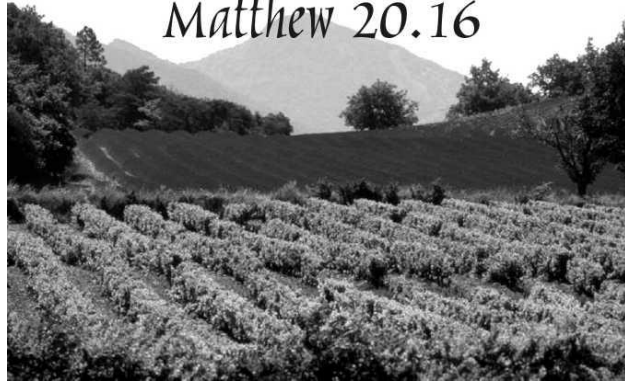


**+ THE HOLY COMMUNION +**  
**Seventeenth Sunday After**  
**Pentecost**

*So the last  
will be first,  
and the first  
will be last.*

*Matthew 20.16*



September 24, 2023  
10:00 a.m.

# CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

99 South County Line Road, Crown Point, IN 46307

219-988-3650

[office@crossofchristlofs.com](mailto:office@crossofchristlofs.com)

[crossofchristlofs.com](http://crossofchristlofs.com)

“Like” us on Facebook 

*Reverend Tamera Kay Jacobi – Pastor*

*Judy Johnson – Music Director*

*Peggy Keen – Pianist*

## Mission Statement

*Growing in Christ, loving our neighbor!*

*A cordial welcome to all!*

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Welcome to Cross of Christ! We invite you to sign our **guest book** in the narthex at the entrance of the church. Those who are able are encouraged to follow the directions for sitting, standing, and turning as they appear in this bulletin. If you need any assistance during the service, the ushers are here to serve you.

### *Church facilities*

**Restrooms** are available down the hallway on the left side. There is a baby changing table in each restroom.

**Classrooms** are located along the far side of the Fellowship Hall.

**The Fellowship Hall** is available for rental. For details, please call the church office.

**A Large-print Bulletin** is available from the usher.

### *Families*

**We believe that children of all ages belong in worship. They are a welcome part of the assembly, and we enjoy hearing them as well as seeing them.** There are Children’s bulletins along with crayons at the back of the sanctuary. If you find it helpful, feel free to move around the sanctuary or stand in the back to help soothe your child. If you find it necessary to leave the worship space for a short time, there is a “*Pray Station*” in the Narthex or the middle classroom off the Fellowship Hall has a rocking chair. The service can be heard through a speaker system. Please return as soon as you feel comfortable. **Children and youth of all ages are also encouraged to participate in worship leadership roles when parents feel they are ready.** If you need assistance for any reason, please don’t hesitate to ask an Usher or the Council Person on duty.

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# + THE HOLY COMMUNION +

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*Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables, in which Jesus says the reign of God is like workers who get paid the same no matter when they start. When God changes his mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.*

***The Color for the Sundays after Pentecost is green which represents growth.***

## **GATHERING**

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*The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day of the week, the day of Christ's resurrection.*

## **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

*As you gather in the sanctuary, please be mindful of those around you that may be praying or preparing for worship by quieting their hearts and minds. During the prayers of intercession, you will have opportunity to voice your prayer concerns.*

**PRELUDE “As We Gather”** Mike Fay and Tom Coomes, arr. by Teresa Wilhelmi © 2016 Lorenz Pub.

*Assembly stands.*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, † Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Steadfast and faithful God, you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbors, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven. **Amen.**

*Assembly faces and follows the cross.*

**GATHERING Hymn “Lord of Light” ELW #688 vss. 1, 2 & 4**

1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and  
2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -  
4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent

suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom  
ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance  
day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing

as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -  
of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -  
peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that

fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.  
ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:  
pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:

*Refrain*

Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860–1953, alt.  
Music: Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991  
Text © Union of Welsh Independents  
Music © 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company

ABBOT'S LEIGH  
87 87 D

**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 “Ancient Words” words and music by Lynn DeShazo

Verse 1, then Verse 2, then refrain.

