

September 13, 2026
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

God's work,



**Rally
Day**



Our hands.

Christ's Lutheran Church

700 East Pennsylvania Avenue
Oreland, Pennsylvania

Regular Worship Schedule 10:30 am

*Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church
connects individuals to God, each other, and the community.*

Welcome to Worship at Christ's Lutheran Church!

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Please stand in body or spirit as you are able.

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:

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 Song

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death ELW # 452



- 1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
- 2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
- 3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,
- 4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
- 5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.



so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829

Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

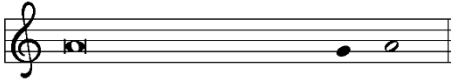
Greeting

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

ELW Setting Four



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



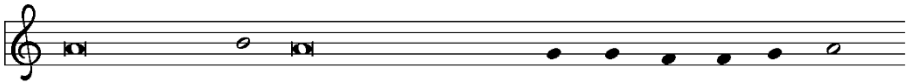
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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.

This is the Feast

ELW Setting Four

Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

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.

Please be seated.

THE WORD

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

First Reading

Genesis 50:15-21

A reading from Genesis, chapter 50.

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

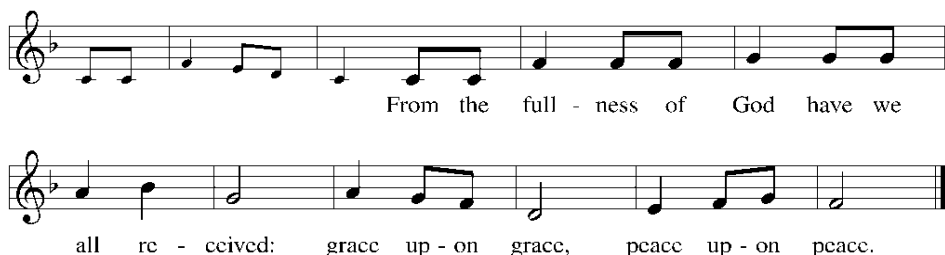
Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103:1-13

DATH # 18 | From the Fullness of God

The congregation will sing the following response:



¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

² Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—

³ who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;

⁴ who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;

Response

⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶ O LORD, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.

⁷ You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.

⁸ LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

Response

⁹ you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.

¹⁰ You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹² As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

¹³ As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

Response

A reading from Romans, chapter 14.

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation (sing twice)

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah
ELW # 172



Music: Caribbean traditional

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

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

²¹ Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord

all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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

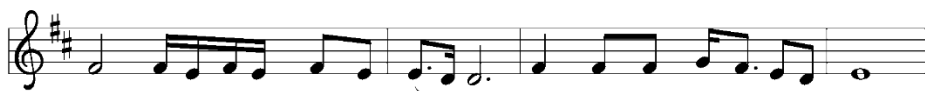
Please be seated.

The Children's Message

Becca Shelor

A Moment of Prayer

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying
ELW # 752



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943

Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema

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The Message

Pastor Axel Kaegler

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and every shall be.

Amen.

Please stand in body or spirit.



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
 2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
 5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
 let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
 as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
 Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
 that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

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Apostles' Creed

Together let us confess our common faith in 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.**

Please be seated for the following speakers.

Elise Seyfried “My Des Moines Adventure--WELCA Triennial”

Matt Menard

Prayers of Intercession

Reminded of God’s gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

Move your church throughout the world away from judging and despising others. Lead us to embody the forgiveness you have given us in Jesus. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The endless beauty of your creation reminds us of your mercy. Protect those who care for farms and ranches. Guide those who lead us to wonder at your creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Raise up leaders to hold all in authority accountable for any misuse of the power entrusted to them. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Calm the fears of all in need with your promises. Compassionately free the lives of any who feel bound by their failures. Remember your children in need. We pray especially for Samira, Ziad, Pat, the Bach family, the Piantieri family, the Curtis and Davenport families, the Orrik family, and the Duncan family. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Ground this congregation in the welcome you show us in forgiving our sin. Inspire each of us to welcome others for your honor and glory. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With you is found the joy and promise of eternal life. Keep us in that joy as we remember all those who have gone before us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

*You are invited to share God's peace with those around you
and to greet those who are worshipping online.*

Please be seated.

Musical Offering "You Are Holy (Prince of Peace)"

Imboden/Rhoton

Becca Shelor/Karen Sease
Kathy Steen, Guitar

Please stand.

Offertory Hymn (sing twice)

**Jesus, Lamb of God
W & P # 76**

Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name;

Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, ending with a fermata over the final note. The second staff contains the melody for the second line, ending with a double bar line. The lyrics are written below each staff.

