



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH



17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 20th, 2026

GATHERING

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN – ELW 688

Lord of Light

1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and
2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -
3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may
4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent

suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom
ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance
low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,
day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing

as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -
of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -
with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions
peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that

fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.
ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:
from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:
pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:

Refrain
Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860–1953, alt.
Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991
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***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: One of the things that is amazing about the Earth is that even after a fire, a flood, or an oil spill, new life always finds a way to grow. Friends, God's grace is like that. No matter the mistakes we make, the mess we create, or the harm we do, God's love for us is unending. Trusting in that good news, let us turn to the prayer of confession with confidence that even here, grace is in bloom.

C: Creator God, we have lost our way. In the beginning, humanity was instructed to care for creation. However, in pursuit of our own wealth and efficiency, we have done the opposite. The oceans are heavy with plastic. The ice caps are melting by the hour. Animals and plants are treated as a means to an end. Corporations fill the atmosphere with pollution. Policies and practices are slow to change. Forgive us, O God. Bring us back to the garden. Fill our hearts with compassion for your world. Show us where we can make a difference, and help us to see your fingerprints in every glimpse of the natural world. With hope in our hearts for a better day, we pray: Amen.

P: Friends, when it comes to creation care, we have a lot to confess. But even here, even now, God's grace for us is like a mighty rushing stream. So trusting in God's unrelenting mercy, may we be inspired to action. Join me in proclaiming these words of forgiveness:

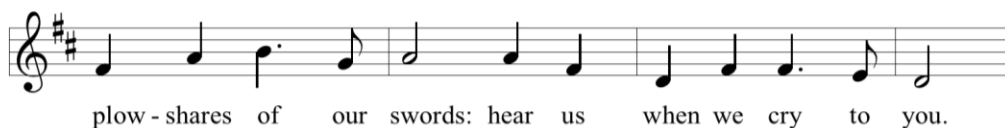
C: Just as flowers that bloom after the fire, there is nothing that God cannot redeem. We are known. We are loved. We are made new. So may we roll up our sleeves and get our hands dirty with the work of justice, with the work of compassion, with the work of mercy.

P: Thanks be to God for this new day!

C: Alleluia! Amen.