1 Ho - ly words long pre - served for our walk in this world;  
 (2. Ho - ly) words of our faith hand - ed down to this age,

They re - sound with God's own heart, O, let the an - cient words im -  
 came to us through sac - ri - fice; O, heed the faith - ful words of

part; Words of life, words of hope, give us strength,  
 Christ; Ho - ly words long pre - served for our walk

help us cope; In this world wher - e'er we  
 in this world; They re - sound with God's own

Refrain after vs. 2

roam, 7 an - cient words will guide us home.  
 heart; O, let the an - cient words im - part. An - cient

words, ev - er true, chang - ing me, chang - ing you; We have come with o - pen

1  
 hearts, O let the an - cient words im - part.

CCLI Song #2986399  
 2001 Integrity's Hosanna! Music  
 For use solely with the SongSelect Terms of Use. All rights Reserved. www.ccli.com  
 CCLI License #2441520

The Lord be with you.  
 And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. (*Silence is kept for reflection.*)

Almighty and eternal God, **you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Assembly sits.*

## CHOR ANTHEM

### **“Give Me Jesus”**

Arr. by Jay Rouse

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## CHILDREN’S SERMON

### WORD

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#### **FIRST READING, a reading from Jonah.** (*Jonah 3:10-4:11*)

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**A reading from Psalm 145** (read responsively).

*(Psalm 145:1-8)*

I will extol you, my God and King,  
**and bless your name for ever and ever.**  
Every day I will bless you,  
**and praise your name for ever and ever.**  
Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;  
**his greatness is unsearchable.**  
One generation shall laud your works to another,  
**and shall declare your mighty acts.**  
On the glorious splendor of your majesty,  
**and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.**  
The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed,  
**and I will declare your greatness.**  
They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness,  
**and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.**  
The Lord is gracious and merciful,  
**slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Second Reading, a reading from **Philippians**

*(Philippians 1:21-30)*

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

*Assembly stands.*

S205a



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.

**HOLY GOSPEL** (Matthew 20:1-16)

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord!**

Jesus said to the disciples: “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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

*Assembly sits.*



## \*SERMON

Assembly stands.

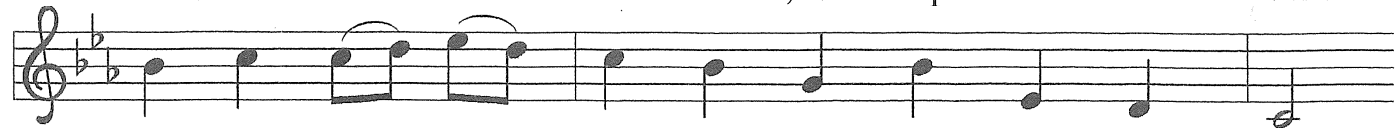
### HYMN OF THE DAY “Lord of All Hopefulness” ELW #765



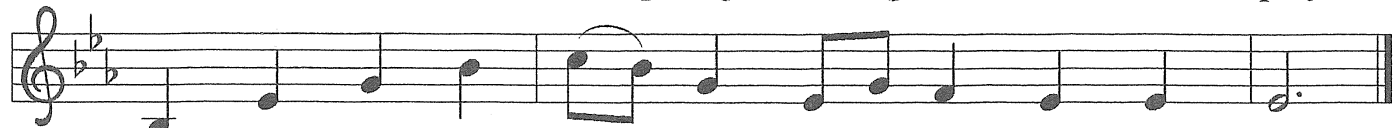
1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,  
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,  
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,  
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:  
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:  
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:  
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.  
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.  
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.  
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901–1953  
Music: Irish traditional  
Text © Oxford University Press

SLANE  
10 11 11 12

## APOSTLES' CREED

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 into hell.  
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

*Prayers reflect the wideness of God's mercy for the whole world.*

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors. *A brief silence.*

God who is gracious and merciful, teach your church to invite and welcome all. Lead us to be grateful for the blessing of community. Challenge your church to choose equity and compassion over judgment. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God who sends the wind and the sun, you know every worm and bush by name. Help us remember that even the humblest parts of creation are precious to you. Show us how best to care for the earth and its creatures. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God who is ready to relent from punishing, impart your compassionate wisdom to legislators, judges, members of the military, and law enforcement. Give them courage to serve their communities in time of uncertainty, stress, or exhaustion. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God who saves, direct your people who are tempted by evil ways. Protect your children from calamity and disaster. Encourage all who are in despair or pain of any kind, especially those we name before you now, whether silently or aloud. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You may now offer the prayers of your heart, whether silently or aloud (*brief silence*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God who is slow to anger, may we boast about the goodness of Jesus with the confidence of Paul in prison. Inspire us to find abundance in whatever vocation we are called to in the world and in service to our congregation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God who abounds in steadfast love, we give thanks for the saints called to the kingdom of heaven. United with them in spirit, hold us firm as we labor in this life and look to the life to come. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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

