

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Ordinary Time

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

16th Sunday After Pentecost
September 13, 2026 — 9:30 a.m.
Welcome to worship, we are glad you are with us!

GATHERING

PRELUDE

INTRODUCTION

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.



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.

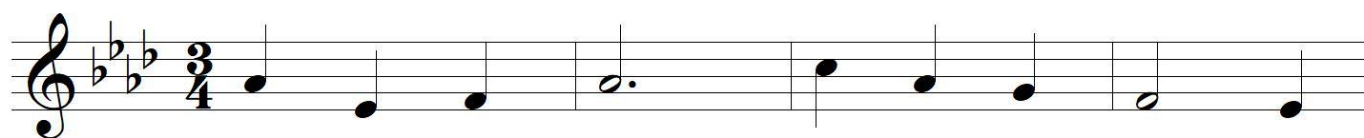
GATHERING HYMN

"God's Work, Our Hands"

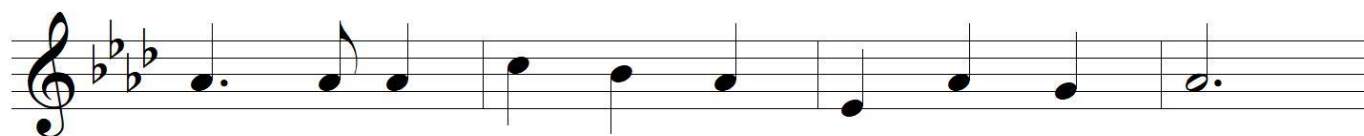
ACS 1000 vs. 1,2

God's Work, Our Hands

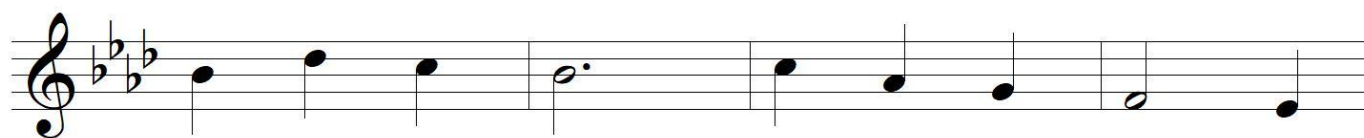
ACS 1000



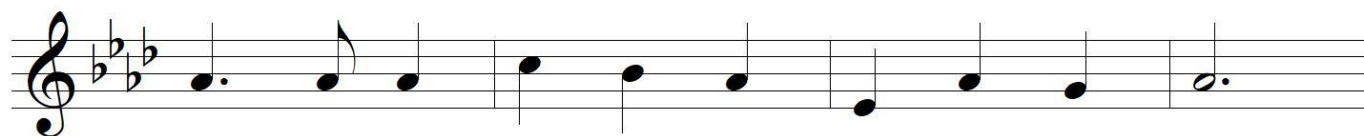
1. God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
 2. God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
 3. God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
 4. God is at work in and a - round us:



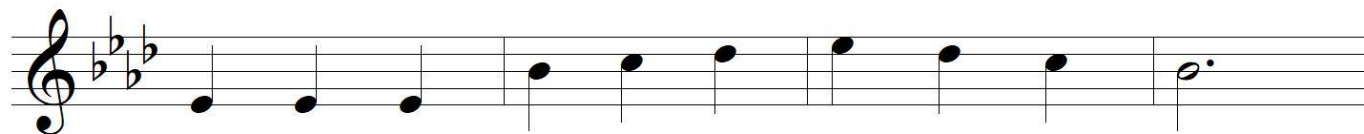
build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



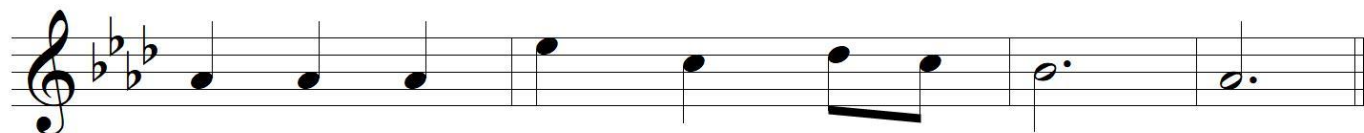
rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
 claim - ing God's love for the the lost and the least.
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: David N. Johnson, 1922-1987

Text © 2019 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Music 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

EARTH AND ALL STARS

4 5 10 4 5 10 10 9

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, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

READINGS

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Romans 14:1-12

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also, those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

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 18th chapter beginning at the 21st verse.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³ "For this reason, the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Stephanie Kopsch

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Take My Life, That I May Be"

ELW 583

Take My Life, That I May Be

Toma, oh Dios, mi voluntad

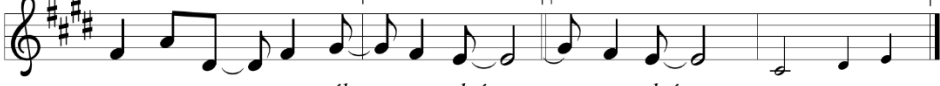
Refrain/Estribillo



To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -
Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,



da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón
to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;



y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.
let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.



