

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Eucharist

Sunday, September 27, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Exploring the promise of God for all

You are welcome. No exceptions.

Central Lutheran Church experiences God's expansive love and strives to share it abundantly. We affirm all people without regard to age, race, biological sex, housing status, ethnicity, sexual orientation, immigration, refugee or migration status, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, and physical or mental health or ability. All are a part of God's family, created in God's image.

We strive to practice radical hospitality with all people and work toward racial equity. Everyone is invited to immerse themselves in the life of this community of faith as we explore the promise of God for all.

Worship



Bold print indicates responses spoken by all.



Congregational hymns are found printed in this bulletin or in the red hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW).



You are encouraged to listen to your body and stand or remain seated at any point in the service.



Masks are welcome, but not required.



Children are welcome and celebrated in worship. Each Sunday there are Children's Bags at each of the ushers' tables at the entrances to the sanctuary. Inside each bag is a worship activity and snack. Many families sit near the children's tables next to the baptismal font, but you are welcome to sit anywhere in the sanctuary that is comfortable to you.



All are welcome to receive communion at Central. At the ushers' invitation, you will proceed toward the altar where there are regular and gluten-free wafers served with wine or grape juice. Your server will offer bread and wine for all, including children. If you prefer to receive a blessing rather than communion, please let your server know.



Offering can be made online using the QR code in the bulletin or left in the offering plates just outside the sanctuary doors.

MEMBERS OF:
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America | www.elca.org
Align Minneapolis | www.alignmpls.org
ReconcilingWorks | www.reconcilingworks.org
MNIPL Climate Justice Congregation | www.mnipl.org

Welcome to Worship
As you arrive for worship, you are invited to prepare your hearts and minds while listening to the prelude before the service begins today.



The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on this first day of the week.

PRELUDE
"Master Tallis' Testament" Herbert Howells

(At the sound of the bell, please stand and face the font.)

Gathering

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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:
You have been forgiven all your sin.
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 Hymn 632
"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

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.

