

18th Sunday after Pentecost – ELW 8  
September 27, 2026 – 8:15 & 10:45 am

Accompanist

Kendra Leisinger

Guest Musicians

The Fleshpots of Egypt

Liturgists

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*ELW = the red hymn book underneath your seat. Hymns are located in the back of the book.*

*† indicates stand as able*

## Gathering

*Prelude*

*Welcome*

*† Confession and Forgiveness*

We confess our sins before God and one another.

Creating and renewing God, **You have made us in your image to carry your life-giving love as a blessing to all the world. Yet we fail again and again to live out your call. We place our trust in money and possessions, in flawed people and broken relationships, in the things that cannot sustain us. We do the things we do not want to do, and we fail to do the things we know you would have us do. Forgive us for all the ways we fall short. Open our eyes, hearts, and minds to your presence, and re-create us in your image each day, for the good of all that you have made.**

The God whose love outpoured caused the world to be continues to pour this creative love on us. The God whose love outpoured in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ continues to pour this redeeming love upon us. Children of God, know that

you are forgiven, and go forth refreshed and ready to answer God's call to love and serve the whole of creation. In Jesus' holy name. **Amen.**

*† Gathering Hymn: I Love to Tell the Story*

**ELW 661**

I love to tell the story  
of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory,  
of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story,  
because I know it's true;  
it satisfies my longings  
as nothing else would do.

*Refrain:*

I love to tell the story;  
'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story  
of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story:  
how pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it,  
more wonderfully sweet!  
I love to tell the story,  
for some have never heard  
the message of salvation  
from God's own holy word. *Refrain*

I love to tell the story,  
for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting  
to hear it like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory,

I sing the new, new song,  
I'll sing the old, old story  
that I have loved so long. *Refrain*

## **Liturgy of the Word**

### **† 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.**

### **† Kyrie**

**ELW p. 184**

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,**

**Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all; for this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,**

**Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,**

**Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family; for life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,**

**Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;

that you nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,**

**Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

***† Prayer of the Day***

God of presence, you remained fully with Joseph when he sat long years in a prison for a crime he did not commit. Help us to see that you are always with us, so that we might live faithfully in your world. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

***† Reading: Genesis 39: 1-23***

<sup>1</sup>Now Joseph was taken down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. <sup>2</sup>The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man; he was in the house of his Egyptian master. <sup>3</sup>His master saw that the Lord was with him, and that the Lord caused all that he did to prosper in his hands. <sup>4</sup>So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him; he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. <sup>5</sup>From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the Lord was on all that he had, in house and field. <sup>6</sup>So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge; and, with him there, he had no concern for anything but the food that he ate. Now Joseph was handsome and good-looking.

