The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

07-05-2026
Greg Fetzer, Pastor
J.V. Trautwein, Pastor Emeritus

PRELUDE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand, as you are able.

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C **Amen**

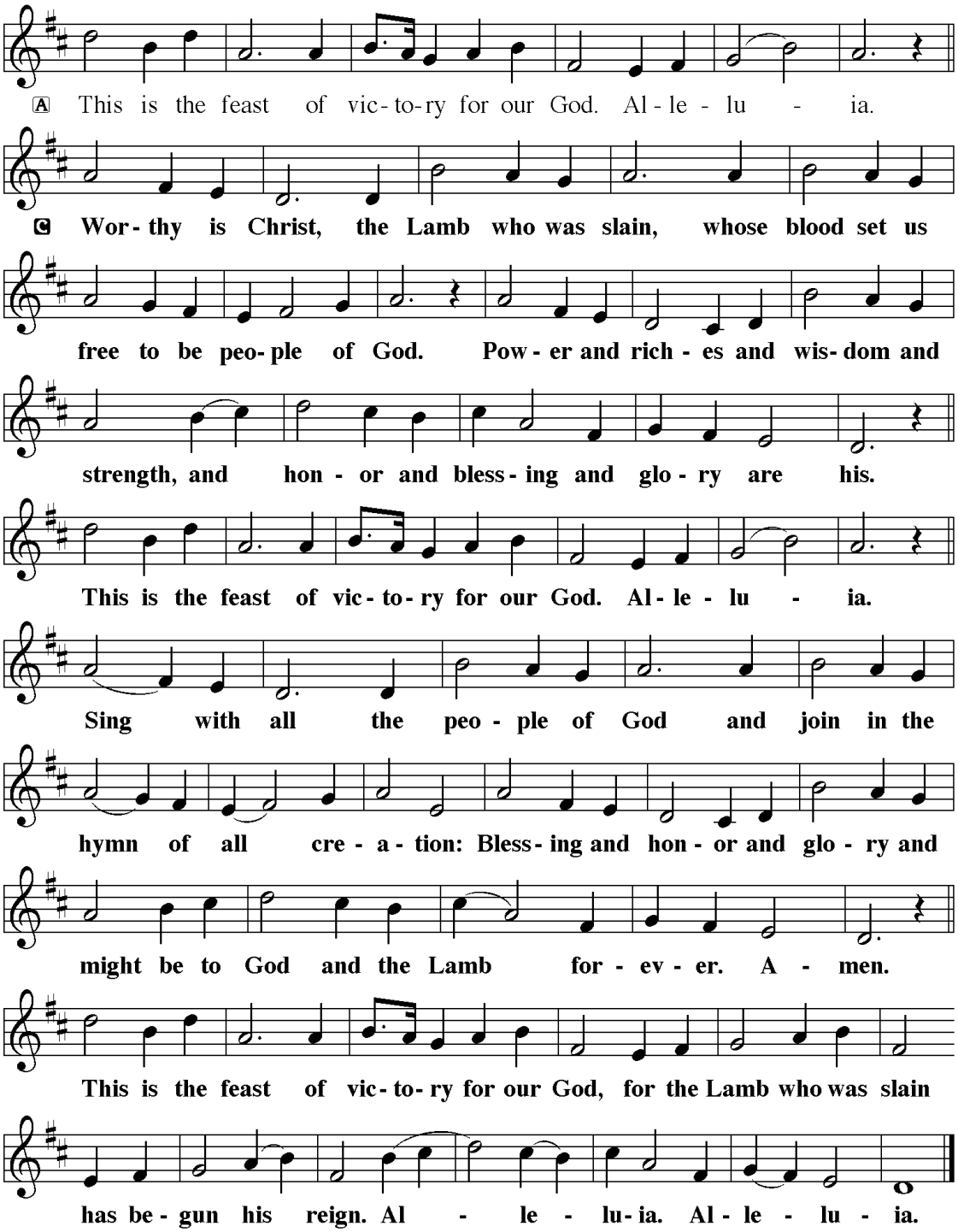
P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,
C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for our sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen**

GATHERING HYMN ELW#520 – "Dearest Jesus, at Your Word"



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

P Let us pray. Almighty God,

C **your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

Please be seated.