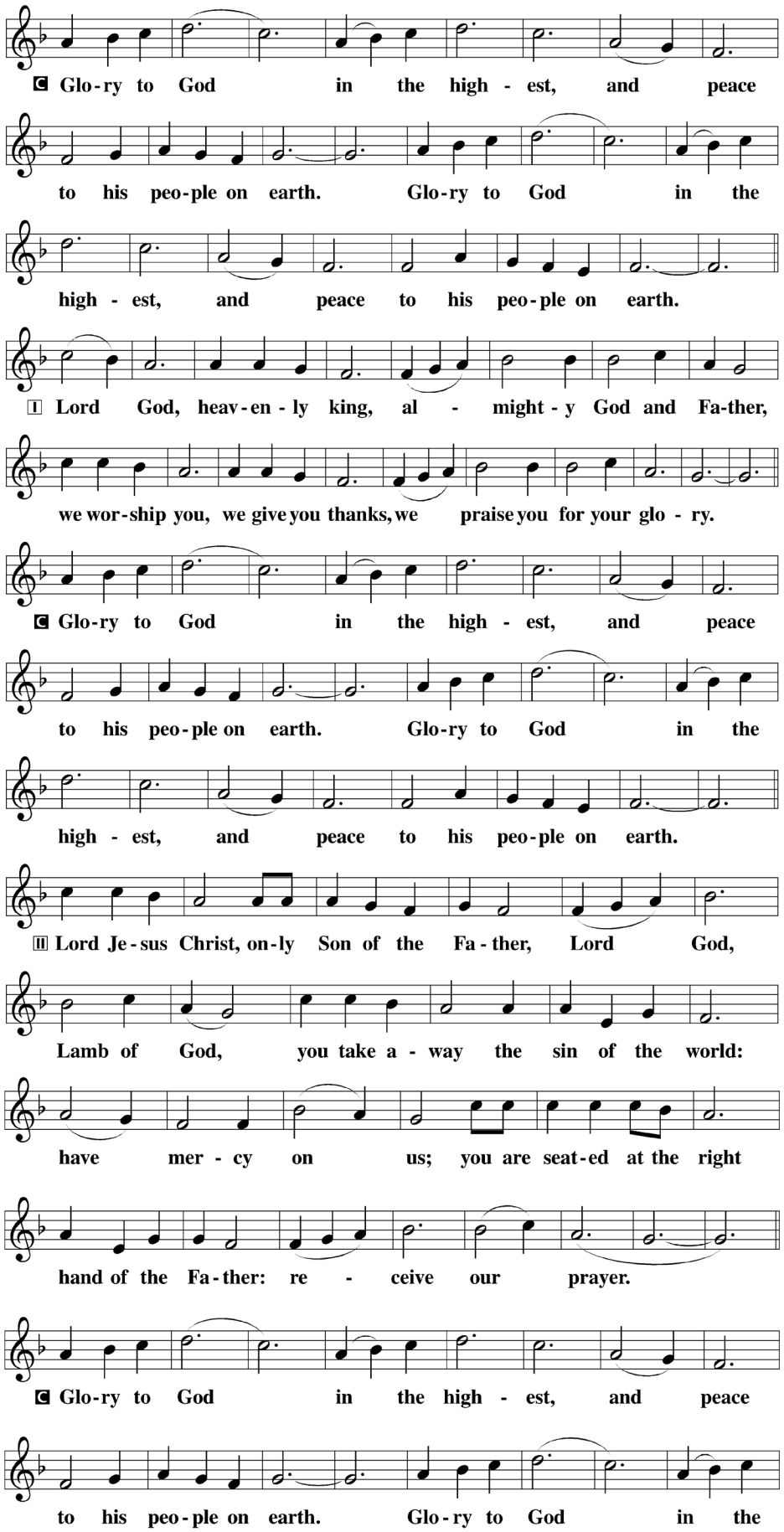
Hymn of Praise
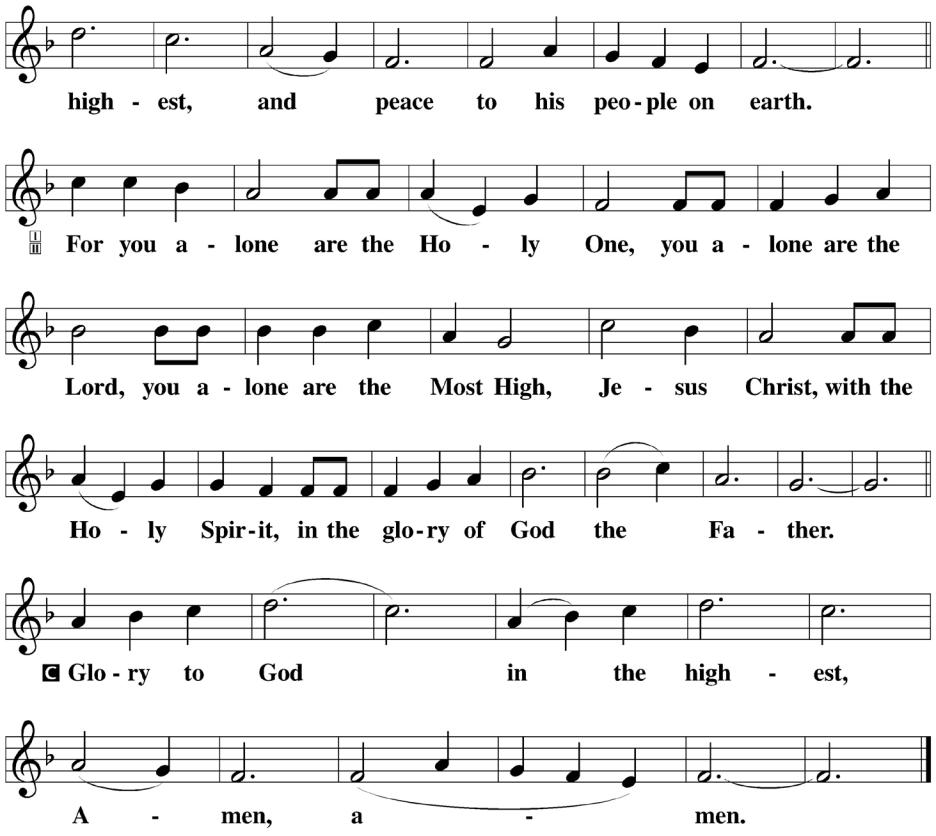
Today's Hymn of Praise is taken from setting 2 of the hymnal This Far By Faith. Published in 1999, This Far by Faith was developed jointly by the ELCA and LC-MS as a resource for African American music in the Lutheran Church. The gloria, as well as the rest of setting 2, was composed by Rev. Dr. James M. Capers (1948-2025). Pastor Capers was nurtured in the traditions of the Missionary Baptist, African Methodist Episcopal, Episcopal, and the Christian and Missionary Alliance churches. He completed his Bachelor of Music from Manhattan School of music and then attended seminary at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Throughout his ministry, he has served churches of the Lutheran Church in America (one of the predecessors to the ELCA) and the ELCA.