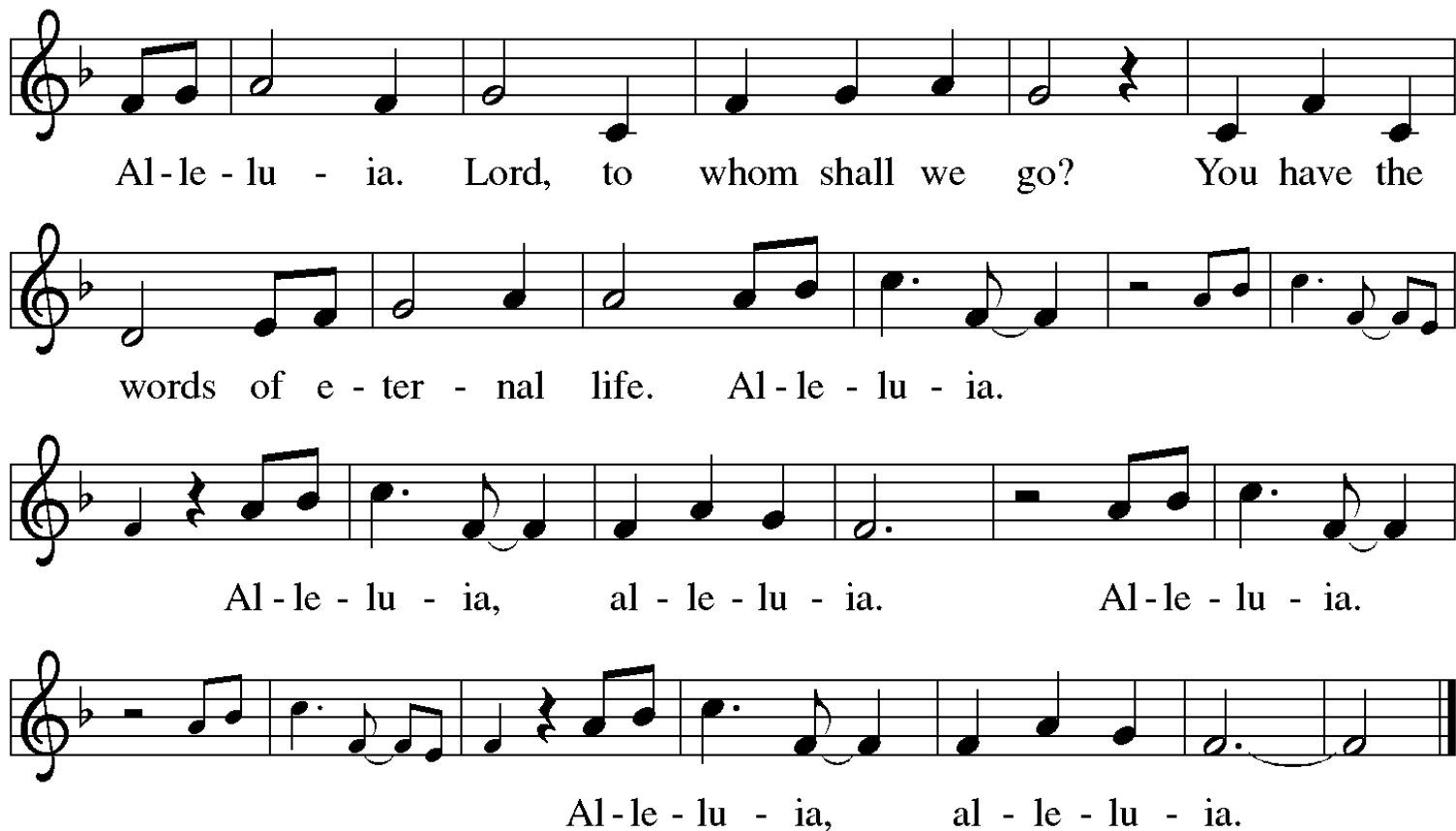
<sup>7</sup>And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me." <sup>8</sup>But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, with me here, my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my hand. <sup>9</sup>He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except yourself, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great wickedness, and sin against

God?” <sup>10</sup>And although she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not consent to lie beside her or to be with her. <sup>11</sup>One day, however, when he went into the house to do his work, and while no one else was in the house, <sup>12</sup>she caught hold of his garment, saying, “Lie with me!” But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside.

<sup>13</sup>When she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled outside, <sup>14</sup>she called out to the members of her household and said to them, “See, my husband has brought among us a Hebrew to insult us! He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice; <sup>15</sup>and when he heard me raise my voice and cry out, he left his garment beside me, and fled outside.” <sup>16</sup>Then she kept his garment by her until his master came home, <sup>17</sup>and she told him the same story, saying, “The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought among us, came in to me to insult me; <sup>18</sup>but as soon as I raised my voice and cried out, he left his garment beside me, and fled outside.”

<sup>19</sup>When his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, saying, “This is the way your servant treated me,” he became enraged. <sup>20</sup>And Joseph’s master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king’s prisoners were confined; he remained there in prison. <sup>21</sup>But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love; he gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer. <sup>22</sup>The chief jailer committed to Joseph’s care all the prisoners who were in the prison, and whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. <sup>23</sup>The chief jailer paid no heed to anything that was in Joseph’s care, because the Lord was with him; and whatever he did, the Lord made it prosper.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



### † **GOSPEL: Matthew 5: 11-12**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 5th chapter.

**Glory, to you, O Lord.**

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

***Children's Sermon***

**Kelly Ahrens**

***Sermon***

**Pastor Beth Wartick**

***Hymn of the Day: Great Is Thy Faithfulness***

**ELW 733**

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;  
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

