16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2026 + 9:30am



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
2417 Drexel Avenue + Racine, Wisconsin 53403
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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.

GATHERING

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

Confession and Forgiveness
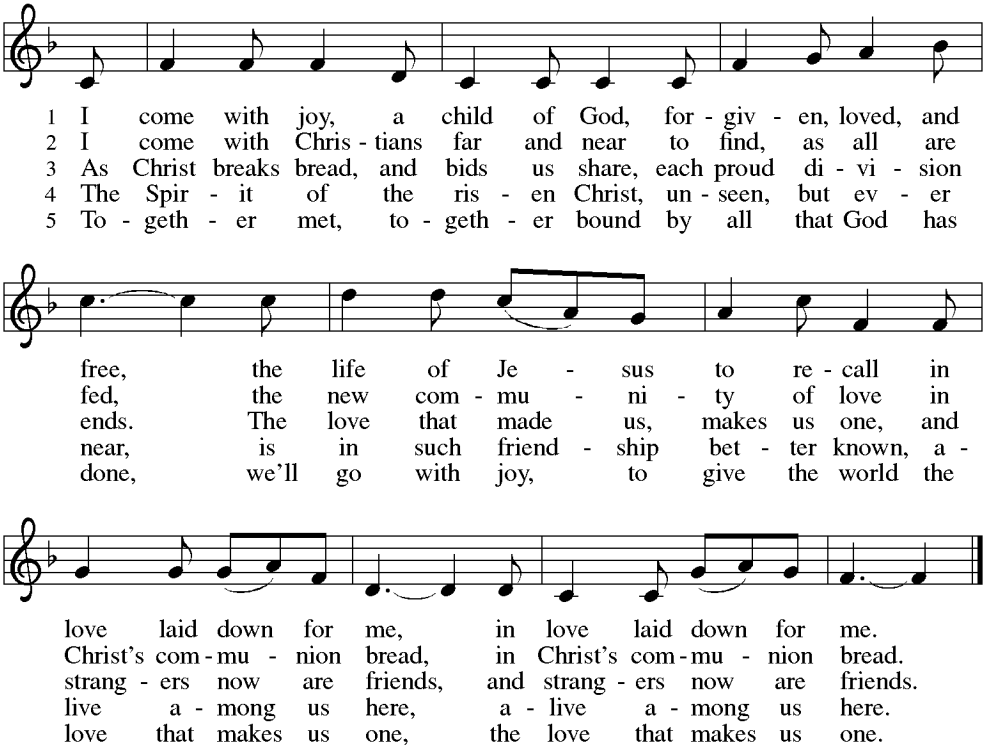
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our hope, our heart, our home. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
A brief silence.

Everlasting God, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end,
we confess that we participate in systems
that perpetuate oppression and injustice.
We are often numb to the pain of the world around us,
resistant to change that costs us something,
and reluctant to love our neighbors as ourselves.
We sin against your good creation,
failing to be faithful stewards
of the land, the sea, and all their creatures.
Make your home among us once more, O God,
naming us beloved and opening our hearts
to do your will. Amen.

All you saints and sinners, this good news is for you:
God knows you, forgives you by the self-giving of ☩ Jesus Christ,
and frees you to love the world as you have been loved.
Creation's story will not end until mourning, crying, and pain are no more.
When everything else changes, God's love is steadfast and sure.
Nothing can ever separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Gathering Song ***"I Come with Joy"*** *ELW #428*



