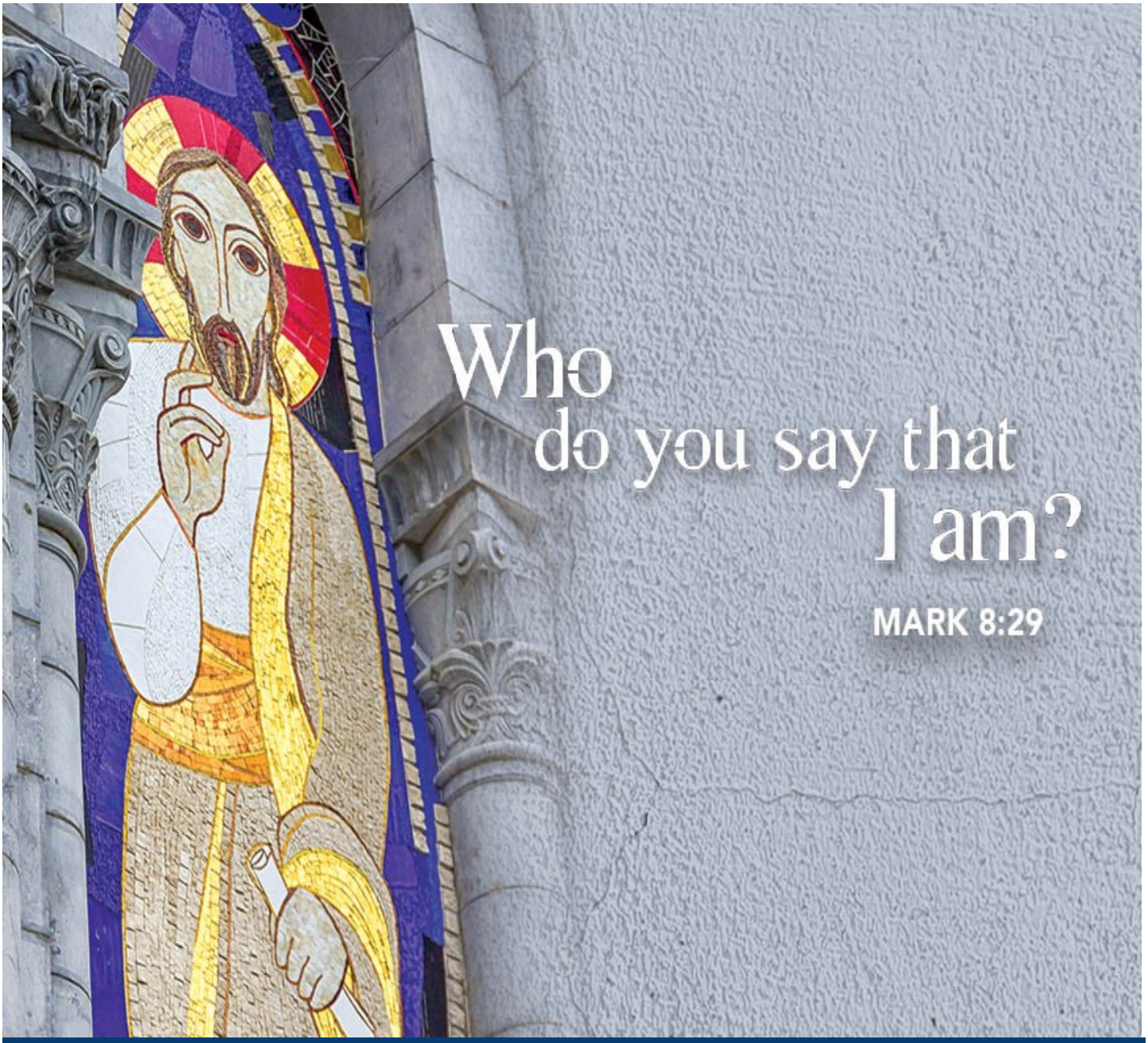


16th Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, September 12, 2021

Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

WELCOME TO PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

We extend in the name of Christ, a hearty welcome to all who are worshipping with us today. May you find here an experience of true Christian worship and fellowship. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to consider joining Peace.

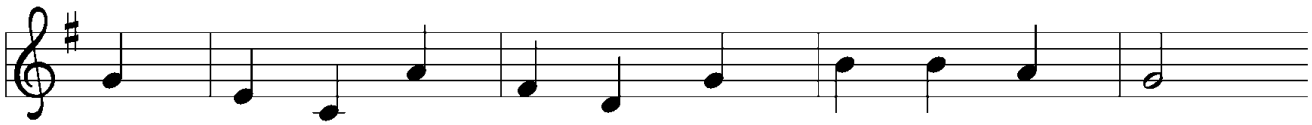
MISSION STATEMENT

As servants of Jesus Christ, we share God's grace and mercy. We welcome and encourage all to grow with us in God's kingdom through praise, worship, and service.

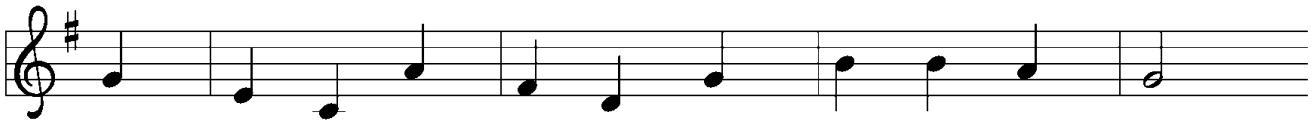
CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
whose teaching is life,
whose presence is sure,
and whose love is endless.
Amen.
Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.
Silence is kept for reflection.
God our comforter:
like lost sheep, we have gone astray.
We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.
We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.
We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.
Free us from our sin, gracious God.
Listen when we call out to you for help.
Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.
Amen.
All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
By the gift of grace in ✠ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.
Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.
Amen.

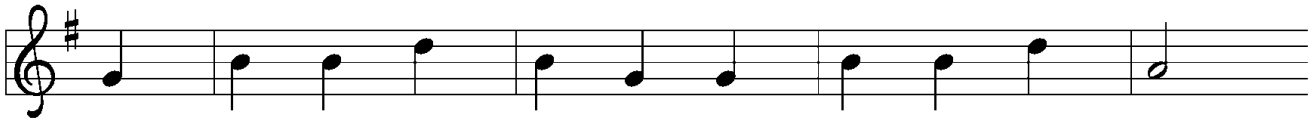
GATHERING SONG *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* ELW # 834



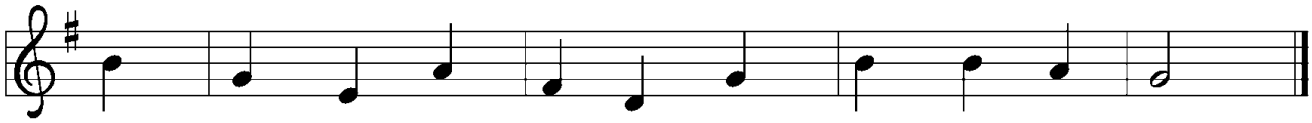
1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice like moun-tains high soar - ing a - bove
we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
thy clouds which are foun-tains of good - ness and love.
and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
'tis on - ly the splen-dor of light hid - eth thee!

