

# New Jerusalem Lutheran Church



**17th Sunday After Pentecost**  
**September 24, 2023**  
**Worship Service**

With One Voice — “Bread of Life” Setting



# New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

12942 Lutheran Church Road, Lovettsville, Virginia 20180

www.njlclovettsville.org

Church Office  
Pastor

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**OUR MISSION:** *Responding to God's grace, we are a welcoming congregation growing in Christian faith through worship, learning, serving, and fellowship.*

**OUR VISION:** *NJLC is a compassionate community of disciples that values everyone & expresses faith by connecting with God, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, & all creation.*

## WELCOME TO NEW JERUSALEM

*A few items of note to help you in your time here today:*

**MASKS** — Masks are optional for worship and events at New Jerusalem, though we encourage mask wearing for anyone who chooses to do so.

**NEWCOMERS** — Visitors are always welcome and we invite you to sign our guestbook located in the entryway or fill out a pew card from the pew rack in front of you.

**COMMUNION** — Welcome to the table of Christ where we believe Christ is fully present to us in, with, and under these elements of bread and wine. You are invited to participate whether a member here or come to us from any other denominational tradition. Those not ready to receive Christ in body and blood, may still come forward to receive Christ in blessing. Follow the directions of the ushers who will dismiss each pew. As you come to the top of the center aisle, the pastor will place a wafer in your hands and invite you to step to the side to take an individual cup of wine (first tray) or grape juice (second). Please receive and then discard cups in the receptacle along the altar rail. If you cannot come forward, communion can be brought to you after all have communed at the front.

**CHILDREN** — We seek to be a family-friendly congregation who enjoys having children among us, including the littler ones. We have a Cherub's Corner in the fellowship hall downstairs with age appropriate toys, books, etc. and the worship service can be heard over the speakers. Should you have the need/desire to utilize our staffed Sunday Morning Nursery, it is located in the end room of the education building.

**HANDICAP ACCESSABILITY** — Handicap accessible restrooms are located downstairs at the back of our Fellowship Hall or across in our Education Building. Someone is available to run the lift should you need to get up and down between levels.

We hope that in your time among us, you will encounter the love of God in Spirit!



The altar flowers are given by Sherry Whipple to the glory of God and in remembrance of her dad, Jimmy Spring, and her dad's families (Spring/Wenner/Hickman/Davis).

The pumpkins and gourds on the altar and in the windows are provided by Wegmeyer Farms - Tyler and Harriet Wegmeyer.



*To provide altar flowers for an upcoming Sunday, sign-up on the 2023 Flower Chart located in the church hallway or contact the church office.*

## Introduction

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's 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 Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

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## GATHERING

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### READER FOR TODAY

Garland Cooper

### PRELUDE

"Soul, Adorn Thyself with Gladness"  
By J. Cruger, 17th c., set by J.W. Kerr

Marcia Merry Baker

*We prepare our hearts and minds for worship during the prelude.*

### WELCOME


*Please stand as you are able.*

### GATHERING HYMN

"Now Thank We All Our God"  
(see music on next page)

ELW 840

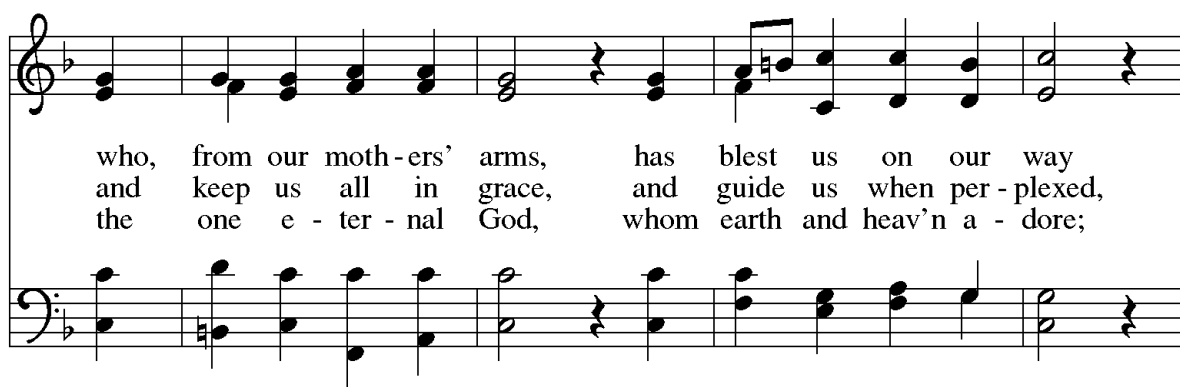
# Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voic - es,  
2 Oh, may this boun - teous God through all our life be near us,  
3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,



who won - drous things has done, in whom this world re - joic - es;  
with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,  
the Son, and Spir - it blest, who reign in high - est heav - en,



who, from our moth - ers' arms, has blest us on our way  
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when per - plexed,  
the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



with count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.  
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878  
Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

## 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



**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:      **C** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*



**A** Chri - ste e - le - i - son:      **C** Christ, have mer - cy.  
*Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:*



**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:      **C** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

# Canticle of Praise



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.



