Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 26, 2026 + 9:30am

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
2417 Drexel Avenue + Racine, Wisconsin 53403
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https://www.facebook.com/LCRRacine



As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
source of hope in every nation, rest for the weary,
glory and peace to the ends of the earth. **Amen.**

Let us bring every burden to God.
Silence is kept for reflection.
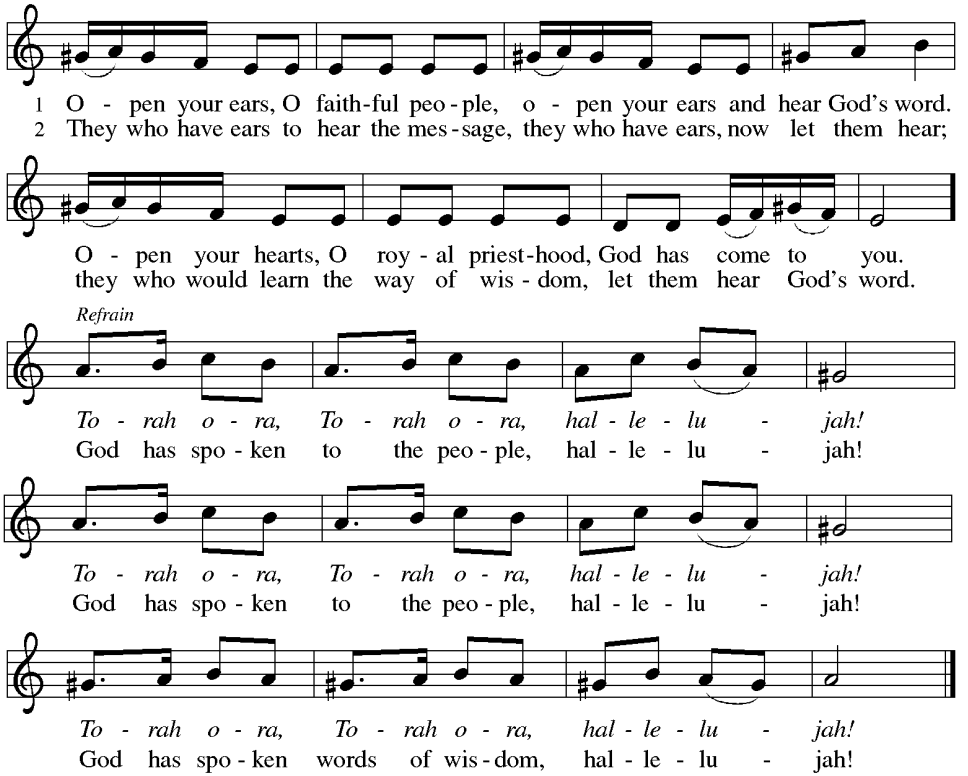
God of all mercy,

we have sinned against you,
our neighbors, and your creation.
Within ourselves and our communities,
our desire to do what is good
is at war with the evil that dwells in us.
We lament the evil that holds us captive.
We repent of the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us
for lives of compassion and courage
through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.



All-merciful, Almighty God
forgive you all your sins
through the grace of ☩ Jesus Christ,
and by the Spirit's power
strengthen you in doing what is good. **Amen.**

Gathering Song ***"Open Your Ears, O Faithful People"*** *ELW #519*



Text: Hasidic traditional; Willard F. Jabusch, b. 1930, English version
Music: YISRAEL V'ORAITA, Hasidic tune
Text © 1966, 1982 Willard F. Jabusch, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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. Beloved and sovereign God,

through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading — Genesis 29:15-28

Laban deceives Jacob by giving his older daughter, Leah, to Jacob in marriage instead of the promised younger daughter, Rachel. Because of his love for Rachel, Jacob agrees to work for Laban for an additional seven years so that he may also be married to her.

Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing?
Tell me, what shall your wages be?" 16Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was
Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. 17Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was graceful
and beautiful. 18Jacob loved Rachel, so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger
daughter Rachel." 19Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any
other man; stay with me." 20So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a
few days because of his love for her.

21Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed."
22So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. 23But in the evening he
took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her. 24(Laban gave his maid
Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) 25When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said
to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have
you deceived me?" 26Laban said, "This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the
firstborn. 27Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving
me another seven years." 28Jacob did so and completed her week; then Laban gave him his
daughter Rachel as a wife.

At the conclusion of the reading, the Assembly responds: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b

Make known the deeds of the LORD among the peoples. Hallelujah! (Ps. 105:1, 45)

1 Give thanks to the LORD and call up- | on God's name;
make known the deeds of the LORD a- | mong the peoples.
2 **Sing to the | LORD, sing praises, and speak of all God's | marvelous works.**
3 Glory in God's | holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the | LORD rejoice.
4 **Search for the strength | of the LORD; continually | seek God's face.**
5 Remember the marvels | God has done, the wonders and the judgments | of God's mouth,
6 **O offspring of Abra- | ham, God's servant, O children of Jacob, God's | chosen ones.**
7 The LORD | is our God, whose judgments prevail in | all the world,
8 **who has always been mindful | of the covenant, the promise made for a thousand | generations:**
9 the covenant | made with Abraham, the oath | sworn to Isaac,
10 **which God established as a stat- | ute for Jacob, an everlasting cove- | nant for Israel,**
11 saying, "To you will I give the | land of Canaan to be your allotted inheritance." 45b | Hallelujah!

Second Reading **Romans 8:26-39**

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

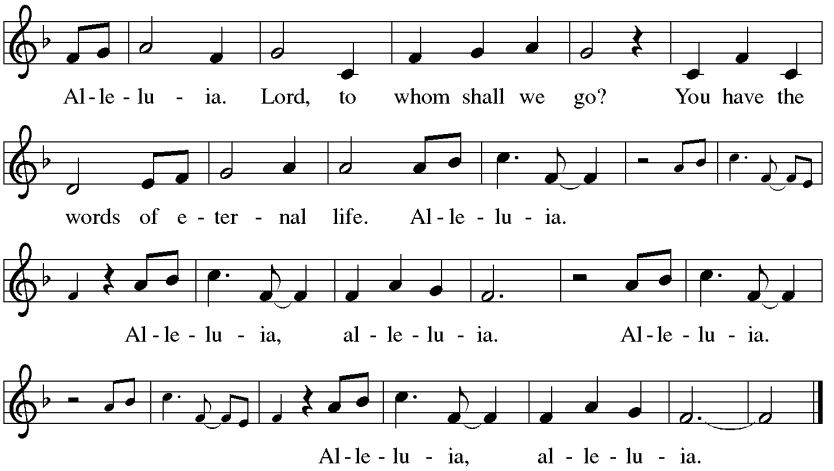
The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very
Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. 27And God, who searches hearts, knows what
is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

28We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according
to God's purpose. 29For those whom God foreknew God also predestined to be conformed to the
image of the Son of God, in order that the Son might be the firstborn within a large family. 30And
those whom God predestined God also called, and those whom God called God also justified, and
those whom God justified God also glorified.

31What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?
32The one who did not withhold the very Son of God, who was given up for all of us, how will that
God not give us along with the Son everything else? 33Who will bring any charge against God's
elect? It is God who justifies. 34Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised,
who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. 35Who will separate us from the
love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword?
36As it is written,
"For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."
37No, in all these things we are more than victorious through the one who loved us. 38For I am
convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to
come, nor powers, 39nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate
us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

At the conclusion of the reading, the Assembly responds: **Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Announcement
The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel **Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

Jesus put before ⌜the crowds⌝ another parable: "The dominion of heaven is like a mustard seed
that someone took and sowed in a field; 32it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown
it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in
its branches."

33Jesus told them another parable: "The dominion of heaven is like yeast
that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

44"The dominion of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then
in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

45"Again, the dominion of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls;
46on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

47"Again, the dominion of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every
kind; 48when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw
out the bad. 49So it will be at the end of the age.

