

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
In-Gathering Sunday / Reception of New Members
September 28, 2025

WELCOME

*A warm welcome to visitors who join us today to worship our Risen Lord!
We invite you to pick up a Visitor's Packet as you leave worship today.
Thank you for joining us this morning! We are blessed by your presence.*

Children are always welcome at worship.

*If desired, there is an unstaffed nursery available for parents and their children
on the second floor in the education wing. Take the first left down the hallway, and
the nursery is the first door on your right.*

*Large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices
for today's worship are available.
Please feel free to ask an usher if interested.*

Welcome to Worship

Lutheran World Relief In-Gathering

This morning during worship, we will be dedicating our school kits, baby kits and personal care kits, and fabric kits, as well as our wonderful quilts.

Because of your generosity, we have been able to make 60 school kits, 60 baby kits, 106 personal care kits, 31 fabric kits, and 126 quilts for those in need. Each of these items cost approximately \$2.50 to ship overseas. Your contributions to ship these items are appreciated.

Thank you for all your donations to make this possible!

GATHERING

WELCOME

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Tim Gotwald

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who is our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home. **Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, who is faithful yesterday, today, and tomorrow,
we come before the Lord to confess our sin, our forgetfulness, and our fear.
Let us open our hearts to the One whose love never ceases.

**Steadfast God,
you have been our refuge through every age,
yet we confess that we often live as if you are distant.
We forget your faithfulness in the past,
we doubt your presence in the present,
and we fear what lies ahead.
We hoard what we have instead of giving freely.
We hesitate to serve, reluctant to trust your purpose.
Renew us, O God.
By your mercy, make us generous in spirit,
joyful in giving, and bold in hope.
Let your love be new in us every morning.**

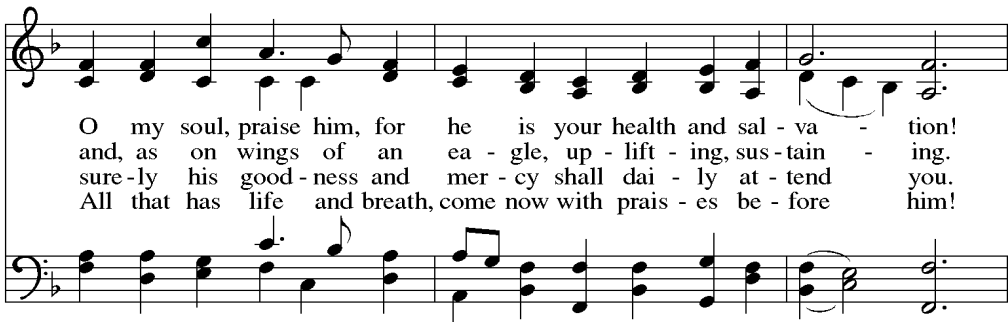
Hear the promise of God:
The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
God's mercies are new every morning.
In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
You are held in grace, renewed in purpose,
and called to live faithfully— yesterday, today, and tomorrow. **Amen.**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

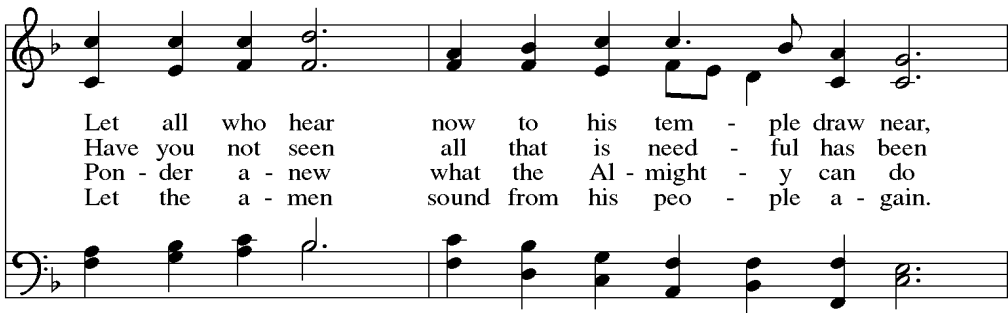
Text: Joachim Neander Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Ernewerten Gesngbuch*, Part II, Stralsund