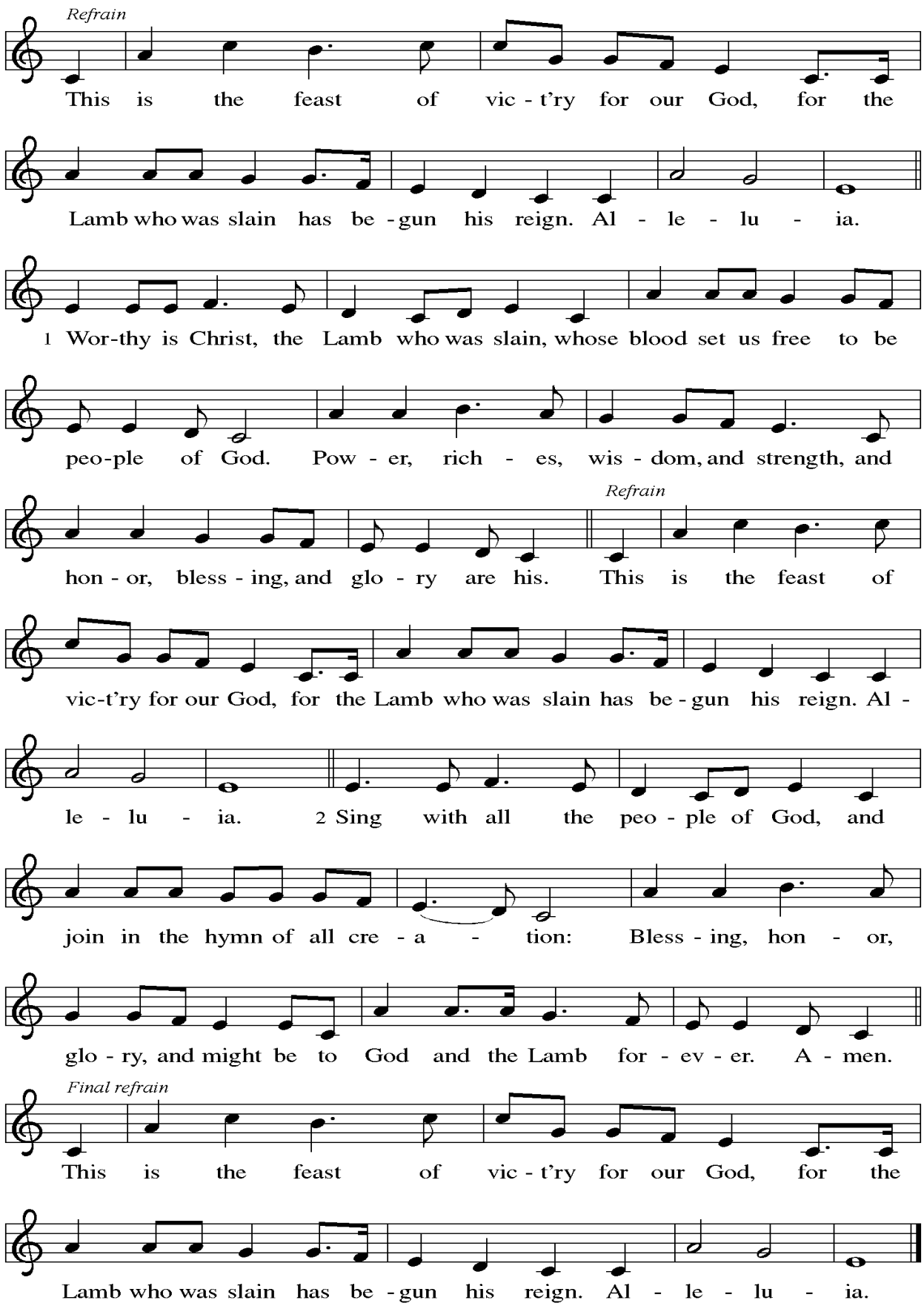
Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.
Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE ELW p. 185



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. Let us pray. O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. Amen.

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

A reading from Isaiah.

The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

[4]The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to
sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught. [5]The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was
not rebellious, I did not turn backward. [6]I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from in-
sult and spitting. [7]The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
[8]he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up togeth-
er. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. [9a]It is the Lord GOD who helps
me; who will declare me guilty?

P. Word of God. Word of life.

C. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 116:1-9

[1]I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,
[2]**for the LORD has given ear to me**
whenever I called.

[3]The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;
I came to grief and sorrow.
[4]**Then I called upon the name of the LORD:**
"O LORD, I pray you, save my life."
[5]Gracious is the LORD and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.
[6]**The LORD watches over the innocent;**
I was brought low, and God saved me.
[7]Turn again to your rest, O my soul.
for the LORD has dealt well with you.
[8]**For you have rescued my life from death,**
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling;
[9]I will walk in the presence of the LORD
in the land of the living.

SECOND READING: James 3:1-12

A reading from James.

This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.

[1]Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. [2]For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. [3]If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. [4]Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. [5]So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

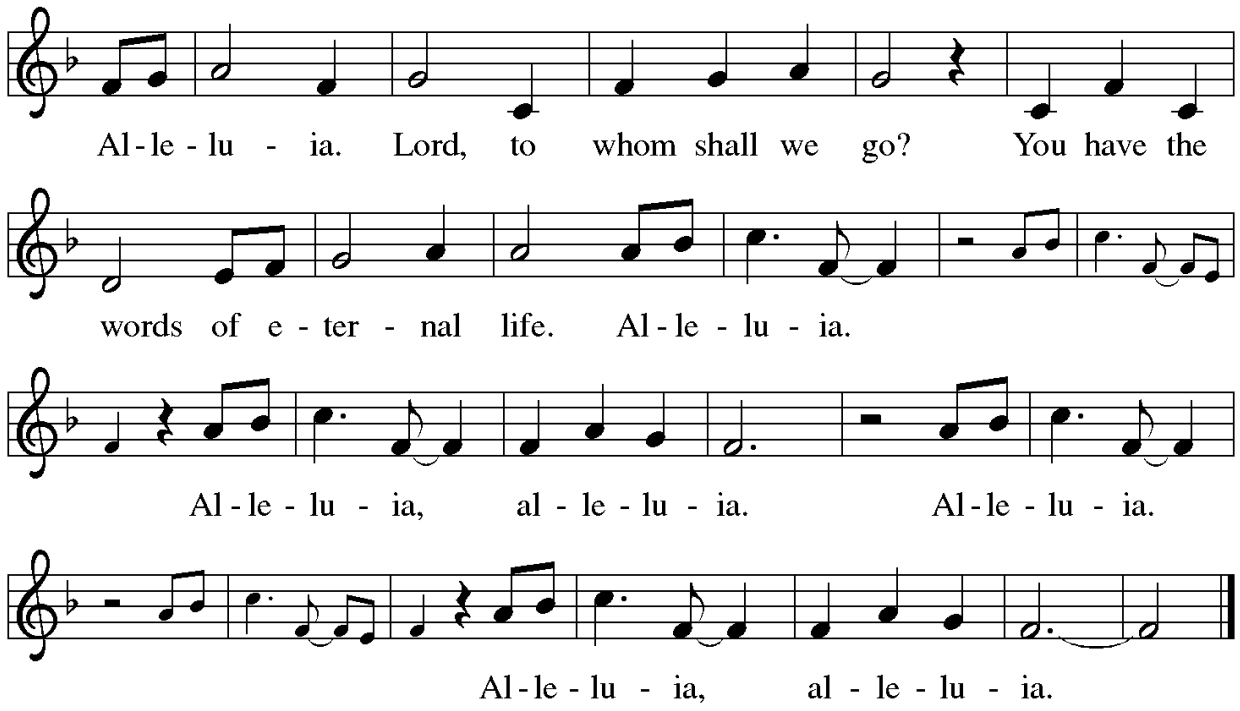
How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! [6]And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. [7]For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, [8]but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil,

full of deadly poison. [9]With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. [10]From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. [11]Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? [12]Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

P. Word of God. Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW p. 188



GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 8:27-38

P. The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 8th Chapter.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

[27]Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the
way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" [28]And they answered
him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."
[29]He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are
the Messiah." [30]And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.
[31]Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering,
and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and
after three days rise again. [32]He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him
aside and began to rebuke him. [33]But turning and looking at his disciples, he re-
buked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not
on divine things but on human things."
[34]He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to be-
come my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow
me. [35]For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their
life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. [36]For what will it profit
them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? [37]Indeed, what can they give
in return for their life? [38]Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this
adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed
when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

P. The gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ.

REFLECTION: FOR THOSE AT HOME

In this reading we learn that there was some confusion about the identity of Jesus. People were asking, "Is he John the Baptist or Elijah back from the dead? Is he a prophet?" Many people are still asking this very question—who is Jesus? There are hundreds of books about Jesus. Some claim he was an ascetic or mystic. Some claim Jesus was a prophet. Others claim that he was an apocalyptic teacher. It is no wonder then that Jesus wanted to know what others were saying about him.

