# Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
## July 26, 2026

**Bethany Lutheran Church**
**2515 Madison Ave., Burlington, IA**
**Phone: (319) 752-3621**
www.bethanyburlington.org

*Bethany's Mission Statement: Reaching out in Worship, Fellowship, Learning and Love – we are God's people.*

We are so glad you chose to worship with us this morning. We hope everyone
feels welcome as we strive to serve and strengthen each other in faith toward God and in love toward all. Now, as you wait for the service to begin, please relax, enjoy the music, and quiet your heart before God.

# Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

*ELW indicates that hymns or liturgy are taken from Evangelical Lutheran Worship–red hymnal*

**PRELUDE**

Welcome, Birthday/Anniversary Bank
*(money given to Bethany's Human Concerns Fund)*

# We Gather to Acknowledge God's Presence

*(Please Stand)*

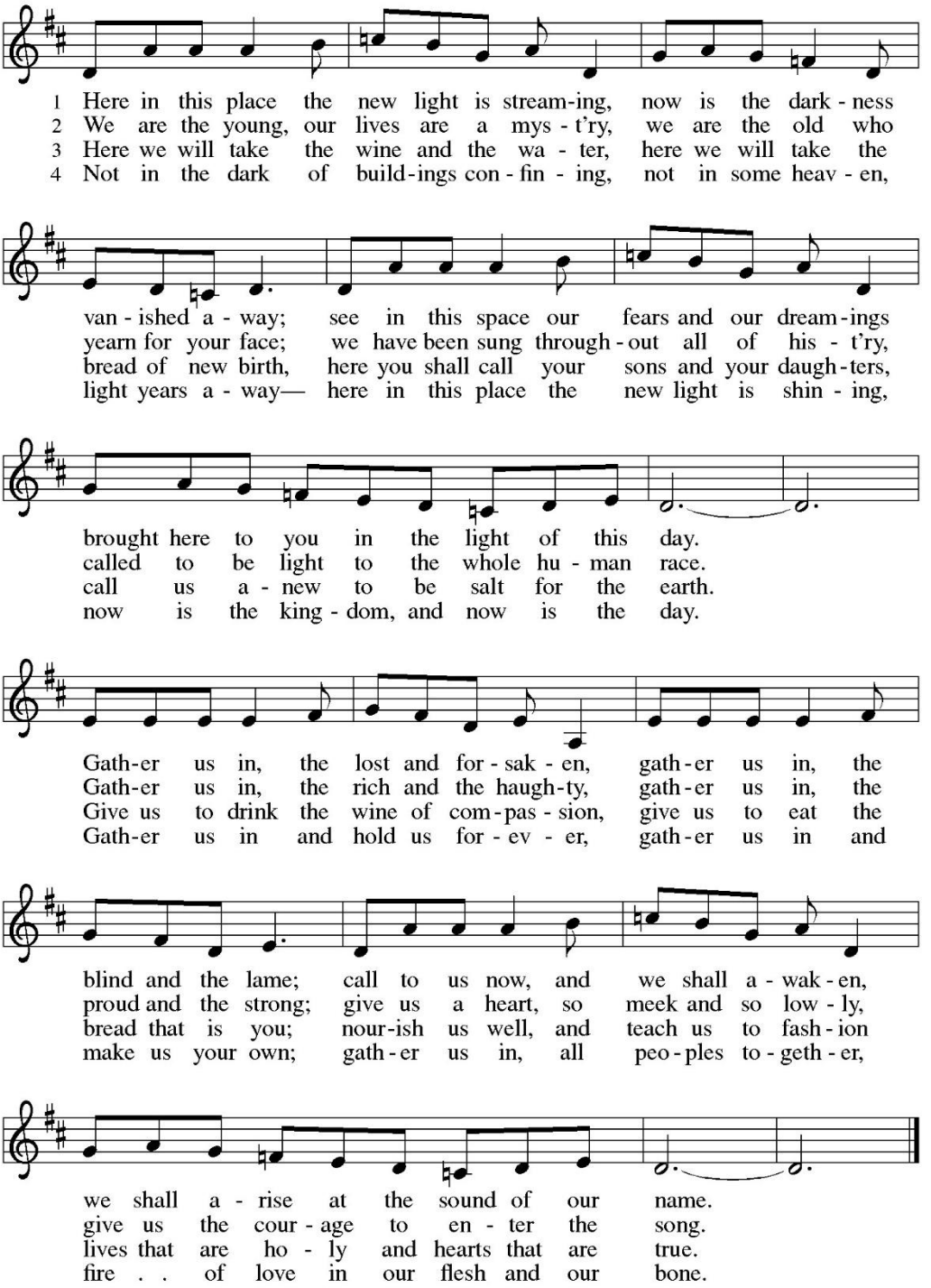
**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
whose compassion endures forever.
**C: Amen.**
P: Let us confess our sin to God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Compassionate God,
**C: we confess to you all our sins.**
**Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.**
**In your mercy, call us back to you.**
**Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.**
**Restore us to dwell in your peace.**
**In Christ's name we pray,**
**Amen.**
P: Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."
In the name of God,
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Rest in God's love.
**C: Amen.**