PSALM 50:16-23

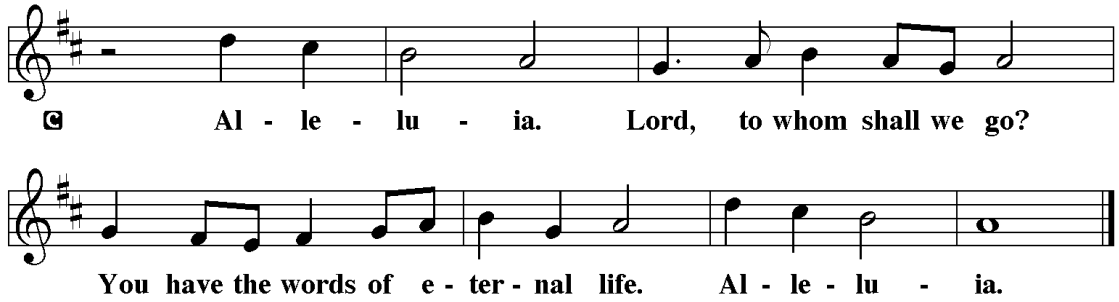
L [16]To the wicked God says:
"Why do you recite my statutes, and take my covenant upon your lips;
C [17]**since you refuse discipline, and throw my words behind your back?**

L [18]You make friends with a thief when you see one,
and you cast in your lot with adulterers.
C [19]**You have loosed your lips for evil, and your tongue devises deceit.**

L [20]You are always speaking evil of your kin 477and slandering your own mother's child.
C [21]**These things you have done, and I kept still, and you thought that I am like you.**
I have made my accusation; I have put my case in order before you.
L [22]Consider this well, you who forget God,
lest I tear you apart and there be none to deliver you.
C [23]**Whoever offers me a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors me;**
I will show the salvation of God to those who go the right way."

Please stand, as you are able.

JOHN 8:31-47



L The Holy Gospel according to John, the 8th chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

L [31]Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, [32]and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." [33]They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

[34]Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to
sin. [35]The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place
there forever. [36]So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. [37]I know that you are
descendants of Abraham, yet you look for an opportunity to kill me because there is no
place in you for my word. [38]I declare what I have seen in the Father's presence; as for you,
you should do what you have heard from the Father."

[39]They answered him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you are Abraham's
children, you would do what Abraham did, [40]but now you are trying to kill me, a man who
has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. [41]You are
indeed doing what your father does." They said to him, "We are not illegitimate children;
we have one Father, God himself." [42]Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you
would love me, for I came from God, and now I am here. I did not come on my own, but he
sent me. [43]Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot accept my
word. [44]You are from your father the devil, and you choose to do your father's desires. He
was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth because there is no
truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the
father of lies. [45]But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. [46]Which of you convicts
me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? [47]Whoever is from God hears the
words of God. The reason you do not hear them is that you are not from God."

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

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW#477 – "I Received the Living God"

SERMON: (Sermon Audio Link)

Please stand, as you are able.

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
C **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

L Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

L God our unity, your church flourishes in different languages, cultures, and movements. Grant us wisdom to discern when our yokes are too heavy, that we may live and serve in the freedom of your rest. God of grace,
C hear our prayer.

