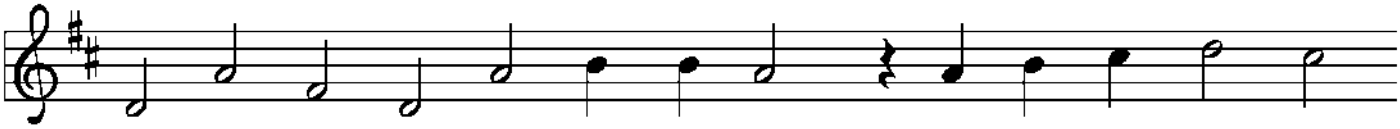
July 18-19, 2026 **5p/9a Worship Service**
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

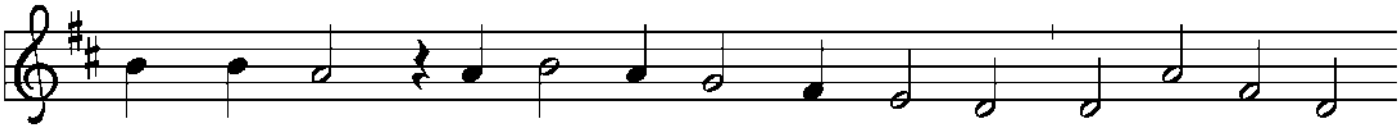
First Lutheran

discover more : together

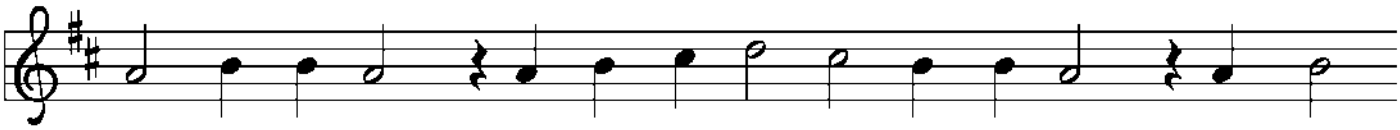
O Holy Spirit, Enter In



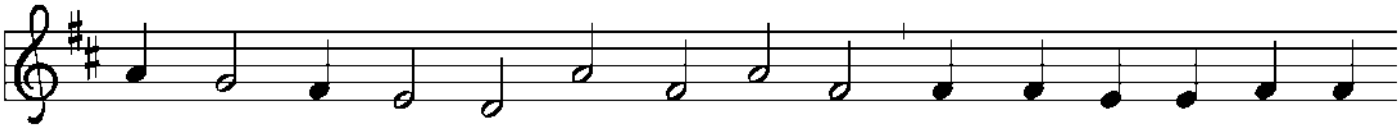
1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, en - ter in, and in our hearts your
2 Left to our - selves, we sure - ly stray; oh, lead us on the
3 O might - y Rock, O Source of life, let your good Word in



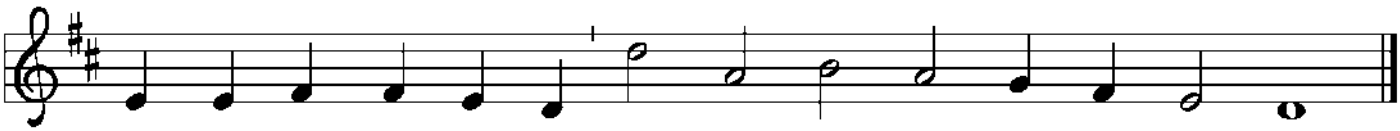
work be - gin, and make our hearts your dwell - ing. Sun of the soul,
nar - row way, with wis - est coun - sel guide us; and give us stead -
doubt and strife be in us strong - ly burn - ing, that we be faith -



O Light di - vine, a - round and in us bright - ly shine, your strength
fast - ness, that we may fol - low you for - ev - er free, no mat -
ful un - to death and live in love and ho - ly faith, from you



in us up - well - ing. In your ra - diance life from heav - en now is
ter who de - rides us. Gent - ly heal those hearts now bro - ken; give some
true wis - dom learn - ing. Lord, your mer - cy on us show - er; by your



giv - en o - ver - flow - ing, gift of gifts be - yond all know - ing.
to - ken you are near us, whom we trust to light and cheer us.
pow - er Christ con - fess - ing, we will cher - ish all your bless - ing.