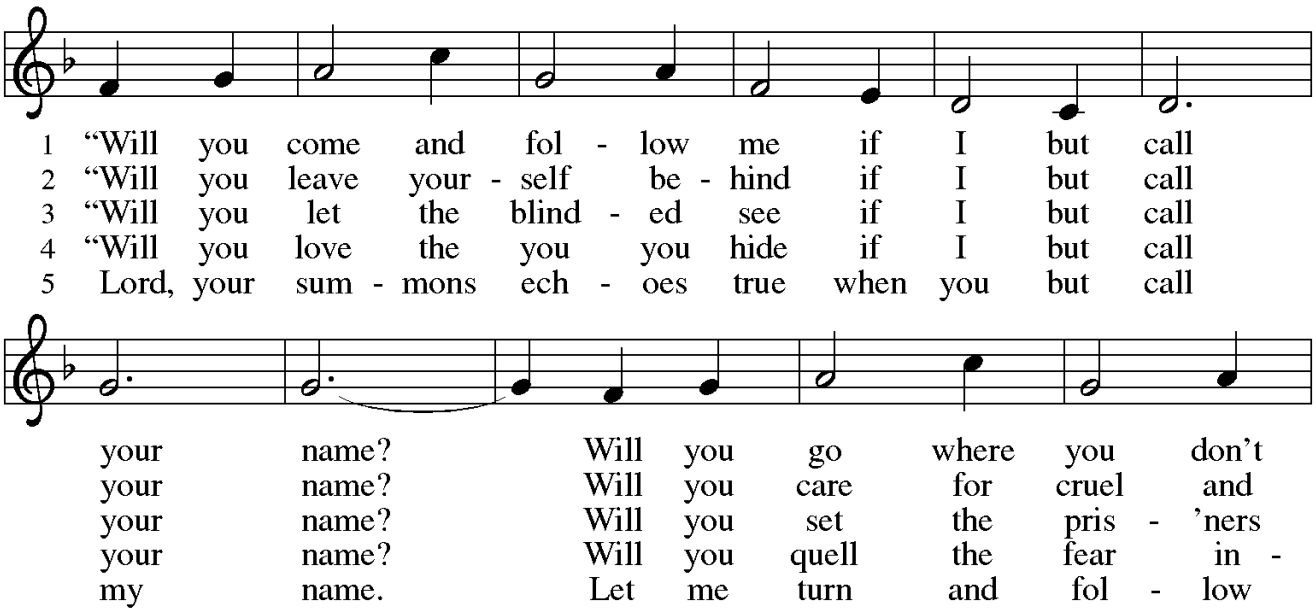
Peter is the only one to gets it right. Peter declares, "You are the Messiah." We know that Peter is right because Jesus then orders Peter not to say anything to anyone. He wants Peter to keep it a secret. Irony of ironies! Jesus asks people about his identity and then orders them to not talk about it anymore when someone gets it right!

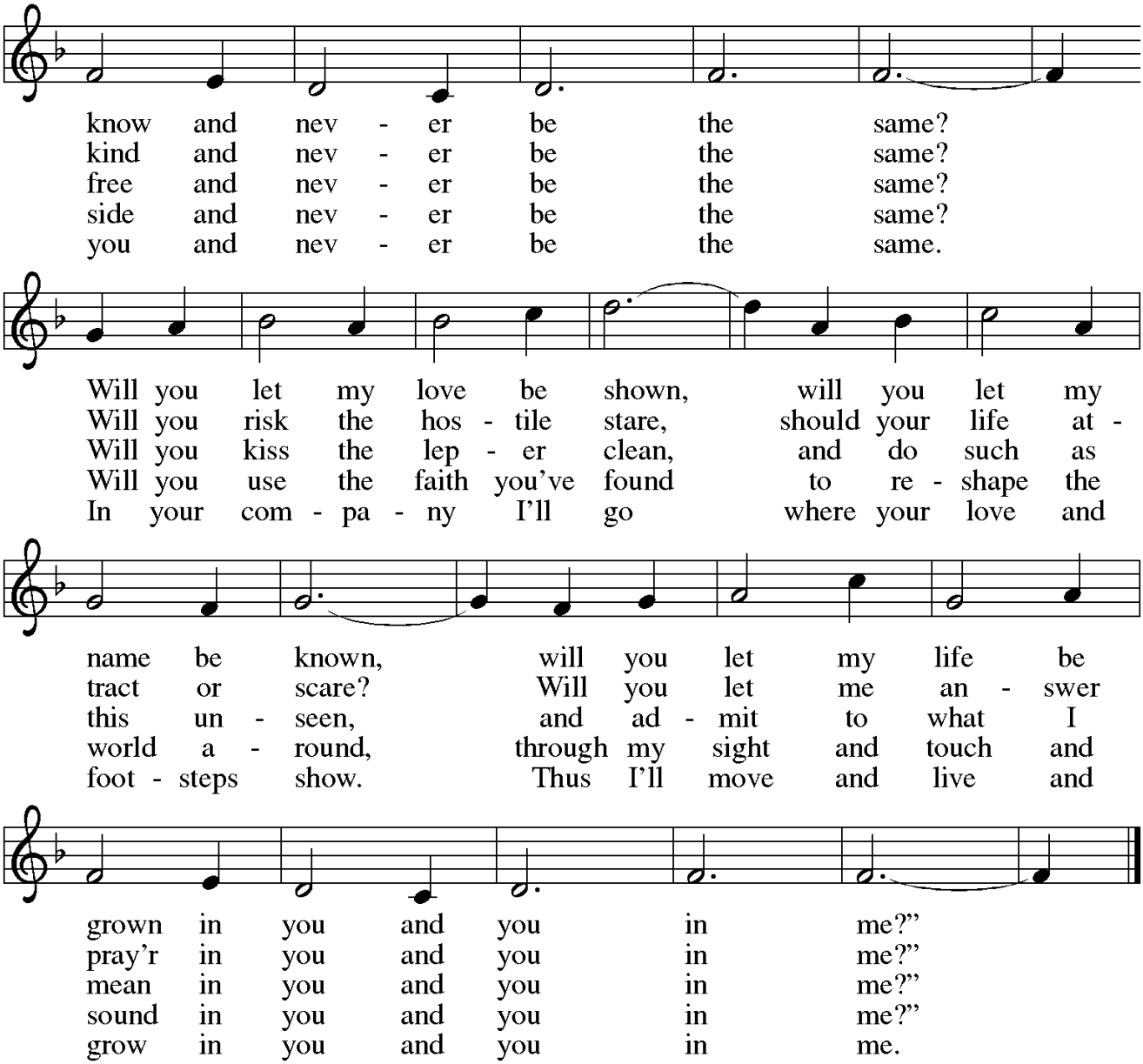
What's more important is that Jesus goes on to teach them what Peter's declaration means: The Messiah is not a conqueror, but a servant. Jesus will experience everything about being human, not just the good parts. Jesus will suffer, be rejected, and he will even be killed – but in the end he will rise again. Death does not have the final say.

