeks, so watch upcoming bulletins and announcements.

Thanks be to God for our years of ministry together — and for all that lies ahead.

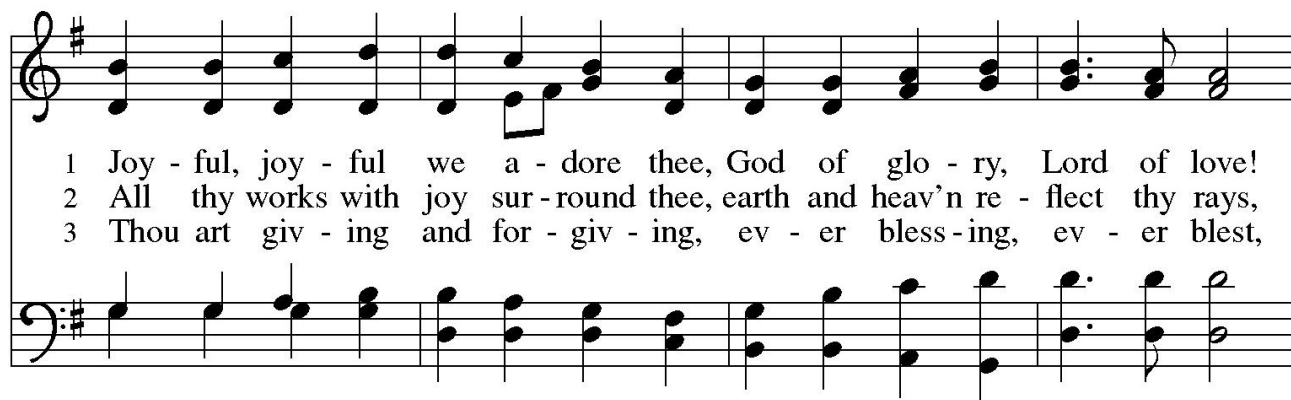
Celebrating St. John's Ministries and Volunteers

The 5th anniversary of Pastor Karla's ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament continues and gets bigger as we celebrate of all the ministries here at St. John's that Pastor Karla has nurtured, started, and enhanced over the past five years and the three years prior when she was our vicar. Church Council and Worship & Music are hosting an intergenerational brunch downstairs in the Social Hall to give thanks and recognition to all the volunteers whose work makes our ministries here at St. John's possible. We hope you can join us as we celebrate together — Pastor Karla's five years of ministry, and recognize the many volunteers that make St. John's what it is.

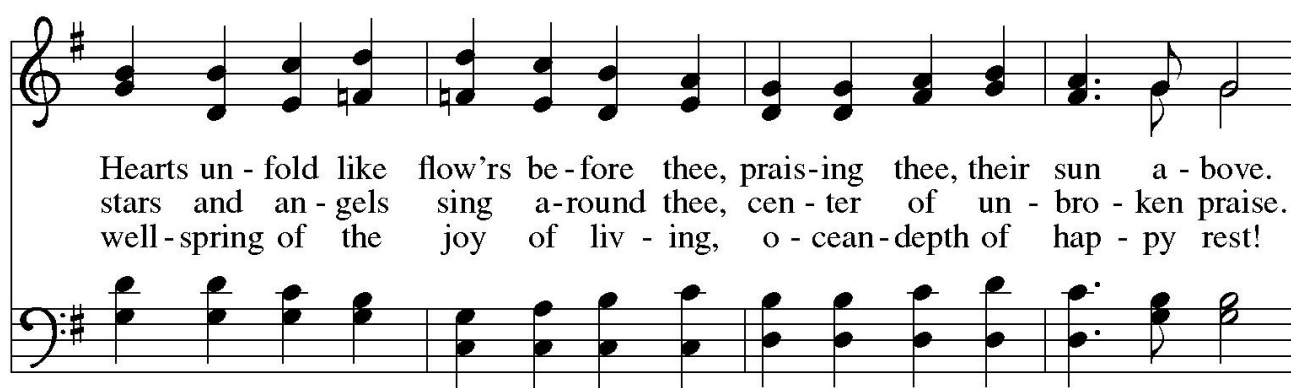
St. John's Ministries

Altar Guild Teams
Bible Study Groups
Blessings Shed
Born Again Boutique
Boy/Girl Scout Ministry
Building Maintenance and Grounds Teams
Children's Church Ministry
Community Vacation Bible School
Easter Sunrise Service
ELCA Program Support
Flower Crew
Funeral Meal Team
Garden Crew
Grief Share Ministry
Home Communion Teams
Kate's Kupboard
Mitten Tree Family and Birthright Tree Ministry
MomCo
Online Service Ministry
Pink Envelope and Quiet Change Ministry
Providing Meeting Space for Community Organizations
Social Ministry and WELCA Programs and Activities
Sound System Ministry
St John's Preschool
Synod Support
Tissue Box Ministry
Worship Resource Bag Teams
Worship Service Assistants and Musicians