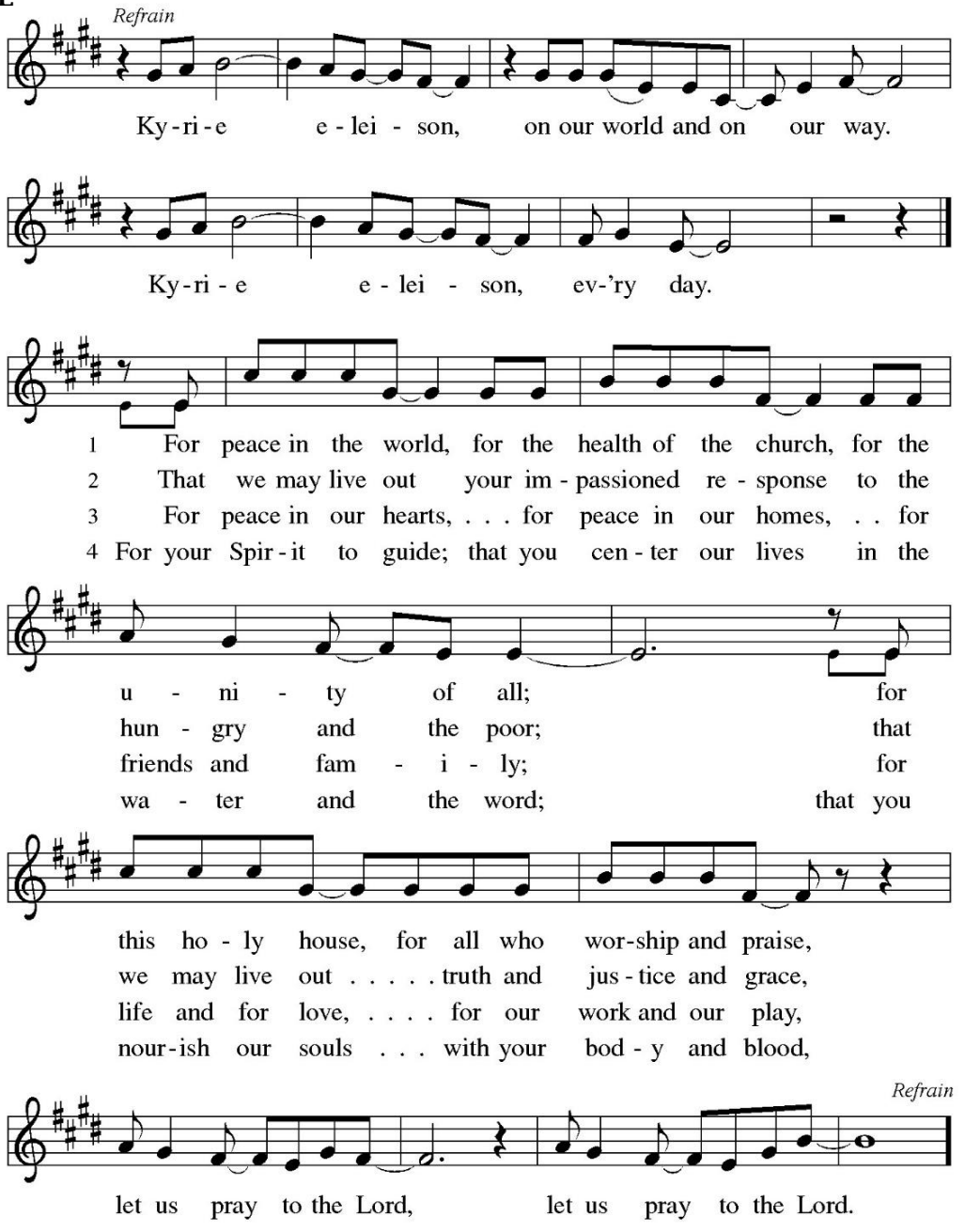
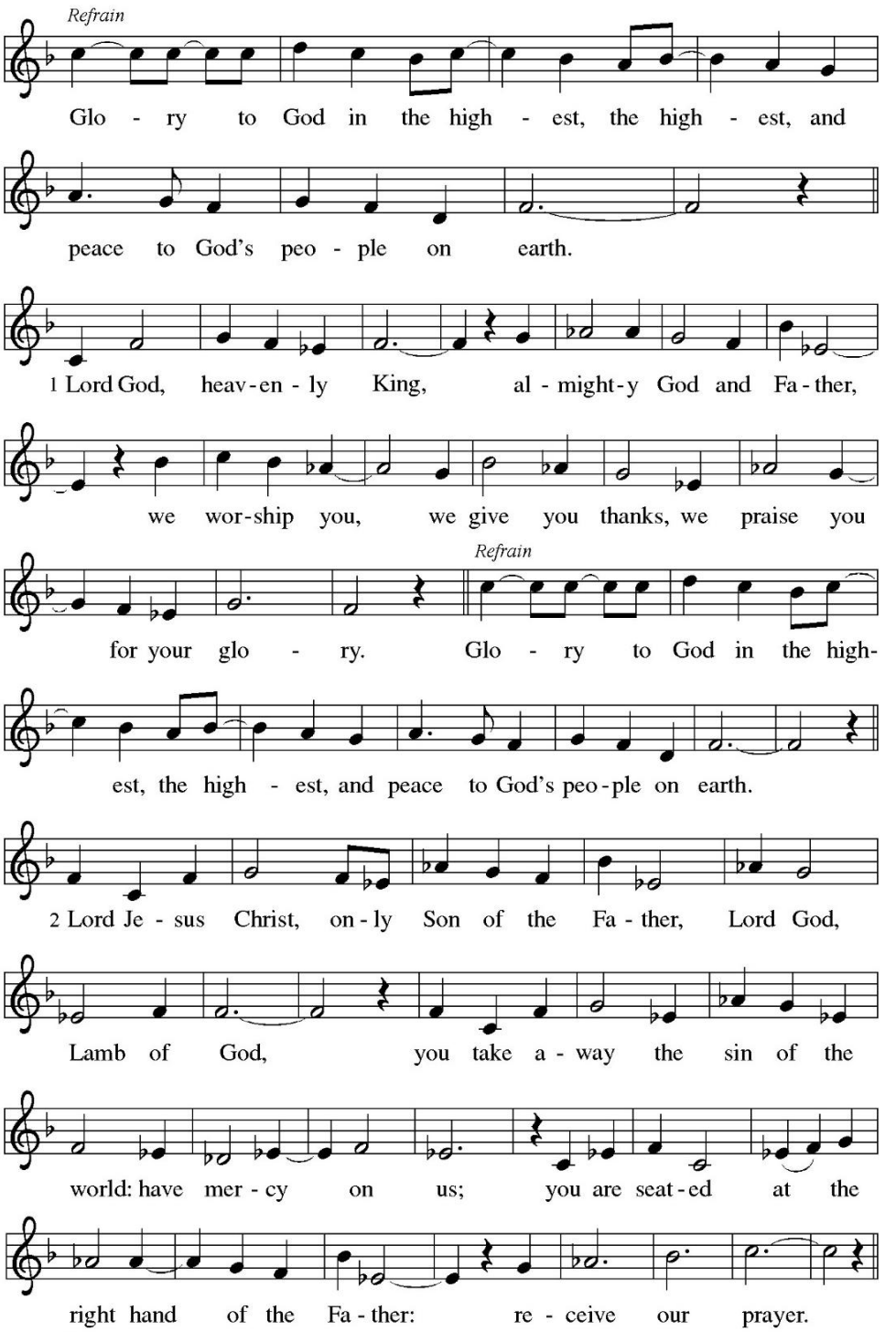