L God our life-giver, we grieve the pains placed upon our common home through war and neglect. What you have lovingly crafted, guide us to lovingly tend. God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

L God our freedom, you are no tyrant but bring peace. As this nation marks its declaration of independence, teach us our part in announcing peace for future generations. God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

L God our comfort, liberate all in our community who are captive to fear, who have become isolated or ill, or who are in any need. We pray for Barbara Ash, Heidi Brackbill, Rebecca Brennan, Rhina Chroniger, Lincoln Dippel, the Elshafei family, Jeff Fultz, Bob Hardy, Mark Hughes, Charlotte Leer, John McCarthy, Wendy Neumann, Rick Newman, Peter Olsen, Claudia Schober, Esther Trautwein, and Pastor Jack. God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

L God our guide, we do not always have the strength to do the good we wish to do. Free us from the cycles of violence that bind us, that all know your liberation. God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

L For whom or what else shall we pray?

- *For peace and reconciliation among the nations, especially in Iran, Lebanon, Gaza, Mali, South Sudan, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Venezuela...*
- *For all immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers...*
- *For an end to the ongoing Ebola outbreak in central Africa...*
- *For the 250th anniversary of the United States...*
- *For liberation and freedom, especially for those facing oppression...*

- *For health and safety for all experiencing extreme heat, storms, and wildfires...*
- *For continued relief and rescue work following earthquakes in Venezuela...*
- *For victims of political violence in Greece...*
- *For grieving families of children killed in a Pakistani roof collapse...*
- *For communities impacted by gun violence, especially in Stade, Germany; Berlin, Massachusetts; Los Angeles, California; and for the aftermath of threats of gun violence in Henderson, Nevada...*
- *For all who have experienced abuse or trauma in the church or by its members...*
- *For accessible and affordable mental and behavioral health care for all...*

L God our home, you model freedom through the love shared across communities of trust and goodwill. As we remember those now gone to eternal rest, we thank you for the gifts of life together. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

L Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

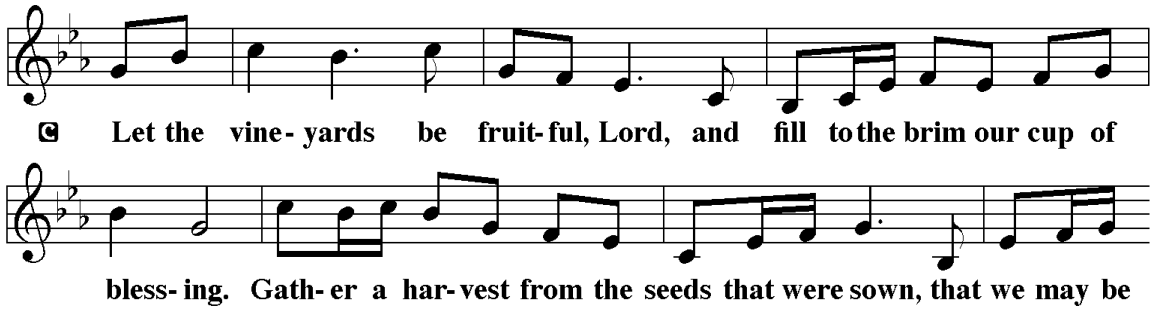
C **Amen**

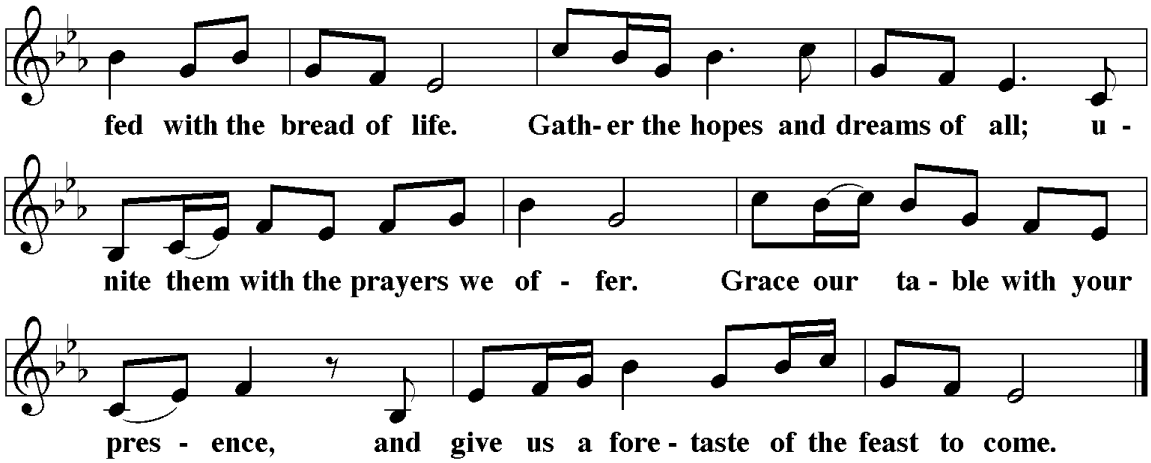
P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