The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous 50and throw them into the
furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

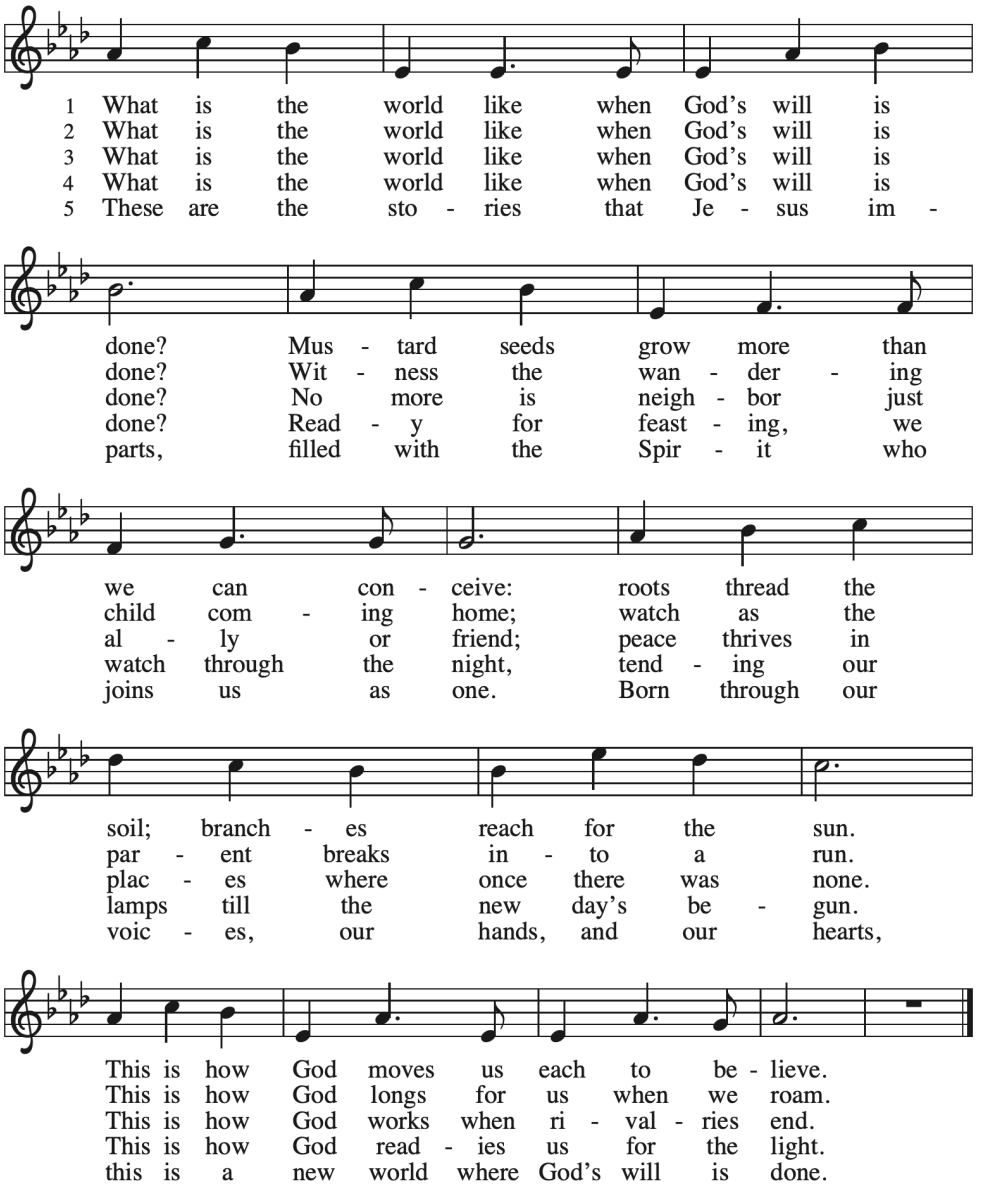
51"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." 52And Jesus said to them, "Therefore
every scribe who has become a disciple in the dominion of heaven is like a householder who
brings out of the household treasure what is new and what is old."

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

Sermon



Hymn of the Day ***"What is the World Like"*** *ACS #1047*



Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979
Music: NEW WORLD, Sally Ann Morris, b. 1952
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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.

**Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

Prayers of Intercession

The Assisting Minister leads the prayers of the people for the church, the world, and all people in need. Each petition ends with:

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We remember our homebound members and all who have asked for our prayers: Erna Joswig, Joyce Owens, Dorothy Popadic, Pat Quale, William Schultz Jr., John Falk, Carmen Falk, Lynn Hooper, Randy Weit, Aimee and Mark Hooper, Mary Scruggs, Linda Losito, Anne Maley, Judi and Larry Krebs, and Eloise and Larry Laugen.