KYRIE

Cantor



Assembly



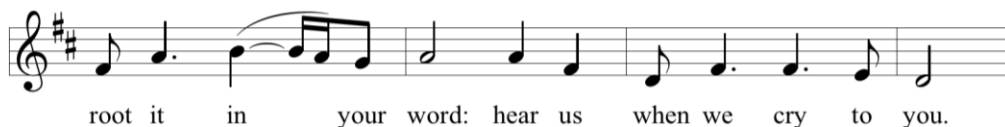
Cantor



Assembly



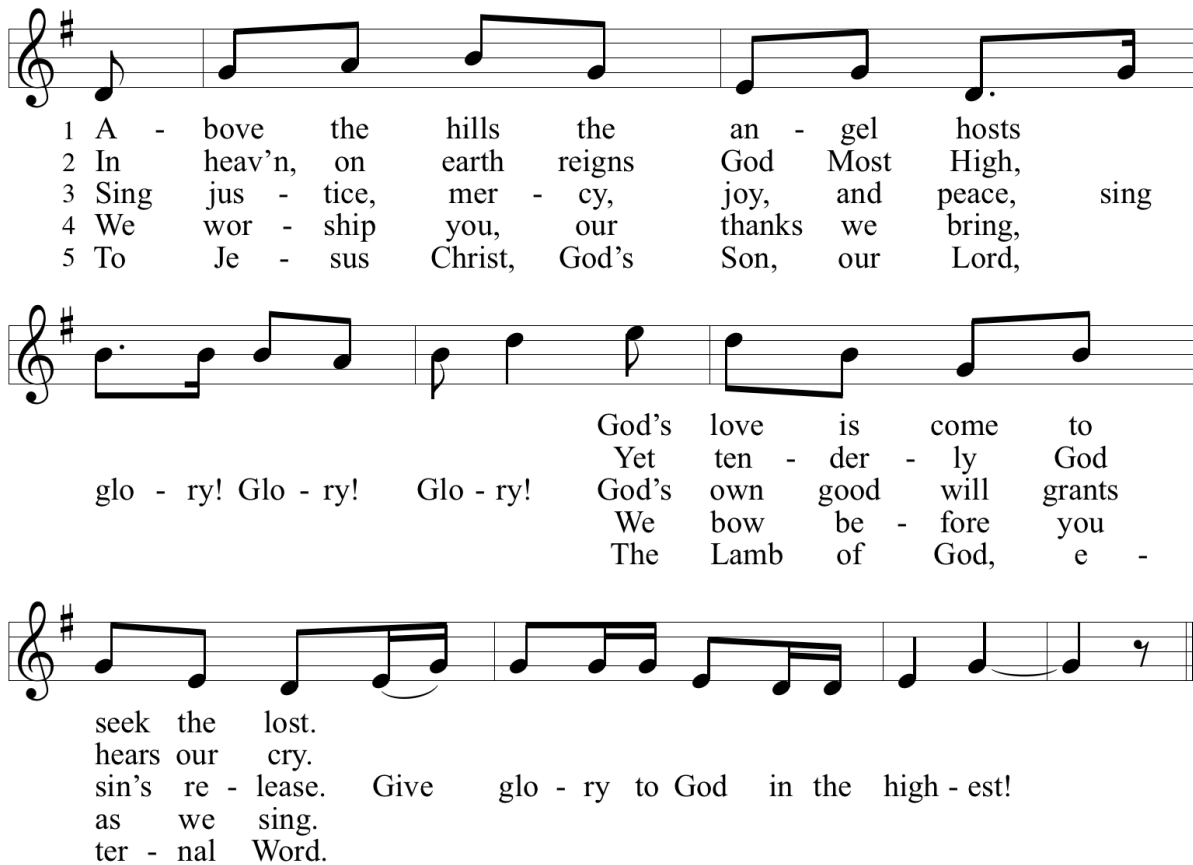
Cantor



Assembly



Glory



1 A - bove the hills the an - gel hosts
 2 In heav'n, on earth reigns God Most High,
 3 Sing jus - tice, mer - cy, joy, and peace, sing
 4 We wor - ship you, our thanks we bring,
 5 To Je - sus Christ, God's Son, our Lord,

glo - ry! Glo - ry! Glo - ry! God's love is come to
 Yet ten - der - ly God
 God's own good will grants
 We bow be - fore you
 The Lamb of God, e -

seek the lost.
 hears our cry.
 sin's re - lease. Give glo - ry to God in the high - est!
 as we sing.
 ter - nal Word.

REETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also, with you.**

P: Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

WORD

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-2:3

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and

over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

So God created humans in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

A: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*GRADUAL HYMN



1 O God, whose word well-plant - ed yields fruit a hun - dred - fold,
2 O God of seed and har - vest, of sun and soil and rain,
3 O God, your fi - nal har - vest of his - t'ry's an - cient field



we praise your grac - es grant - ed to those who sowed of old,
at - tend the word we sow, lest its plant - ing be in vain.
will test with truth the proud - est that hu - man work can yield.



who by their wit - ness scat - tered good seed up - on the soil
Send show - ers of your Spir - it, bright sun - shine of your grace,
Op - pres - sion's blight will van - ish, fair free - dom's fruits in - crease;



where oth - ers, reap - ing, gath - ered the har - vest of their toil.
that mul - ti - tudes who hear it your gos - pel may em - brace.
and love and joy will flour - ish to clothe the earth with peace.

*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

***GOSPEL**

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 1st chapter, beginning with the 1st verse.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

HYMN OF THE DAY – ELW 669
Rise Up, O Saints of God!

1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;

Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936
Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893
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***APOSTLES' CREED**

P: Let us now confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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, and 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.**

*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

A brief silence.

Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good news and our anger at your generosity to others. Nourish us by your grace to be witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Guide scientists and researchers studying responses to the climate crisis so that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your great goodness. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Show employers the benefits of equal pay standards for all their employees. Reconcile conflicts between employees. Fill places of employment with camaraderie, and bring an end to employment disparity. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need, especially Rosemary Rizzo, Tony Rizzo, Erin Jankowski, Dee Marinov, John Veihdeffer, Diane Busdiecker, Sarah Burke, Pat Nowak, Mary Ann and Chip Orlando, and all those we name in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of others in the community. Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors with our time and talents. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Comfort us with the promise of the resurrection as we remember all our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: 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.

C: Amen.