OFFERING*: (On-Line giving Link)

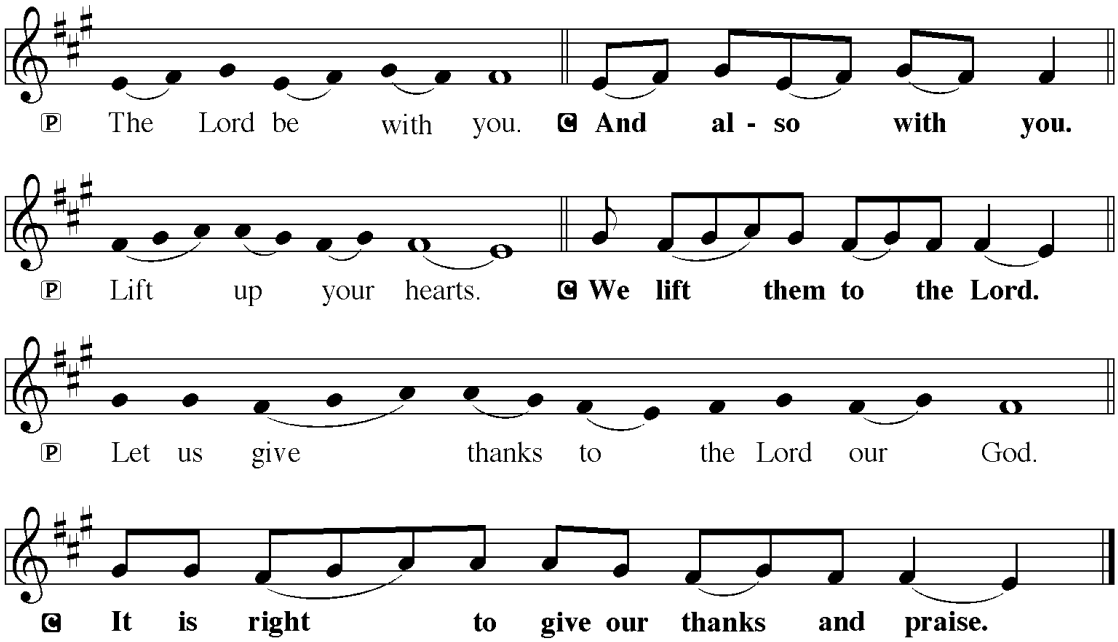
The Offering is received and is presented at the altar.