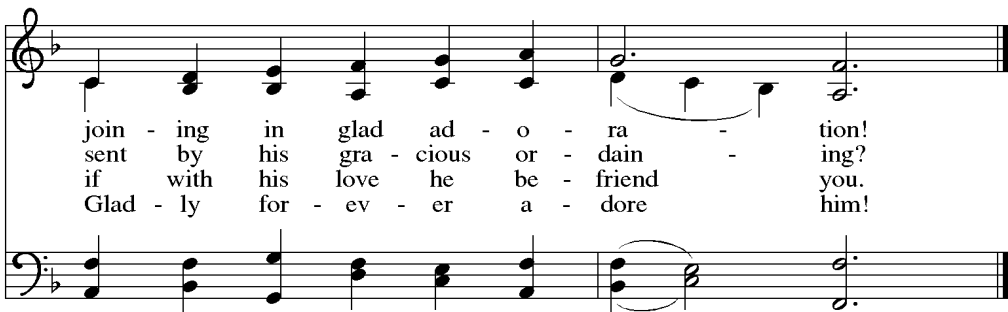
1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
sure-ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.

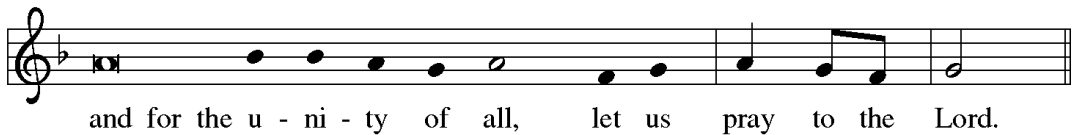
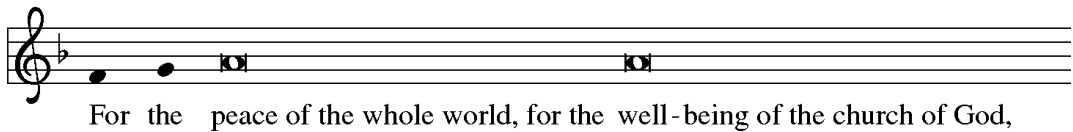
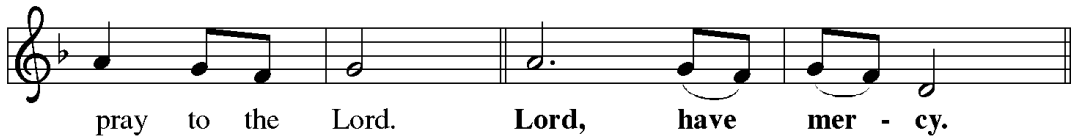
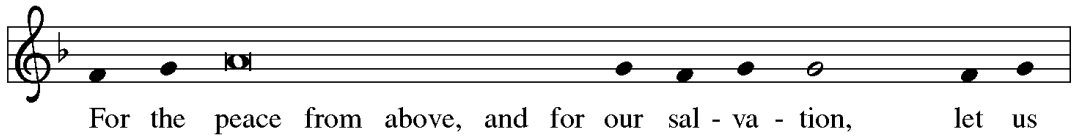
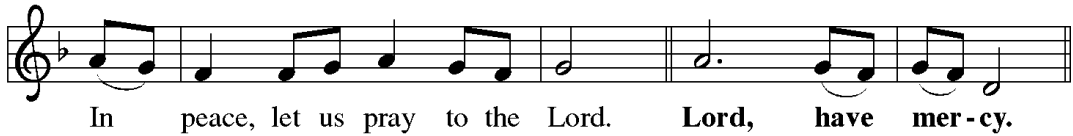