HYMN OF PRAISE

All sing parts marked C

Leader sings parts marked I and II





PRAYER OF THE DAY

We turn our hearts to God. Beautiful Holy One, you choose to live among your people, born in human likeness. You feel the sufferings of embodied life, and in love you transform pain to newness of life. Here among us now, make for yourself a people of new hearts and new spirits. Correct all unfair ways. Teach us your paths. Turn your creation again toward life! **Amen.**

(Please be seated)



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

Word

CHILDREN'S TIME

FIRST READING Philippians 2:1-13

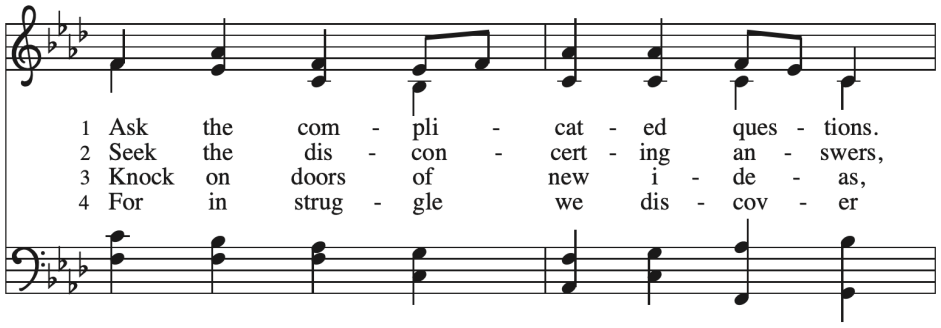
[1] If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any
partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, [2] make my
joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full
accord and of one mind. [3] Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty
conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. [4] Let
each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others.
[5] Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
[6] who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,
[7] but emptied himself,
taking the form of a servant,
assuming human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a human,
[8] he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
[9] Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,
[10] so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
[11] and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
[12] Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not
only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your
own salvation with fear and trembling, [13] for it is God who is at work in
you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.
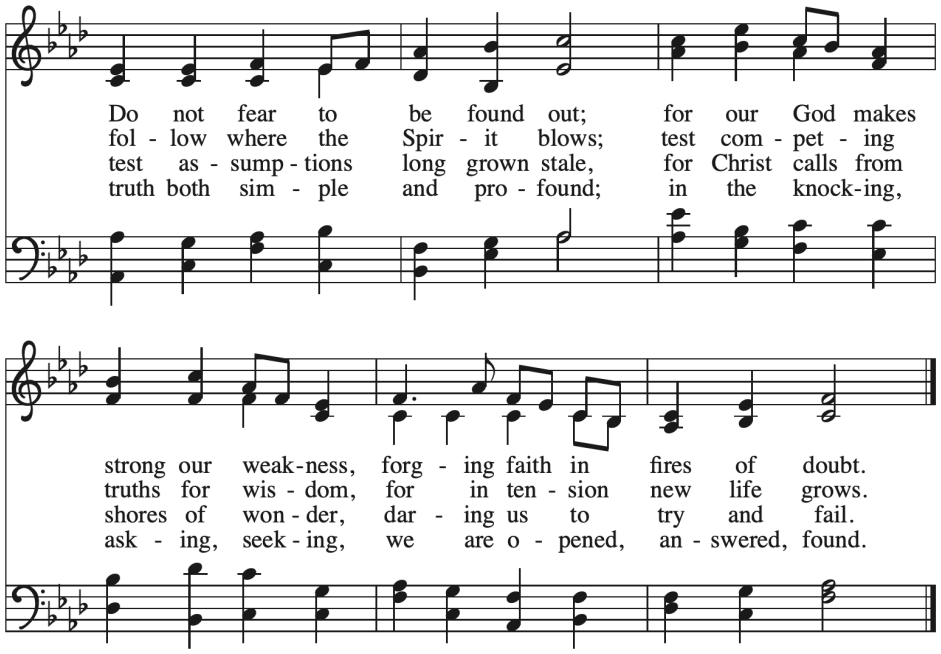
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

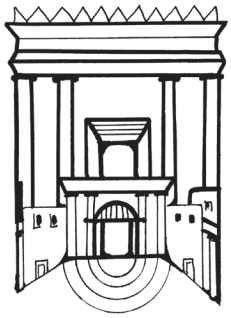
READING RESPONSE "Ask the Complicated Questions"