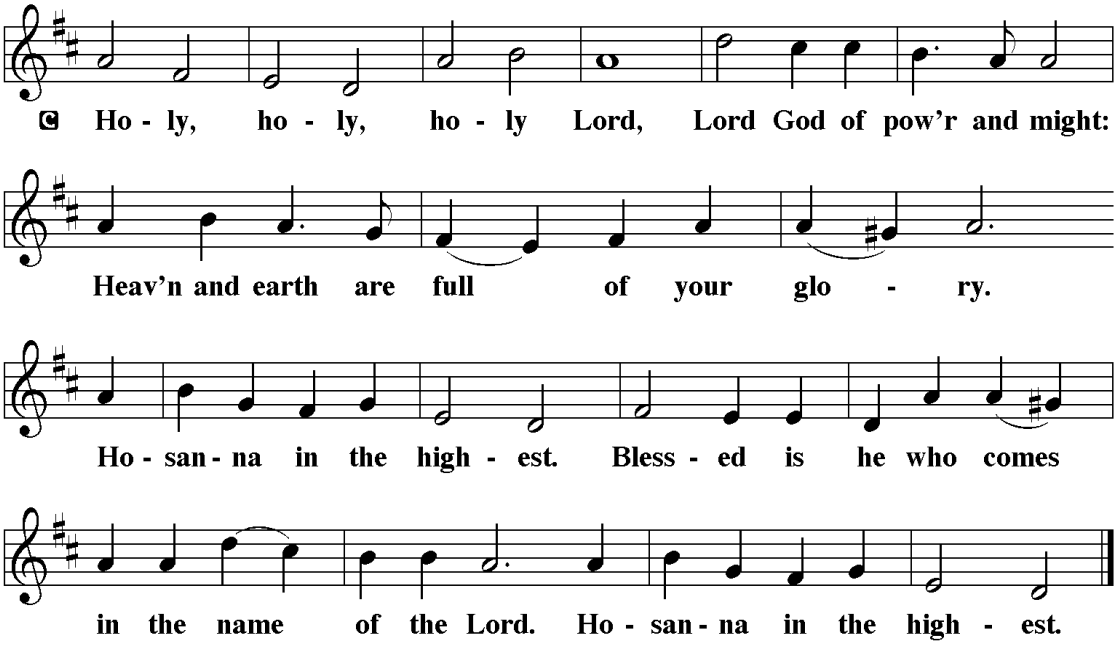


P Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**



The thanksgiving continues with the preface; the congregation responds:



P Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise. When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

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

Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life. Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C **Amen**

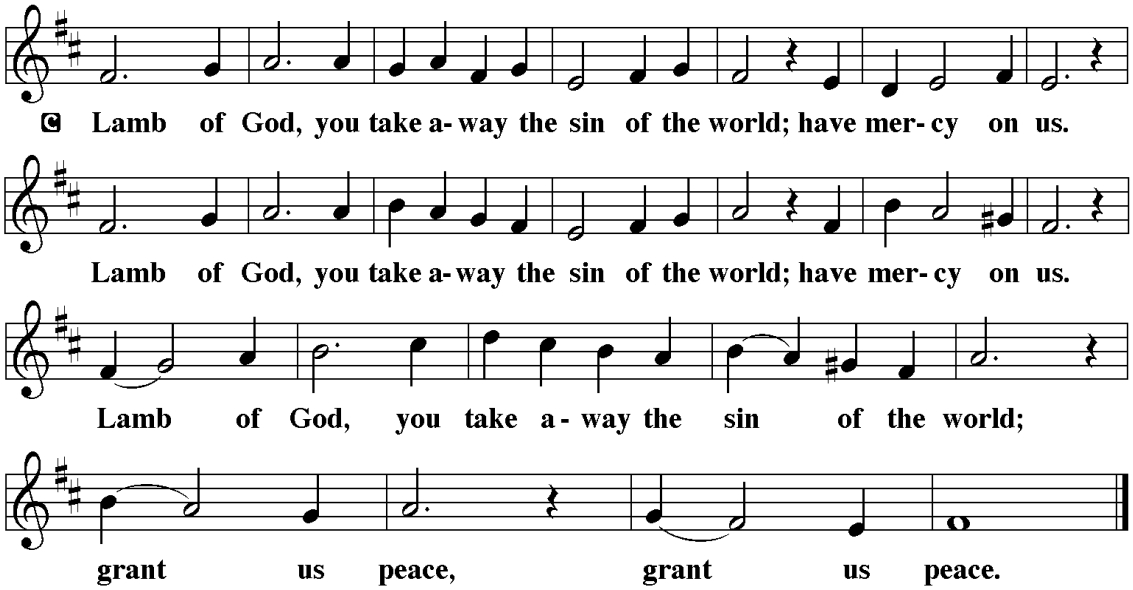
P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C **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