PEACE

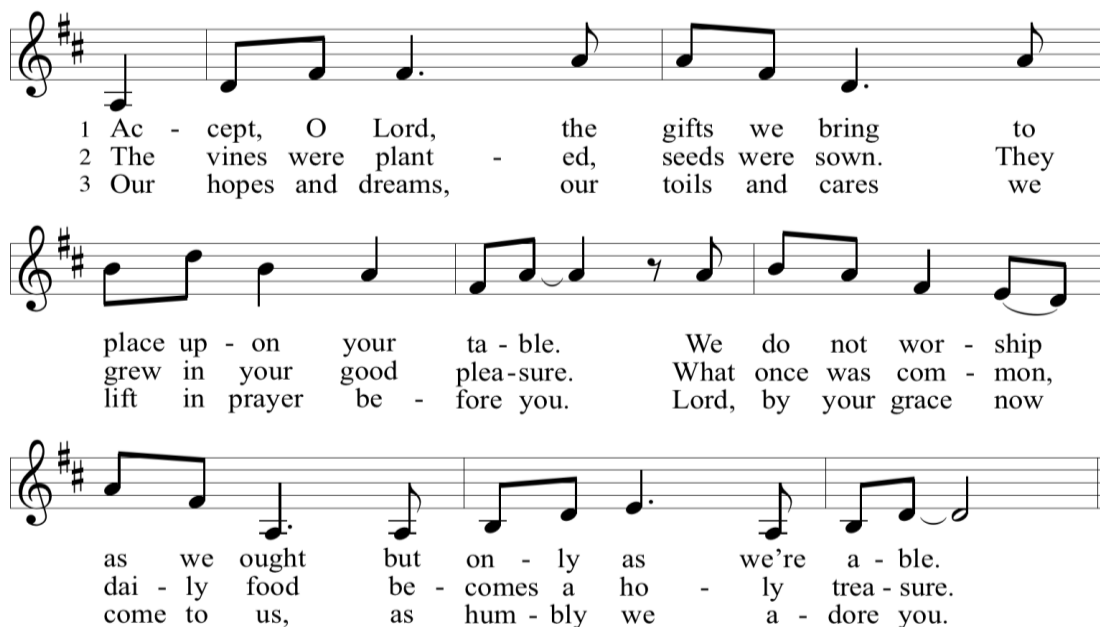
P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also, with you.

P: Let us share God's peace with each other now.

MEAL

OFFERING AND SETTING THE TABLE



1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to
2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They
3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we

place up - on your ta - ble. We do not wor - ship
grew in your good plea - sure. What once was com - mon,
lift in prayer be - fore you. Lord, by your grace now

as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
dai - ly food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

*OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

C: **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.**

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

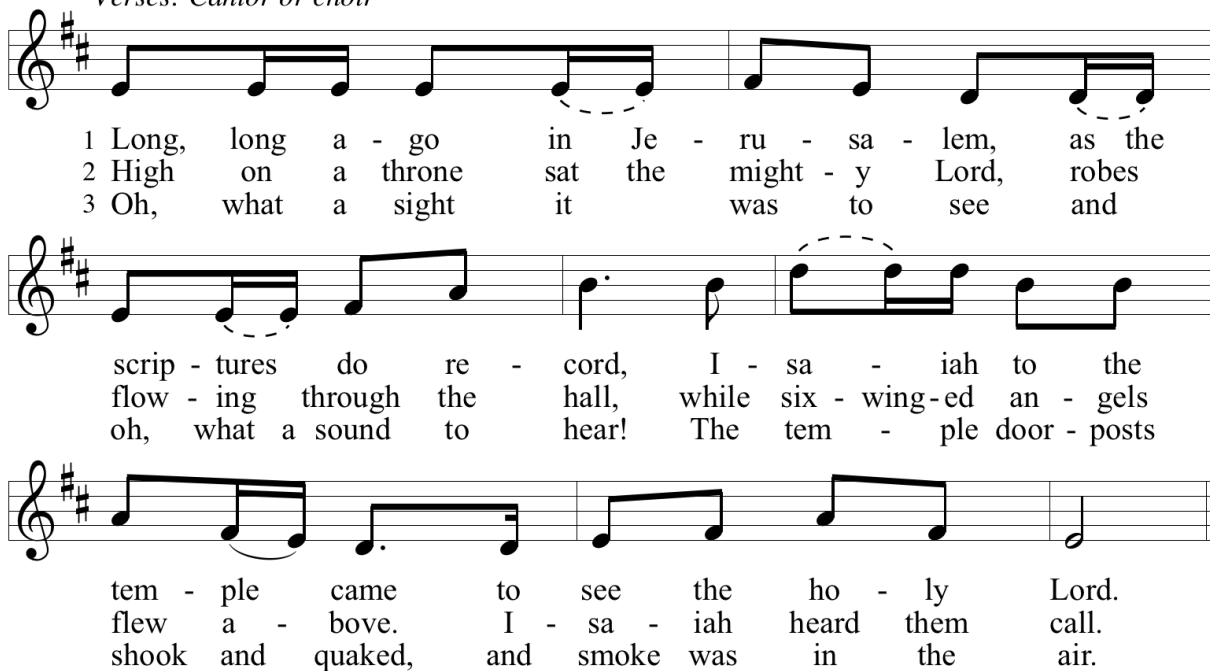
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*THE PROPER PREFACE

P: We lift our hearts to you, gracious God, because you made the dazzling creation out of nothing, yet made us to share eternity with you. In covenant love you called your chosen people to an imagination as plentiful as the stars in the sky and the sands of the desert. Your Son Jesus transformed our hearts from the scarcity of mammon to the wondrous abundance of manna, and through the church you gather us to share in the holy feast where your grace abounds for all, forever. His cross and resurrection turn the emptiness of sin into the fullness of everlasting life. And so we join with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise:

Verses: Cantor or choir



1 Long, long a - go in Je - ru - sa - lem, as the
2 High on a throne sat the might - y Lord, robes
3 Oh, what a sight it was to see and

scrip - tures do re - cord, I - sa - iah to the
flow - ing through the hall, while six - wing - ed an - gels
oh, what a sound to hear! The tem - ple door - posts

tem - ple came to see the ho - ly Lord.
flew a - bove. I - sa - iah heard them call.
shook and quaked, and smoke was in the air.