Even though Peter called out the correct answer earlier, he hadn't actually understood what it meant. Peter takes Jesus aside and tries to get him to rein in those words, to stop saying those things. Perhaps this was not what Peter had in mind as the path of the Messiah. But Jesus turns away from the temptation, returning to his path as he returned to the crowd.
Jesus says to the disciples, the crowd, and to us, miles apart and centuries away: "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

Jesus shows us that we return to our true identities not in trying to be victorious in all things in life; instead, we gain awareness of our true identities by being of service. It is a wonder that as we allow ourselves to be drawn away from our self-focus, the way of Jesus beckons us to return to our own identity. This identity is not marked in trying to rule or control the world, but to serve it. In Jesus, we understand that the Messiah came to show us the path to God. The path we follow calls us to new ways of being. Following is not easy, but it is worth it.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Will You Come and Follow Me The Summons* ELW #798





Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional
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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.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Revealing God, you have made yourself known through bread and wine, water and word. Continue to nurture your church, that it is a place where your presence is experienced and shared. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Creating God, bring new creation to lands devastated by tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, fires, and other disasters. Restore forests and curb overflowing waters. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Protecting God, provide for all who are in danger. Strengthen first responders to help meet to the needs of others. Provide care and compassion as they face trauma themselves. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Transforming God, break chains of discrimination and injustice. Amplify voices that go unheard and inspire us to advocate for the those who are overlooked. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Forming God, shape our communal life, that in our prayer, praise, and worship, we honor you and encourage one another. Keep our disagreements civil and increase our joy in working together. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Redeeming God, you accompany your people through every stage of life. We give you thanks for the saints who now rest in your embrace. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE SHARING OF PEACE

P. The peace of Christ be with you always.

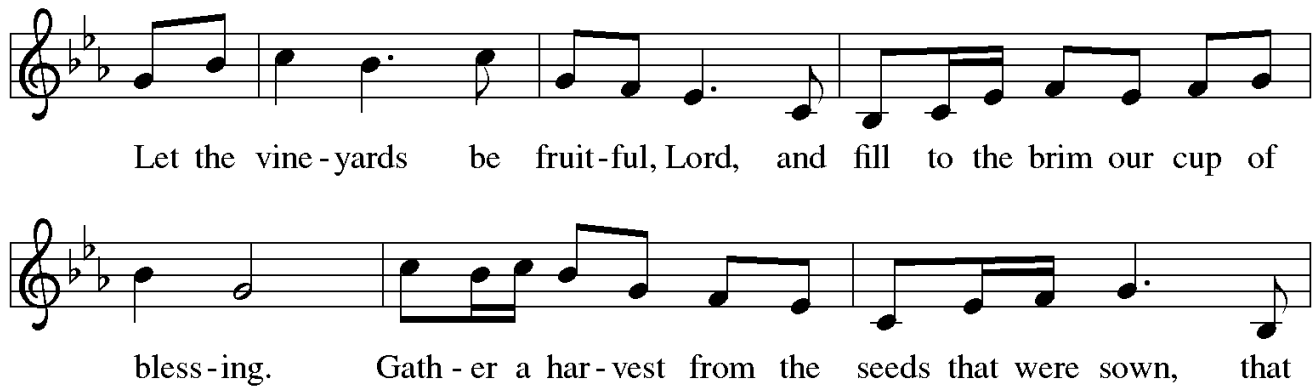
C. And also with you.

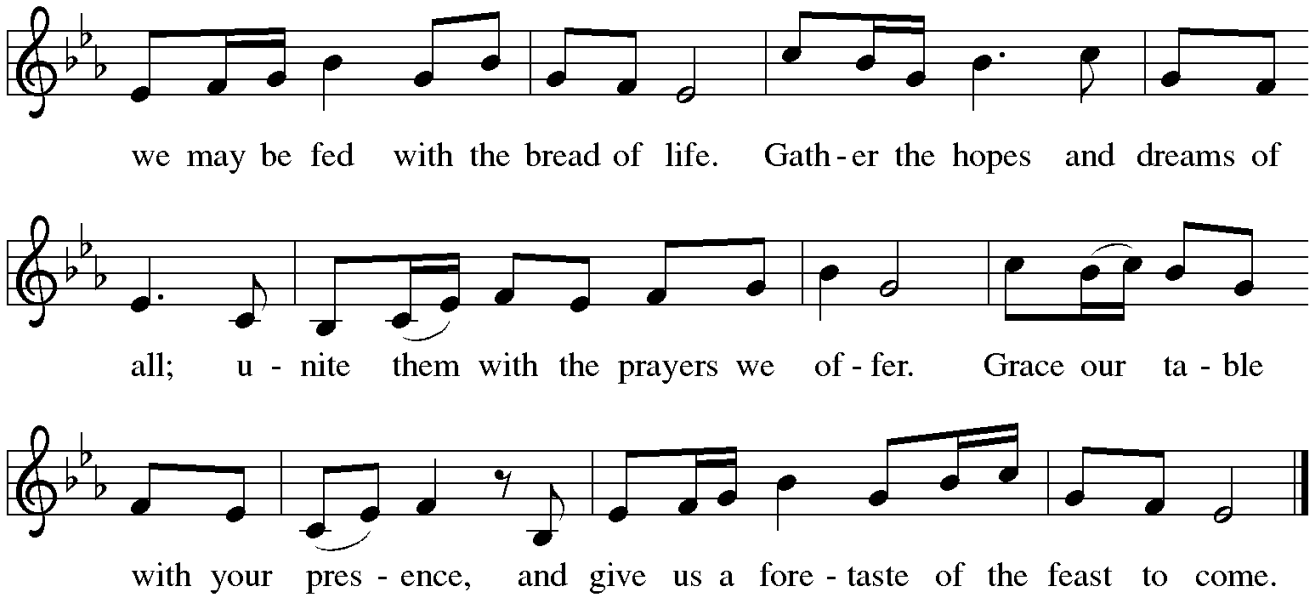
Please share a sign of Christ's peace with one another.

+ THE MEAL +

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS *Thank you for your continued support of the ministry of Peace Lutheran Church. We gladly accept your offerings via US Postal Service, Tithe.ly, or direct deposit from your bank.*