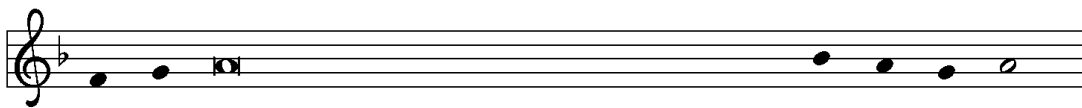
join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
if with his love he be - friend you.
Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

GREETING

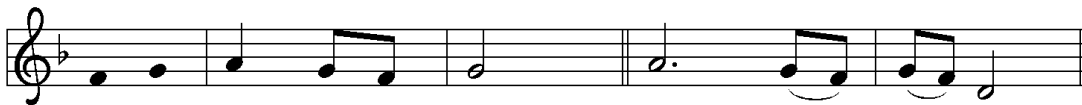
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE





For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



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 for your glo - ry.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in 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, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



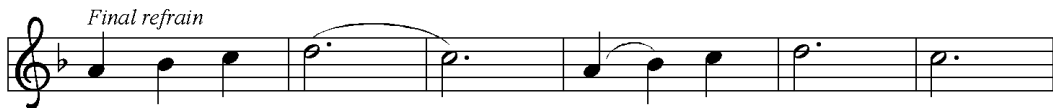
3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a -



lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est.



A - men, a - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. **O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE –

BLESSING OF LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF ITEMS

God, we give you thanks for the pieces of fabric, thread, sewing machines, and the items collected for the kits. May their presence be a sign of hope, may these quilts wrap our neighbors in unending love, and may these kits offer dignity and healing.

Lord, your provisions are great.

God, we give thanks for all the hands that fashioned hope into a quilt, for the hands that collected and sorted, for the hands that continually open wider so that no one feels left out. **Lord, you promise more than enough.**

God, be with our neighbors who will receive these gifts. May they be wrapped in love, may they taste your goodness, may they touch signs of your hope. Whether or not we know their names or where they live, they are our neighbors, our brothers and sisters in Christ. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the One who is our hope. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

- ^{1a} Woe to those who are at ease in Zion
and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria.
⁴ Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory
and lounge on their couches
and eat lambs from the flock
and calves from the stall,
⁵ who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp
and like David improvise on instruments of music,
⁶ who drink wine from bowls
and anoint themselves with the finest oils
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!
⁷ Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile,
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

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

PSALM

Psalm 146

¹ Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

² **I will praise the LORD as long as I live;**

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

³ Put not your trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there is no help.

⁴ **When they breathe their last, they return to earth,**

and in that day their thoughts perish.

⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,

whose hope is in the LORD their God;

⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;**

who keeps promises forever;

⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.

The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸ **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are**

bowled down; the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹ The LORD cares for the stranger;

the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰ **The LORD shall reign forever,**

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING

1 Timothy 6:6-19

⁶ Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it, ⁸ but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹ But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

¹¹ But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

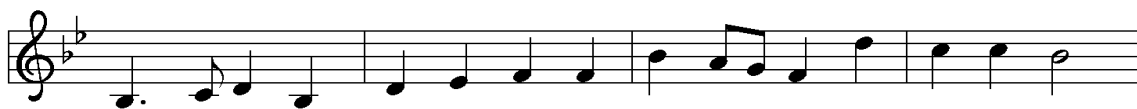
¹³ In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴ to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁶ It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷ As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL

Luke 16:19-31

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 16th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: ¹⁹ “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’ ²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶ Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ ²⁷ He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house ²⁸ for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’

²⁹ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ ³⁰ He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ ³¹ He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

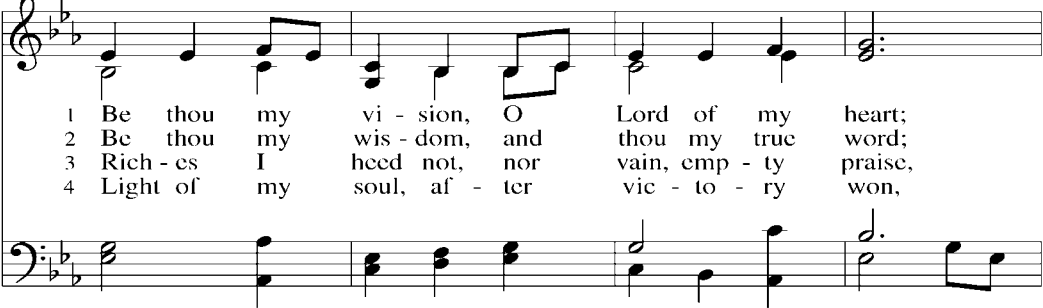
Silence is kept to reflect upon God’s message to us.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Please stand as you are able.