Stanzas 1 and 4





Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984
Music: RESTORATION, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. hymnal version
Text © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress



GOSPEL Matthew 21:23-32

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

23 When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the
people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are
you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" 24 Jesus said
to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then
I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. 25 Did the baptism
of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued
with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why,
then, did you not believe him?' 26 But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we
are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." 27 So they
answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I
tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

28 "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and
said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' 29 He answered, 'I will
not,' but later he changed his mind and went. 30 The father went to the
second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go.
31 Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first."
Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes
are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. 32 For John came to
you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax
collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you
did not change your minds and believe him."

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

Scan to make a financial offering.

Musical Offering
The quartet is singing a musical setting of the Christ Hymn from Philippians 2, today's frist reading. It is a little longer anthem, but worth the time. You are invited to pause and ponder this ancient hymn that is centered on Jesus emptying himself in love for you.



God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY Hymn 783
"Praise and Thanks and Adoration"

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH
Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

Each petition concludes:
Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE
The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

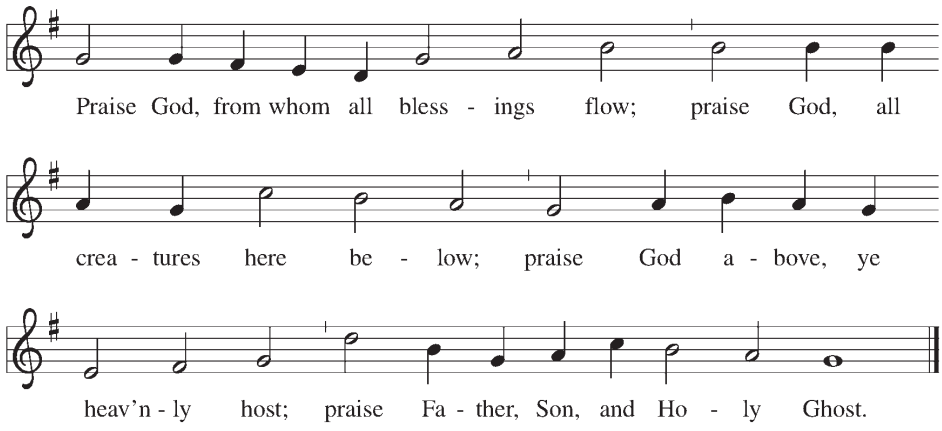
(Please be seated)

MUSICAL OFFERING
"Let this Mind Be in You" Amy Beach

Meal

(Please stand)

PRESENTATION HYMN "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"



Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

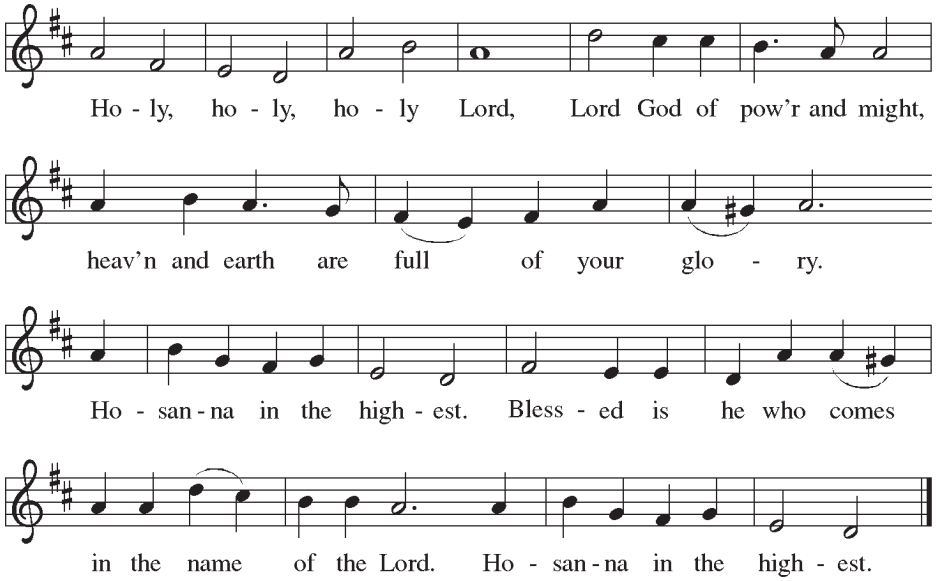
GREAT THANKSGIVING

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...and join in their unending hymn:



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, you alone are steadfast, you alone are merciful...
...Yours, O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is the everlasting kingdom, the peaceable power, and the humble glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

As the beloved of God, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
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.