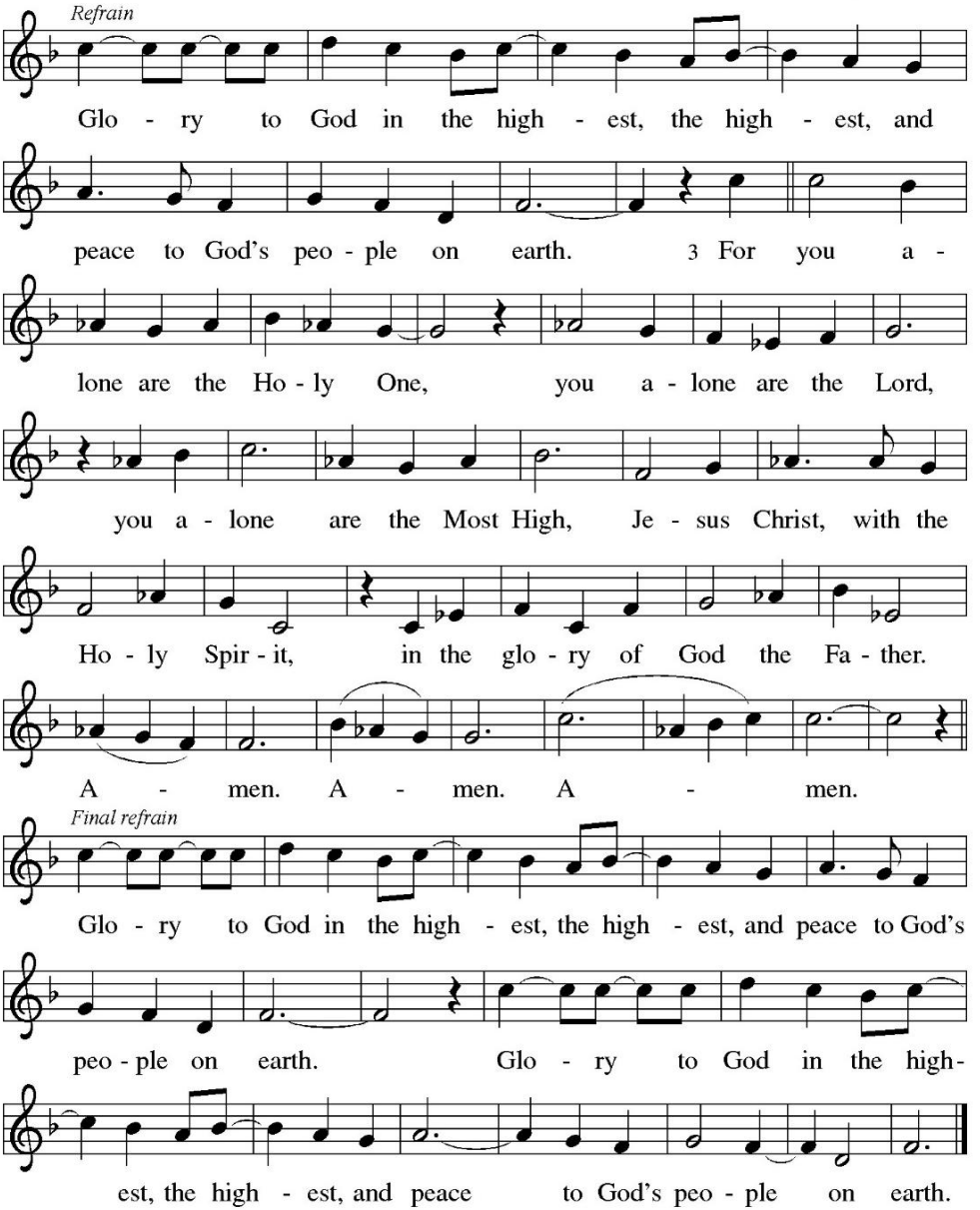
**GATHERING HYMN** "Gather Us In" **ELW Hymn 532**



**GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

**KYRIE**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray.

**C: Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**
**Amen.**

# We Listen to God's Word

*(Please be seated)*

**FIRST READING** **1 Kings 3:5-12**

5 At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask
what I should give you." 6 And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast
love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness,
in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for
him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne
today. 7 And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my
father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come
in. 8 And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great
people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. 9 Give your servant,
therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between
good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"
10 It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. 11 God said to him, "Because
you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the
life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is
right, 12 I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning
mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after
you."

L: Word of God, word of life.
**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** *(read responsively)* **Psalm 119:129-136**

L: Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with all my heart.
**C: When your word is opened it gives light;**
**it gives understanding to the simple.**
L: I open my mouth and pant
because I long for your commandments.
**C: Turn to me and be gracious to me,**
**as you always do to those who love your name.**
L: Order my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.
**C: Rescue me from those who oppress me,**
**and I will keep your commandments.**
L: Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.
**C: My eyes shed streams of tears,**
**because people do not keep your teaching.**

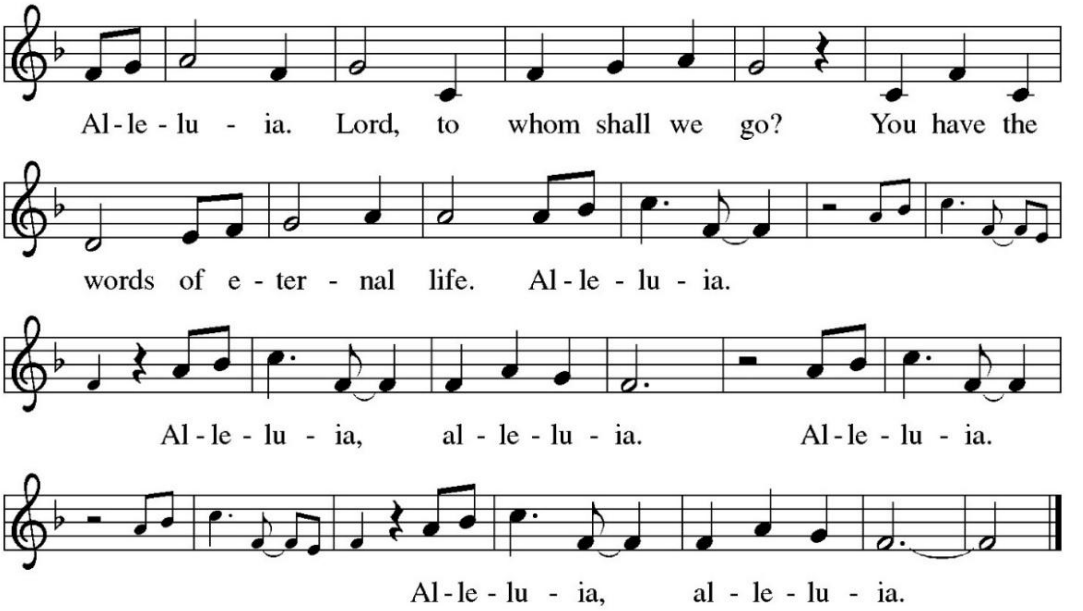
**SECOND READING** **Romans 8:26-39**

[26] The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought,
but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. [27] And God, who
searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes
for the saints according to the will of God.
[28] We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who
are called according to his purpose. [29] For those whom he foreknew he also
predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the
firstborn within a large family. [30] And those whom he predestined he also called,
and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also
glorified.

[31] What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against
us? [32] He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will
he not with him also give us everything else? [33] Who will bring any charge against
God's elect? It is God who justifies. [34] Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or
rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes
for us. [35] Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or
persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? [36] As it is written,
"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."
[37] No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved
us. [38] For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor
things present, nor things to come, nor powers, [39] nor height, nor depth, nor
anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in
Christ Jesus our Lord.

L: Word of God, word of life.
**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please Stand)*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 13th chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord**

**GOSPEL** **Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

31 [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a
mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;32 it is the smallest of all the
seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that
the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

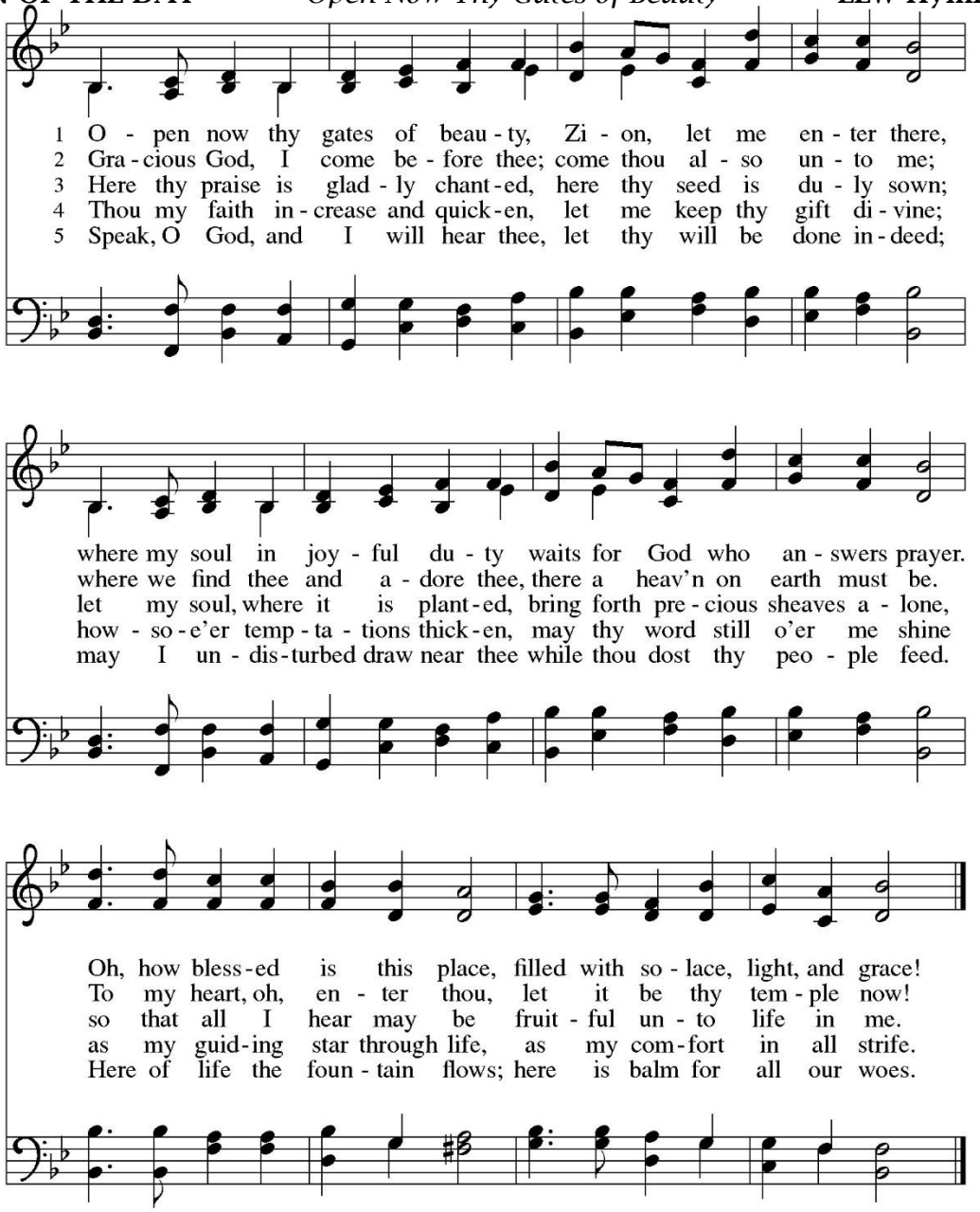
33 He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a
woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found
and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.
45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; 46 on
finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.
47 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and
caught fish of every kind; 48 when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put
the good into baskets but threw out the bad. 49 So it will be at the end of the age.
The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous 50 and throw them
into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

