

# Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 20, 2023

Virtual Bulletin with Holy Communion, Feast & Celebration

Hill Avenue Grace Lutheran Church

Rev. Zachary W. Johnson, Pastor

Donna Menzies, Assistant to the Pastor, Visitation & Spiritual Care

Douglas Shabe, Director of Music

Hannah Lee, Organist

Kate Radford, Soprano

Steve Rose, Assistant Minister

Kristin Johnson, Lector

## Order of the Liturgy

Prelude *“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”* arr. John Carter

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**



Hill Ave Grace  
Lutheran Church

## OPENING HYMN

ELW 638

## How Great Thou Art

1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er  
 2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der, I hear the  
 3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to  
 4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion, and take me

all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y  
 birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft-y moun-tain  
 die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur-den glad-ly  
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-

thun-der, thy pow'r through-out the u-ni-verse dis-played;  
 gran-deur and hear the brook and feel the gen-tle breeze;  
 bear-ing he bled and died to take a-way my sin;  
 ra-tion and there pro-claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

*Refrain*

Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee, how great thou

art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to

thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989  
 Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine  
 Text and arr. © 1953 S.K. Hine, assigned to Manna Music, Inc., 35255 Brooten Road, Pacific City, OR 97135 (ASCAP).  
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**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**

(Lord Have Mercy)

*Assistant:* In peace, in peace,

**Refrain**

*Assistant:*

*Congregation:*

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have  
*to Verses*  
 mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

*Assistant:* For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all . . . (to Refrain)

*Assistant:* For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word . . . (to Refrain)

*Assistant:*  
 Help, save and de - fend us, O  
*Congregation:*  
 God. A - men.

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

*Refrain*  
 Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion  
 sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;  
 praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has  
freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and  
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of  
God; to make all things new.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

<sup>1</sup>Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come,  
and my deliverance be revealed.

<sup>6</sup>And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,

to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants,  
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant—

<sup>7</sup>these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer;  
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar;  
for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

<sup>8</sup>Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel,  
I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

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

**PSALM: Psalm 67** *The congregation responds with the bold verses.*

<sup>1</sup>May God be merciful to | us and bless us; may the light of God's face | shine upon us.

<sup>2</sup>**Let your way be known | upon earth, your saving health a- | mong all nations.**

<sup>3</sup>Let the peoples praise | you, O God; let all the | peoples praise you.

<sup>4</sup>**Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,**

**for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the na- | tions on earth.**

<sup>5</sup>Let the peoples praise | you, O God; let all the | peoples praise you.

<sup>6</sup>**The earth has brought | forth its increase; God, our own | God, has blessed us.**

<sup>7</sup>May God | give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth | stand in awe.

**SECOND READING: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32**

[Paul writes:] <sup>1</sup>I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2a</sup>God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

<sup>29</sup>For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. <sup>30</sup>Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, <sup>31</sup>so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. <sup>32</sup>For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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

**GOSPEL  
ACCLAMATION**

*Congregation:*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord to whom shall we  
go? — You have the words of e - ter - nal  
life: Al - le - lu - ia!

**GOSPEL: Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28**

[<sup>10</sup>Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand:<sup>11</sup>it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles."

<sup>12</sup>Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" <sup>13</sup>He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. <sup>14</sup>Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." <sup>15</sup>But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." <sup>16</sup>Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? <sup>17</sup>Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? <sup>18</sup>But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. <sup>19</sup>For out

of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander.

<sup>20</sup>These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”]

<sup>21</sup>Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup>Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” <sup>23</sup>But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.”