*All greet one another with a gesture of peace, such as a handshake, using words such as, "Peace be with you."*

*Assembly sits.*

## MEAL

### GATHERING OF GIFTS

*Gifts are gathered for those in need and for the mission and purpose of our congregation. You may place your offering in the offering plate, mail it in, or you can donate on-line at [Givelify.com](http://Givelify.com). There is a wheelbarrow for the collection of food in the Narthex. If anyone needs offering envelopes, they are available in the church office. **Visitors** – your presence with us is gift enough. We expect members to support the mission and ministry of this congregation. Visitors are invited to just enjoy worship and fellowship.*

**OFFERING HYMN** “*Make Me a Servant/The Servant Song*” Kelly Willard © 2016 Lorenz Pub.

*As the gifts of bread, wine, and money are brought forward, the **assembly stands and sings.***

**OFFERTORY** “*As the Grains of Wheat*” ELW #465 - Refrain, vs. 1, Refrain

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
Music: Marty Haugen  
Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

*Refrain*

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from  
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.  
1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,  
*Refrain*  
may we share the pres - ence of your love.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. (*Silence for reflection and meditation*)

God of power, God of plenty, **all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

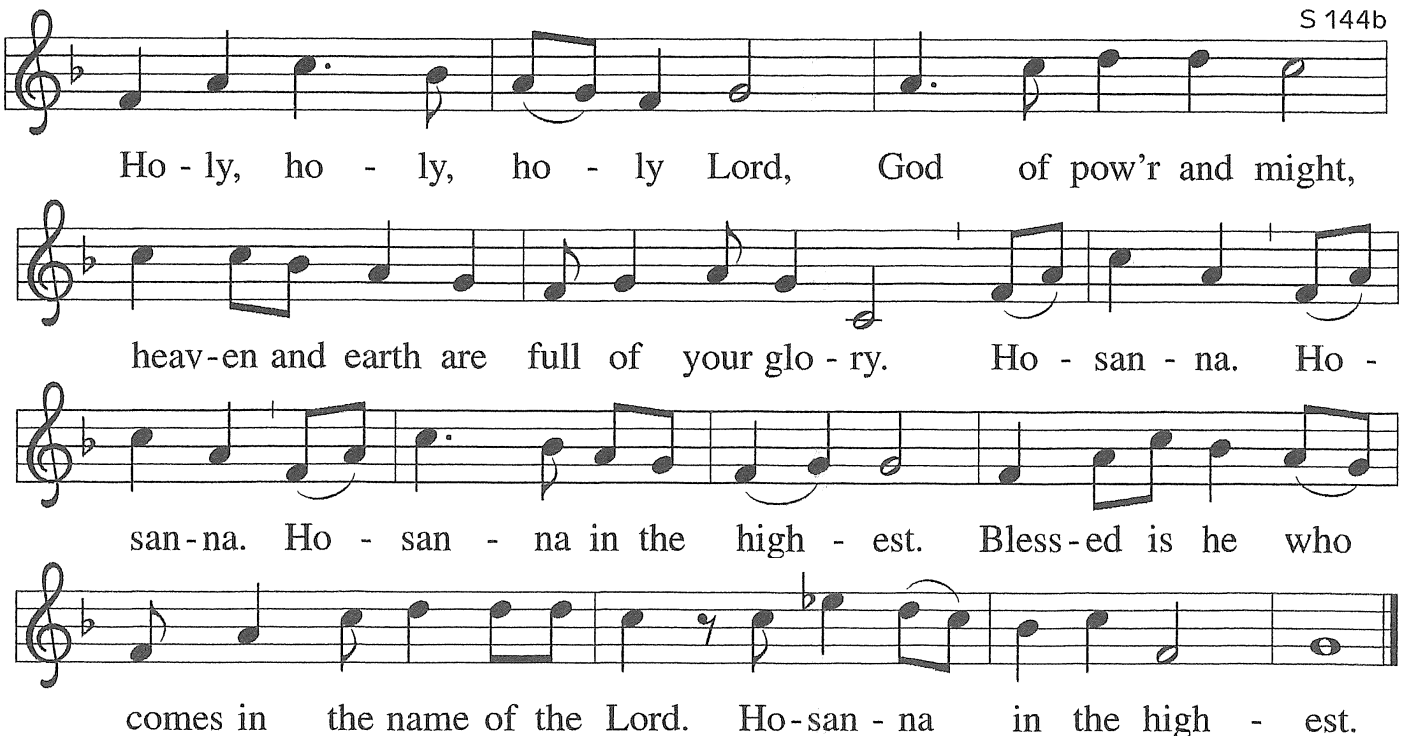
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## THE PREFACE AND SANCTUS