51 "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." 52 And he said to them,
"Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like
the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is
old."

P: The Gospel of our Lord
**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Please be seated)*
**SERMON** ***Pastor Misha McFarland-Pollock***

*(Please Stand)*
**HYMN OF THE DAY** *"Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"* **ELW Hymn 533**

# We Respond to God's Word

**APOSTLES' CREED** ***(unison)***

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.**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

(*Please be seated)*

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

*Each petition concludes:*
P: God of Grace,
**C: hear our prayer.**

# We Share in the Holy Meal

*(Please Stand)*

**DIALOGUE**

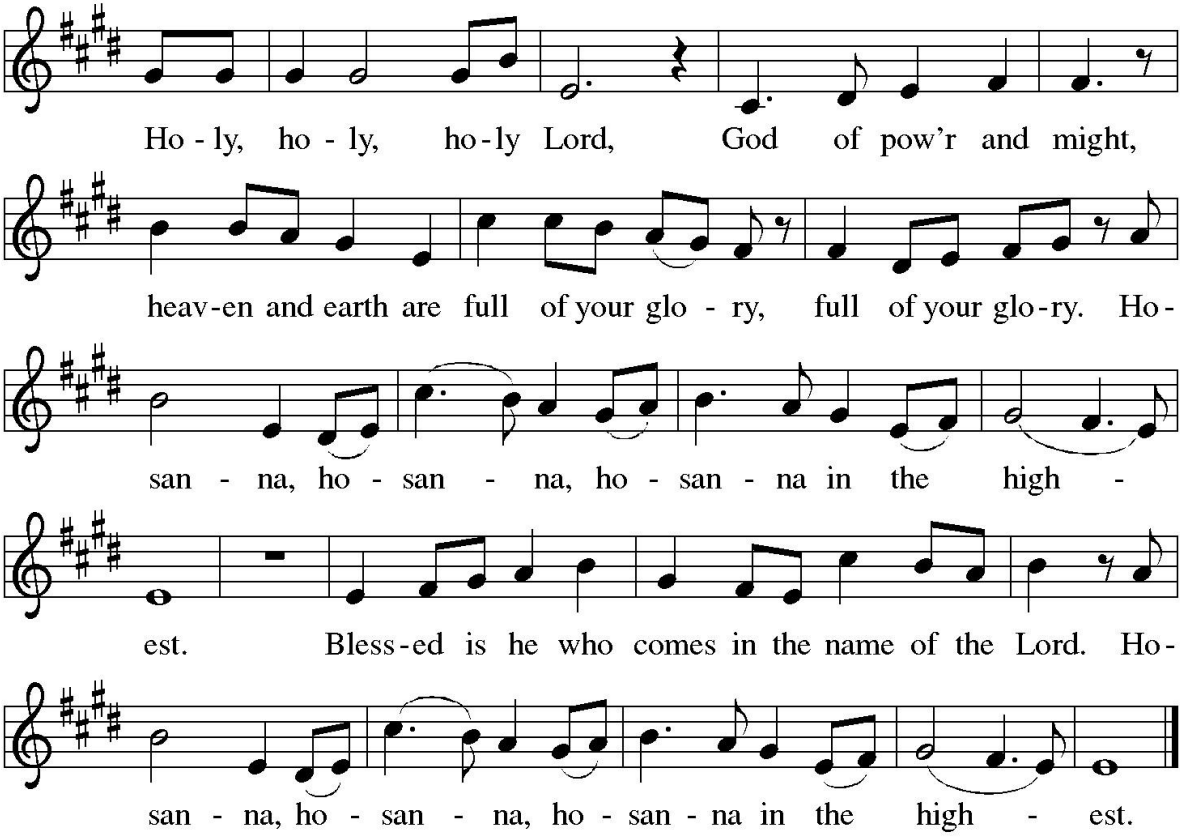
P: The Lord be with you.
**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.
**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy….