<sup>24</sup>He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” <sup>25</sup>But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” <sup>26</sup>He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” <sup>27</sup>She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” <sup>28</sup>Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

The Gospel of our Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

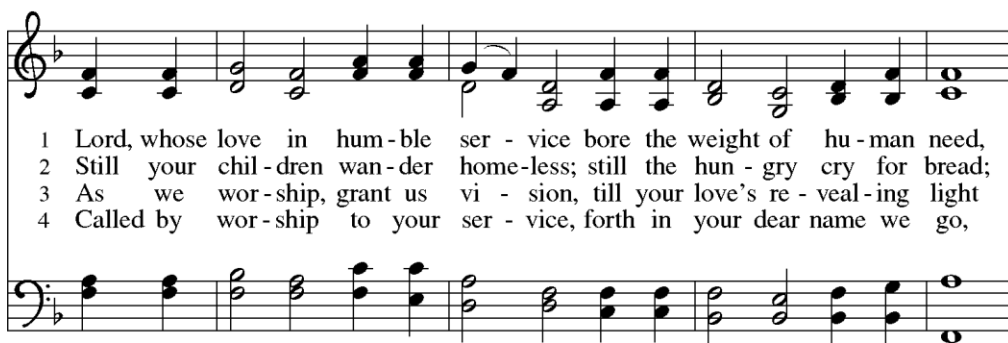
**SERMON**

Pastor Zach Johnson

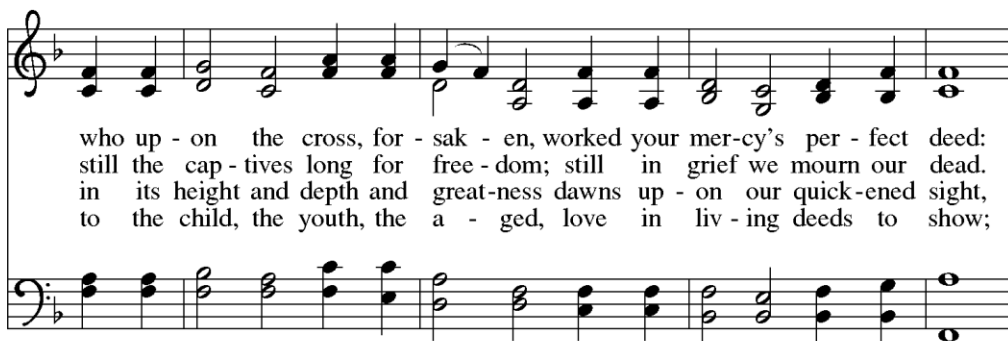
**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**ELW 755**

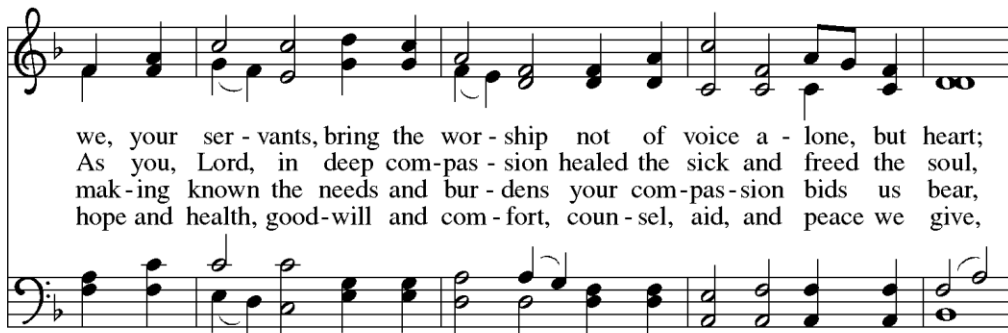
### Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu - man need,  
2 Still your chil - dren wan - der home - less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;  
3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal - ing light  
4 Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer - cy's per - fect deed;  
still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.  
in its height and depth and great - ness dawns up - on our quick - ened sight,  
to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;  
As you, Lord, in deep com - pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com - pas - sion bids us bear,  
hope and health, good - will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,

con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.  
 by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.  
 stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.  
 that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984  
 Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985  
 Text © 1961 Oxford University Press.  
 Arr. © 1985 Augsburg Fortress.