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.



MEAL
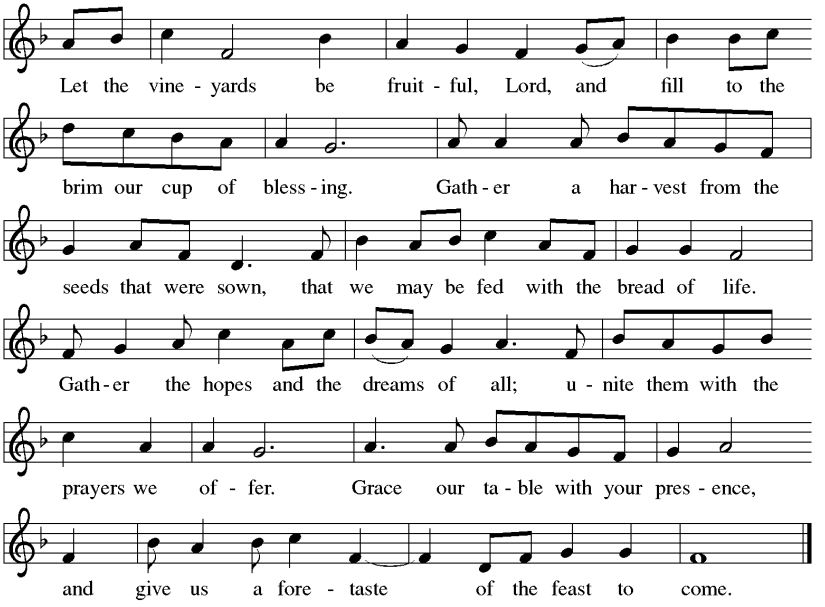
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

Your offering helps us carry on God's mission in our community! You may place your offering in the offering plate as it is passed, you may mail your offering to the church office, you can even text to give by texting the amount you wish to give to 262.592.5757, then follow the prompts. You may also scan the code to the right with your smartphone's camera to give on our website (www.racinelcredeemer.com). You can also sign up for automatic giving on our website as well! ***Thank you for your generosity!***

Offering Song

The Assembly may rise in body or spirit as the offering is brought forward.



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress and music © 2004 Augsburg Fortress.

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. Loving God,

we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

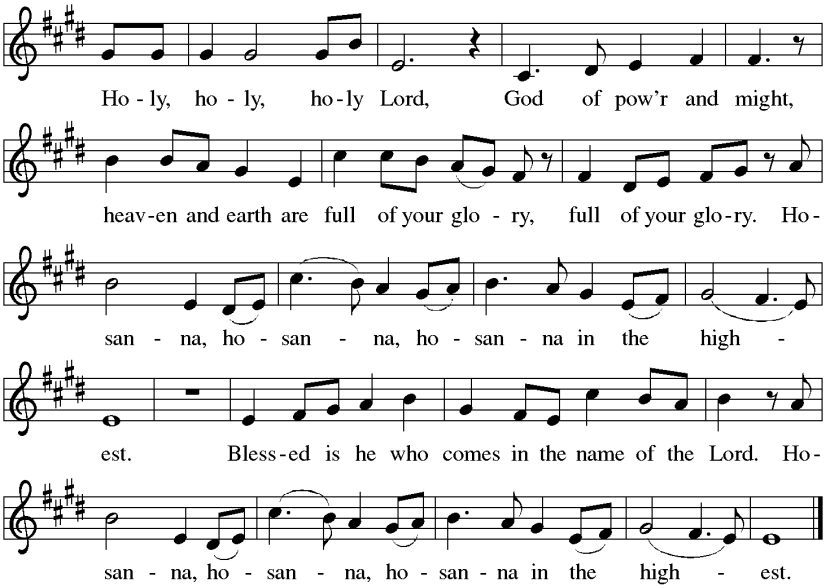
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed, right our duty and our joy….

…. we praise your name and join their unending hymn:.



