

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Our Mission: To share Christ's love with the greatest number of people.

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 3, 2023

The Service at 8:30 and 11 am



The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

"Here I am, Lord", arr. by Jaime Alegre

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand.

Pastor In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Congregation **Amen.**

Pastor 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.

Congregation **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor Most merciful God,
Congregation **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.**

Pastor 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.

Congregation **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: ALL CREATURES, WORSHIP GOD MOST HIGH! #835

We invite you to turn and face the cross (as you are comfortable). Please turn to the front of the sanctuary after the cross has passed you. All sing.

All Creatures, Worship God Most High!



- 1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev-'ry voice in earth and
- 2 Sing, broth-er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
- 3 Sing, broth-er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the
- 4 All who for love of God for-give, all who in pain or sor-row



- sky: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Sing, broth-er sun, in splen-dor
grain: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Dear sis-ter wa-ter, use-ful,
throng: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Dear moth-er earth, so rich in
grieve: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



- bright; sing, sis-ter moon and stars of night:
clear, make mu-sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-
care, praise God in col-ors bright and rare:
fears; still make your song a-mid the tears:



- lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

- 5 And you, most gentle sister death,
waiting to hush our final breath:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
fair is the night that leads us home.
Alleluia.

- 6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia.

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226; tr. composite
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623
Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

Pastor

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

Congregation

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

All sing.

Now the Feast and Celebration

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



Refrain
freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



Refrain
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



Refrain
God; to make all things new.

Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor The Lord be with you.
Congregation **And also with you.**

Pastor Let us pray.
O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Congregation **Amen.**

Please sit.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE WORD

Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the LORD is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

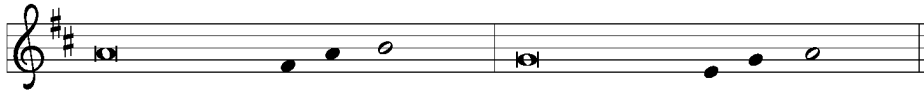
O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.
In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.
Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart;
for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.
I did not sit in the company of merry-makers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.
Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

Therefore thus says the LORD:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.
And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
says the LORD.
I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

Reader Word of God, word of life.
Congregation **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 26:1-8

Congregation sings words in bold.



Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived [|] with integrity;

I have trusted in the Lord and [|] have not faltered.

Test me, O [|] LORD, and try me;

examine my heart [|] and my mind.

For your love is be- [|] fore my eyes;

I have walked faithful- [|] ly with you.

I have not sat [|] with the worthless,

nor do I consort with [|] the deceitful. R

I have hated the company of [|] evildoers;

I will not sit down [|] with the wicked.

I will wash my hands in inno- [|] cence, O LORD,

that I may go in procession [|] round your altar,

singing aloud a song [|] of thanksgiving

and recounting all your won- [|] derful deeds.

LORD, I love the house in [|] which you dwell

and the place where your glo- [|] ry abides.

Reading: Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Reader

Word of God, word of life.

Congregation

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please stand and sing.





The Gospel is announced.

Pastor

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

Congregation

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”

From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?”

“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

Pastor

The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

*Test Our Hearts and Minds
Pastor Sandy Kessinger*

757

All My Hope on God Is Founded



1 All my hope on God is found - ed who will all my
2 Mor - tal pride and earth - ly glo - ry, sword and crown be -
3 Great thy good-ness, e'er en - dur - ing; deep thy wis - dom,
4 Still from earth to God e - ter - nal sac - ri - fice of



trust re - new, who through change and chance will guide me,
tray our trust; what with care and toil we fash - ion,
pass - ing thought; splen - dor, light, and life at - tend thee,
praise be done, high a - bove all prais - es prais - ing



on - ly good and on - ly true. God un - known, God a -
tow'r and tem - ple, fall to dust. But thy pow'r, hour by
beau - ty spring - ing out of naught. Ev - er - more from thy
for the gift of God's own Son. Christ doth call one and



lone, call my heart to be thine own.
hour, is my tem - ple and my tow'r.
store new - born worlds rise and a - dore.
all: ye who fol - low shall not fall.

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; para. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt.