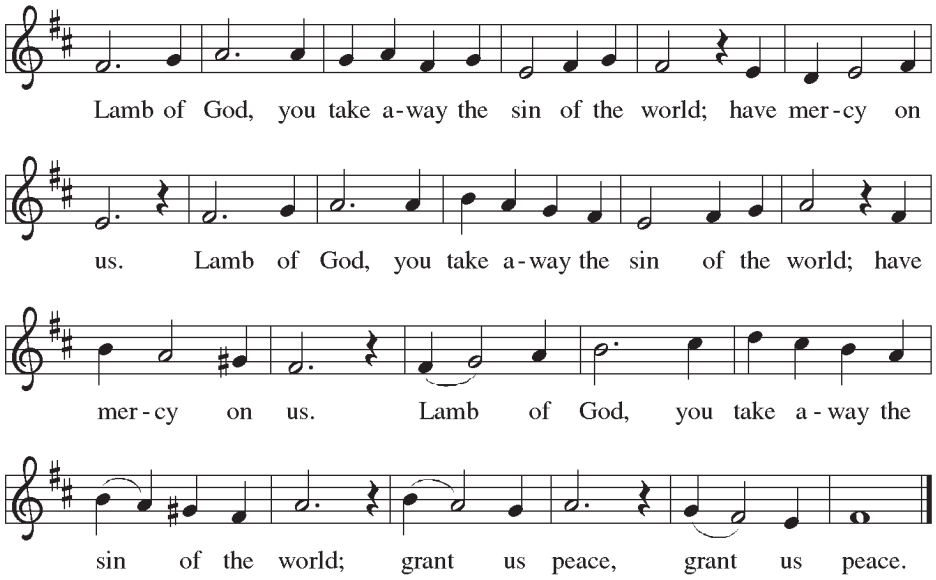
(Please be seated)

Communion
All are invited to receive these gifts of God.

Children are welcome to come forward and receive communion or a blessing.
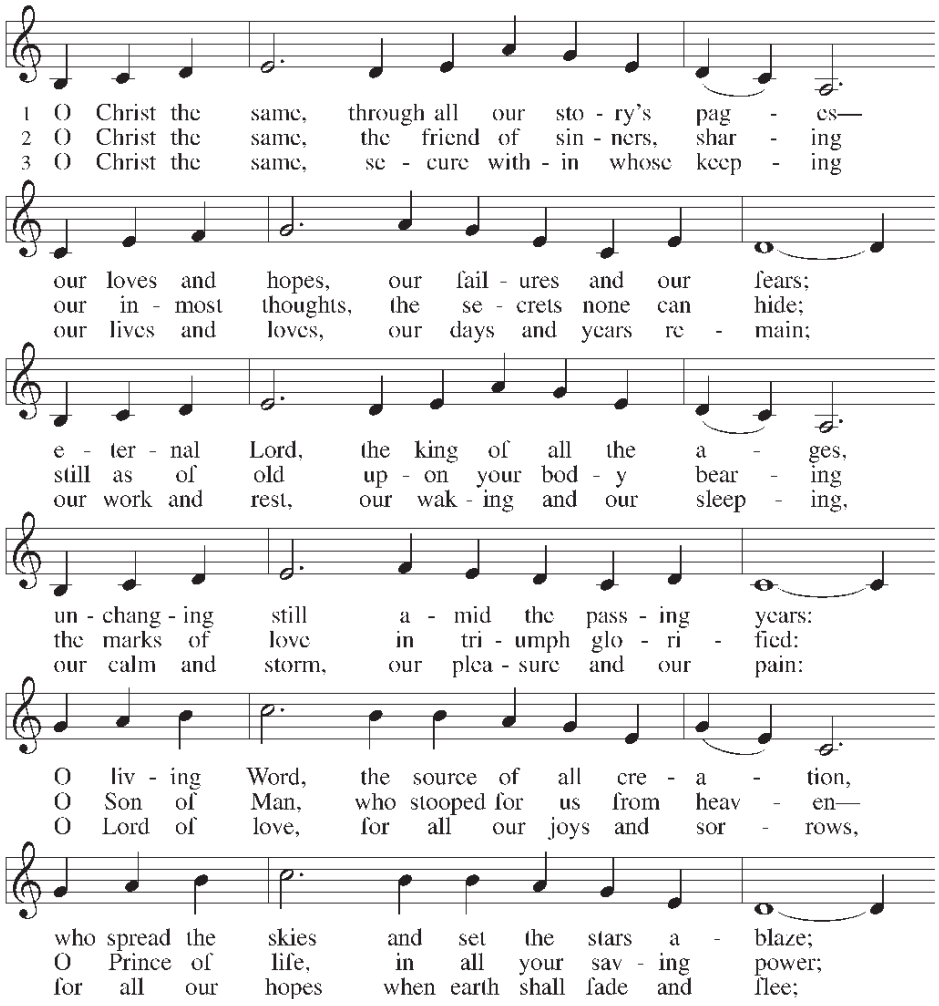
COMMUNION
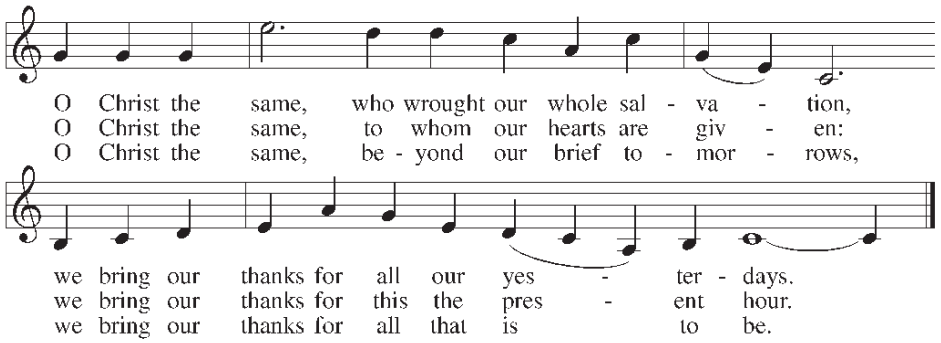
"Lamb of God"



