

"FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE ARE



**GATHERED
IN MY NAME,
THERE AM I AMONG THEM."**

MATTHEW 18:20, ESV

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 10th, 2023

8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Henrik Sonntag, Pastor

120 N. Easton Road

Glenside, PA

215-884-3005

GATHERING

THE PRELUDE *Chorale Prelude on "Earth and All Stars"*

Michael Burkhardt

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive 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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen. OR**

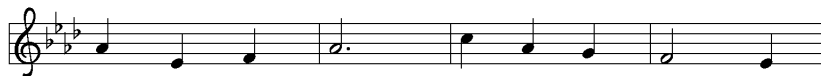
God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

No. 731 Earth and All Stars!

Earth and All Stars

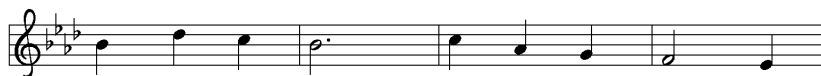
Earth and All Stars!



1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets!
2 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals!
3 En - gines and steel! Loud pound - ing ham - mers!
4 Class - rooms and labs! Loud boil - ing test tubes!
5 Knowl - edge and truth! Loud sound - ing wis - dom!



Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!



Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing snow - storm!
Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming cel - los!
Lime - stone and beams! Loud build - ing work - ers!
Ath - lete and band! Loud cheer - ing peo - ple!
Daugh - ter and son! Loud pray - ing mem - bers!



Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!



God has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too sing prais - es with a new song!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926

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

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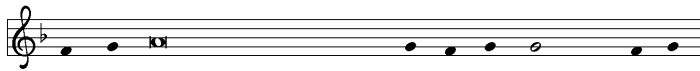
GREETING

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



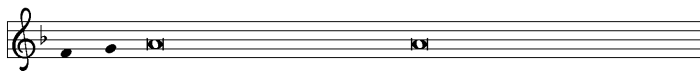
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer-cy.**



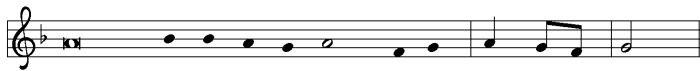
For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



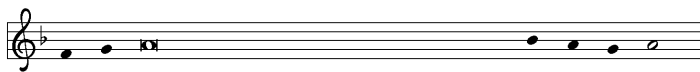
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



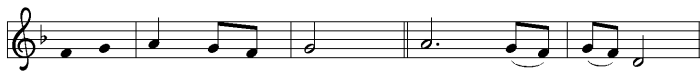
and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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.



Refrain
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 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.



Refrain
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of



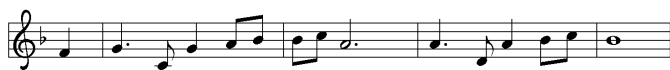
God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



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



Refrain
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



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.



Refrain
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE WORD

THE FIRST READING

Ezekiel 33:7-11

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 119:33-40

8:00 The Psalm will be read responsively with the assembly reading the verses in bold.

*10:30 The antiphon is sung by all. The assembly sings the verses in **bold print***



Psalm 119:35

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³³Teach me, O LORD, the way [|] of your statutes,
and I shall keep it [|] to the end.

³⁴**Give me understanding, and I shall [|] keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with [|] all my heart.**

³⁵Lead me in the path of [|] your commandments,
for that is [|] my desire.

³⁶**Incline my heart to [|] your decrees
and not to [|] unjust gain. R**

³⁷Turn my eyes from be- [|] holding falsehood;
give me life [|] in your way.

³⁸**Fulfill your promise [|] to your servant,
which is for [|] those who fear you.**

³⁹Turn away the reproach [|] that I dread,
because your judg- [|] ments are good.

⁴⁰**Behold, I long for [|] your commandments;
by your righteousness en- [|] liven me. R**

THE SECOND READING

Romans 13:8-14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in

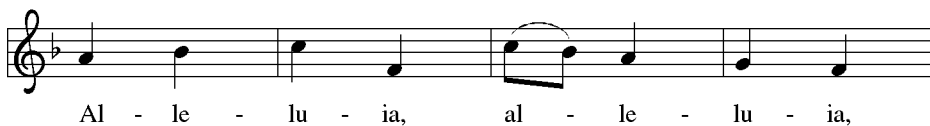
debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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Repeat alleluia



THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 18:15-20

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 18th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will

be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE-Blessing of the backpacks

SERMON

Pastor Henrik Sonntag

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

No. 603 God, When Human Bonds Are Broken

Merton

God, When Human Bonds Are Broken



1 God, when hu - man bonds are bro - ken and we lack the
2 Through that still - ness, with your Spir - it come in - to our
3 You in us are bruised and bro - ken: hear us as we
4 Send us, God of new be - gin - nings, hum - bly hope - ful
5 Give us faith to be more faith - ful, give us hope to



love or skill to re - store the hope of heal - ing,
world of stress, for the sake of Christ for - giv - ing
seek re - lease from the pain of ear - lier liv - ing;
in - to life. Use us as a means of bless - ing:
be more true, give us love to go on learn - ing:



give us grace and make us still.
all the fail - ures we con - fess.
set us free and grant us peace.
make us stron - ger, give us faith.
God, en - cour - age and re - new!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

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THE APOSTLES' CREED

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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.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please kneel or sit for the prayers: This week's response is: Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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

A brief silence.