☐ Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al-might- y God and Fa- ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



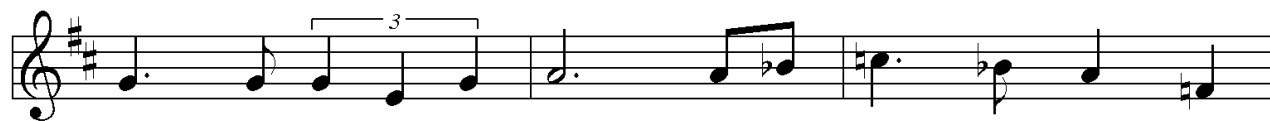
glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.



☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



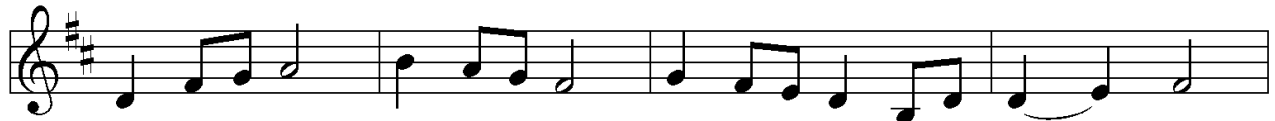
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re- ceive our prayer.



**☉** Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



**I** For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,  
**II**



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.



**☉** Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth,



and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray...

**People:** 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.

*Please be seated.*

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## THE WORD

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### FIRST READING

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Reader: The first reading for today is recorded in the book of Jonah...

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] 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. <sup>4:1</sup>But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." <sup>4</sup>And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>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." <sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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?"

Reader: Word of God. Word of life.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

### SECOND READING

Philippians 1:21-30

Reader: The second reading for today is recorded in the book of Philippians...

[Paul writes:] <sup>21</sup>For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; <sup>24</sup>but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup>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, <sup>26</sup>so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. <sup>27</sup>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, <sup>28</sup> 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. <sup>29</sup> For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—<sup>30</sup> since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**People: Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

## **GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 20:1-16

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>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?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup>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.’ <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>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.’ <sup>13</sup>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? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

Please be seated.

**Children's Message**

Pastor Phil Carl

**Sermon**

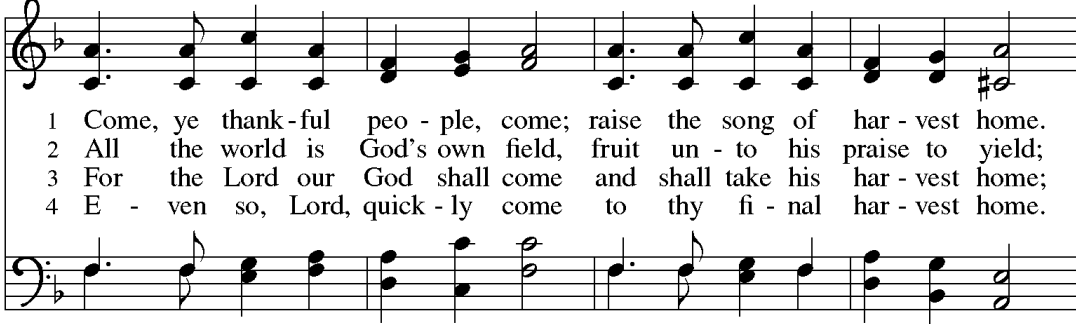
Pastor Phil Carl

Please stand as you are able.

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**Come, Ye Thankful People, Come**


ELW 693



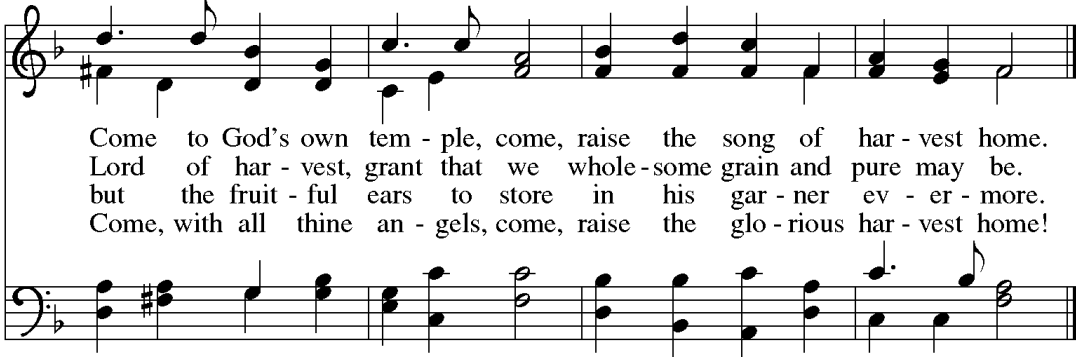
1 Come, ye thank - ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.  
2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;  
3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;  
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.  
wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.  
from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;  
Gath - er then thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.  
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.  
give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,  
there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy gar - ner to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.  
Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.  
but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.  
Come, with all thine an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**People: 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