The Presiding Minister continues giving thanks for God's salvation and blessing.
The prayer concludes: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

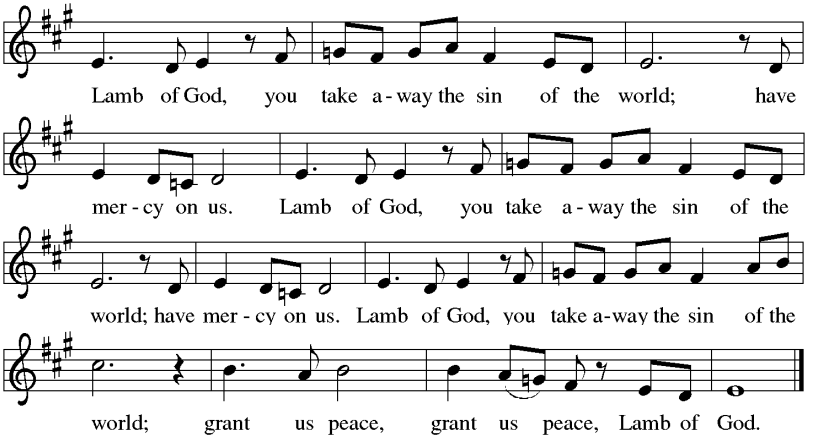
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Invitation to Communion

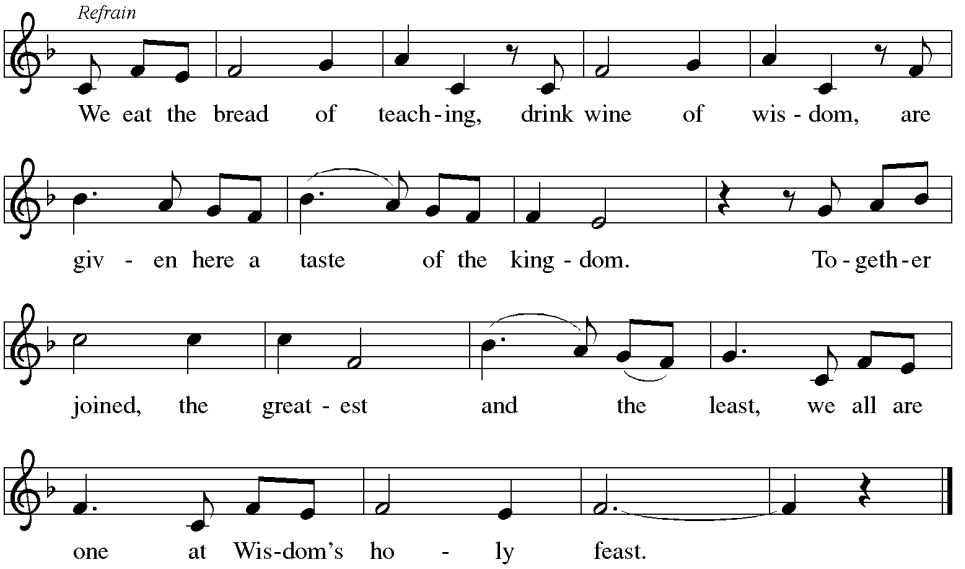
Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!
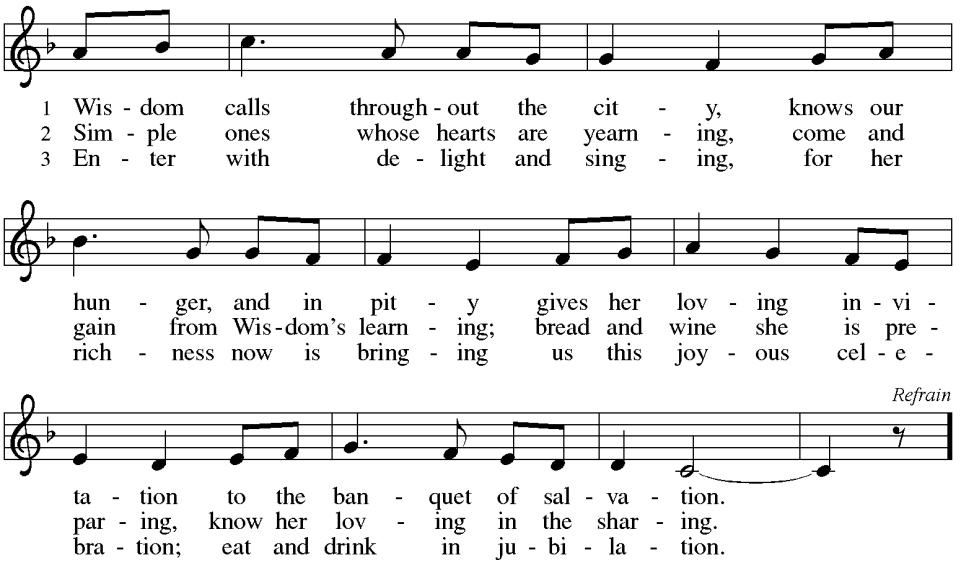
Distribution of Communion