Be Thou My Vision

Text: Iris 8th-10th cent. Mary E. Byrne, vers. Eleanor H. Hull Music: SLANE, Irish tune



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tow'r,
 thou, and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light,
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

*Frances Horton
Kimberly and Mia Long*

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.**

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

Each individual responds: **I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ? **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Let us welcome Fran, Kimberly, and Mia to this community of faith, as brothers and sisters with us in the body of Christ.

**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.
Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
We greet one another with Christ's peace and then are seated.

OUR RESPONSE

GATHERING OF GIFTS

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church,
including the care of those in need. Online giving is
available at felcc.org or by scanning this QR code.*



ANTHEM

Gather Us In

by Sally Albrecht

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY

- 3 Before the hills in order stood
 or earth received its frame,
 from everlasting you are God,
 to endless years the same.
- 4 A thousand ages in your sight
 are like an evening gone,
 short as the watch that ends the night
 before the rising sun.

(continued on next page)

7 So guide our hands, our hearts, our voice
to serve your purpose still;
in giving may we now rejoice,
and live to do your will.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. **Faithful God, you have been our help in ages past, our hope for years to come. Receive these gifts—signs of our trust, our gratitude, and our longing to serve you. Help us to rise new each morning, to be conduits of your steadfast love. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of grace. **Receive our prayer.**

Please be seated.

LORD’S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

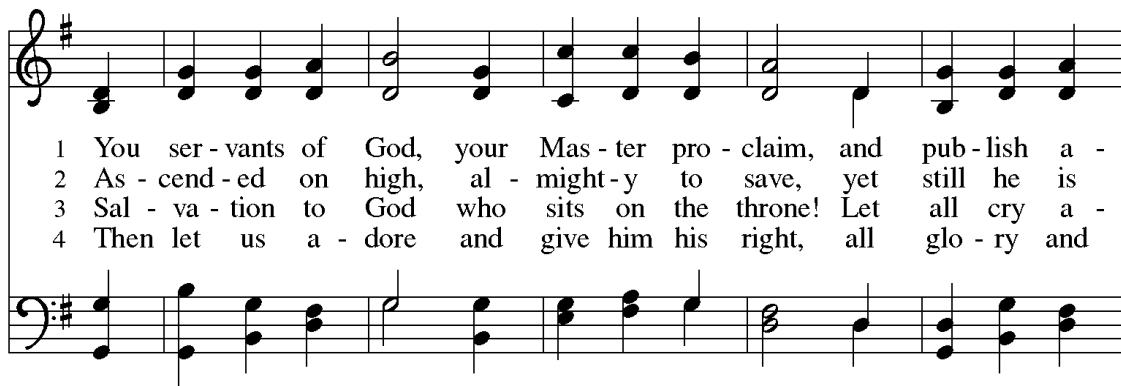
BLESSING

God sends us forth to live generously, to serve joyfully,
and to trust the Lord’s steadfast presence in every tomorrow.
May the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
guide you always in faith, hope, and love. **Amen.**