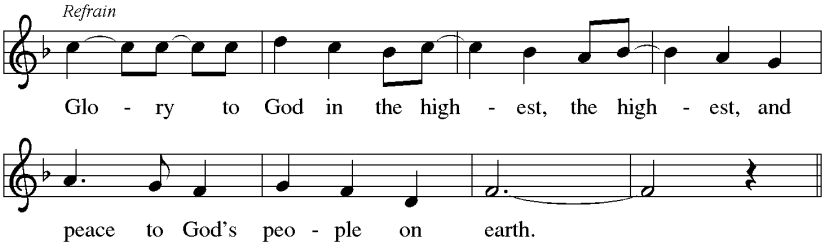
Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936
Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835
Text © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
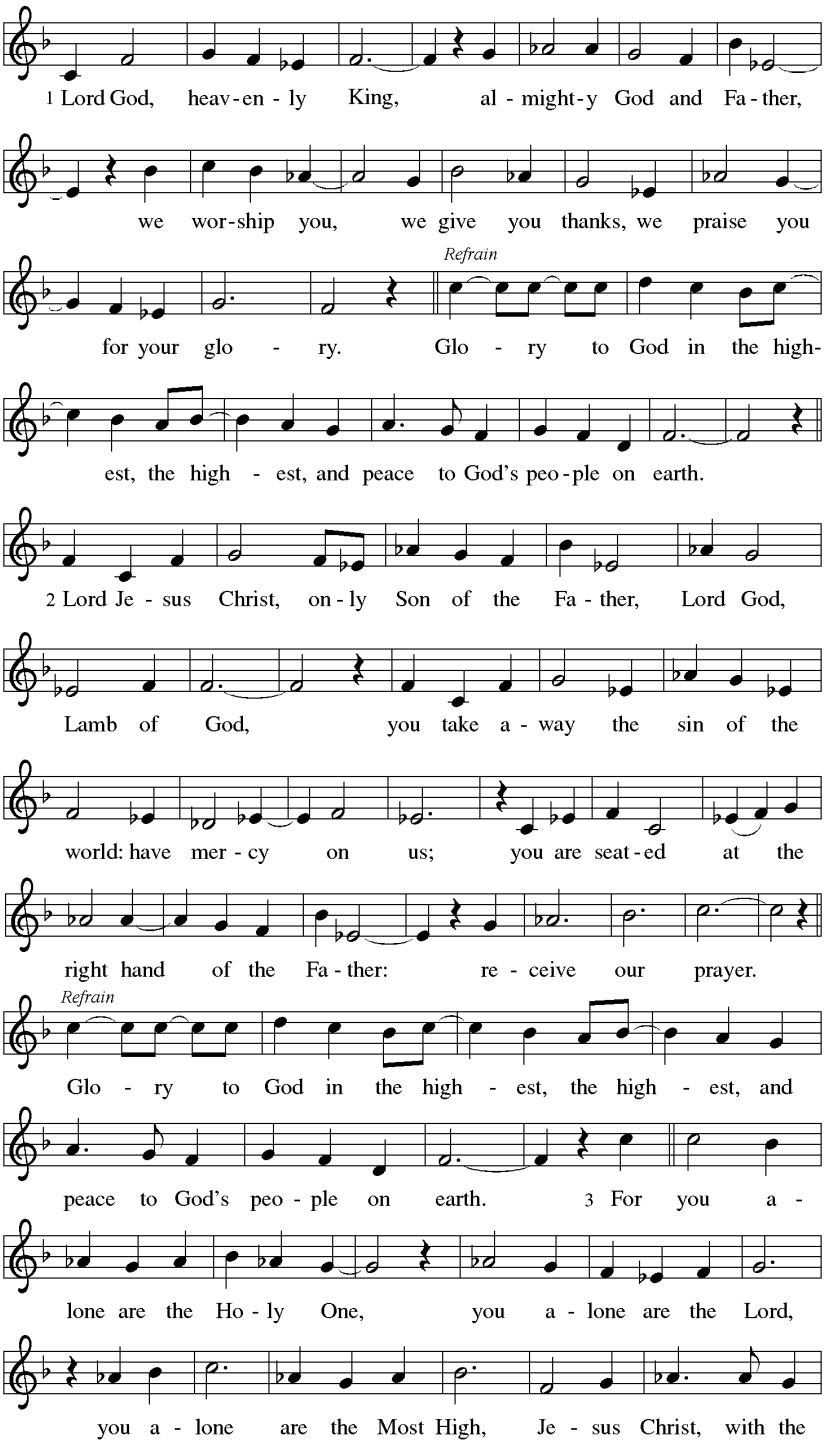
Greeting