1 *Que mi vi - da en - te - ra es - té*
1 Take my hands and let them move
2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,
3 Take my voice and let me sing
4 Take my will and make it thine;



con - sa - gra - da a ti, Se - ñor;
at the im - pulse of thy love;
not a mite would I with - hold;
al - ways, on - ly for my King;
it shall be no lon - ger mine;



que a mis ma - nos pue - da guiar el im -
take my feet and let them be swift and
take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry
take my lips and let them be filled with
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall

Refrain/Estribillo



pul - so de tu a - mor.
beau - ti - ful for thee.
pow'r as thou shalt choose.
mes - sag - es from thee.
be thy roy - al throne.

2 *Que mis pies tan sólo en pos
de lo santo puedan ir,
y que a ti, Señor, mi voz,
se complazca en bendecir. Estribillo*

3 *Que mis labios al hablar
hablen sólo de tu amor;
que mis bienes dedicar
yo los quiera a ti, Señor. Estribillo*

4 *Que mi tiempo todo esté
consagrado a tu loor;
que mi mente y su poder
sean usados en tu honor. Estribillo*

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, adapt.; Spanish text: Vincent Mendoza, 1875–1955
Music: TOMA MI VOLUNTAD, William Dexheimer Pharris, b. 1956
Music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

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CELEBRATION OF VOCATION

We are called to proclaim the good news:

God is at work!

This good news is not left in some history long ago or a place far away:

God is at work in the world still today!

In us and through us, God is glorified in our work.

When we offer a helping hand, God is praised.

When we share of our abundance, God is known in the world.

God is at work in us!

In our service today and in our daily lives,

let us live out what God has called us to in baptism.

God is at work through our hands!

BLESSING OF THE QUILTS

LEADER: Let us pray. O Lord our God, maker of all things, you have blessed us with so many Gifts – a good eye for color, the ability to make fine stitches, the skills to develop ever-new and exciting patterns. Now we offer the fruits of our labors, the Quilts we have made, to you.

PEOPLE: **We dedicate these Quilts to your service, trusting that your love will go wherever each Quilt is sent, making it more than just a piece of material, a collection of items, - making each piece we have created an expression of love. There is no way for us to imagine the power and effect an act of love can have on a person's life – how you can use something as small as a Quilt to radiate your love from us to the world. May these be used in your service a become blessing for all those who receive them.**

LEADER: Lord, we know that all we possess comes from your loving hand. Give us grace to honor you will all of our being: draw our hearts to you, guide our minds, fill our imaginations, control our wills, so that we may be wholly yours. Use us as you will, always to your glory and the welfare of your people.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Gathered into God's embrace, let us lift our voices on behalf of a weary and wounded world.

God of love, send us out filled with your love and life. Be known in our daily living, that your love may be known through our proclamation.

God, we pray,

open our hands in love.

God of creation, remind us to be good stewards of your diverse and beautiful world.

God, we pray,

open our hands in love.

God of peace, fill the hearts of those who rule, govern and lead. Give them and us compassion to guide the peoples of this world in the ways of truth, justice, equity and peace.

God, we pray,

open our hands in love.

God of healing, visit those who yearn for your wholeness, especially those whose names and needs we lift up now (*names and needs added as desired*). Encourage all those who bear another's burdens. Give wisdom and perseverance to all who work in health care professions. God, we pray,

open our hands in love.

God of service, give us strength and humility. In our service to those near and far, whose needs are visible or invisible, may we find you in the faces of our neighbors.

God, we pray,

open our hands in love.

For what else do we pray?

Everlasting God, support us in this life. As we remember those who have gone before as examples of faithful living and honor those whose faith was known only to you, inspire us to follow their example of baptismal life until we join with them in worship.

God, we pray,

open our hands in love.