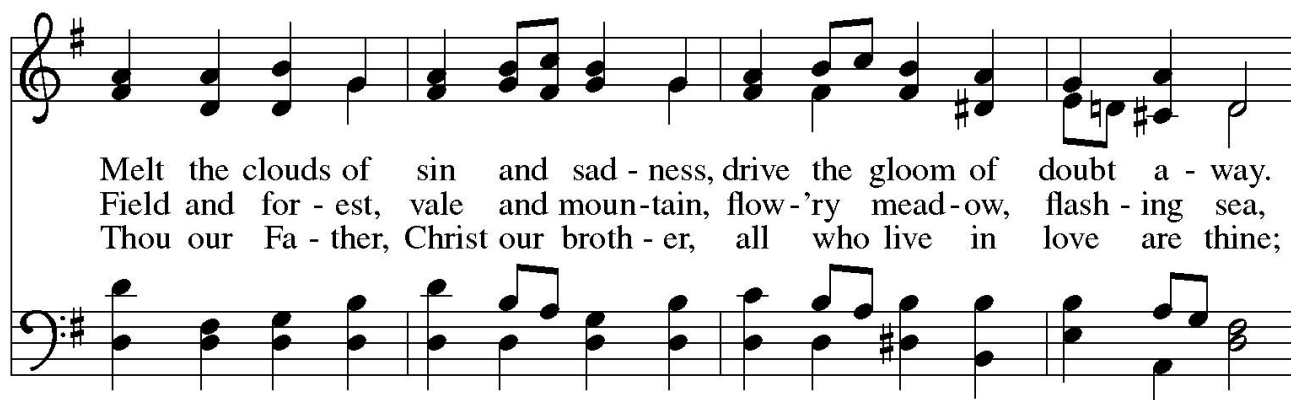
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

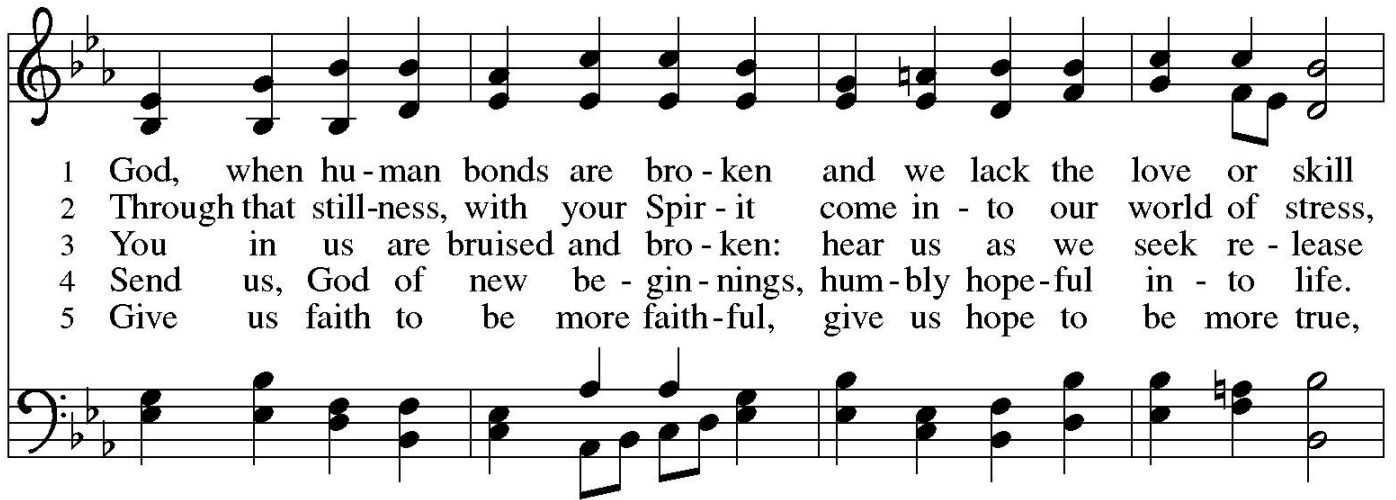


Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;