Hold us accountable, O God. Show your church where repentance is needed and lead us in paths of intentional compassion and listening. Help us extend hands of reconciliation and care, especially in relationships with other Christians and people of other faiths. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Reveal your miracles to us, O God. Move us to cherish you as we behold the wonders of creation. Renew the seas and the soil, the forests and the creatures that live in them. Turn us to ways of living that seek Earth's thriving. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Inspire us to lead with honor, O God. Guide judges and legislators, police, and government officials to create and uphold just laws. Move us to treat all people with dignity and guide our conversations with one another. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Help us comfort those who suffer, O God. Reassure any who are harmed by the wicked acts of others. Bring peace to all who are vulnerable, frightened, despairing, or sick especially all those on our prayer list. Guard their waking and their sleeping. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Awaken us, O God. Challenge and encourage your people to value the vocation to which each is called. We pray for all discerning new possibilities or changing employment (*especially*). In all our diverse callings, teach us to love our neighbor above all else. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Be our hope, O God. We remember with thanksgiving your disciples who died in faith. May their trust in your promise be our protection and our hope. Lord, in your mercy,
hear 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.

Please stand as you are able

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS- Aurelio Ojeda, Lori Ojeda,
Paul Ojeda, Alma Ojeda, Sophia Ojeda, Elias Ojeda

THE PEACE

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

*All greet each other with Christ's gesture of peace
saying "Peace be with you."*

Please be seated

MEAL

OFFERING


Dona Nobis Pacem

Chancel Choir

Hal Hopson

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY No. 692 We Are an Offering



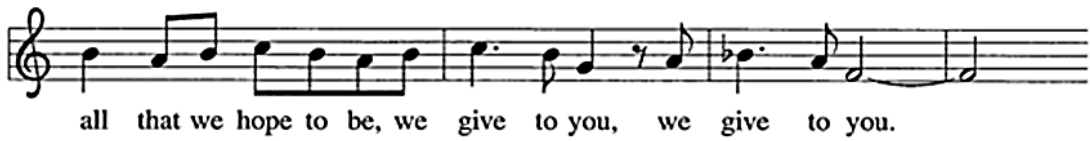
We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an



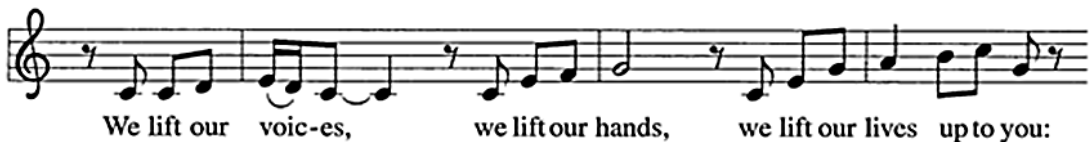
offer-ing. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our



lives, they are yours: we are an offer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,



all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.



We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:



we are an offer-ing, we are an offer-ing.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Concludes with ... **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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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.

THE SANCTUS

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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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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Please be seated.

THE COMMUNION

“Lamb of God”

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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.

No. 470 Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Union Seminary

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether



1 Draw us in the Spir - it's teth - er, for when hum - bly
2 As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of
3 All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -



in your name two or three are met to - geth - er,
Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er
ments of you, that by car - ing, help - ing, giv - ing,



you are in the midst of them. Al - le - lu - ia!
break the bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia!
we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.
Al - le - lu - ia! so now bind our friend - ship up.
Al - le - lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.

Text: Percy Dearmer, 1867–1936, alt.

Music: UNION SEMINARY, Harold Friedell, 1905–1958

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Please stand as you are able.

THE COMMUNION BLESSING

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

THE POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Now Lord, You Let Your Servant Go in Peace

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Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful-



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -



pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Concludes with **Amen**.

SENDING

THE BLESSING

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THE SENDING HYMN

No. 1004 Faith Begins by Letting Go

Ratisbon

Faith Begins By Letting Go



1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what had seemed sure,
2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - ry's roots a - live
3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en - larg - ing hearts,



tak - ing risks and press - ing on, though the way feels less se - cure:
so that hope may bear its fruit; prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive,
shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer, bind - ing up the bro - ken parts;



pil - grim - age both right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.
not through mer - it we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.
till we find the com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815

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Please be seated for the announcements.

PARISH NOTICES AND JOYS

SENDING: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE POSTLUDE *Trompette*

Richard Proulx