Into your wounded hands of love, O God, we place all our prayers, trusting in your mercy through the crucified and risen one Jesus. **Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also, with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL

OFFERTORY

“What a Wonderful World” by Weiss/Thiele

Adelyn Scheiblich

Piano

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.

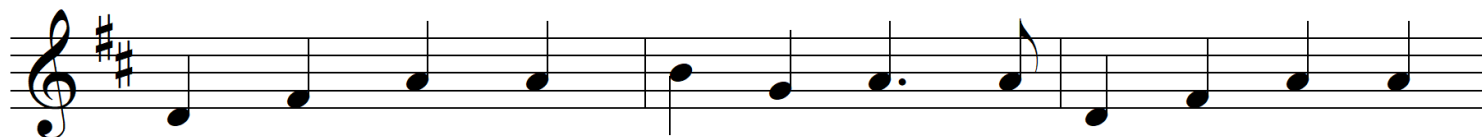
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 Courtesy of the Cyber Hymnal™

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

z

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

“God’s Work. Our Hands”

ACS 1000 vs. 3,4

See Insert

SENDING

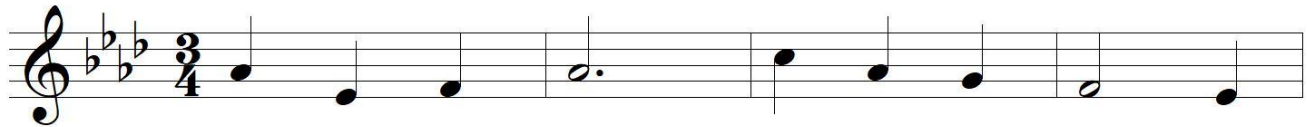
Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

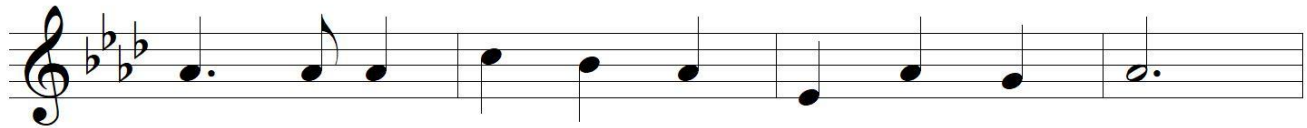
POSTLUDE

God's Work, Our Hands

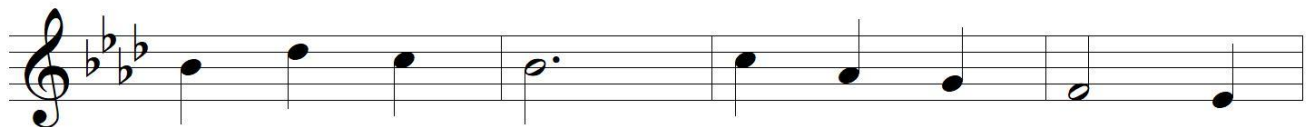
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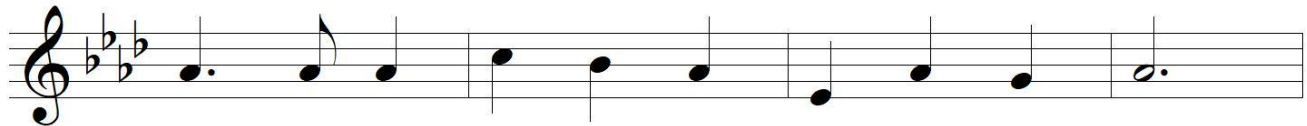
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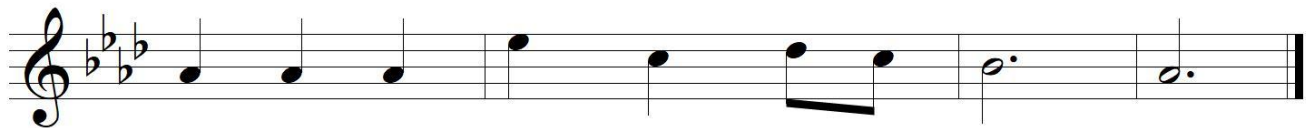
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 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



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Music 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

EARTH AND ALL STARS

4 5 10 4 5 10 10 9

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
Worship Assistant	Deacon Korra Looschen
Council Hosts:	Bill Campbell Kayla Morelli
Ushers:	Vicki Hergott
Reader:	Barb Mohr
Communion	Jeff Satur
Assistants:	Shannon Satur
Organist/Pianist:	Jeffrey Hartmann

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