Text: Dennis Jernigan, refrain of "You are my all in all"
Music: ALL IN ALL, Dennis Jernigan

Offering Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Gracious God, you have been faithful to our ancestors, bringing us
throughout time to this very day
Beyond our divisions, you remind us that we are all kindred in your
eyes
We are better together.

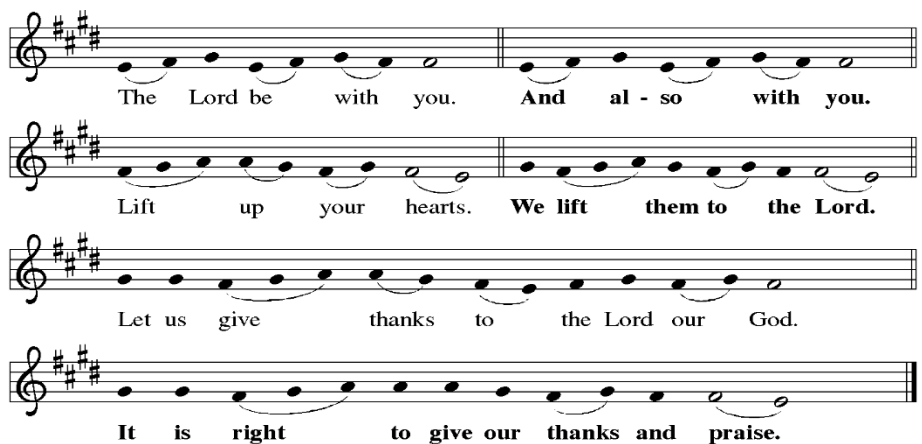
You have given us all we need to trust in your abundance, to live
generous lives, and recognize that your good work is done best in
communion with you and one another
We are better together.

And so in service to our neighbor, in love for all creation,
and in proclamation of your good news for all:
We are better together.

Bless these gifts we've gathered, help us to remember all you have
done, give us vision for all we can do, honest commitment to the call
you've placed before us, and sincere trust that we can rely on your
grace and sufficiency Let us be your people, and serve the world in
love as you first loved us.
Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

ELW Setting Four



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.

Preface

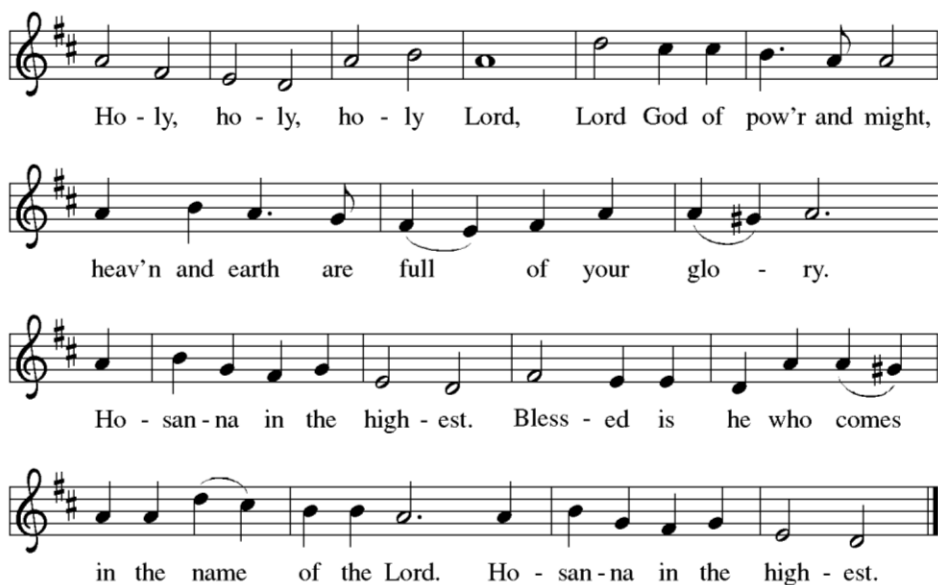
ELW Setting Four

It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
al-mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resur-rec - tion
opened to us the way of ev - er - last - ing life.
And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

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Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW Setting Four



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
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.

Thanksgiving at the Table

In 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 testament in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.**

Invitation to Communion

Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Please be seated.

Welcome to Holy Communion!