Music: Herbert Howells, 1892–1983

Music © 1968 Novello & Co, Ltd., London

APOSTLES' CREED

Pastor With the whole church, let us confess our faith.
Congregation **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

*Prayers are included for the whole Church, the nations, those in need, the parish and special concerns.
After each portion of the prayers:*

Pastor Hear us, O God.
Congregation **Your mercy is great.**

At the end of the prayer:

Pastor Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Congregation **Amen.**

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor The peace of Christ be with you always.
Congregation **And also with you.**

The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say, "Peace be with you" or similar words.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Please give as you are able.

Please sign the red attendance book and pass it down the pew.

OFFERTORY

"Come, Christians, Join To Sing" by Gordon Young

COME TO THE TABLE

OFFERTORY SONG

Please stand and sing.



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

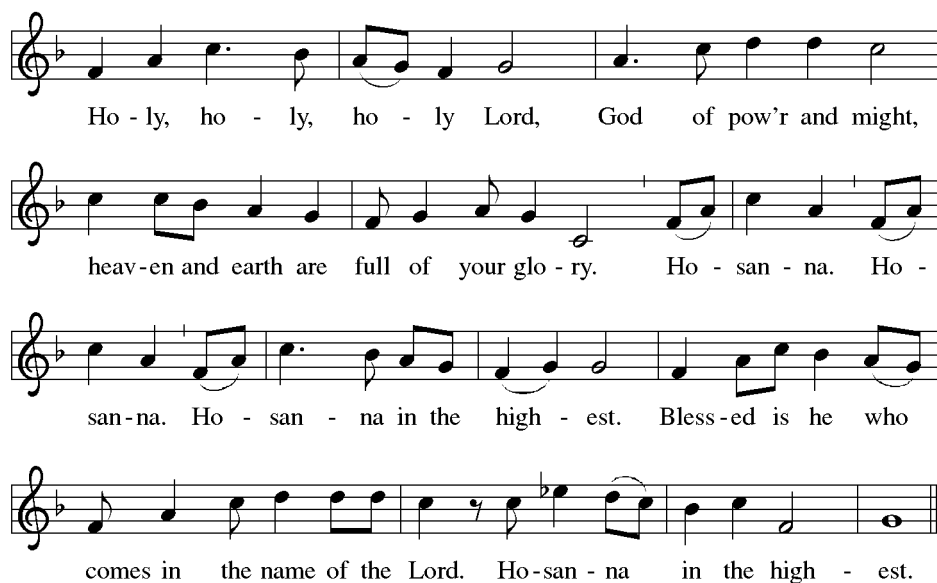
Pastor Congregation	Let us pray. God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.
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THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please stand.

Pastor Congregation	The Lord be with you. And also with you.
Pastor Congregation	Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Pastor Congregation	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. 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 earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

All sing.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor

Congregation

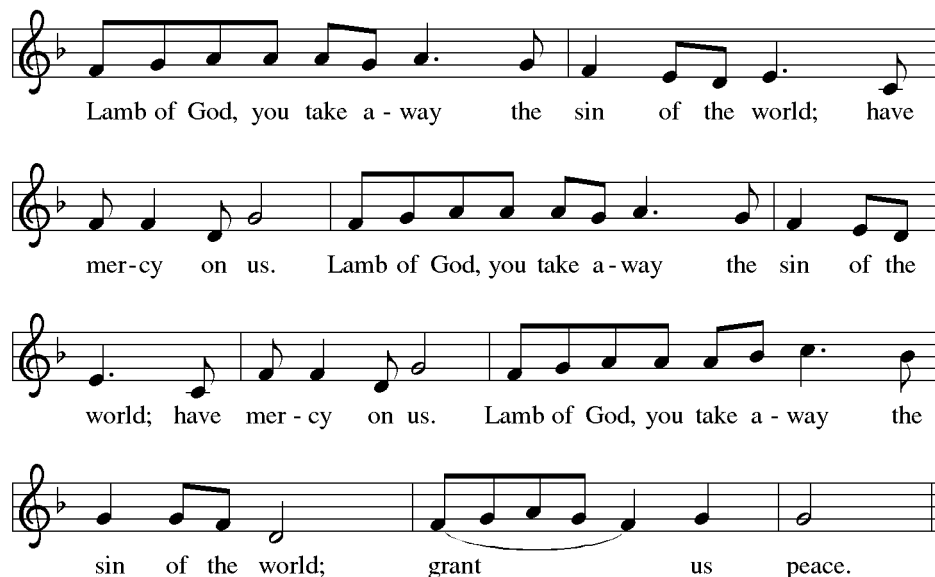
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

All sing.