"God with Me" — Stephen Paulus

"O Christ the Same"





Text: Timothy Dudley–Smith, b. 1926
Music: LONDONDERRY AIR, Irish tune

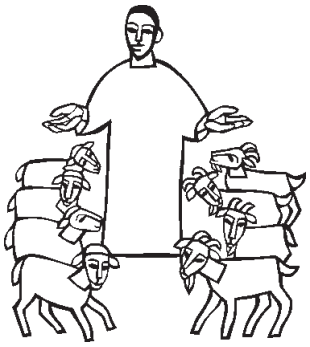
Text © 1984 Hope Publishing Co. All rights reserved.

(Please stand)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

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.**



God blesses us and sends us for shared mission in our shared world.

Sending

BENEDICTION

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. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN Hymn 886

"Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is faithful.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Finale" from *Partita on St. Anne* Paul Manz

Serving Today

Pastor Stephanie Friesen	*preaching*
Pastor Peter Nycklemoe	*presiding*
Pastor Melissa Pohlman	*hospitality*
Tom Edelen	*assisting*
Deborah Bauknight	*reading*
Sam Friesen	*crucifer*
JoAnna Johnson	*quartet*
Robin Helgen	
Bill Pederson	
David Gindra	
Melanie Ohnstad	*organist*
Leif Olsen	*organ scholar*
Mark Kieffer	*video/sound*
Doran Schoeppach	*host*

Thanks to:
Sacristans, Usher, and Hospitality Ministry Teams.

Chancel flowers this week are given by Christopher Haug and Karl Starr in celebration of Karl's 70th birthday on September 28.

Flowers are also given by Joyce Anderson in loving memory of her husband, Chuck, and in honor of his birthday on September 25.

If you wish to donate flowers, please contact Judy Korogi at 612-788-1288 or receptionist@centralmpls.org.

Portions of the liturgy are from SundaysandSeasons.com
© 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress liturgies license #26515.
Hymns reproduced under OneLicense A-704051.

Prayer of the Day: written by Anna Mercedes as part of the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (Minneapolis, MN) expansive prayer project. Used by permission.

Eucharistic Prayer: Adapted from the Service of Installation for Bishop Lisa Lewton, Western North Dakota Synod, August 28, 2026.

Central Lutheran
MINNEAPOLIS

An Everyday Church for Everyone

Central Lutheran
333 South 12th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55404

(612) 870-4416 | info@centralmpls.org