…we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** ***(unison)***

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

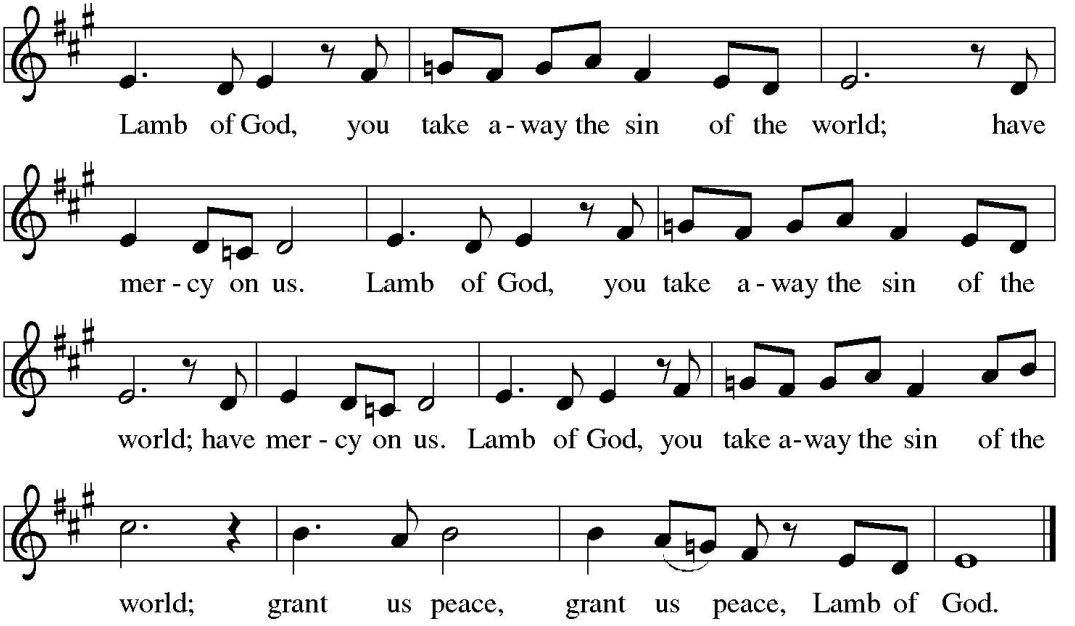
**Our Father, who art in heaven,**
**hallowed be thy name,**
**thy kingdom come,**
**thy will be done,**
**on earth as it is in heaven.**
**Give us this day our daily bread;**
**and forgive us our trespasses,**