## 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

*Each petition ends with "Lord, in your mercy." The assembly responds with "receive our prayer."*

**SHARING OF THE PEACE** - *The presiding and the assembly share a virtual sign of peace.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## OFFERING

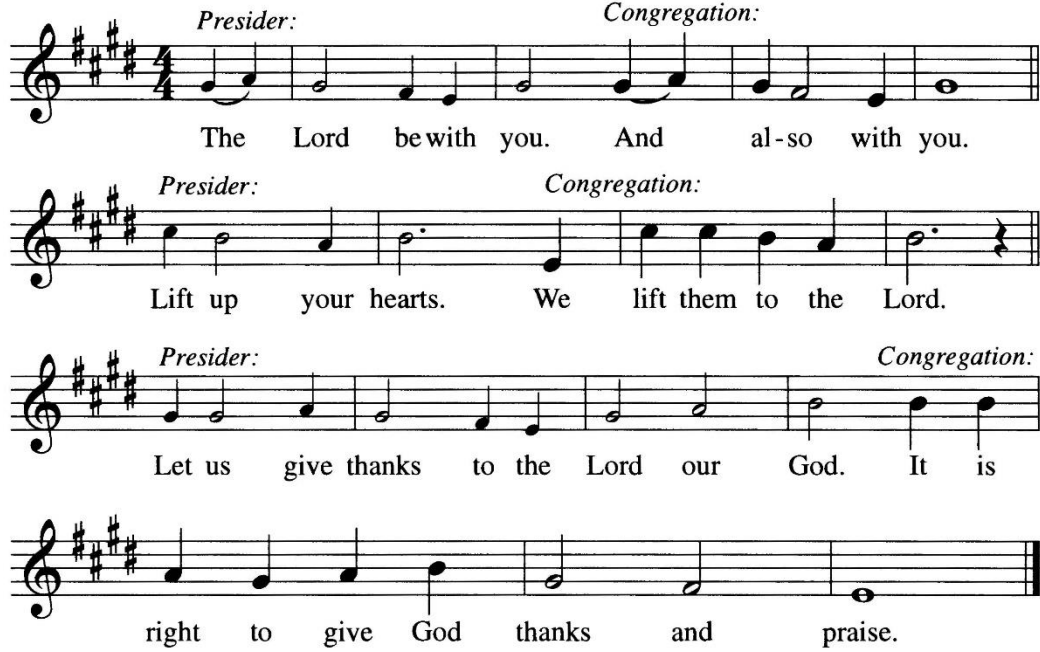
## OFFERTORY

**OFFERING PRAYER** - *All speak the prayer together.*

**God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

# GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Presider:* *Congregation:*



The Lord be with you. And also with you.

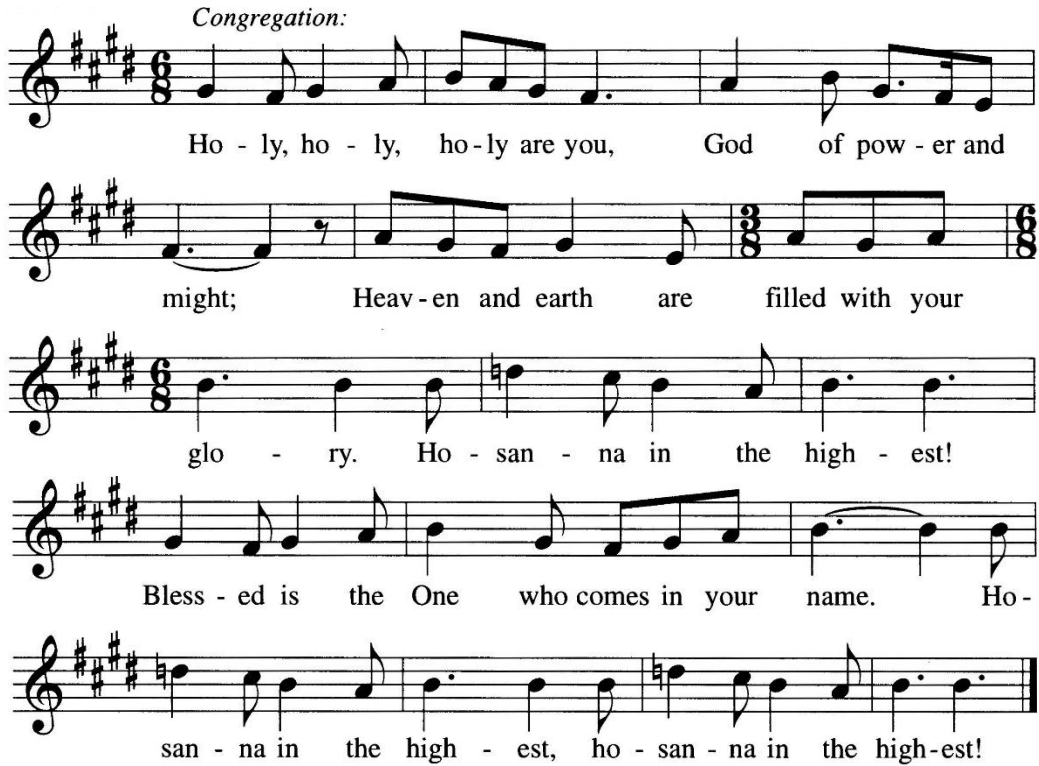
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right...we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

# HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

*Congregation:*



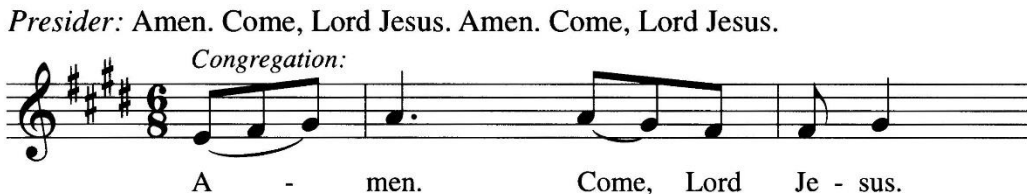
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

# EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

You are indeed holy....Remembering his command to love one another, his life and death, his resurrection and his ascension, we pray for his coming again, even as we cry:

*Presider:* Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

*Congregation:*

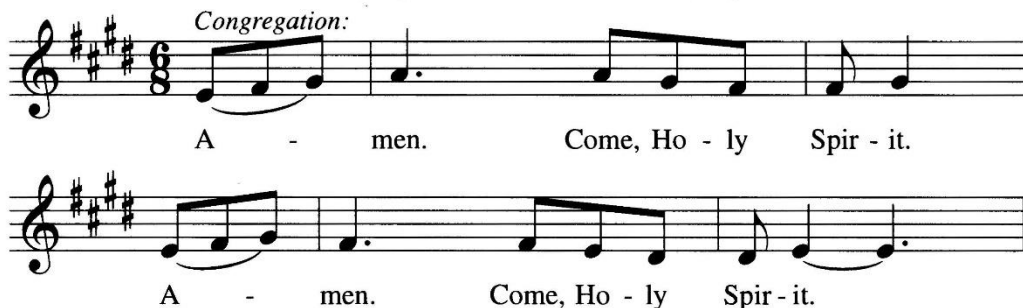


A - men. Come, Lord Je - sus.





Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit that all of your promises may come to us and your whole creation... *Presider:* Amen. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.



Make us bold, O merciful God, to address you as our Father even as we pray...

### LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

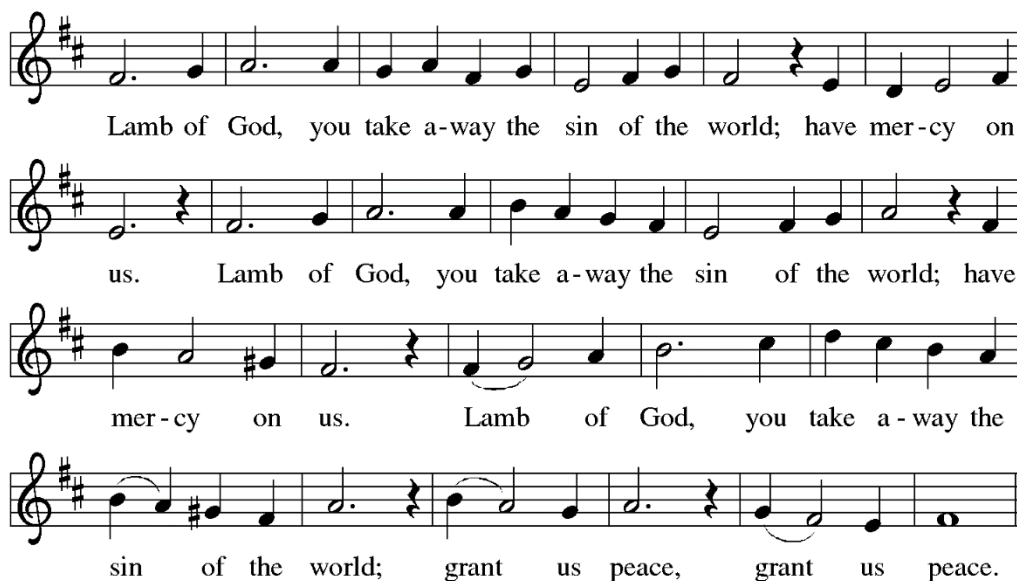
**Give us today our daily bread.**

**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.**

### LAMB OF GOD



### COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*All are invited into a time of reflection before they receive communion. During this time, you may prepare your hearts to receive the sacrament. Once ready, you may commune yourself and those around you with the bread and wine/grape juice. A representative from each household may say the following—bread: "The body of Christ given for you." Wine/grape juice: "The blood of Christ shed for you."*

**POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep in his grace, now and forever. **Amen.**

**POST COMMUNION CANTICLE**

*Congregation:*



1. Praise to you, O God of mer - cy:  
2. From of old you loved and sought us:

Thanks be to you for ev - er! Rais - ing high the  
Thanks be to you for ev - er! Truth and jus - tice

weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for ev - er!  
you have taught us: Thanks be to you for ev - er!

Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your

love, re - mem - b'ring your cov-e-nant of

life with us. 3. Praise to you, O

God of mer - cy: Thanks be to you for ev - er!

Rais-ing high the weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for

ev - er! Thanks be to you for ev - er!

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** - *All speak the prayer together.*

**We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table.**

**Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**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 HYMN**

**We Are Called**

**ELW 720**

1. Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and love of the Lord!  
We are called to be the light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God.

*Refrain*

We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly;  
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

2. Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear!  
We are called to be hope for the hopeless so hated and blindness will be no more.

*Refrain*

3. Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!  
God will reign, and we’ll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love.

*Refrain*

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**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

*“Cause Me to Come”*

arr. Phil Kristianson

*Altar flowers are given by Kris Pilon & Dave Cuatt.*

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Calendar This Week		
Every Sunday	10:00 AM	Virtual & In-Person Worship Service
Wed 8/23/23	10:00 AM	Bible Study in the Chapel
Wed 8/23/23	7:00 PM	Bible Study via Zoom
Fri 8/25/23	11:00 AM	Shelly Baum Memorial
Sat 8/26/23	9:30 AM	Food Shelf Open

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Pastor Zach has updated his office hours to Tues, Wed & Thurs, 10:30 am - 1:30 pm.** Stop by, make an appointment, give a call, get in touch and say Hi!

**Dedicate Altar Flowers.** There are still a few slots available for the upcoming months to sponsor the Altar Flowers. Cost is \$70 for the twin arrangements or \$35 for a single. Add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex, or contact the office have your name added!

**A memorial service for Shelly Baum is being planned for Friday, August 25th** here at HAGL at 11 am. A light lunch will be provided after in the gym. The casual reception would welcome cookies or finger desserts. If you'd like to help with the reception, setup, clean-up or serving please contact the office.