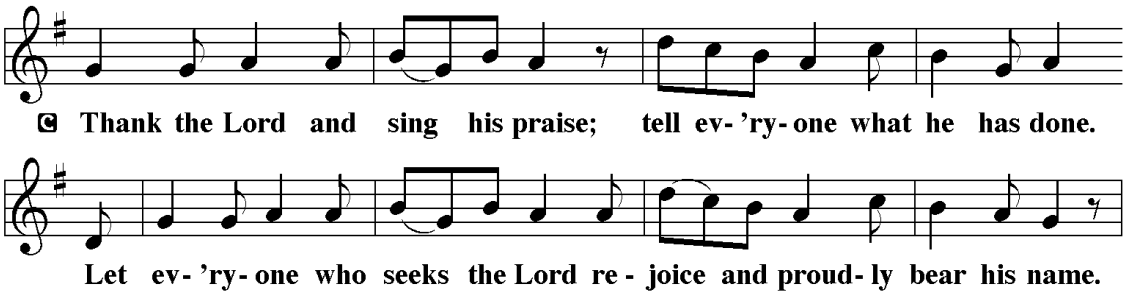
P The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for the table is now ready.
C **Thanks be to God.**

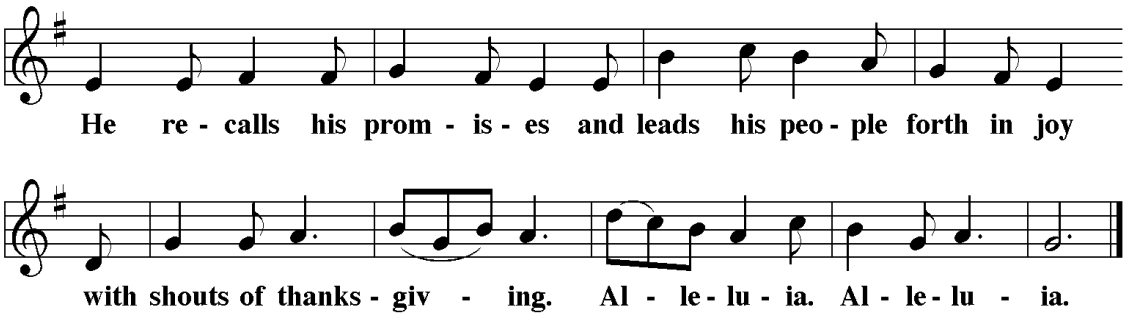
After all have communed, the following is sung:



Please stand, as you are able.

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C **Amen**





P Let us pray. Almighty God,

C **you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C **Amen**

SENDING HYMN: ELW#890 – "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory"

P Go in peace. Love and serve God and neighbor.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Announcements

- **Sunday, July 12, 9:30 am** – Outdoor Worship – Bring a lawn chair
- **Saturday, Aug 1, 6 pm** - Frederick Keys Baseball Game - Meet at 5:30 pm at the stadium
- **Sunday, Aug 9, 9:30 am** - Outdoor Worship in the Neumann Chapel – bring a lawn chair

*Offering to be sent to
Robert Brackbill
10274 Raleigh Tavern Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church
9122 Sybert Drive
Columbia Hills
Ellicott City, MD 21043
https://www.epiphanylutherancolumbia.org

Please note that you now have the opportunity of online giving with the link found after the offering designation or here: https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291

(TENTATIVE) SUMMER READINGS PLAN

Dated	Text	Leader
July 5	John 8:31-38	Heidi and Bob
July 12	John 8:39-47	Julie and Dave

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