If you are worshipping with us at home, you are invited to partake in Communion as well! All you need is bread of any kind and wine or juice of any kind. As you receive the bread: 'This is the Body of Christ given for you.' As you receive the wine or juice: 'This is the Blood of Christ shed for you.' If you are worshipping with more than one person, please serve one another as you able using the above words.



Communion Song *"We Eat the Bread of Teaching" ELW #518*





Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997
Music: WISDOM'S FEAST, Jerry Ray Brubaker, b. 1946
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Table Blessing

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray. Compassionate God,

through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

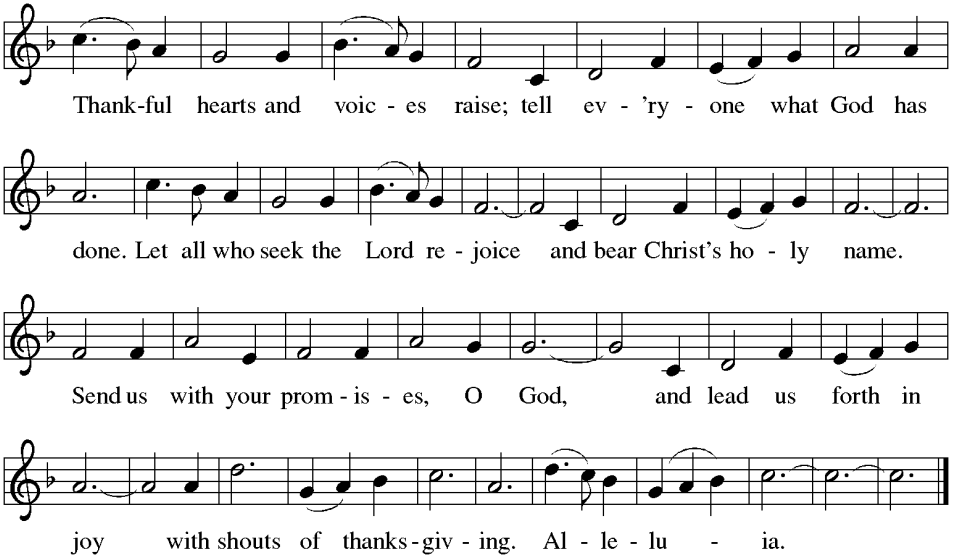
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Blessing

The Author of life, the Word of salvation, the Breath of new birth,

☩ one God, bless you and equip you for living and serving, today and every day. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn ***"Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise"*** *ELW #206*



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948
Text © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress and music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

Announcements

Dismissal

Heaven has come near. Go in peace, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

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We gather today on the ancestral lands of the Potawatomi, Ho-Chunk, Myaamia, Očhéthi Šakówi, Kickapoo, and Peoria peoples. We honor and acknowledge the traditional stewards of this land, recognizing their enduring connection to this region. As we come together in worship, let us commit ourselves to respecting their history and culture, and work toward healing and justice for Indigenous communities. May we be mindful of our role in creating a more equitable future for all.

Serving Today

Altar Flowers:	Lori Rennock
	In Honor of Bethany's Birthday
Assisting Minister:	Cayla Julius
Reader:	Jennifer Dustman
Usher:	John Wosyk
Altar Guild:	Jeanne Schierstedt & Jane Wilson
Musician:	Paul Berge
Pastor:	The Rev. Matt James

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