



*Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

*September 16-17, 2023*

*Abiding Presence*  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
A PLACE OF GRACE. ALL ARE WELCOME.

# Welcome to Worship

## Prelude

5:30 pm

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

Shelbie Simmons, organ

arr. John A. Behnke

8:30 & 11:00 am

*Earth and All Stars*

Bells of Praise

Sandra Eithun

*Stand*

## 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 neighbor, 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.

## Greeting and Prayer of the Day

☒ 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.

☒ 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.

*Sit*

## Welcome and Announcements

### First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

Pew Bible page 42

*After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.*

☒ Word of God, Word of life.

☑ Thanks be to God

## Song

5:30 pm

*Psalm 103*

Edward Walker

*Refrain*



8:30 & 11:00 am

*Amazing Grace*

arr. Lloyd Larson

*Bells of Praise*

## Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

Pew Bible page 923

*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.*

- Word of God, Word of life.
- Thanks be to God.

## Children's Message

Stand

## Gospel Acclamation

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

## Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Pew Bible page 800

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

## Sermon

Rev. Steve Cox, Senior Pastor

*Want to dive deeper? Join the Pastors for coffee on Monday mornings via zoom. 2104948884*

Stand

## Hymn of the Day

*Before the Waters Nourished Earth*



1 Be - fore the wa - ters nour - ished earth or night im -  
2 This Love re - mained as time re - vealed the loss of  
3 De - spair, so deep it bears no name, or sor - rows  
4 The Love that called cre - a - tion good all good - ness



ag - ined morn - ing, a Love con - ceived the  
E - den's glo - ry and, griev - ing, holds in  
par - a - lyz - ing can - not re - voke Love's  
still is bring - ing. This Love turns death a -



u - ni - verse and rev - eled in its form - ing.  
mem - o - ry each trag - ic hu - man sto - ry.  
faith - ful claim to dwell with - in our dy - ing.  
gain to life and si - lence in - to sing - ing.

## Apostles' Creed

Let us confess our faith using the words of the 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

▣ Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

*Each petition ends with the response:*

▣ 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.**

## Sharing God's Peace

▣ The peace of Christ be with you always.

▣ **And also with you.**

*Greet one another with a sign of God's peace saying **Peace be with you** or similar words.*

*Sit*

## Offering Message

## Offering Music

5:30 pm

*Amazing Grace*  
Sara Serwacki, soloist

John Newton  
/ arr. Virinia Harmony

8:30 am

*Jesus*  
Men's Chorus

Chris Tomlin & Ed Cash  
/ arr. Jonathan Miller

11:00 am

*O Love*  
Sanctuary Choir

Elaine Hagenberg

Stand

## Offertory Response - ELW 679

*For the Fruit of All Creation*

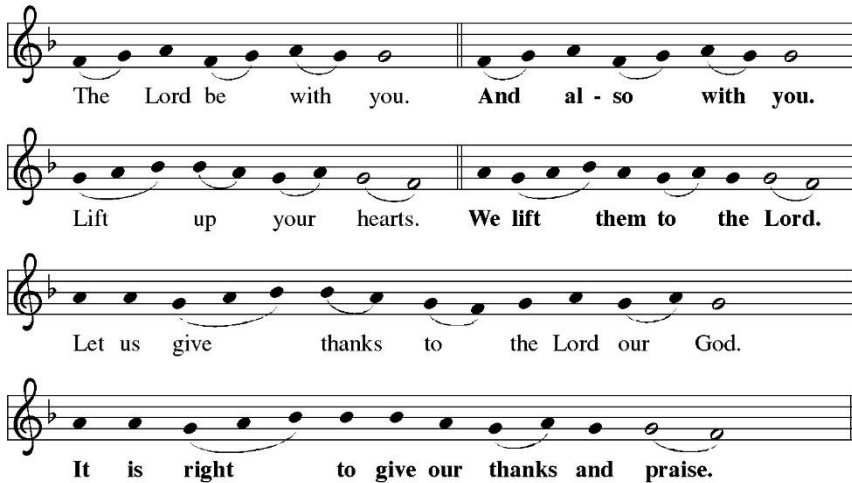
For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.  
For these gifts to ev'ry nation, thanks be to God.  
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

## Offering Prayer

☒ Let us pray: 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 al - so with you.