OFFERING HYMN *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*





Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

P. Let us pray. God of abundance,

C. you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. Lift up your hearts.

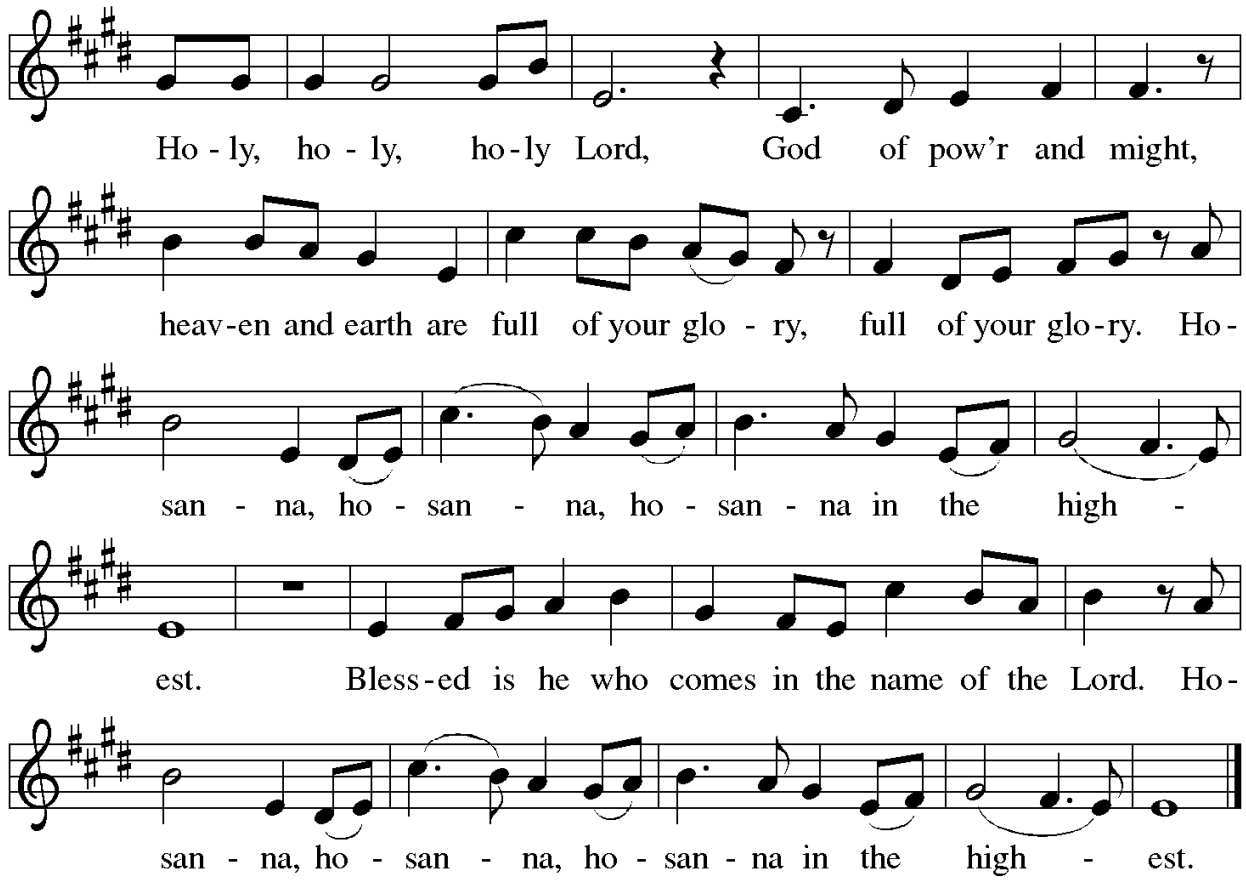
C. We lift them to the Lord.

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, 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 earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY ELW p. 190



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,
our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,
you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.
You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,
and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.
You sent your Son to eat with sinners
and to become food for the world.
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 life given for us
and his rising from the grave,
we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.
By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:
strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,
and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.
Amen