**as we forgive those**
**who trespass against us;**
**and lead us not into temptation,**
**but deliver us from evil.**
**For thine is the kingdom,**
**and the power, and the glory,**
**forever and ever. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

*(Please be seated)*

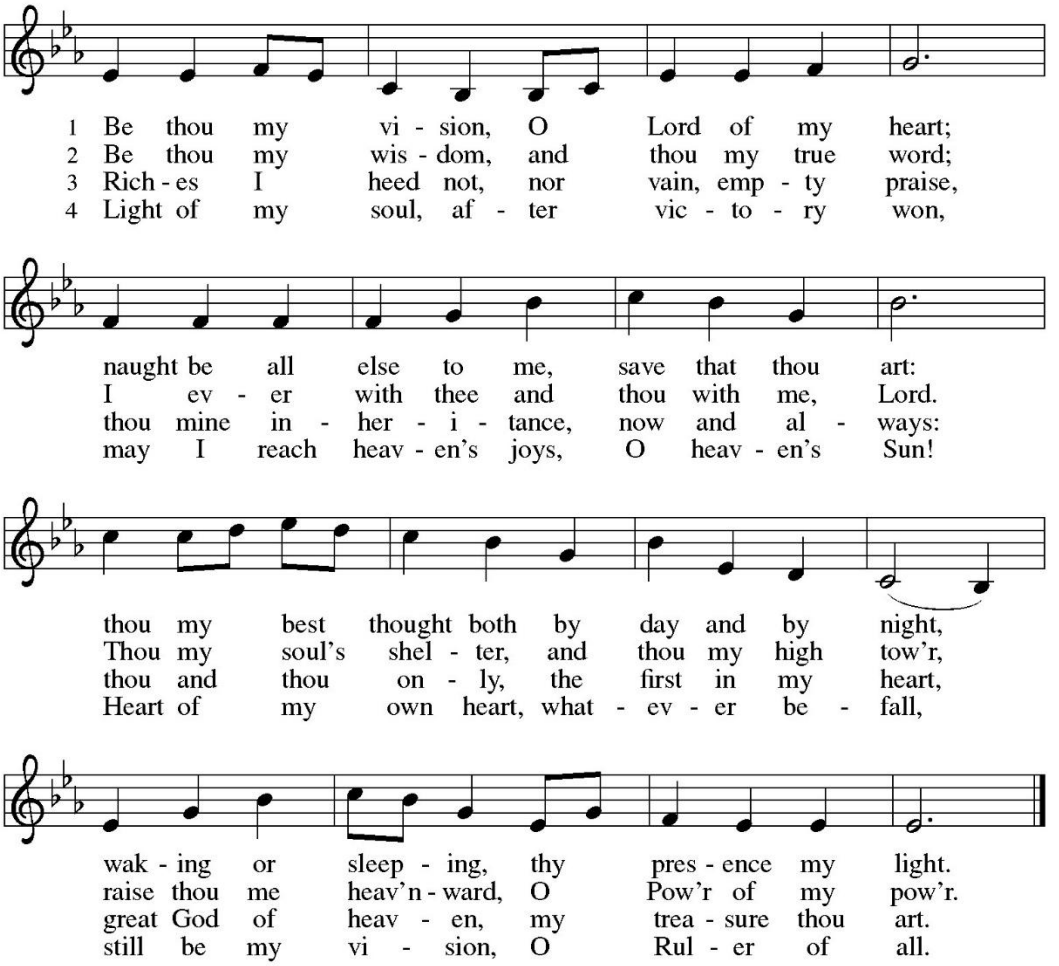
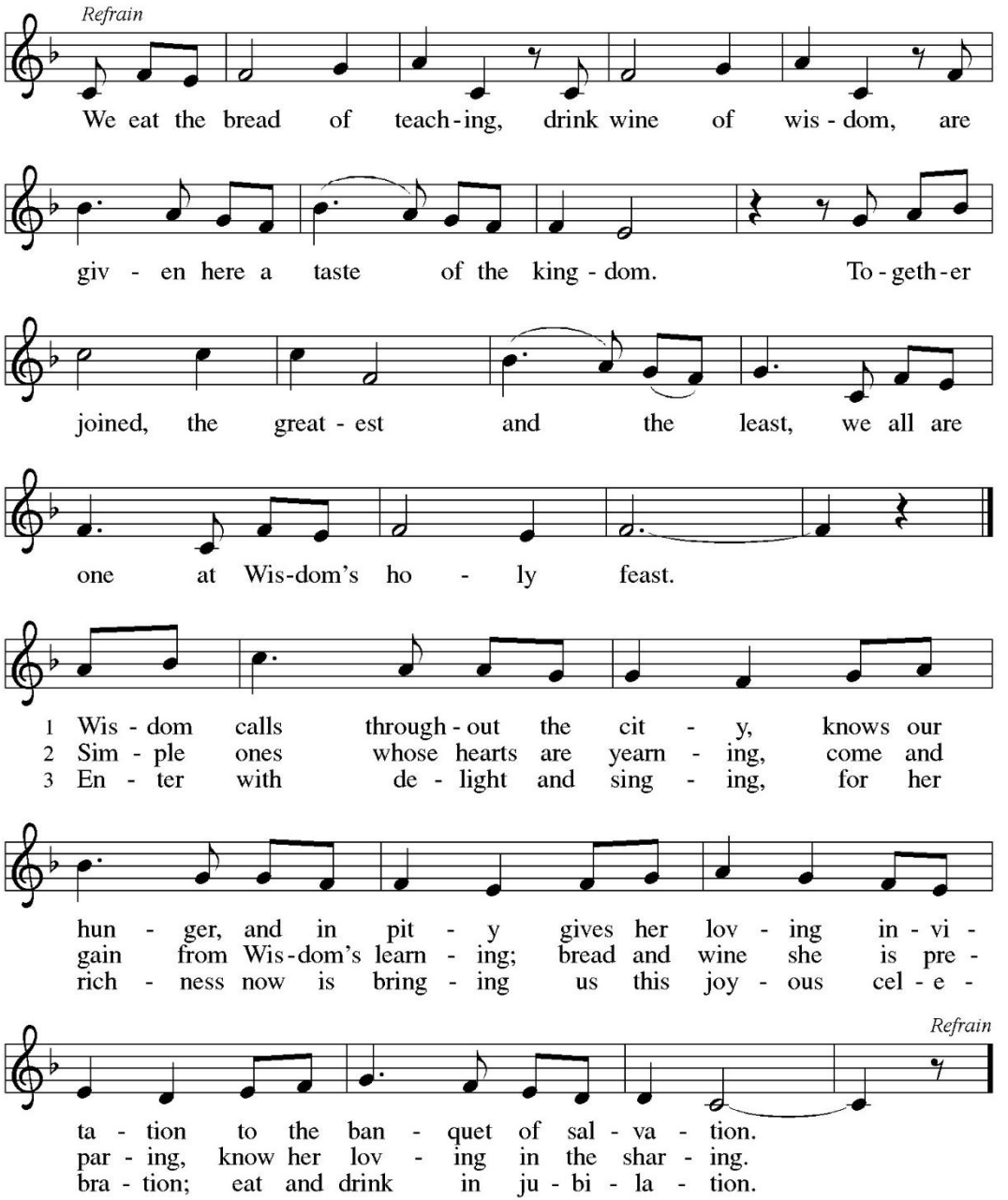
**LAMB OF GOD**



