

# FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Ordinary Time

Third & Terry, Longmont, Colorado  
(303) 776-2800 | [www.firstluth.org](http://www.firstluth.org)  
Pastor Stephanie Kopsch and Deacon Korra Looschen

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost  
September 5, 2026 — 9:30 a.m.  
*Welcome to worship, we are glad you are with us!*

## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

### INTRODUCTION

Conflict is a part of relationships and of life in community. The Passover was the culmination of a conflict between Egypt's Pharaoh and the enslaved Hebrews. Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. And Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.



### 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, 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.**

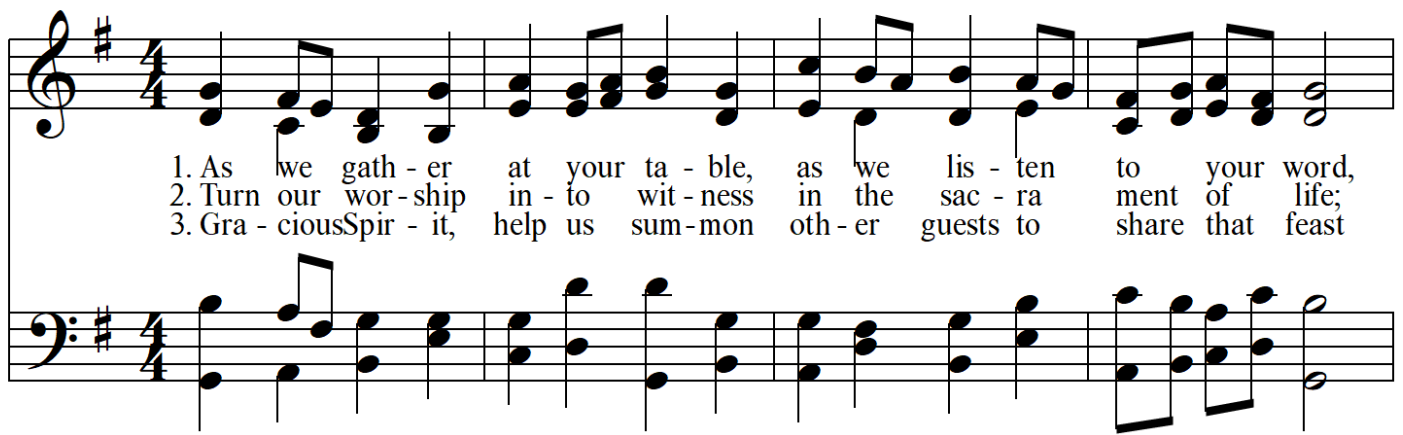
### GATHERING HYMN

*"As We Gather at Your Table"*

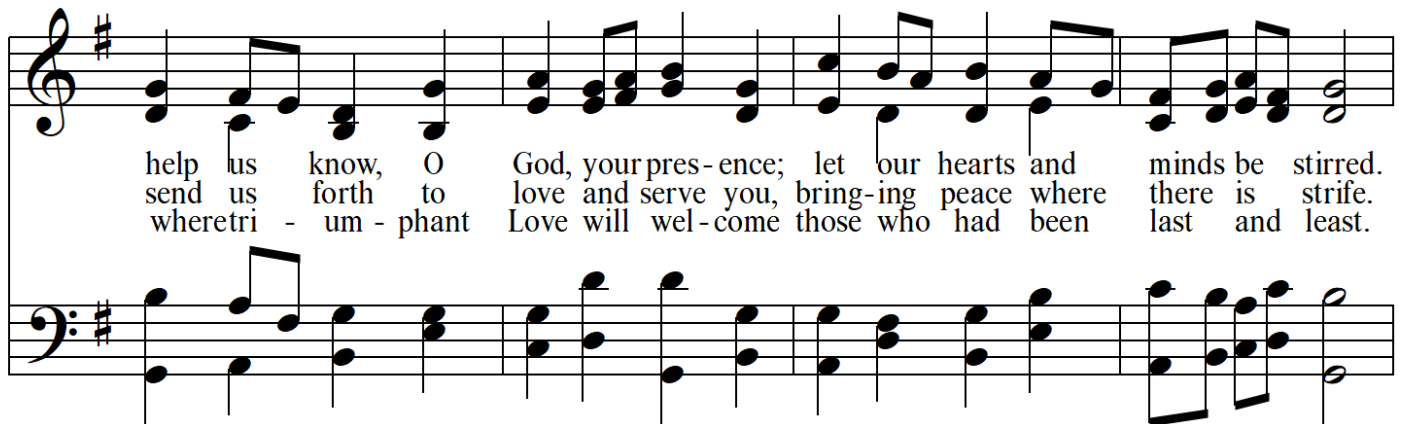
ELW 522

# As We Gather at Your Table

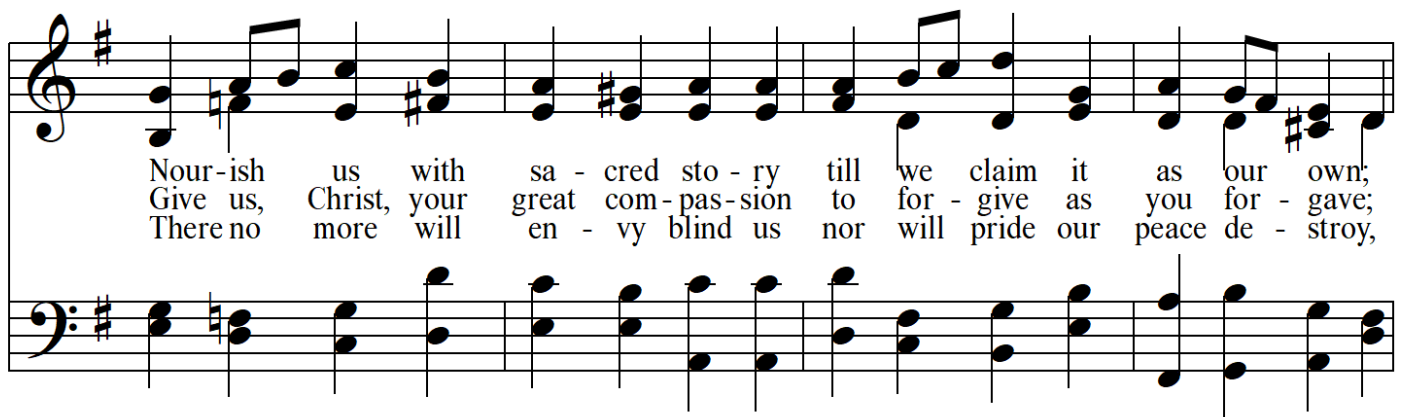
ELW 522



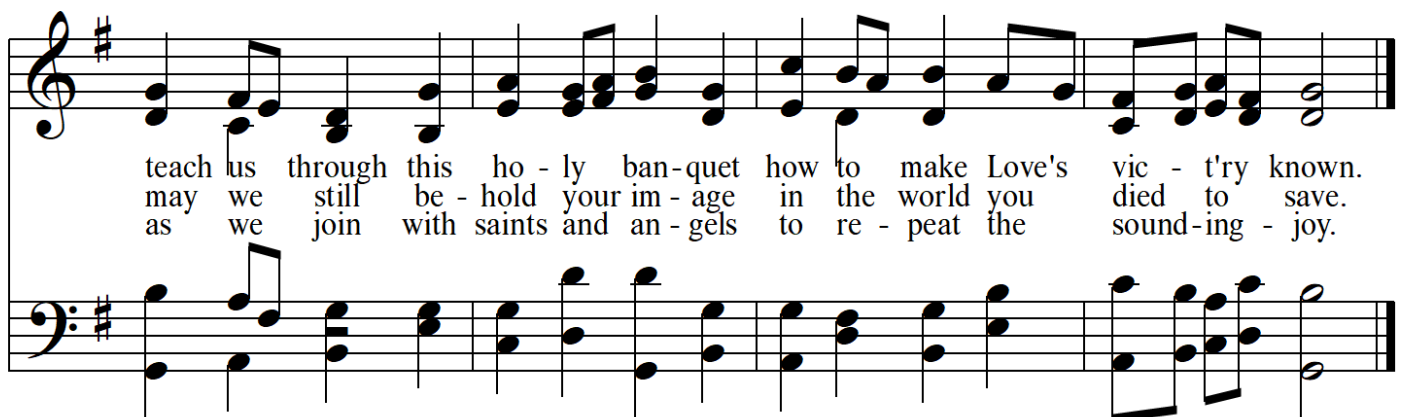
1. As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,  
 2. Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra ment of life;  
 3. Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.  
 wheretri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.



Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;  
 Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;  
 There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.  
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.  
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing - joy.

IN BABILONE

## 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 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.**

## READINGS

### Exodus 12:1-14

<sup>1</sup> The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, <sup>2</sup> “This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup> Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. <sup>4</sup> If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. <sup>5</sup> Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. <sup>6</sup> You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. <sup>7</sup> They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. <sup>8</sup> They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. <sup>9</sup> Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. <sup>10</sup> You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn with fire. <sup>11</sup> This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand, and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the Lord. <sup>12</sup> I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from human to animal, and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. <sup>13</sup> The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. <sup>14</sup> “This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Romans 13:8-14

<sup>8</sup> Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> 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.” <sup>10</sup> Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. <sup>11</sup> 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; <sup>12</sup> 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; <sup>13</sup> let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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 18<sup>th</sup> chapter beginning at the 15<sup>th</sup> verse.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### Matthew 18:15-20

[Jesus said to the disciples:]<sup>15</sup> “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. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> 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.**

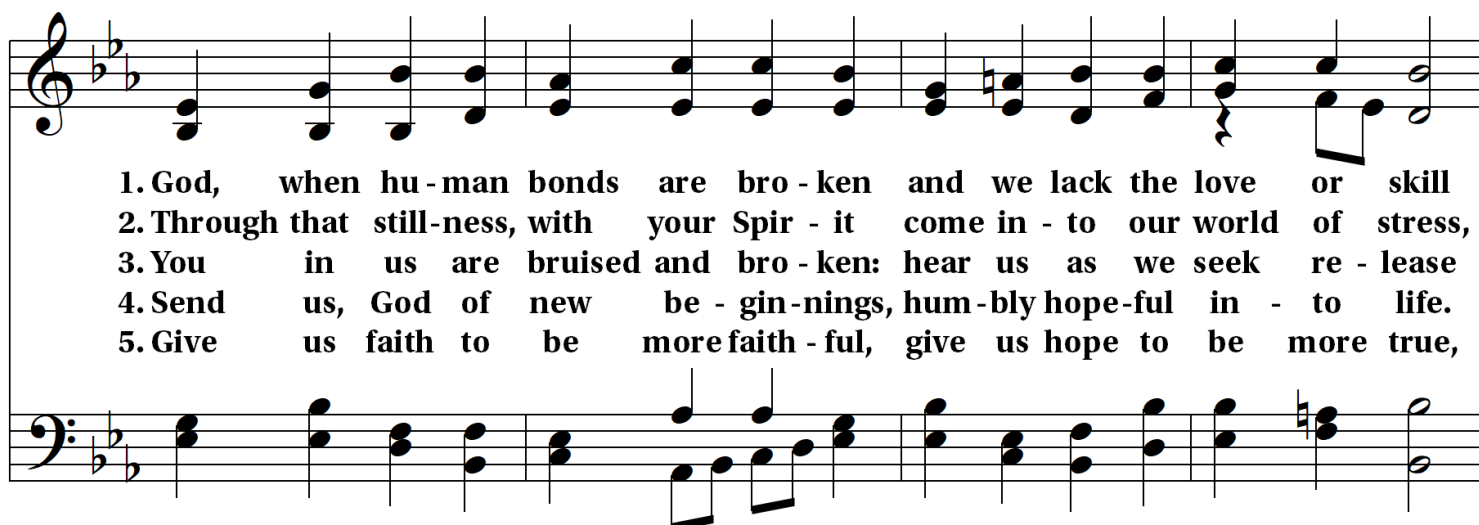
## SERMON

Pastor Stephanie Kopsch

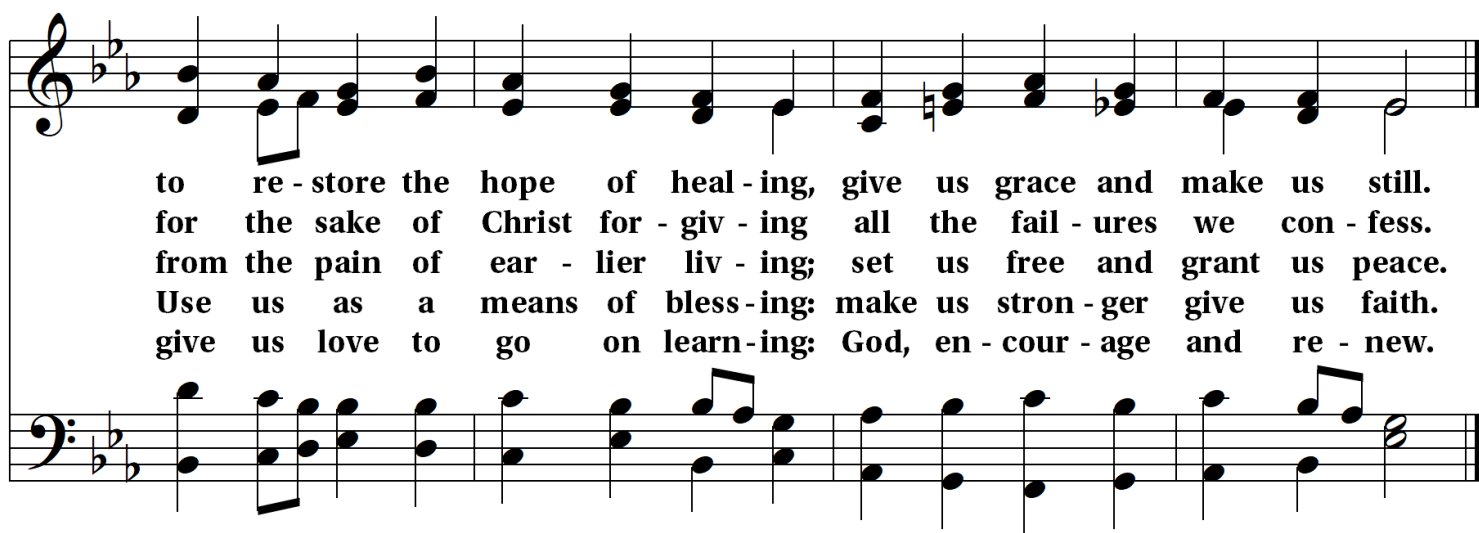
## HYMN OF THE DAY

*“God, When Human Bonds Are Broken”*

ELW 603



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: William H. Monk, 1823-1889  
 Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

MERTON  
 8 7 8 7

## 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 THE PEOPLE

We pray to you, O Lord our God

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also, with you.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## MEAL

### OFFERTORY

*"What a Friend We Have in Jesus" by Grant Wall*

*Kristie Venrick*

*Accompanied by Gary Elmquist*

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

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.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also, with you.**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them up 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.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

### 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.**

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

*This is the table of God. All who hunger for God's presence in their lives are invited to receive bread and wine. Please come forward at the direction of the usher. Our bread is gluten free, prepared and baked in a kitchen excluding wheat flour. The wine is in the outer, darker circle of glasses in the communion trays while the lighter glasses in the center contain grape juice. Should you prefer not to receive communion, please come forward for a blessing by crossing your arms in front of your chest. Come and see that the Lord is good.*