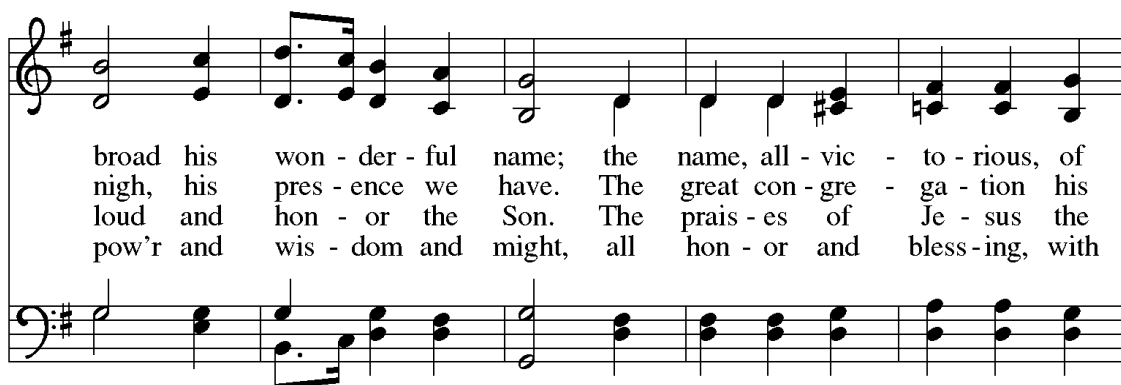
You Servants of God

Text: Charles Wesley

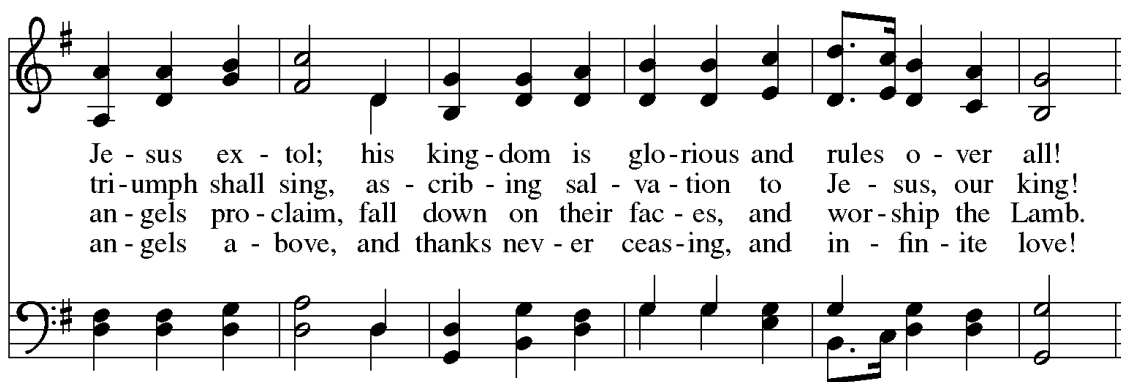
Music: LYONS, attr. Johann Michael Haydn



1 You ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim, and pub - lish a -
2 As - cend - ed on high, al - might - y to save, yet still he is
3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a -
4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right, all glo - ry and



broad his won - der - ful name; the name, all - vic - to - rious, of
nigh, his pres - ence we have. The great con - gre - ga - tion his
loud and hon - or the Son. The prais - es of Je - sus the
pow'r and wis - dom and might, all hon - or and bless - ing, with



Je - sus ex - tol; his king - dom is glo - rious and rules o - ver all!
tri - umph shall sing, as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our king!
an - gels pro - claim, fall down on their fac - es, and wor - ship the Lamb.
an - gels a - bove, and thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fin - ite love!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #33504. Hymns reprinted by permission under One License #A-727079 and CCLI #11318988

Please remember in your prayers ...

Healing: Karen Shatzer Diehl (10/11), Eric Kramer (10/1), Dalton Paul (10/18), Julie Paul (10/18).

Continuing Prayers: **Joanne Caskey**, Linus Christman, **Pat Dent**, **June Diehl**, Mark Hammer, **Charles Kampmeyer**, Joe Pine, **Karin Woods**.

Military: Tawny & Brad Arnold

ATTENDANCE September 21 51 in person 6 online

COUNCIL MEMBER NOMINEES Do you feel the tug of the Holy Spirit to serve on Church Council at First Lutheran? The election will be in November. If you have an interest or you would like more information about this, please talk with Joyce Ray or Pastor Nicholson.