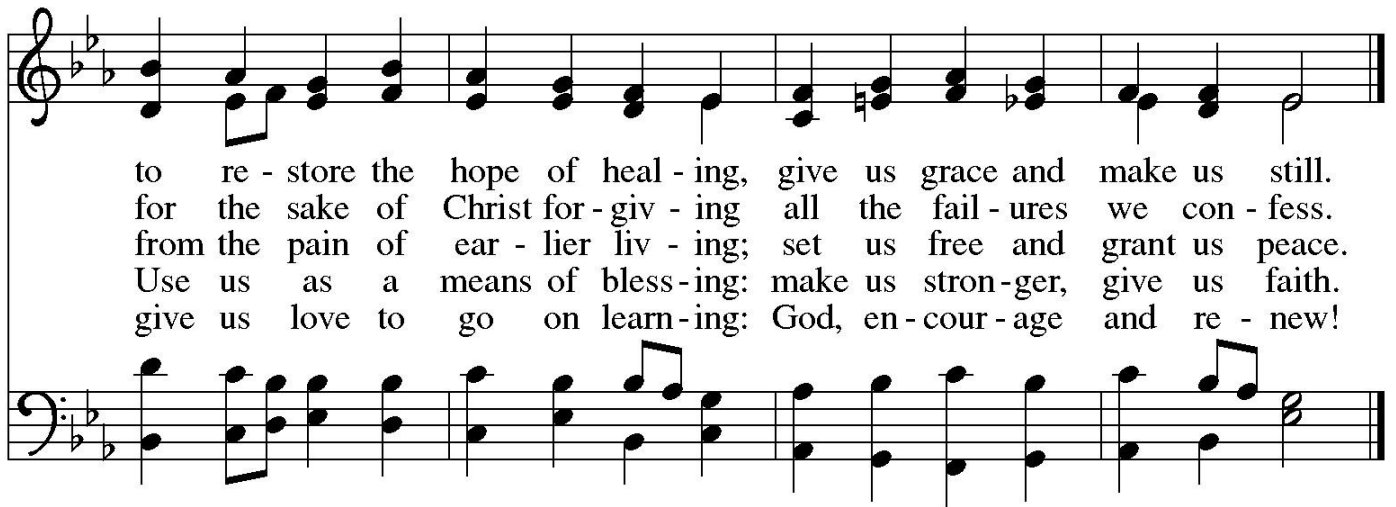


Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

God, When Human Bonds Are Broken



1 God, when hu-man bonds are bro-ken and we lack the love or skill
2 Through that still-ness, with your Spir-it come in-to our world of stress,
3 You in us are bruised and bro-ken: hear us as we seek re-lease
4 Send us, God of new be-gin-nings, hum-bly hope-ful in-to life.
5 Give us faith to be more faith-ful, give us hope to be more true,



to re-store the hope of heal-ing, give us grace and make us still.
for the sake of Christ for-giv-ing all the fail-ures we con-fess.
from the pain of ear-lier liv-ing; set us free and grant us peace.
Use us as a means of bless-ing: make us stron-ger, give us faith.
give us love to go on learn-ing: God, en-cour-age and re-new!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

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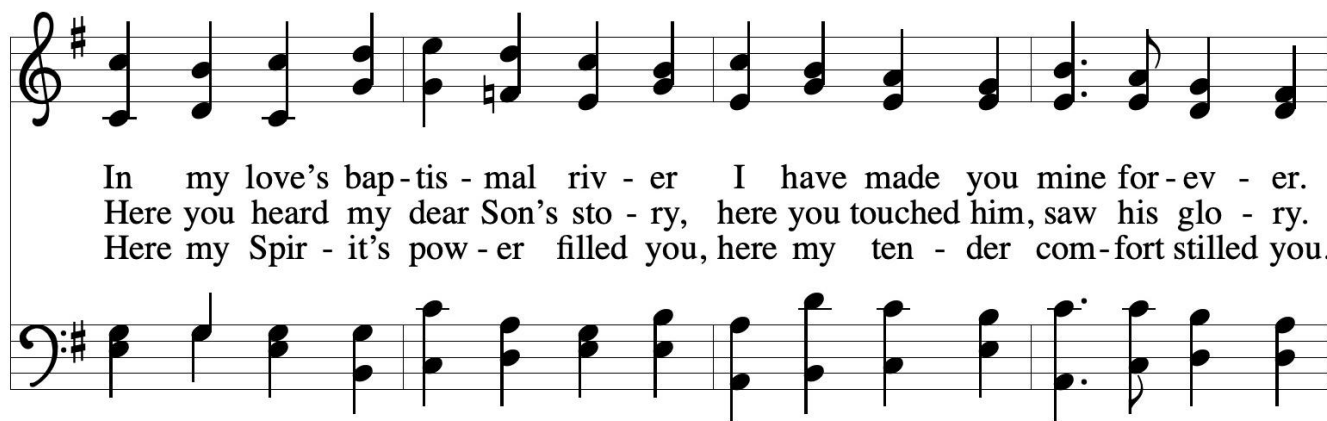
Go, My Children, with My Blessing



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."