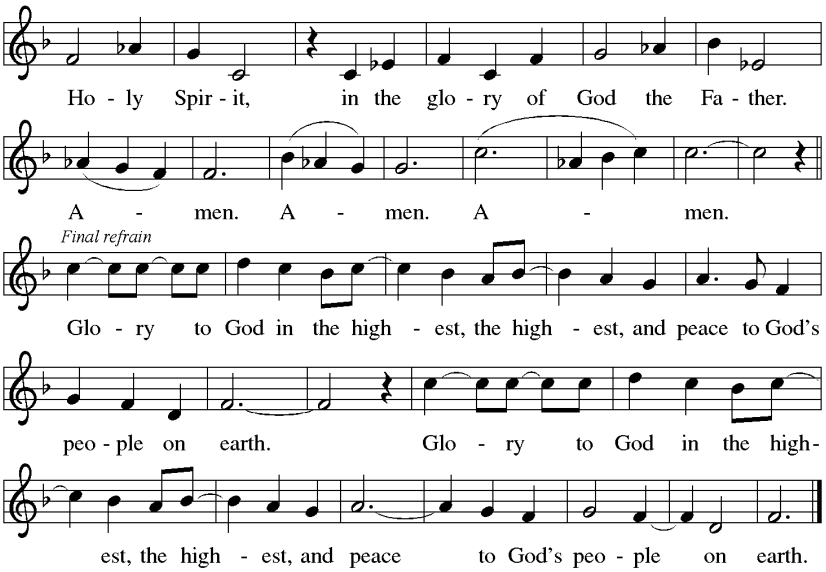
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Hymn of Praise




1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther,
we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you
Refrain
for your glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high-
est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat-ed at the
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.
Refrain
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and
peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 3 For you a -
lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the



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.

WORD

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

First Reading **Exodus 1:19-31**

Having decided to let the Israelites go from Egypt, Pharaoh had second thoughts and sent his army after them (14:5-8). Though the passage through the Red Sea became a sign of salvation for the people of Israel, Pharaoh's forces drowned in the waters. As a result the Israelites believed in the LORD and in the LORD's servant Moses.

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them, and the
pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. [20]It came between the
army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up
the night; one did not come near the other all night.

[21]Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east
wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. [22]The Israelites went
into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. [23]The
Egyptians pursued and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot
drivers. [24]At the morning watch the Lord, in the pillar of fire and cloud, looked down on the
Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into a panic, [25]clogging their chariot wheels so that

they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

26Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." 27So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. 28The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. 29But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

30Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. 31Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in Moses, the servant of the Lord.

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

Psalm 114

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the LORD. (Ps. 114:7)

1 Hallelujah! When Israel came | out of Egypt,
the house of Jacob from a people | of strange speech,
2 **Judah became God's | sanctuary and Israel | God's dominion.**
3 The sea beheld | it and fled; Jordan turned | and went back.
4 **The mountains | skipped like rams, and the little hills | like young sheep.**
5 What ailed you, O sea, | that you fled, O Jordan, that | you turned back,
6 **you mountains, that you | skipped like rams, you little hills | like young sheep?**
7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence | of the LORD, at the presence of the | God of Jacob,
8 **who turned the hard rock into a | pool of water**
and flint-stone into a | flowing spring.

Second Reading — Romans 14:1-12

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. 2Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. 3Those 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. 4Who 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.

5Some 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. 6Those 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.

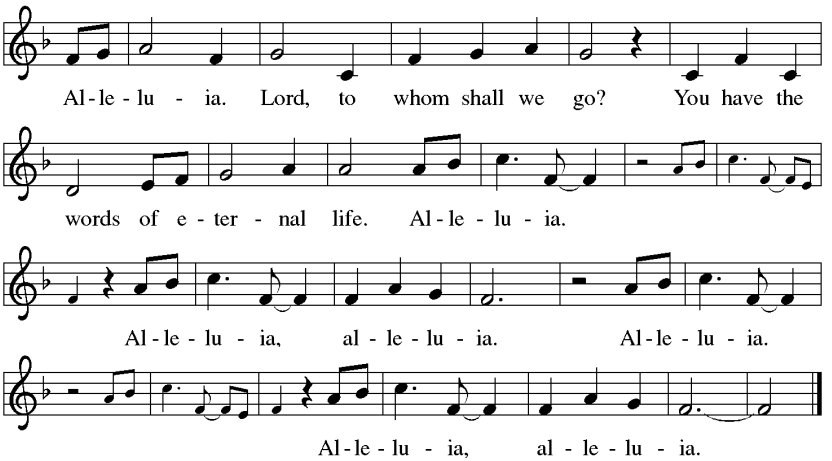
7For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. 8If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. 9For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

10Why do you pass judgment on your sibling? Or you, why do you despise your sibling? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. 11For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." 12So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

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 18:21-35**

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

Peter came and said to ⌜Jesus,⌝ "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?"

22Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

23"For this reason the dominion of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, 25and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. 26So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' 27And 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

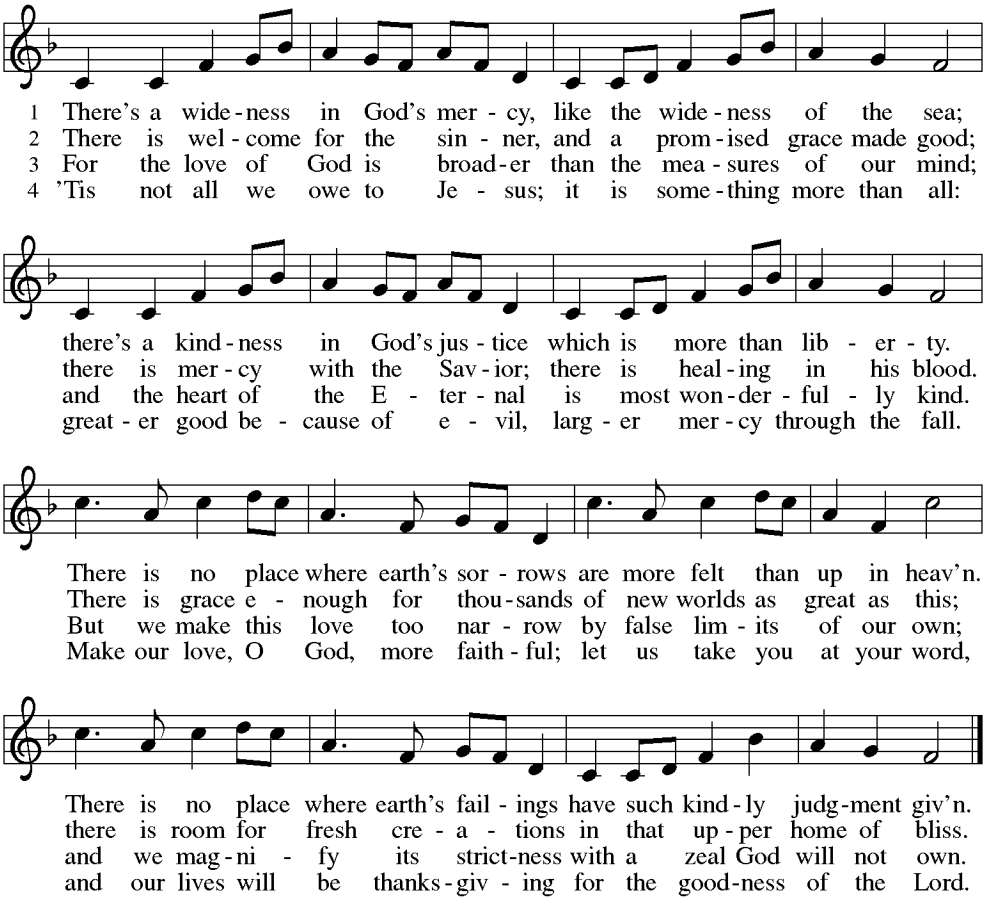
by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' 29Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' 30But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. 31When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. 32Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' 34And 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 each other from your heart."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day ***"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"*** *ELW #588*



Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.
Music: LORD, REVIVE US, North American, 19th cent.

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. At the end of each petition the Assembly responds: **your mercy is great.**

We remember our homebound members and all who have asked for our prayers: Erna Joswig, Joyce Owens, Dorothy Popadic, Pat Quale, Nancy Nelson, 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, and the family of Nancy Vandewinckel.