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

**People: receive our prayer.**

Reader: 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 all your creatures, great and small. Merciful God,

**People: receive our prayer.**

Reader: 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, like St. Michael, to fight against evil, work for justice, and serve their communities in times of uncertainty, stress, or exhaustion. Merciful God,

**People: receive our prayer.**

Reader: God who saves, direct your people who are tempted by evil ways. Protect your children from calamity and disaster. Strengthen all who are incarcerated. Encourage all who are in despair or pain of any kind, especially the family of Robin Rath, Jane Wichmann, Wayne Dunkley, Cheyenne Ketterer, Mack Keister, Dean Fox and Peggy Glascock. Merciful God,

**People: receive our prayer.**

Reader: 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,

**People: receive our prayer.**

Reader: God who is our creator, as we celebrate the German harvest festival today we praise you for the return of planting and harvest seasons, for the fertility of the soil, for the harvesting of the crops, and for all other blessings you in your generosity pour out on us. Give us a full understanding of your mercy, that our lives may show respect and care for your creation. Merciful God,

**People: receive our prayer.**

Reader: God who is wise, as we strive to call a new pastor for this congregation, send your Spirit to guide our decisions and those of all others in that process, so the outcome reflect your will for our future. Merciful God,

**People: receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Reader: God who abounds in steadfast love, we give thanks for the saints called to the kingdom of heaven. Gather us with them around your heavenly throne, where together with St. Michael and all the angels, we will join in singing everlasting praise. Merciful God,

**People: receive our prayer.**

Reader: 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.

**People: Amen.**

## GREETING & PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **And also with you.**

*We invite you to turn and share a sign of peace with your neighbors.*

Please be seated.

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## MEAL

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### OFFERTORY

“All Glory Be to God on High ”  
By N. Decius, set by A. Armsdorff, 17th c

Marcia Merry Baker

### OFFERTORY RESPONSE



☞ Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were



sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we



of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,



Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Please stand as you are able.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray. Merciful God,

**People: 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.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on the earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
might, heav - en 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Pastor: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God; you are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. Having come into the world, he fulfilled for us your holy will and accomplished our salvation.

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.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray as the Lord has taught us:

**People: 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

Pastor: Come to the banquet, for now all is ready.

Please be seated.

## HOLY COMMUNION



☩ 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.

Please stand as you are able.

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: The body of our Lord Jesus Christ and his precious blood strengthen you unto life eternal.

People: **Amen.**





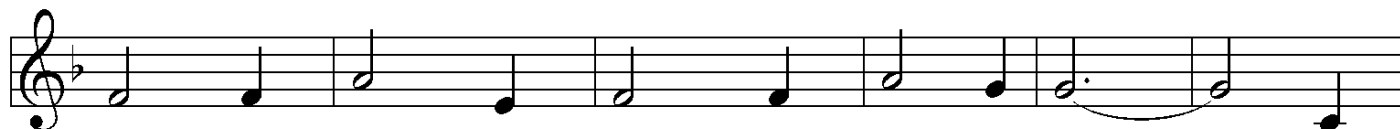
☩ Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -



one what God has done. Let all who seek the



Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and



lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -



giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Pastor:** 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.

**People:** Amen.

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## SENDING

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### BLESSING

Pastor: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

### SENDING SONG

“Sing to the Lord of Harvest”  
(see music on next page)

ELW 694

### DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

“Holy God, We Praise Thy Name ”  
By Grosser Gott, set by L. James

Marcia Merry Baker


*Renewed and strengthened by our worship together, go forth in peace to serve to the world.*

*Following today's Service, we invite you to find fellowship downstairs in the fellowship hall.*

# Sing to the Lord of Harvest



1 Sing to the Lord of har - vest your songs of love and praise;  
2 God makes the clouds drop fat - ness, the des - erts bloom and spring,  
3 Bring to this sa - cred al - tar the gifts his good-ness gave,



with joy - ful hearts and voic - es your al - le - lu - ias raise;  
the hills leap up in glad - ness, the val - leys laugh and sing.  
the gold - en sheaves of har - vest, the souls Christ died to save.



by him the roll - ing sea - sons in fruit - ful or - der move;  
God fills them with his full - ness, all things with large in - crease,  
Your hearts lay down be - fore him when at his feet you fall,



sing to the Lord of har - vest a joy - ous song of love.  
and crowns the year with good - ness, with plen - ty and with peace.  
and with your lives a - dore him who gave his life for all.

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.  
Music: WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN, Johann Steurlein, 1546–1613



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**PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 145:1-8**

*(not read during today's service)*

<sup>1</sup>I will exalt you, my God and king, and bless your name forever and ever. <sup>2</sup>Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever. <sup>3</sup>Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised! There is no end to your greatness. <sup>4</sup>One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power. <sup>5</sup>I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works. <sup>6</sup>They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness. <sup>7</sup>They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness. <sup>8</sup>The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.