COMMUNION HYMNS

|                               |         |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| "One Bread, One Body"         | ELW 496 |
| "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" | ELW 773 |
| "We Come to the Hungry Feast" | ELW 479 |

# One Bread, One Body

ELW 496

*Refrain*

One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of  
 bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y through-out the  
 earth, we are one bod-y in this one Lord.  
 1.Gen-tile or Jew, ser-vant or free,  
 2.Man-y or the gifts, man-y or the works,  
 3.Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown,  
 wom-an or man, no more.  
 one in the Lord, of all.  
 gath-ered to one for all.

*Refrain*

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939

Music: John Foley, SJ

Text and music © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ, and OCP Publications

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY  
 4 4 6 and refrain

# Precious Lord, Take My Hand **ELW 773**

Thomas Andrew Dorsey, 1932

George Nelson Allen, 1844

$\text{♩} = 107$

1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let stand, I am tired, I am weak,  
 2. When my way grows dre - ar, Pre-cious Lord, lin - ing, When my life i - s n -  
 3. When the dark - ness ap - pears And the night dra - near, And the day i - s past -

am worn; Through storm, through the night, Lead me on to the light:  
 ost gone, Hear cry, hear my call, Hold my hand lest I fall: Take my  
 nd gone, the ri - ver I stand, Guide my feet, hold my hand:

13 Refrain  
 hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

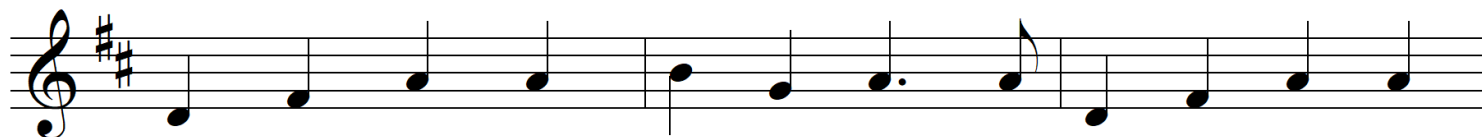
© 1938 (renewed 1965) Unichappell Music, Inc.  
 Courtesy of the Cyber Hymnal™

# We Come to the Hungry Feast

ELW 479



1. We come to the hun-gry feast hun-gry for a word of peace. To  
2. We come to the hun-gry feast hun-gry for a world re - leased from  
3. We come to the hun-gry feast hun-gry that the hun - ger cease, and



hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is  
hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,  
know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay



not de - nied. We come, we \_ come to the hun - gry feast.  
poor in mind. We come, we \_ come to the hun - gry feast.  
with us; still we \_ come, we \_ come to the hun - gry feast.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943

Music: Ray Makeever

Text and music © 1982 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress

HUNGRY FEAST

7 7 8 8 9

## COMMUNION BLESSING

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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**

## SENDING

### SENDING OF COMMUNION

In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these Holy Gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

**We who are many are one body, because we all share in one bread, one cup.**

### 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 HYMN

*"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"*

*ELW 656*

### SENDING

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

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1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;  
 2. Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;  
 3. We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,  
 4. From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.  
 our fears, our hope, our aims are one, our com-forts and our cares.  
 and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
 and per - fect love and friend-ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740-1817, alt.

Music: Johann G. Nägeli, 1773-1836, adapt.

DENNIS  
SM

## **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!

|                          |                                  |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Preacher/Presider        | Pastor Stephanie Kopsch          |
| Council Hosts:           | Dorothea Ekx<br>Al Manley        |
| Ushers:                  | Jon Osberg                       |
| Reader:                  | Sally Gaddis                     |
| Communion<br>Assistants: | Lewis Geyer II<br>Dwight Tilford |
| Organist/Pianist:        | Gary Elmquist                    |
| Livestream Operator      | Karl Heichelhiem                 |

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