Sharing of the Peace

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

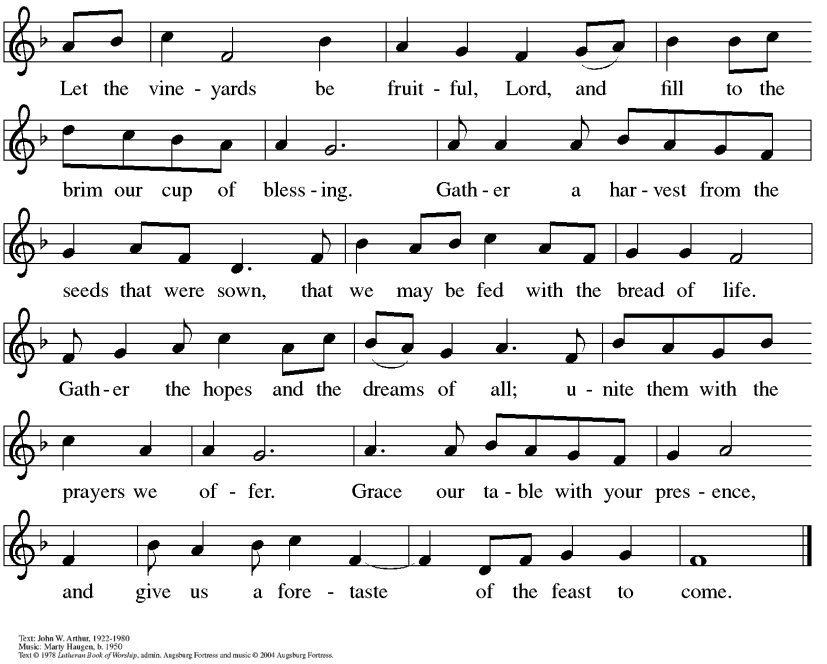
MEAL

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



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. O God,

maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

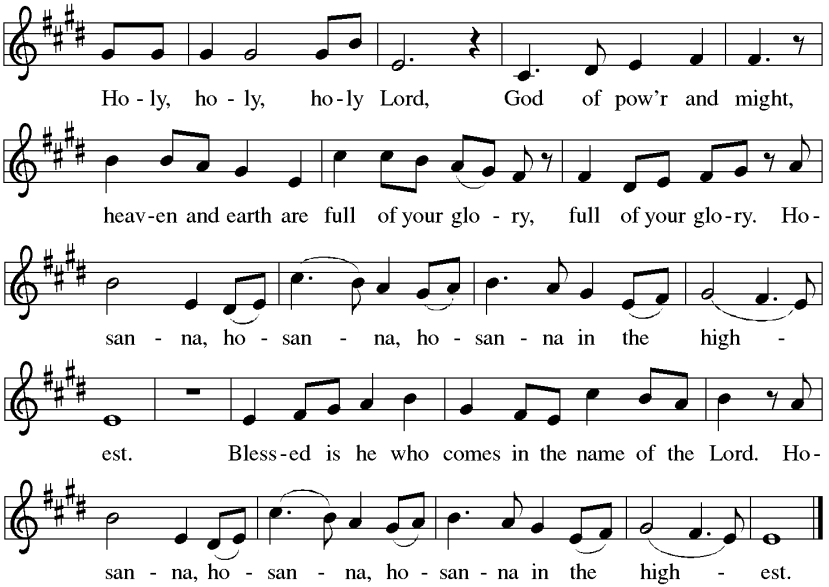
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give 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 prays giving thanks to God, for God's saving work throughout history.

The Assembly responds when prompted:

The earth is full of your glory

The earth is full of your glory. …

Amen and amen.