We are planning our **next Spending Evenings Together event for Tuesday, August 29th.** We hope you will join us and bring your friends! Please let Pastor know if you plan to attend so we can plan for the food accordingly. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share!

**Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> is the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of God's Work Our Hands day,** and we have some great plans in store as we observe this event. We are doing a joint project with Trinity Lutheran, Pasadena and Christ the Shepherd Lutheran, Altadena, where we will be creating care kits for PCC students in need. We will also be worshipping together with all 3 churches gathering in the gymnasium, followed by a potluck lunch and the service project. Worship will start at 10 am in the gym. Please mark your calendars and watch for the sign-up for the potluck lunch. Bring your friends to participate in the wonderful GWOH festivities!

**Rally Day is scheduled for Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>,** which is when the choir resumes and we'll have our annual bbq here after service. We hope to have a luau and also raise money for the ELCA relief after the Maui wildfires. Come enjoy some Hawaiian music, wear your flip flops and Hawaiian shirts, and join in the festivities. Contact David if you'd like to help plan!

**Join us this Sunday at 10 AM for our Virtual Worship via Zoom!**

**Check in a few minutes early and hear the prelude! You may also join us on Facebook Live. We look forward to seeing your faces and worshipping together!**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://zoom.us/j/95007590439?pwd=M2NmMUZCZzhMOUY0SG8xeHpzcU5RUT09>**

**Meeting ID: 950 0759 0439**

**Passcode: worship**

**One tap mobile**

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**Dial by your location**

**+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)**

**+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)**

**+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)****+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)****Meeting ID: 950 0759 0439****Passcode: 4584517**

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We are back to joining at the altar for communion. We will be going up the center aisle and returning down the side aisles. If you are not comfortable with that, pick up a communion set at the table in the narthex and then proceed into the sanctuary. There will be 3 options for communion: bread and wine, bread and juice, and gluten-free bread and wine. Only take one set for yourself. Wait for communion instructions before opening the packet.

The service will still be available on Zoom and Facebook Live for those who prefer to remain at home. If you have questions, please let our church office know. We look forward to actually seeing you at church this Sunday!



**Southwest California Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
 God's work. Our hands.



## Update on Maui - We Want to Help, But How

**As we continue to hear more news of the devastation caused by the wildfires in Maui, many people have been asking for more ways to support. Please read the message below from Rev J.P. Sabbithi (Regional Assistant to the Bishop - [Pacifica Synod](#)) for ways to help.**

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?  
 My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. (Psalm 121:1-2)

As we lift up our eyes unto to hills, we also stretch out our hands across the oceans for help. God has inspired all of you to do “something” to help the wounded. People of Maui will be grateful for your help. Here are the ways that you could help.

**Donation in Cash:** For now, the island of Maui is inundated with donation in kind. However, people need money to buy day to day things. When you give monetary donations, you are also helping the local economy. For example, they might need a gift cards for purchasing gasoline for their cars. So if you know a trusted organization or church or temple on Maui you could send them there. Beware of scammers.

The other need is paying for therapy and counseling which are not covered by all insurance companies. For example, organizations like [Pacific Health Ministry](#) will coordinate with the interfaith coalition to provide spiritual care & counseling. You could choose to support any of these similar organizations. Or [donate to the Pacifica Synod](#). 100% of the funds will be used to support Hawai'i.

*Hear the cries of your people God! Hear the cries of orphaned children and the cries of bereaved families. Be with those still searching for their loved ones. Be compassionate to those who are engaged in the recovery of your creation lying in the ashes. May you grant them needed physical, emotional and spiritual strength to do this sacred work. In Christ name we pray. Amen.*

Thank you for your compassion. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Your servant in Christ,

JP Sabbithi

Regional Assistant to the Bishop – Pacifica Synod

[jpsabbithi@pacificasynod.org](mailto:jpsabbithi@pacificasynod.org)