Text: Michael Schirmer, 1606–1673; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, adapt.
Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

(9a) Prelude: Partita on "The Reign of God" - Arr. James Biery

Welcome
Stand

Confession and Forgiveness
Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.
P: 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.
All: Amen.
P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
(brief silence) Most merciful God,
All: 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.
P: 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.
All: Amen.

Opening Hymn: *ELW* #786
"O, Holy Spirit, Enter In"

Greeting
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
All: And also with you.

"This is The Feast" … pg. 149 → →

Refrain

A: This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu - ia.

C: Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. *(brief silence)*
Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

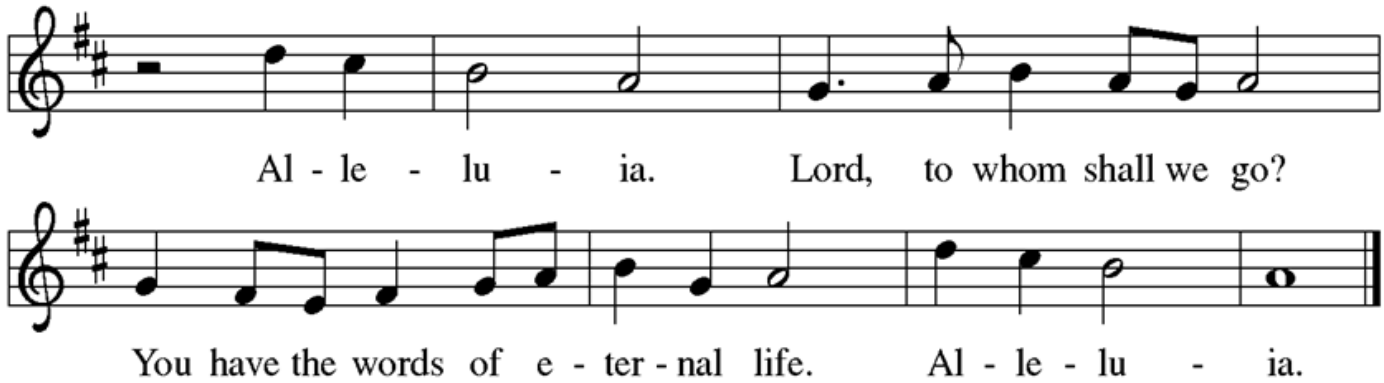
(9a) Children's Message

Sit

Intro to the Reading:

P: Patience is not the same as passivity. For a field mixed of wheat and weeks, "let both grow together" is a statement about how the way of God tolerates ambiguity, coexists with what opposes it, and refuses the premature sorting the servants want to do. Patience is not indifference, but a gracious waiting. Please stand for the Reading of the Gospel.

Gospel Acclamation pg. 151



P: The Gospel according St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter…

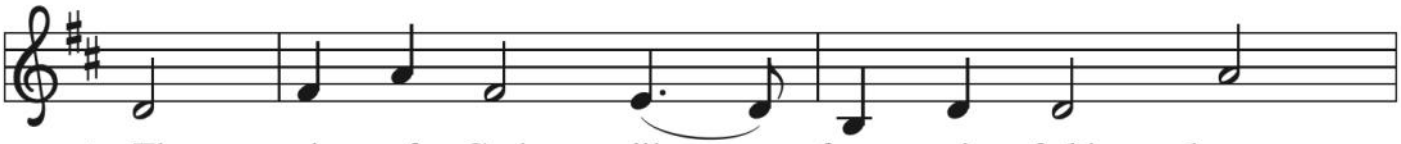
All: Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30 *NRSVue*

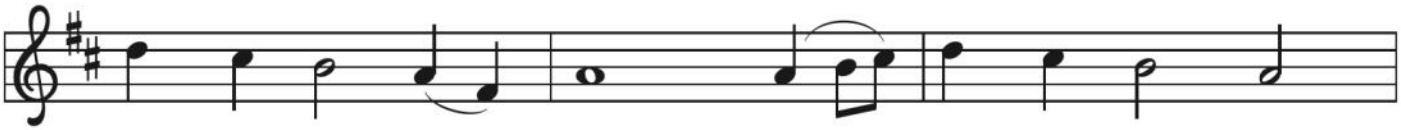
P: [Jesus] put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, [25] but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. [26] So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. [27] And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' [28] He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' [29] But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them.