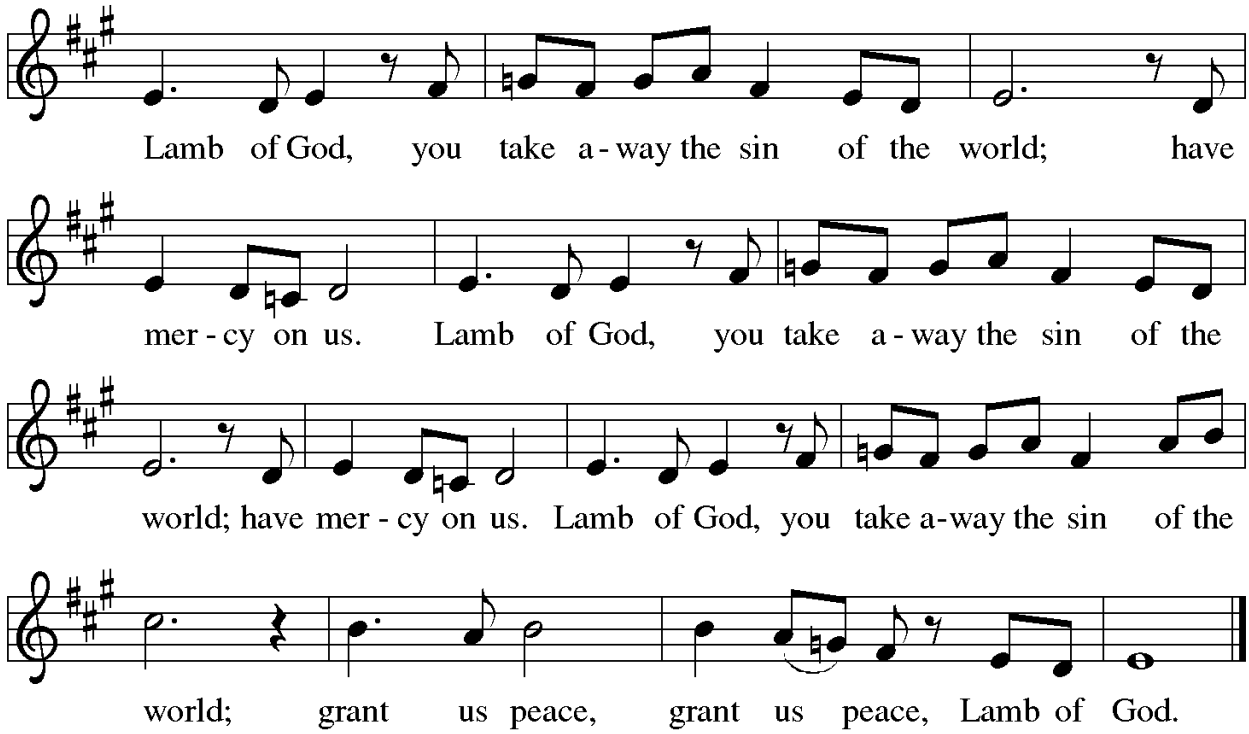
LORD'S PRAYER

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

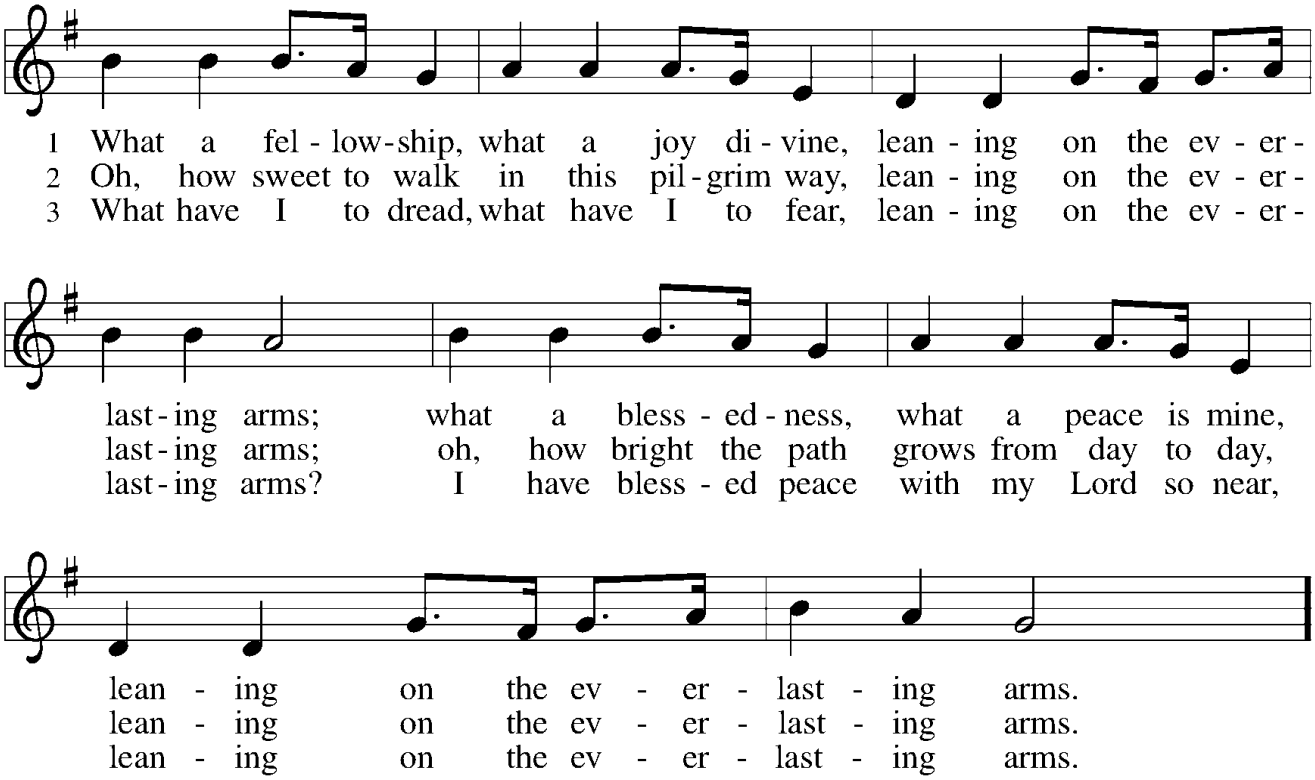
P. All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

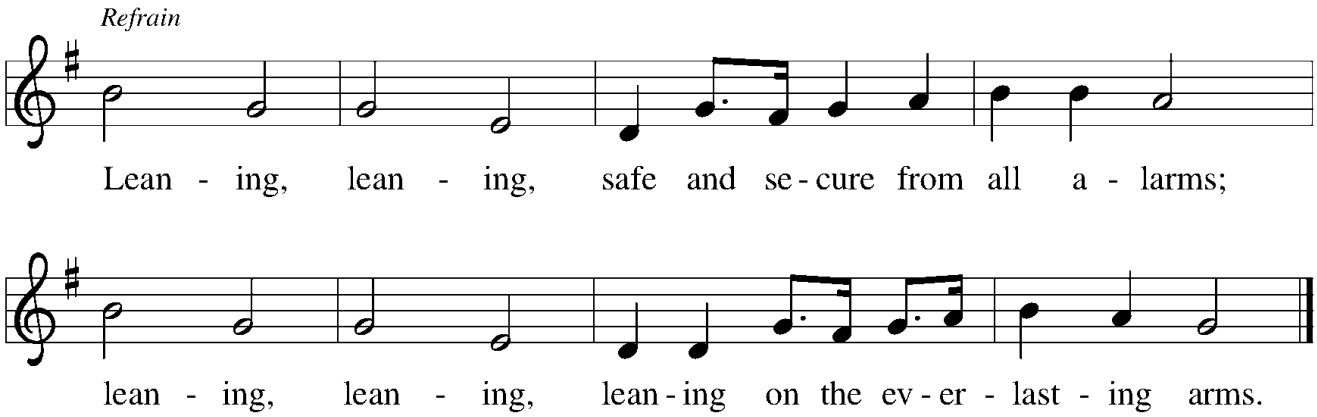
LAMB OF GOD ELW p. 191



CONTEMPORAY SONG *Your Grace Finds Me* Myrin/Redman

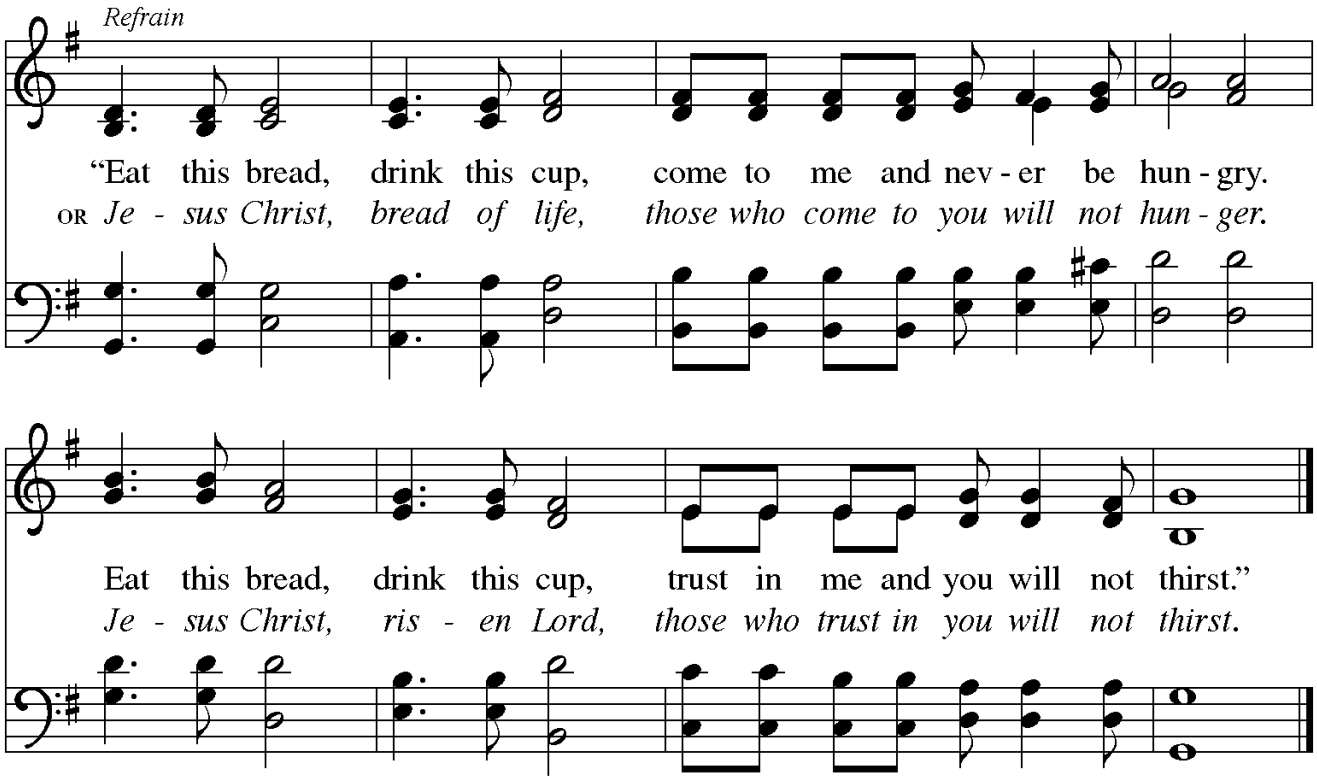
COMMUNION SONG *What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine* ELW # 474





Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839–1929
Music: SHOWALTER, Anthony J. Showalter, 1858–1924

COMMUNION HYMN *Eat This Bread Jesus Christ, Bread of Life* ELW #472



Text: Taizé Community
Music: BERTHIER, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
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TABLE BLESSING

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

C. Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P. Let us Pray, Lord of life,