BELLS 101 This is your chance (with no strings attached) to have some time and fun with the bells in an 8-week class. You will get the basics of what is involved in ringing bells. We will meet on Mondays starting September 22—November 10 from 6:00—6:45 p.m. each Monday. Contact Freda at felccmusic@gmail.com if you are interested. Must have 5 people for the class to start and a maximum of 11 for some real ringing fun!!

HATS SCARVES AND MITTENS HANGING TIME IS HERE AGAIN the Neighborhood Task Team is planning to hang items that will help our neighbors stay warm in the winter months. These items will be hung on the church fence. What can you do to help with this project? Purchase new or donate gently used hats, scarves and mittens for men, women and children to donate to this project. Share this with your friends, relatives and neighbors. Volunteer to hang items on the fence. Dates are October 5, November 2, December 7, and January 17-19. Contact Mary Beth Warne at 717-372-8282.

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS We're looking for anyone willing to help out with running audio or slides for Sunday services. Please reach out to Dan Worcester at danbirdchirps@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer and learn something new!

BIRTHDAY BAGS Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Birthday Bags for Little Daisy's Closet! This is an ongoing project. I try to make up 4 - 6 bags a month. Items are needed: Large Birthday bags, balloons, plates, napkins, candles, small gifts, snack items, cakes, icings, cake pans. Birthday cards are not currently needed. Thank you for your ongoing support. Thanks, Joyce Ray.



CROP WALK will be held on Sunday, October 19. We will start at First United Methodist Church on the corner of 2nd Street and Washington Street at about 1:30 and the walk will begin at 2:00. Money raised will be donated to organizations that feed the hungry both locally and abroad. Contact Bill Nienstedt (call/text 717-491-9704 or email billnienstedt@msn.com). Walkers are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items for the local food pantry.

HARVEST HOME Please plan to share the bounty of your table with others through the Meals on Wheels program. Donations may be brought to the sanctuary Sunday, October 6 or deposited outside the church office door in Memorial Hall. Please place any monetary contributions in an envelope marked for Meals on Wheels. The following food items are needed: medium noodles, macaroni, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, small jars of alfredo sauce, sugar free canned fruit, white cake mixes, ketchup, low salt chicken broth, sugar free cookies, grapenut cereal, canned vegetables, dark colored dish cloths, and monetary donations.

COUNCIL AND LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE will be meeting with the Lower Susquehanna Synod Mission Developer, Pastor Richard Jorgensen, at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 6.

FIRST LUTHERAN'S SCOUT TROOP #128 is selling popcorn and nuts to fundraise for Summer 2026's week long camping trip. See Kristy Nienstedt if you would like to purchase items. Your support is greatly appreciated.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

September 28 – October 5

Sunday	9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	Sunday School Worship. In-Gathering – Lutheran World Relief Kits and Quilts. Receiving New Members.
Monday	3:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Bible Study in Parlor Bells 101 Class Scouts
Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	Scouts
Wednesday	9:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	LWR Quilters Scouts Planning
Thursday	6:15 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	Rose Ringers Choir

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	<u>September 28</u>	<u>October 5</u>	<u>October 12</u>
Lector:	Becky Hoover	Nancy Fricke	Jane Love
Communion	Becky Hoover	Becky Hoover	Becky Hoover
Assistants:	Jane Love Karen Sloan	Jane Love Karen Sloan	Jane Love Karen Sloan
Greeters:	Bob Hammer Dot Hammer	Gary Kennedy Marianne Kennedy	Gary Kennedy Marianne Kennedy
Altar Guild:	Bob Wildeson Nancy Wildeson	Deb Fleegal Gary Fleegal	Deb Fleegal Gary Fleegal
Ushers:	Nicki Johnson Denny Love Mark Nicholson Rose Wilson	Jim Brown Don Shoop Mary Beth McGraw-Warne Bob Wildeson	Jim Brown Don Shoop Bob Wildeson