Continued →

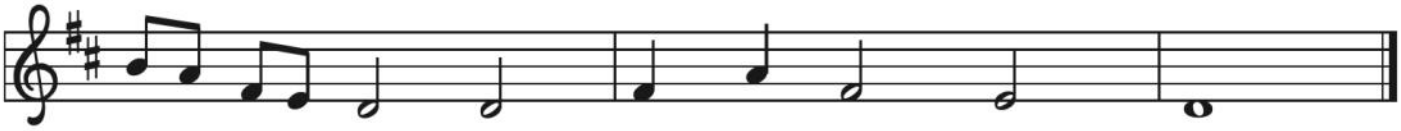
The Reign of God Like Farmer's Field



1 The reign of God, like farm - er's field, bears
2 The reign of God is like a pearl on
3 Though hid - den now, the reign of God may,
4 Like mus - tard tree, the reign of God from
5 The reign of God is come in Christ; the



weeds a - long with wheat; the good and bad are
bar - ren land con - cealed. If once you find that
yet un - no - ticed, grow; from deep with - in it
ti - ny seed will spread, till birds of ev - 'ry
reign of God is near. A - blaze a - mong us,



in - ter - twined till har - vest is com - plete.
pre - cious pearl, go out and buy that field.
ris - es up, like yeast in swell - ing dough.
feath - er come to nest, and there be fed.
kin - dling hearts, the reign of God is here!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
Music: DUNLAP'S CREEK, Samuel McFarland, fl. 1816

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30 Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell
the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but
gather the wheat into my barn.' "

P: The Gospel of the Lord,

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon … Pr. Steve Knudson

Stand

Hymn of the Day: *ACS* #952

"The Reign of God, Like Farmer's Field"

Visitation Chaplains, Home Communion visitors,
please come forward during the singing of the hymn.

Commissioning of Visitation Ministry →

Presentation

Steve: Dear brothers and sisters, you have been equipped to serve as Hospital Visitors and Home Communion Visitors at First Lutheran Church. Listen now to the words we find in scripture. “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God” (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

Address

P: As the Lord Jesus patiently listens when you turn to him,
we ask you to be a patient listener in a hurried world.
As the Spirit of Christ has given you gifts for service,
we ask you to use your gits to serve others and to pray for them.
As the Lord Jesus has shown his care to you,
we ask you to help this congregation grow as a caring community.

Vows

Pastor: Are you prepared to serve in your capacity to serve in the designated ministry of visitation: to visit the sick, and to bring communion to the homebased? If so, respond: Yes with the help of God.

Response: Yes, with the help of God.

Pastor: *(addressing the congregation)* Members of *First Lutheran* will you open your hearts to the ministry of *these servants, to receive their prayers and visits in the hospital, to welcome them for home communion,* and to pray for *them* as servants of Christ?
If so, answer: "Yes, with the help of God."

Congregation: Yes, with the help of God.

Prayer

Steve: Let us pray.

Gracious God, you have called these persons to be caregivers in this congregation: TO VISIT THOSE IN THE HOSPITAL, TO BRING COMMUNION FROM THE TABLE TO THE HOME. You have gifted and empowered *them* for this task. Grant *them* joy in *their* service and a spirit of bold trust in you, that *their* ministry may further healing and wholly in our ministry as a congregation. Help us all to be thankful recipients of this ministry, so that your name may be glorified, your people live in peace, and your good and gracious will be done, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

Blessing

Steve: May the Lord of the church fill you with the Holy Spirit and guide, bless, and keep you, so that you may be faithful in the ministry to which you have been called, gifted, trained, and sent.

People: Amen.

Steve: Let us acknowledge these servants of our visitation ministry with our applause.

Lector: Please go to the Ambo for the Prayers.

THE PRAYERS →

P: God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

Passing of the Peace:
P: The peace of Christ be with you always.
All: And also with you
P: Let us turn to one another, offering a sign of Christ's peace.

Offering of Gratitude:
(*Sit*) P: You may be seated.

We give God our thanks and praise in response to God's mercy and abundance. We invite you to place your gratitude card along with any offering you have in the plate at this time or make an offering electronically.
Would the ushers please come forward.

Lector—Go to Ambo before Prayer; remain up front for communion.

(9a)Special Music: "For the Fruit of All Creation/There is a Balm"
The Shanley Family

(9) Offertory Hymn: *ELW* #167 "Now the Feast and Celebration"
All: Now the feast and celebration,
all of creation sings for joy
to the God of life and love and freedom;
praise and glory forevermore!
Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,
whose blood has freed and united us
to be one great people of God.
Now the feast and celebration,
all of creation sings for joy
to the God of life and love and freedom;
praise and glory forevermore!