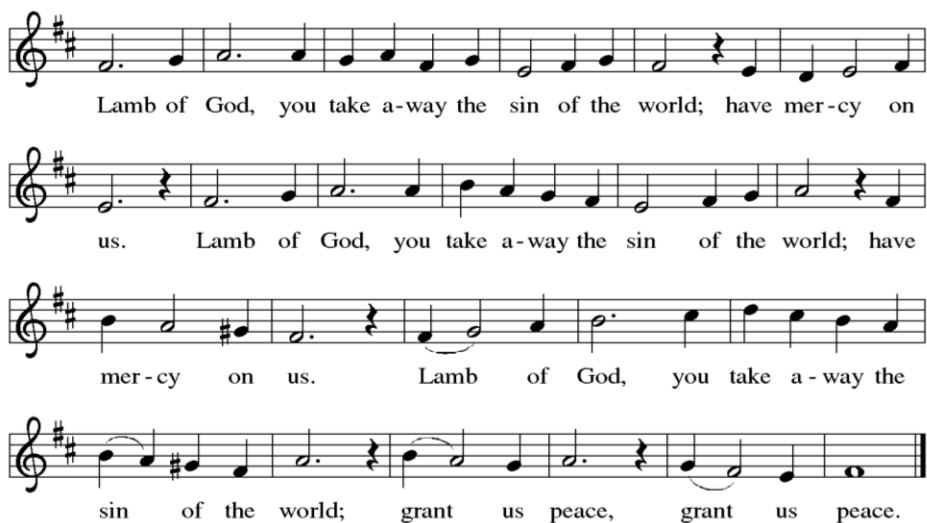
We confess in the real presence of Jesus Christ in the holy meal. If you need Jesus - we won't keep you from Him. You are invited to share in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus through the sacraments.

Following the usher's instructions, you're welcome to come down the center aisle. You'll be offered a small cup. Empty ones will be filled with wine, pre-filled ones contain juice. After getting a cup, please step forward to receive the bread. Gluten-free bread is available beside the cups. Once you have received the bread, step toward the wine chalice on the same side as your pew to receive wine in your empty cup or a blessing on your pre-filled juice cup. Used cups should be deposited in the basket. Please return to your pew by the side aisle.

Anyone who doesn't wish to receive communion, but does wish to be included is welcome to receive a blessing instead. Please indicate this by crossing your arms over your shoulders. If you're coming up with children, please tell the pastor whether they will commune, or receive a blessing. If mobility requires communion to be brought to you, please wave to an usher so we can bring you communion.

Lamb of God

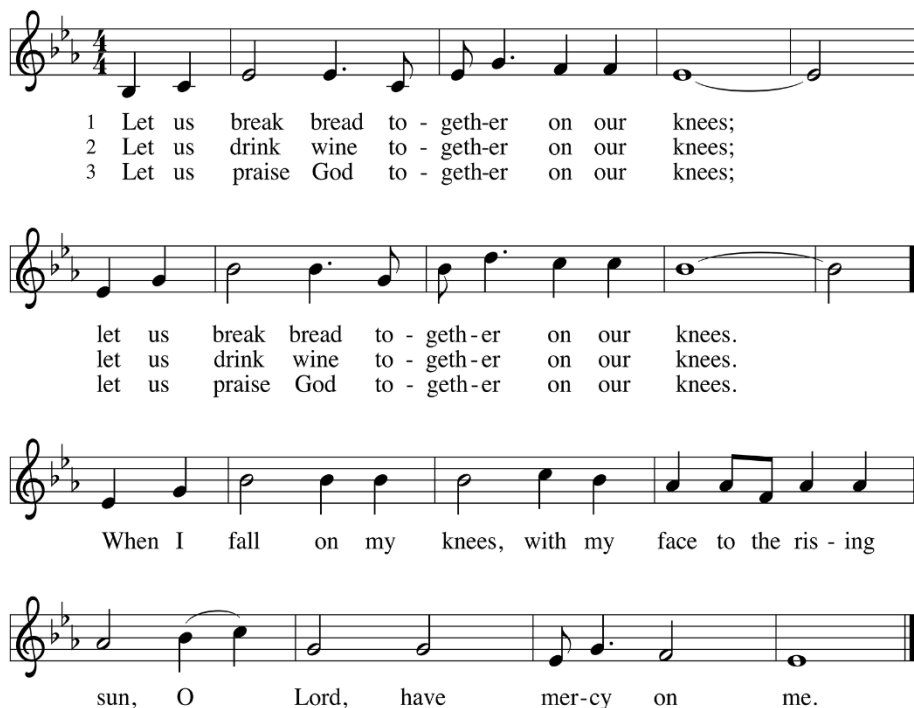
ELW Setting Four



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, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn

ELW # 471 | Let Us Break Bread Together



1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees.

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing
sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

Please stand.