Amen and Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

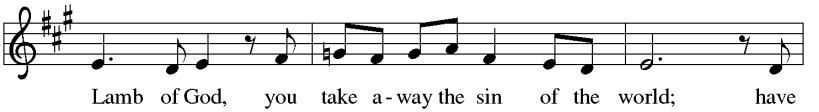
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the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

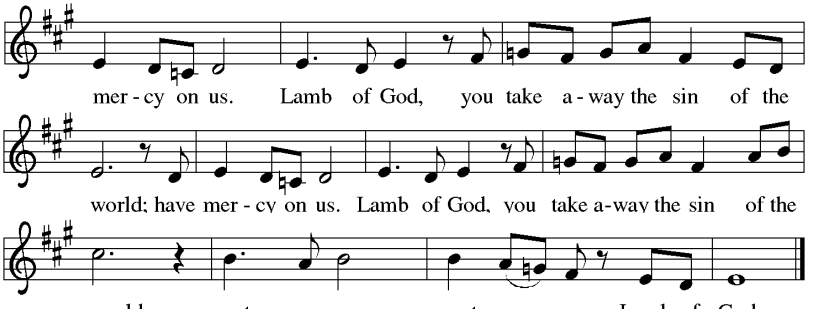
Invitation to Communion

The gifts of creation for God's beloved creatures. Come and share.
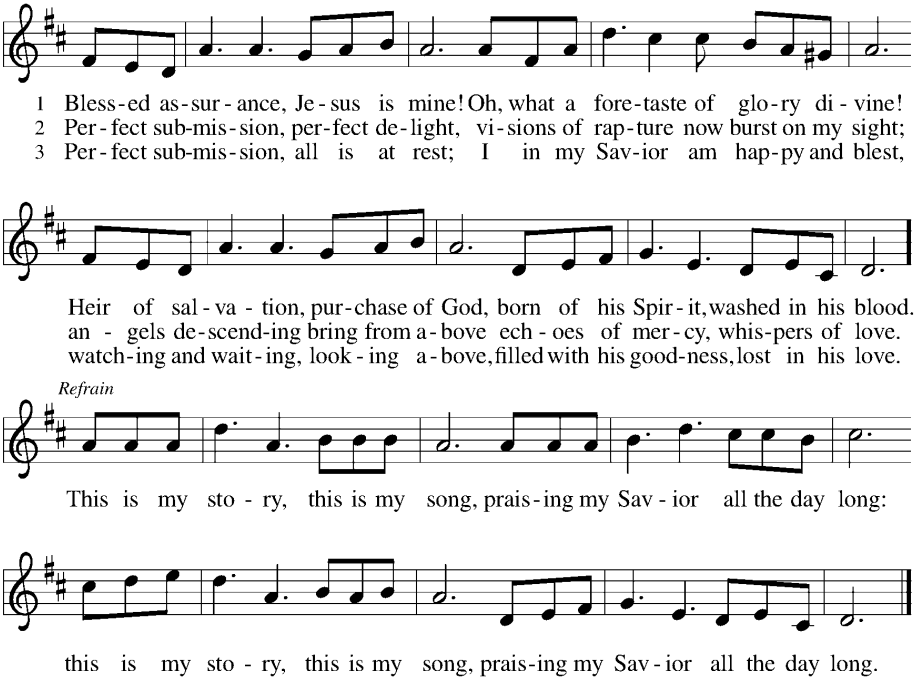
Distribution of Communion

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 ***"Blessed Assurance"*** *ELW #638*