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

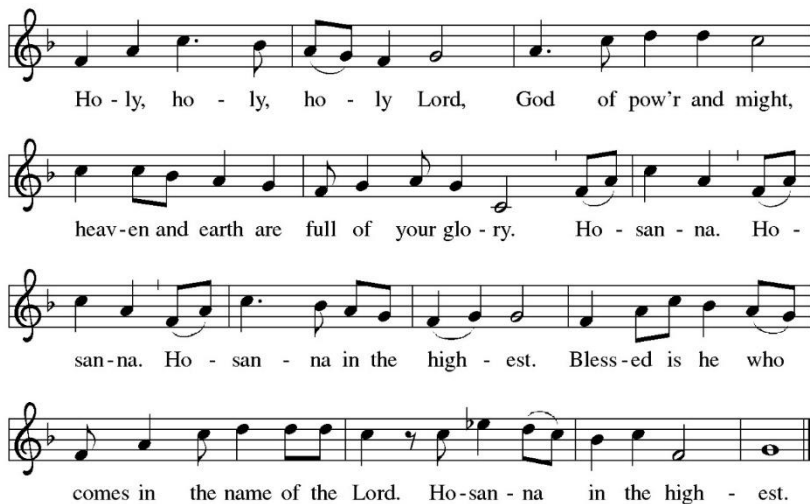
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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:



## Sanctus



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.

## Eucharistic Prayer

☒ Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all...

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

☒ Amen.

## The Lord's Prayer

☒ Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, 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.

Sit

## Invitation to Communion

**HOLY COMMUNION** *Abiding Presence welcomes all to this communion table. Communion is received by intinction. Communicants receive the wafer and then dip it in the chalice or come forward for a blessing. Gluten free wafers and individual communion cups are also available.*



The CERAMIC chalices hold wine.  
The CRYSTAL chalices hold grape juice.

## Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion Hymn - ELW 469

*By Your Hand Feed Your People*

Stand

## Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in God's grace.

Amen.

## Prayer after Communion

▣ 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.

## Blessing

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

▣ Amen

Sending Hymn - ELW 546

*To Be Your Presence*

## Dismissal

▣ Go in peace. God is at work in you.

▣ Thanks be to God.

Postlude

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Shelbie Simmons, organ

arr. Albert L Travis

## Serving in Worship

<p><b>Assisting Minister</b> Dawn Johnson John Perry Steve Johnson</p> <p><b>Acolyte</b> Declan Elseth Abrielle Gidish</p>	<p><b>Altar Guild</b> Loretta Beard Linda Menchaca, Becky Rodgers Donna Stewart, Hayden Stewart, Linda Viargues</p> <p><b>Video</b> RJ French, Daniel French</p>	<p><b>Lector</b> Elanore Decker Elly Henry Barb Williams</p> <p><b>Sound</b> Jeff Eggers Paul Trevino</p>
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## New at Abiding Presence?

We'd love to connect and help you find your way in this community of grace.  
Send us a message and we'll be in touch.



*Rev. Steven Cox, Senior Pastor*

*Dr. Shelbie Simmons, Minister of Music*

*Mike Ceyanes, Minister of Youth Faith Formation*

*Denise Barritt, Business Administrator*

*Eric Camarena, Custodian*

*Rev. Heather Hansen, Associate Pastor*


*Angus McLeod, Sanctuary Choir Director*

*Frances Harrelson, Day School Director*

*Crystal Coleman, Multimedia Coordinator*



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