## DISTRIBUTION BY INDIVIDUAL GLASSES

***(Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.)***

*All who believe in the real presence of Christ in the sacrament are invited to commune. Children who do not commune are welcome to come for a blessing. You will be given a wafer. The glasses of dark liquid are wine; the middle ring is juice. There is a bowl of water if you would like to remember your baptism.*

## DISTRIBUTION HYMN *"Be Thou My Vision"* ELW Hymn 793

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN** *"We Eat the Bread of Teaching"* **ELW Hymn 518**

*(Please Stand)*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P: Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BLESSING**

P: The God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus.

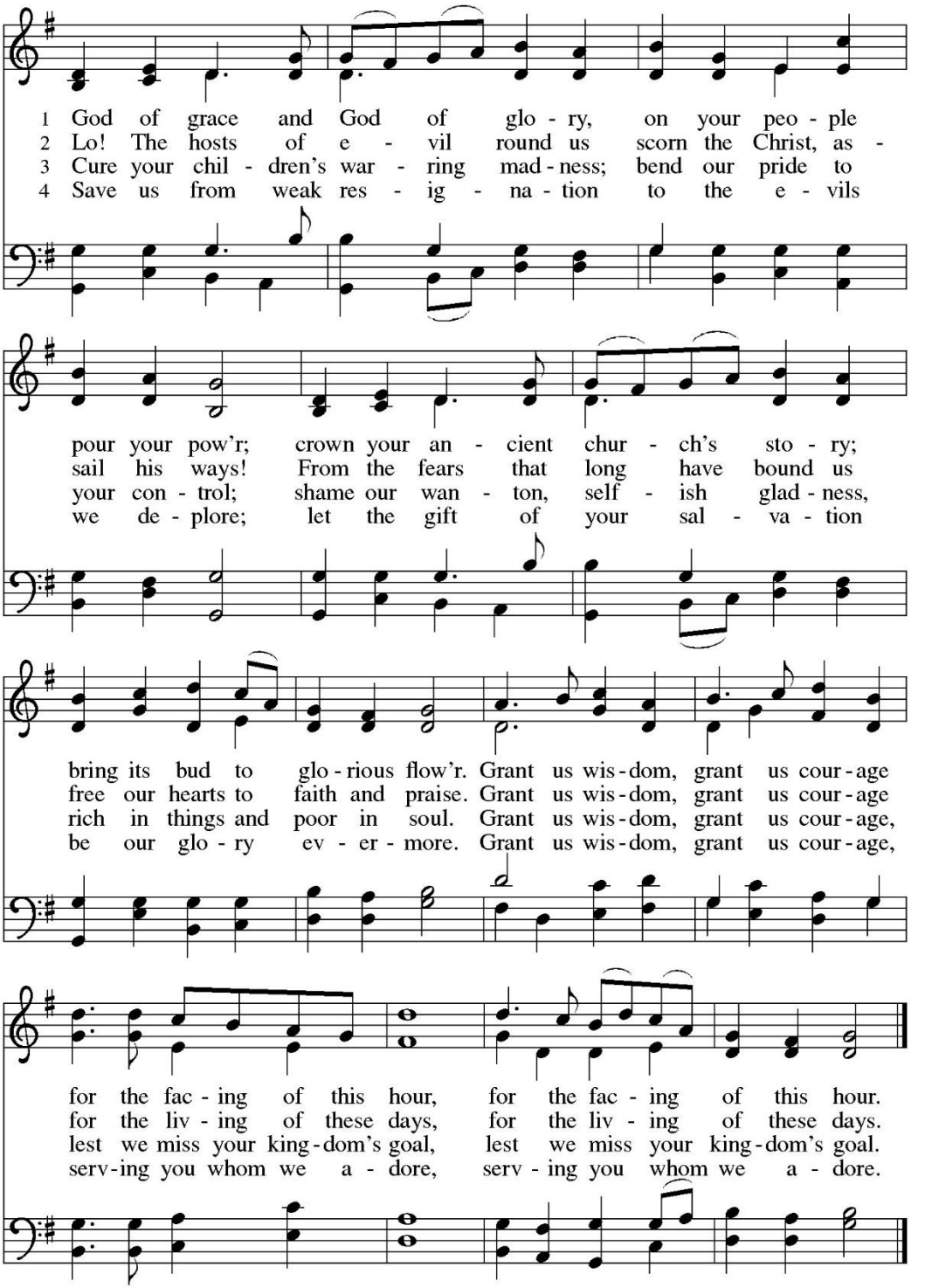
**C: Amen.**

P: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: The God of all grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN** *"God of Grace and God of Glory"* **ELW Hymn 705**

**DISMISSAL**

P: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

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## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

| | |
|---|---|
| Lector: | Pam Taylor |
| Usher: | Susan Swanson |
| Communion: | Mark Rosenberg; Rachel Lindeen |
| Greeters: | Laurie & Elisabeth Chelf |
| Missionary Support: | Open |
| Altar Flowers: | Marlys McClurg & Vanette Wooldridge: In Memory of our brother, William Neese. |
| Remember in prayer: | Mark Hermann; Kerri Hermann; Patty Chacey; Mel Craven |

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*A Cry Room for infants is available up the stairs and to the right. There are Kids Celebrate children's bulletins available for youngsters who'd like to have their own reference to the lessons for this week. Ask our usher for help.*

*Please join us for coffee and donuts in the fellowship hall following the worship service. We would like to get to know you and offer our friendship.*

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## ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today: | **Ninth Sunday after Pentecost** | |
| | 9:00 a.m. | Worship w/ Holy Communion |
| | 10:55 a.m. | Lutheran Church of Hope Service |
| **Thursday:** | 9:30 a.m. | Bible Study @ Messiah |
| **Friday:** | **Office Closed: Wendy out of office for Fair** | |
| Next Sunday: | **Tenth Sunday after Pentecost** | |
| | 9:00 a.m. | Worship w/Holy Communion |
| | 10:55 a.m. | Lutheran Church of Hope Service |

### ICE CREAM SOCIAL INFORMATION

Ticket sales for this year's Ice Cream Social will go on sale starting today, Sunday, July 26! Adults are $10 and Children ages 10 and under are $5. Sign-up sheets for food items and help needed are also available on the table in the Fellowship Hall! For those that have yard signs, please start posting your signs in your yard. Ice Cream Social is on Wednesday, August 12 from 5:00pm-7:00pm.

### OUTREACH DONATIONS

Food Pantry Donations from now until the end of the year will be anything non-perishable! Thank you for your generosity!

### LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch will not be meeting in the month of August! Please stay tuned for where Lunch Bunch will meet again in September!

**WEEKLY FINANCE REPORT**

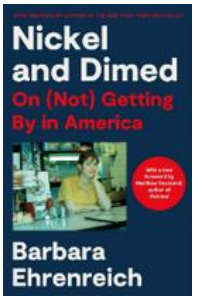
These are the numbers for where we are financially for the dates of July 12 – July 18:

July 12-July 18
Income: $1,805.00
Expense: $8,322.96
Shortfall: ($6,517.96)

If you have any questions about these numbers, please contact a member of the Finance Committee.

**AUGUST PASTOR'S BOOK CLUB**

Our July book club will meet again this Tuesday, August 11 @ 5:00 p.m., here at Bethany. All are invited to join us! For this month, we will be reading "Nickel and Dimed, On (Not) Getting By in America" By Barbara Ehrenreich!

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*Bethany Lutheran Church*
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*www.bethanyburlington.org*

***Office Hours***
*Monday-Wednesday-Friday – 9:00am-1:00pm*
*Tuesday & Thursday – 1:30pm-4:30pm*

***Pastor Misha's Office Hours***
*Bethany: Monday & Tuesday*
*Messiah: Wednesday & Thursday*
**** Pastor Misha's hours vary in the office from week to week as she may be out of office on visits or other Pastor duties. Please call or text her to make an appointment or to see if she is in the office. ****

***Pastor Misha's contact info: 412-628-6382; damisha.mcfarlandpollock@gmail.com***

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## Our Staff

| | |
|---|---|
| Rev. Misha McFarland-Pollock | Pastor |
| Cory Byrne | Organist/Choir Director |
| Wendy Bell | Office Administrator |
| Michelle Huppenbauer | Financial Secretary |
| Pam Crable | Custodian |