*Refrain:*

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;  
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain*

***† 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 Intercession*

Confident that our Creator God listens and answers prayer, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Holy God, like Joseph many are imprisoned falsely due to failures in our justice system. Make us to work on behalf of all who lack resources to defend themselves, to enact unbiased laws, and to elect wise and impartial judges. God of mercy and grace, **We lift our prayers to you.**

Protect and watch over our natural world as the seasons change from summer to autumn. Protect migrating birds and animals stockpiling food for the winter. Help us to see the beauty of change as we look to trees and plants transitioning from a season of growth to a time of harvest. God of mercy and grace, **We lift our prayers to you.**

Raise up leaders like Joseph, whose trust in you compels them to be honest and just even when it lands them in trouble. Guide and protect all who are imprisoned or oppressed because of their integrity. God of mercy and grace, **We lift our prayers to you.**

We lift to you all those in our congregation, community, nation, and world who are dealing with illness, injury, or recovering from surgery, especially Mike and David. Guide all caregivers in their service to their patients. God of mercy and grace, **We lift our prayers to you.**

All labor is worthy in your eyes, O God. Prosper the work of every hand, and give us appreciation for those who do the jobs some might deem menial or less noble. Help us to see your face in the faces of all who serve us in any way. God of mercy and grace, **We lift our prayers to you.**

Throughout history you have inspired your saints to will and to work for your good purpose, no matter how challenging life is. Inspire us by their example to follow in the way of faith and hope. God of mercy and grace, **We lift our prayers to you.**

God who created all that is, we place all for whom we pray, both aloud and in the silence of our hearts, into your loving arms.

**Amen.**

*† Peace*

### **Liturgy of the Meal**

***Offering:** RLC Ministry relies on your generosity. You can make a gift in support of our ministry by placing it in the offering plates as they are passed, or by scanning the QR to give securely online. Thanks!*



### ***Offering Prayer***

Holy God, in your abundant love you sustain us even in our darkest of times. Receive these gifts out of that abundance, in gratitude for all that you have given us. Bless our offerings that they might be used to help bring about your reign of love and justice, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

### *† **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 God thanks and praise.**

### *† **Thanksgiving at the Table***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... and join their unending

hymn:

**† Holy Holy Holy**

**ELW p.190**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

**† Eucharistic Prayer**

**† Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

**Padrenuestro**

*Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo,  
santificado sea tu nombre.  
Venga tu reino.  
Hágase tu voluntad  
en la tierra como en el cielo.  
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.  
Perdona nuestras ofensas  
como también nosotros  
perdonamos a los que nos ofenden.  
No nos dejes caer en tentación  
y líbranos del mal.  
Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es  
el poder y tuya es la gloria,  
ahora y siempre. Amén.*

**Communion**

*If you are communing at home, receive the bread with the words  
“The Body of Christ given for you,” and the cup with “The blood  
of Christ shed for you.”*

**Lamb of God**

**ELW p. 191**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

***Communion Hymn: What a Friend We Have in Jesus***

**ELW 742**

What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
ev'rything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;  
oh, what needless pain we bear—  
all because we do not carry  
ev'rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged—  
take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness—  
take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,  
cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge—  
take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do your friends despise, forsake you?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In his arms he'll take and shield you;  
you will find a solace there.

**Sending**

***Announcements***

## **† Blessing**

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.

**Amen.**

## **† Sending Song: Lead Me, Guide Me**

**ELW 768**

### *Refrain:*

Lead me, guide me, along the way;

For if you lead me, I cannot stray.

Lord, let me walk each day with thee.

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r

To help me over my weakest hour.

Help me through the darkness they face to see.

Lead me, O lord, lead me. *Refrain*

Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,

Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.

I am putting all my trust in thee.

Lead me, O lord, lead me. *Refrain*

I am lost if you take your hand from me,

I am blind without thy light to see.

Lord, just always let me thy servant be.

Lead me, O lord, lead me. *Refrain*

## **† Dismissal**

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit. **Thanks be to God.**

## ***Postlude***