Post Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Post Communion Song

Cares Chorus

I cast all my cares up-on you; I lay all of my
bur - dens down at your feet. And an - y - time that I don't know
what to do, I will cast all my cares up-on you.

Prayer after Communion

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.

Blessing

The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace
✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.



A - men, a - men, a - - - men.



WDRS and MUSIC Assoc. PD

Prepared by www.digitalsongandhymns.com

Today's Music: *"God's Work, Our Hands" is a hymn that embodies the mission of the ELCA. It was written by Wayne Wold (our choir has sung his anthems) and was commissioned to highlight the church's focus on service for the betterment of our society. The music is set to the tune "Earth and All Stars" which complements that hymn's focus on creation and service. It was officially published in 2020 as part of a new collection of hymns in "All Creation Sings." Sunday the 13th is set as a day of service where many congregations find ways to serve their communities. At CLC, we've been building Hygiene Kits in collaboration with Artman/Liberty Lutheran.*

The Sending Song

**God's Work, Our Hands
ACS # 1000**

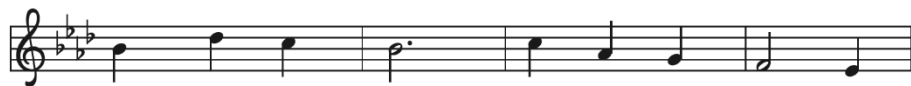
Please see the next page for the hymn.



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987

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Music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

Your Prayers Are Invited

We hope you will add the following people to your personal prayers. Those who are listed for longer than 6 weeks can be found on the long-term prayer list through the link in the weekly e-news or the monthly Link newsletters. To add a name to the prayer list or provide an update, please contact the office.

Samira Awad (friend of Melody Maurer)
Ziad Awad (friend of Melody Maurer)
Bach Family
Pat Hallman

We remember in prayer the family and friends of Reverend Lenny Duncan who died on September 5th. May their loved ones be comforted by the promise and hope of the resurrection.

The flowers on the altar today have been sponsored by
Earl & Allison Uehling in memory of
our Dad and Grandpa, Spencer Bennion.
AND
By the Polis Family in celebration of
Gail's and Shawn's Birthdays!

Online Giving

To make an offering to support the work of Christ's Lutheran Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, you may use this QR code to access our site for secure online giving.



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Christ's Lutheran Church
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Ministers	The People of Christ's Lutheran Church
Senior Pastor	Reverend Axel Kaegler
Director of Spiritual Formation	Becca Shelor
Director of Music	Ken Selinger
Piano Accompaniment	Betsy Selinger
Administrative Assistant	Lorraine Pfeiffer
Preschool Director	Sally Mead
Sexton	Pete Carr
Assisting Minister	Elise Seyfried
Communion Assistants	Elise Seyfried
Soundboard	Diane Polis, Jon Rasmussen, John Frantz
Livestream	Rick Daniels, John Melnick, Paul Zieger
Counter(s)	Tim & Deb Hilbert
Altar Guild	Linda Daniels
Closer	Matt Menard
Assisting Minister next Sunday	Jenna Balaicuis
Upcoming Altar Guild: September 20	Marty Frantz

This Week at CLC!

Sunday	9:00 am	Rally Day – God's Work, Our Hands (PH)
	10:30 am	Worship at CLC and online
	11:30 am	Coffee Hour (narthex)
Monday	9:30 am	Monday Morning Men
	10:00 am – 6:00 pm	PBJ Collection (chapel)
	11:00 am	CLC Yarners (200)
	7:00 pm	Book Group (chapel)
	7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop 1 (PH)
Tuesday	9:00 am – 10:45 am	PBJ Collection (chapel)
	6:00 pm	Webelos I (200)
	6:00 pm	Bears (203)
Wednesday	10:00 am	Bible Study (200)
	6:00 pm	Webelos II (200)
	7:00 pm	AA (PH)
Thursday	6:30 pm	Terrific Thursday (Bortz Home)
Friday	8:00 pm	AA (200)
Saturday	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast (Halligan's)

Christ's Lutheran Church
700 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Oreland
Eleventh Annual Community
Fall Festival

Rain or Shine

**Free Family Fun
for Everyone**

**October 3, 2026
12:00 - 4:00 PM**

Games and Prizes
Balloon Animals
Pumpkin Decorating
Mini Golf on the Go

Pony Rides
Live Music
Sand Art
Face Painting

Bring a
non-perishable
item for the
Willow Grove
Baptist Food
Pantry

Bake Sale - Food** (\$5 a Plate)**

plate includes: hot-dog, tator-tots,
baked beans, chips and a beverage

**All proceeds will be donated to a local charity

community@christs-oreland.org