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

Table Blessing

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray. God of our salvation,

we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

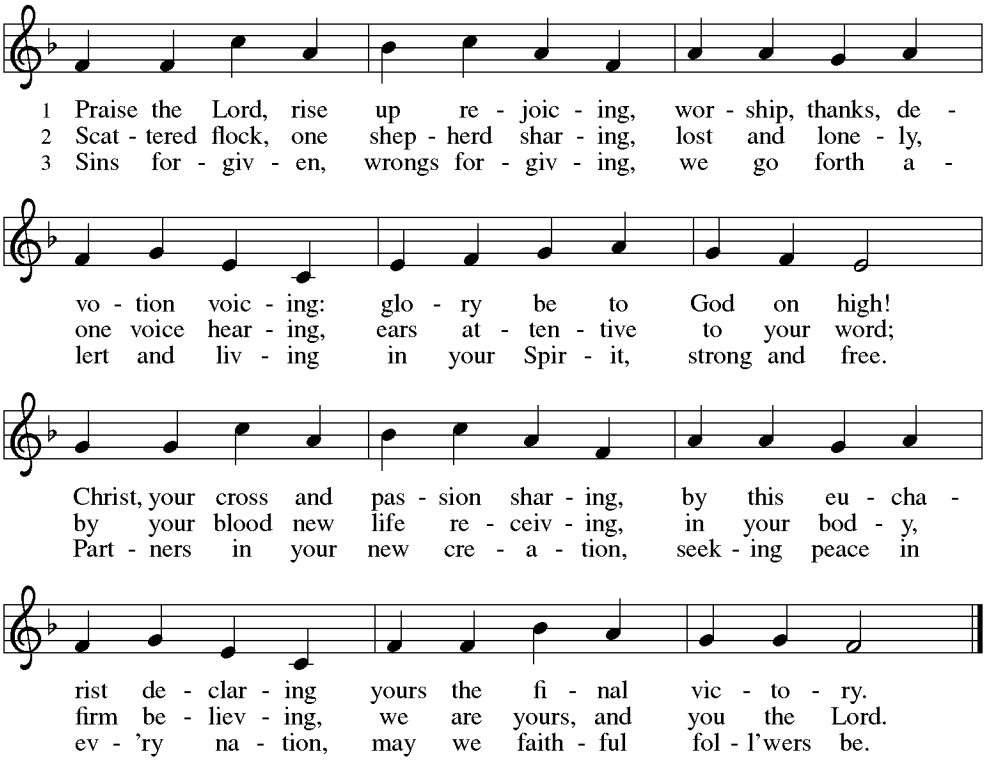
SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Blessing

God our Mother root you deep in grace. God our Neighbor stand with you in strength. God our Nourishment sustain you in hope and ✝ bless you unto evergreen life. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn ***"Praise the Lord, Rise Up, Rejoicing"*** *ELW #544*



Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902–1983, alt.
Music: ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN, Johann Löhner, 1645–1705, adapt.
Text © Oxford University Press.

Announcements

Dismissal

Go in peace. Flourish with creation.

Thanks be to God.

Serving Today

Altar Flowers:	Teresa Miranda
	In Memory of Mom & Dad
Assisting Minister:	Susan Krikau Sorensen
Reader:	Linda Bagley
Usher:	John Wosyk
Altar Guild:	Susan Krikau Sorensen & Lori Rennock
Musician:	Paul Berge
Pastor:	The Rev. Matt James

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.

This Week @ Redeemer

Sunday:	Worship – 9:30am
Monday:	GriefShare – 10—11:30am
Wednesday:	Book Club – 1pm @ Inclusive Bean & 6pm @ Tulip Tavern

Celebrations this Week

Birthdays:	Charles Julius, Sr. (9/14)

GriefShare is Back this Fall!

GriefShare will begin meeting on Mondays from 10 to 11:30am beginning this Monday, September 14th and run through December 7th. All are invited to attend!

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Upcoming Commemorations

John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, died 407
Sunday, September 13, 2026
John was a priest in Antioch and an outstanding preacher. His eloquence earned him the nickname "Chrysostom" ("golden mouth"). Appointed bishop of Constantinople, seat of the empire, he criticized corruption in the court. As a result, he was exiled by the empress.

Holy Cross Day
Monday, September 14, 2026
Helena, mother of Constantine, made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and found what may be the actual site of Jesus' crucifixion. Her son built two churches there, and the dedication of one of them gave rise to this celebration of our Lord's victory on the cross.

Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, died around 258
Wednesday, September 16, 2026
Cyprian served as a bishop during a time of great persecution of Christians. He insisted on receiving back those who had left the faith under duress. He also provided medical care during a severe epidemic.

Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, died 1179
Thursday, September 17, 2026
A mystic who was widely influential within the church, Hildegard advised and reproved kings and popes, wrote poems and hymns, and produced treatises in medicine, theology, and natural history. She was also a musician and artist.

Dag Hammarskjöld, renewer of society, died 1961
Friday, September 18, 2026
A Swedish diplomat, Hammarskjöld served as the second Secretary General of the United Nations until his death in a plane crash while trying to negotiate peace in present-day Zambia. His journal, published as Markings, revealed the depth of his Christian faith.

Texts for Next Sunday, September 20th 17th Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16