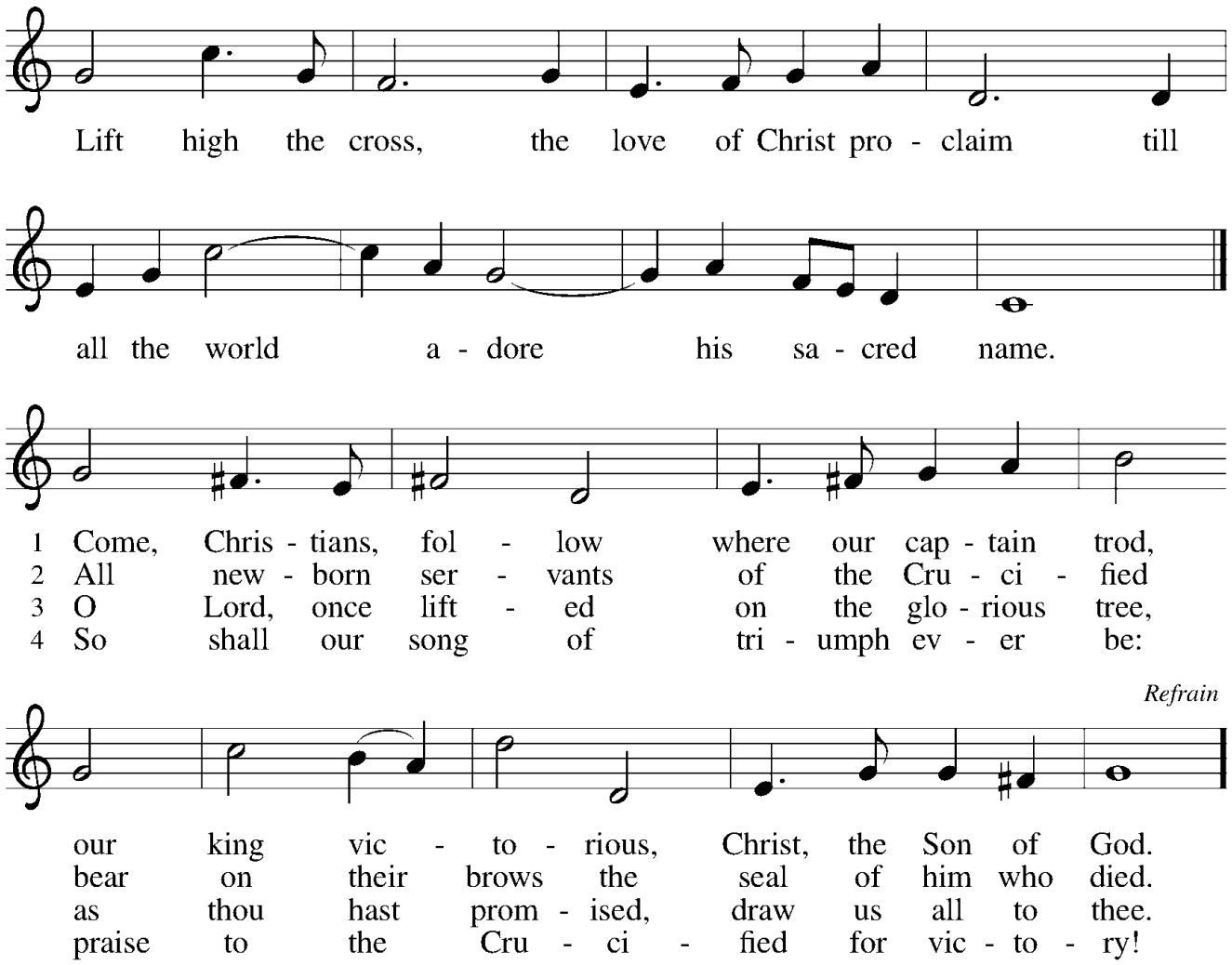
C. in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

P. People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, ✠ one God, bless you now and forever.

C. Amen.

SENDING HYMN *Lift High the Cross* ELW #660



Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956
Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947
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DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

C. Thanks be to God.

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News You Can Use

ABOUT THIS WEEKS TEXT

Three weeks ago we heard Peter's confession of faith as told in John's gospel. This week we hear Mark's version, when Peter says, "You are the Messiah." In John, the stumbling block is Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus' words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus' words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of *messiah*) in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.

COMMEMORATIONS THIS WEEK

Monday, September 13—John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, died 407

John was a priest in Antioch and an outstanding preacher. His eloquence earned him the nickname "Chrysostom" ("golden mouth"). Appointed bishop of Constantinople, seat of the empire, he criticized corruption in the court. As a result, he was exiled by the empress.

Tuesday, September 14—Holy Cross Day

Helena, mother of Constantine, made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and found what may be the actual site of Jesus' crucifixion. Her son built two churches there, and the dedication of one of them gave rise to this celebration of our Lord's victory on the cross.

Thursday, September 16—Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, died around 258
Cyprian served as a bishop during a time of great persecution of Christians. He insisted on receiving back those who had left the faith under duress. He also provided medical care during a severe epidemic.

Friday, September 17—Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, died 1179
A mystic who was widely influential within the church, Hildegard advised and reproved kings and popes, wrote poems and hymns, and produced treatises in medicine, theology, and natural history. She was also a musician and artist.
Saturday, September 18—Dag Hammarskjöld, renewer of society, died 1961
A Swedish diplomat, Hammarskjöld served as the second Secretary General of the United Nations until his death in a plane crash while trying to negotiate peace in present-day Zambia. His journal, published as Markings, revealed the depth of his Christian faith.

THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED FOR OUR PRAYERS:

Doris Fischer, Ellen Boxrud, Walter Hoyt,
Margaret Wood, Verlene Urekar, Alda Beemer
Gary Wood, Jim Neal, Cheryl Danner

If you would like to be added to the prayer list, or know someone who would like to be added to our list, please fill out a Prayer Request Card, send an email to peace.lutheran@comcast.net OR call the Office at (217)546-7646. Other than those in the Military will remain on the prayer list for two weeks unless otherwise notified.
Please note—for privacy reasons, we must have an individual's permission to add their name.
If interested in assisting on Saturdays or Sundays, please call the church office at 217.546-7646, or text Pastor Mary at 920-671-4338.

ZOOM MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS WEEK

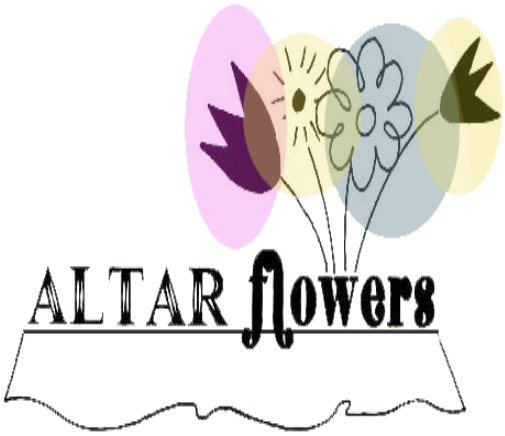
SUNDAY, SEPT 12	In Person Worship/Livestream—9:30am
MONDAY, SEPT 13	Property Committee—6:00pm
TUESDAY, SEPT 14	CSC Meeting—5:30pm (Zoom)
THURSDAY, SEPT 16	Church Council—6:00pm
SUNDAY, SEPT 19	In Person Worship/Livestream—9:30am

ASSISTING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 12:

Drive thru communion Parking Lot : NO DRIVE THRU COMMUNION

SUNDAY IN-PERSON SERVICE:

Assisting Minister: Lois Moorman
Ushers: Steve & Lois McConomy
Video: Linda Rice
Camera: Janet Kocis