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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNE

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

We gather around the communion rail either kneeling or standing to receive communion.

Communion will be offered by intinction.

For those not comfortable receiving from the pastors' hands a separate tray with preset elements will follow.

Anyone not comfortable receiving the bread or the wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.

You are an important part of our faith community.

COMMUNION HYMN: AS WE GATHER AT YOUR TABLE #522

All sing.

As We Gather at Your Table

1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast

help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - um-phiant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.

Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,

teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
may we still be - hold your im-age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an-gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

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

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855–1932

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Please stand.

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

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Please stand and sing.

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the staves, with some words appearing above the notes for better readability. The number #840 is printed below the first staff.

Now Thank We All Our God
#840
Thank-ful hearts re-raise and thank we all our God - 'ry-one what God has done. Let
ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor Let us pray.
 Life-giving God,
 in the mystery of Christ's resurrection
 you send light to conquer darkness,
 water to give new life,
 and the bread of life to nourish your people.
 Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection,
 that we may show your glory to all the world,
 through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.
Congregation **Amen.**

THE SENDING

BLESSING

Pastor Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Congregation **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD #840

Please follow the cross, turning toward the cross as it passes by your pew. As the cross leads, so Christ leads us out into the community to share Christ's love.

All sing.

Now Thank We All Our God

The musical score is written for a three-part setting (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor/Bass) in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines. The first system includes three-part harmony for the first line of the hymn. The second system continues the melody and harmony for the second line. The third system continues for the third line. The fourth system concludes the hymn with a final cadence.

1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,
who, from our mothers' arms, has blessed us on our way
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;
with countless 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 ever more.

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

DISMISSAL

Pastor

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Congregation

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"The God of Abraham Praise" arr. by Michael Burkhardt

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, VA 22101

Children are welcome in our worship.

Church Phone: 703-356-3346

Email: Church@redeemermclean.org

Hearing help available: We have for your use, personal hearing amplification units available in the narthex. Please refer questions or comments to an usher.

***Redeemer's Sunday worship schedule is:
8:30 and 11 am - Traditional Services 9:45 am - Contemporary Service***

Next Sunday's Scripture: Ezekiel 33:7-11 Psalm 119:33-40 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20

More Than a Logo

If the church has a universally recognized logo, it is probably the cross. But branding was probably not what Jesus was thinking about when he invited Peter and those who would come after him to take up their cross and follow. The cross that Jesus calls us to carry alongside him is instead the means by which God chooses to reveal grace in the midst of death.

Rather than follow in the way of Jesus, sometimes the church can simply get in the way. We want to be good followers. We want more people to experience what we have. But sometimes in our desire to draw larger crowds, we end up putting ourselves—our music, our ministries, our outreach—at the center and subtly leaving God aside. In the midst of a world that drives us to always want more, Jesus invites us to deny ourselves. The denial to which Jesus calls us is not about putting ourselves down or neglecting our own needs. But it is about centering the cross of Christ in our lives so that our desires and dreams begin to arc ever more in the direction of God's love and mercy at work in the world.

The cross that Jesus took up didn't just belong to him. Two bandits were crucified with him, one on either side, and the Romans crucified many more. The cross is more than a logo; it is a symbol that joins us to a suffering world. The cross is not an individual burden to carry; it is the whole church's work. Crosses adorn our steeples and worship spaces, but worship also empowers us to take up the issues of the day that are matters of life and death for so many, such as war and violence, housing and food security, racism and climate change. When we shoulder these "crosses" together, the church doesn't make its own way; we follow the way of Jesus.

The flowers are given to the glory of God.

Today we are using Settings 3 from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship book.

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