Refrain: Assembly



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, God's
glo - ry fills all heav'n and earth, God of pow - er and might.

Words of Institution

P: 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.

And so Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as our Lord Jesus taught us.

C: **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

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

COMMUNION MUSIC



1 O Lamb of God, to earth you came to
2 O Lamb of God, the on - ly Son, to

save us all from grief and shame. Shorn of your life, up -
us show mer - cy, Ho - ly One. You save the world from

on the tree you hung in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
all its sin. Lord, give to us your peace. A - men.

*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

COMMUNION HYMN – ELW 484
You Satisfy the Hungry Heart
Gift of Finest Wheat



- 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude
3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out-poured?
4 The mys - t'ry of your pres - ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:
5 You give your - self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,



that you should count us wor - thy, Lord, to share this heav'n - ly food.
Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?
whom all the world can - not con - tain comes in our hearts to dwell.
to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997
Music: BICENTENNIAL, Robert E. Kreutz, 1922–1996
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SENDING

***PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION**

P: And now may this, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you in his grace forever.

C: **Amen.**

A: 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.

C: **Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

P: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn – ELW 705 (See next page)

DISMISSAL

A: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE PRAY FOR...

ROSEMARY RIZZO
TONY RIZZO
ERIN JANKOWSKI
DEE MARINOV
MARYANN AND CHIP
ORLANDO
JOHN VEIDEFFER
SARAH BURKE
DIANE BUSDIECKER
THE DICKIE FAMILY
PAT NOWAK

GEORGE TROESTER- SON OF MAUREEN SIETESKI
MAYA CHAKRABORTY
KATHERINE SIKORSKI
ANGELA ROESER
EMILY- NIECE OF PATTY WALKER
JANICE DARVEAU- FRIEND OF KATHY BUSDIECKER
DAVID JINKS- FATHER OF SARAH KUEHFUS
REED AND MARSHALL WHITE- COUSINS OF NANCY STOEHR
KEVIN MACIVER- SECOND COUSIN OF ANNETTE BERG
WANDA ZYGMUNTOWICZ- FRIEND OF JOE SOMMA
DAN GRAUPMAN- COUSIN OF SUE GIBBONS
JAMES STONER - BROTHER-IN-LAW OF KATHY HABERMEHL
GRACE - GRANDDAUGHTER OF PAT NOWAK

BOOK CLUB

Book Club will meet on September 27th to discuss Broken Country by Clare Leslie Hall.

This is a book that is sure to spark thoughtful conversation, emotional reactions, and a wide range of opinions. Whether you loved it, questioned the characters' choices, or were surprised by the ending, come prepared for a lively discussion!

Discussion Leader: Nancy Daniels | Hostess: Kathy Hannon



Altar flowers are sponsored by Kenneth and Kris Senn, for Nancy Noble's 80th birthday.



SCAN HERE FOR ST. PAUL'S DONATION PAGE



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Keeping time for creation



As you think about how your worshipping community might take part in this unfolding creation-focused time, first take inventory of any existing or potential creation-related practices during autumn with which to link a festival of creation. Many assemblies celebrate a blessing of the animals on or around the October 4 commemoration of Francis of Assisi. Some congregations keep each Sunday in September as part of a season of creation, either by integrating creation themes into worship using the Revised Common Lectionary texts (the more common pattern across the world; see seasonofcreation.org) or by designating ecological themes for individual Sundays (a pattern developed largely by the Uniting Church of Australia and some partners in the United States).

There may be a congregational or ecumenical observance of a day of prayer and action for the care of creation on or around September 1. Perhaps the congregation celebrates an annual fall festival, picnic, or other outdoor event at this time of year that has some relationship to creation or creativity and might be integrated into a season or festival of creation. (Note that in the United States, Labor Day is observed on the first Monday of September, and while this secular holiday celebrating the labor movement is often associated with picnics and other outdoor activities, it is also a weekend when many Americans are on vacation away from their home congregations.)

PASTOR ASHLIN MARCHESE

PREACHER/PRESIDER

PATRICK GARD

ORGANIST

DAWN SAGERMAN

LITURGICAL ASSISTANT

KIM BROWN

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

JOE BROWN & KARL KRISTOFF

USHERS

PATTY & ELLIE WALKER

ALTAR GUILD