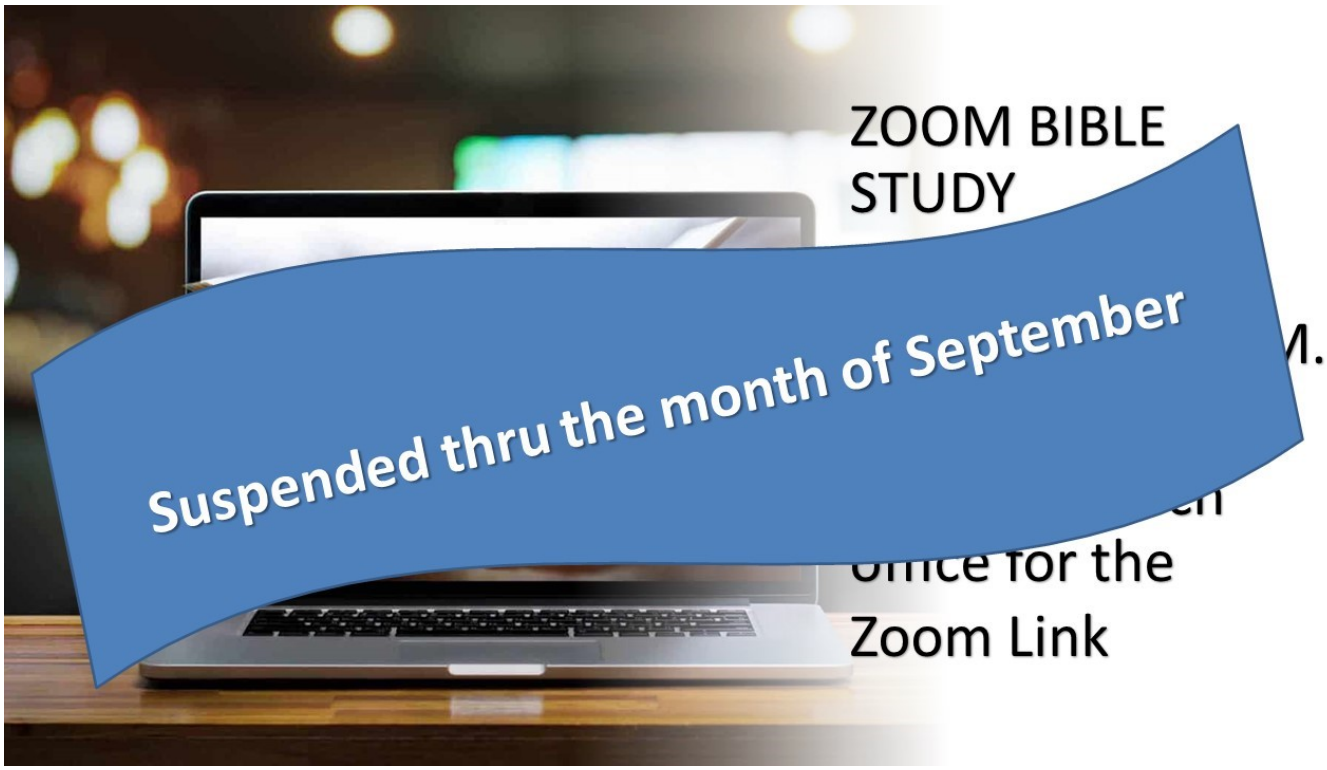


This weeks Altar Flowers
Provided by
Harriett Bartell
in memory of
her husband,
Dwight Bartell

Collecting items for LWR Backpacks

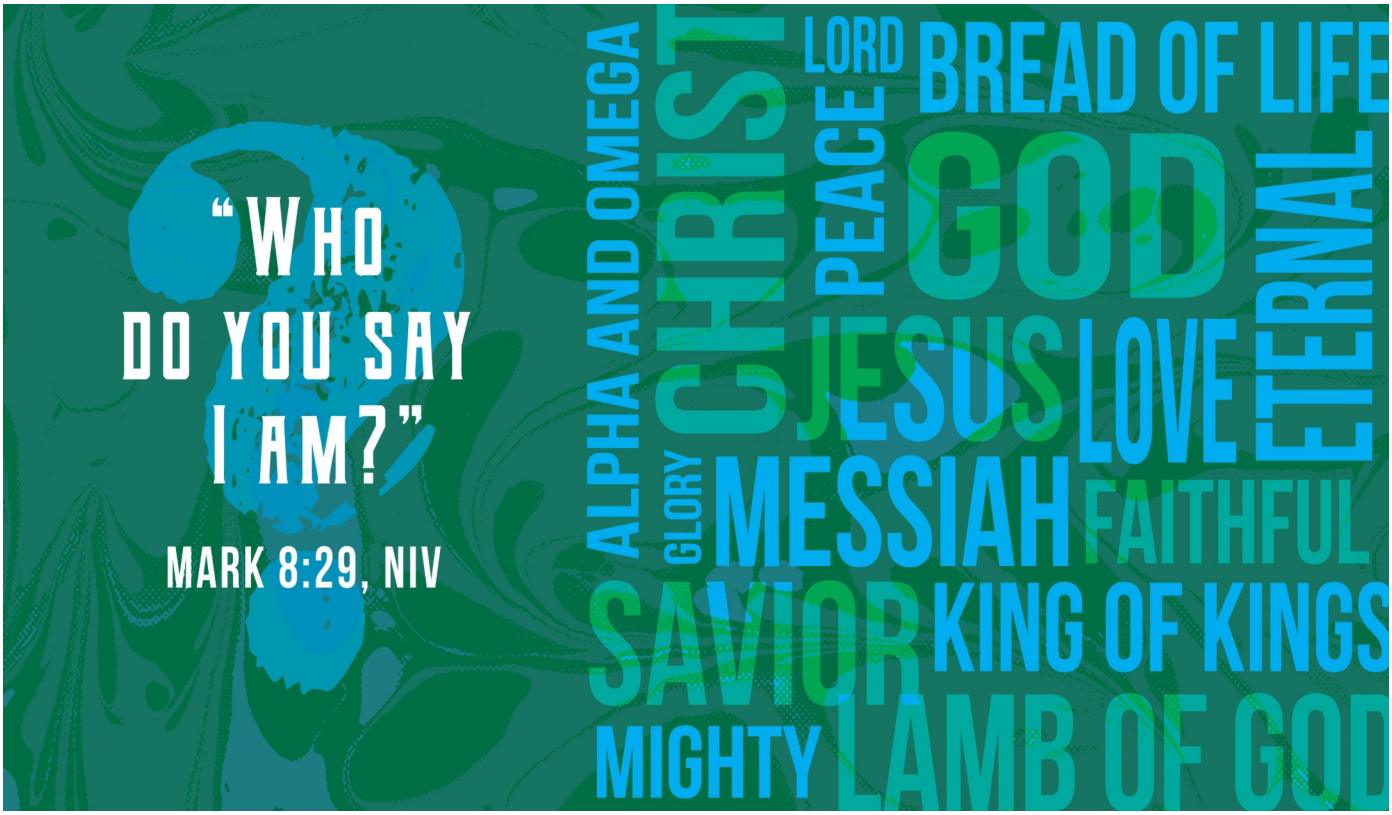
- Aug. 15 – Rulers/Erasers
- Aug. 22 – Spiral Notebooks
- Aug. 29 – Pencils/Sharpeners
- Sept. 5 – Crayons/Scissors
- Sept. 12 – Pens (black/blue)

Items may be dropped off on Sunday mornings or in the church office during the week.



#GodsWorkOurHands

September 12

We are collecting non-perishables to stock local micro-pantries.
Items may be dropped off in the narthex.

Volunteers needed to transport items to nearby pantries.