We lift our hearts to you, gracious God, because you made the dazzling creation out of nothing, yet made us to share eternity with you. In covenant love you called your chosen people to an imagination as plentiful as the stars in the sky and the sands of the desert. Your Son Jesus transformed our hearts from the scarcity of mammon to the wondrous abundance of manna, and through the church you gather us to share in the holy feast where your grace abounds for all, forever. His cross and resurrection turn the emptiness of sin into the fullness of everlasting life. And so we join with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise.

S 144b



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

We give you thanks and praise, Lord God, for in your Son Jesus you became the true bread from heaven, the manna sustaining us in every wilderness, the bread of abundant life that never runs out. Send down your Holy Spirit upon us now, that we might become living bread for your hungry world. Give us your very self in these gifts of bread and wine and make them for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ has risen; Christ will come again.**

Ever-bountiful God, listen to the hunger of your children and nourish their true life in you. Draw near to those who toil for daily wages and all who wonder where they will find daily bread. Bless any whose days are spent looking for work or waiting for hire. Give each of your sons and daughters a place in your kingdom and fruitful work in your vineyard, not only for a passing day but for eternity. By your Holy Spirit in your holy church, make the labors of our hands tell the good news of your harvest of plenty, and hasten the day when in one great sharing around your table with your people throughout the ages we shall taste and see that you are good. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave 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**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*The minister addresses the assembly:*

Jesus invites you to this table.

Come, eat and live.

## AGNUS DEI “Jesus, Lamb of God” ELW #199

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937

Adapt. © 1985, 1989 GIA Publications, Inc.

*Assembly sits.*

## COMMUNION

*Our Lord's body and blood are truly present in the bread and wine to forgive and strengthen us. We practice open communion: all Baptized Christians are welcome to commune with us. White grape juice is available at communion for those who prefer it. It is located in the center ring of each tray of glasses. Gluten free wafers are available. Please indicate to the pastor during distribution if you would rather have gluten free wafers. If you prefer communion at your seat, please let one of our ushers know. In preparation for receiving the Sacrament, a simple prayer such as this or another appropriate prayer may be said "May the Blood of Christ bring me everlasting life."*

## COMMUNION HYMN

### *“Take My Life”*

CCLI Song # 4162843  
© 2003 Rising Springs Music | Varios Publishing | worshiptogether.com songs  
For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com  
CCLI License # 2441520

*After all have communed, the assembly stands.*

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## **PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Blessed be your name, O God, **for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## **SENDING**

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*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please join in singing 🎵 Happy Birthday 🎵  
to everyone who celebrates a birthday in September:

*Esther Kristoff, Don Pahr, Michael Jackson, Heidi Wirtz, Joshua Osby, Renee Holton, Declan Solivais, Mackenzie Reinboldt, Gianna Skrenes, Harry Witt, Laurie Burton, Vern Reinboldt, Vickie Alfono, Hanna Wirtz, Don Hughes, Jane Koenig, and Teresa Underwood.*

## **BLESSING**

The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

*Assembly faces and follows the cross.*

**SENDING HYMN “Voices Raised to You” ELW #845 vs. 1, 2 & 3**



1 Voic - es raised to you we of - fer; tune them, God, for  
2 All cre - a - tion joins to praise you; earth and sky your  
3 Christ, the song of love in - car - nate, touch - ing earth with  
songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute  
works dis - play. Art and mu - sic, gifts you lend us,  
heav - en's grace, for your liv - ing, suf - f'ring, dy - ing,  
for your gifts through all our days. Al - le - lu - ia!  
we re - turn to you to - day. Al - le - lu - ia!  
for your ris - ing, hear our praise! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!  
Al - le - lu - ia! God, cre - a - tor, source of life!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, re - deem - er, Lord of life!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923  
Music: Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936  
Text © 1997 GIA Publications, Inc.  
Music © 1996 Carolyn Jennings

SONG OF PRAISE  
87 87 87

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**Growing in Christ, loving our neighbor! Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE “Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord” Bob Holmes arranged by Teresa Wilhelmi © 2016 Lorenz Pub.**