Offertory Prayer:
L: *(5p) Please Stand and*
(9a) Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us, now and forever.
All: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving: … page 152

P: The Lord be with You.

All: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift the to the Lord

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

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

P: 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.

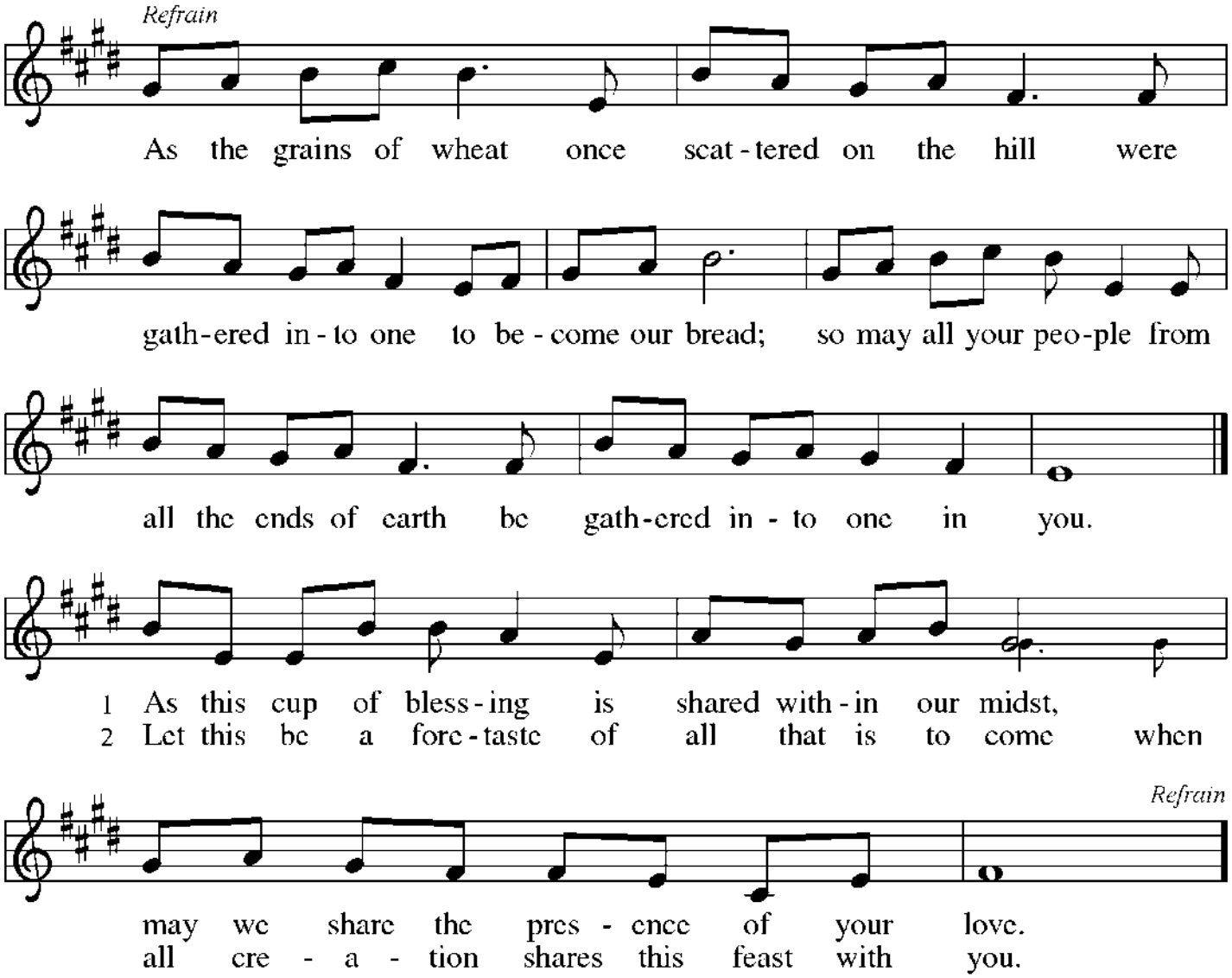
P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

P: You may be seated. Please follow the direction of the ushers to come forward. There is gluten free bread and juice available upon request. The table is set and all are welcome. (optional) Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Anointing & Distribution of Holy Communion

As the Grains of Wheat



Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen
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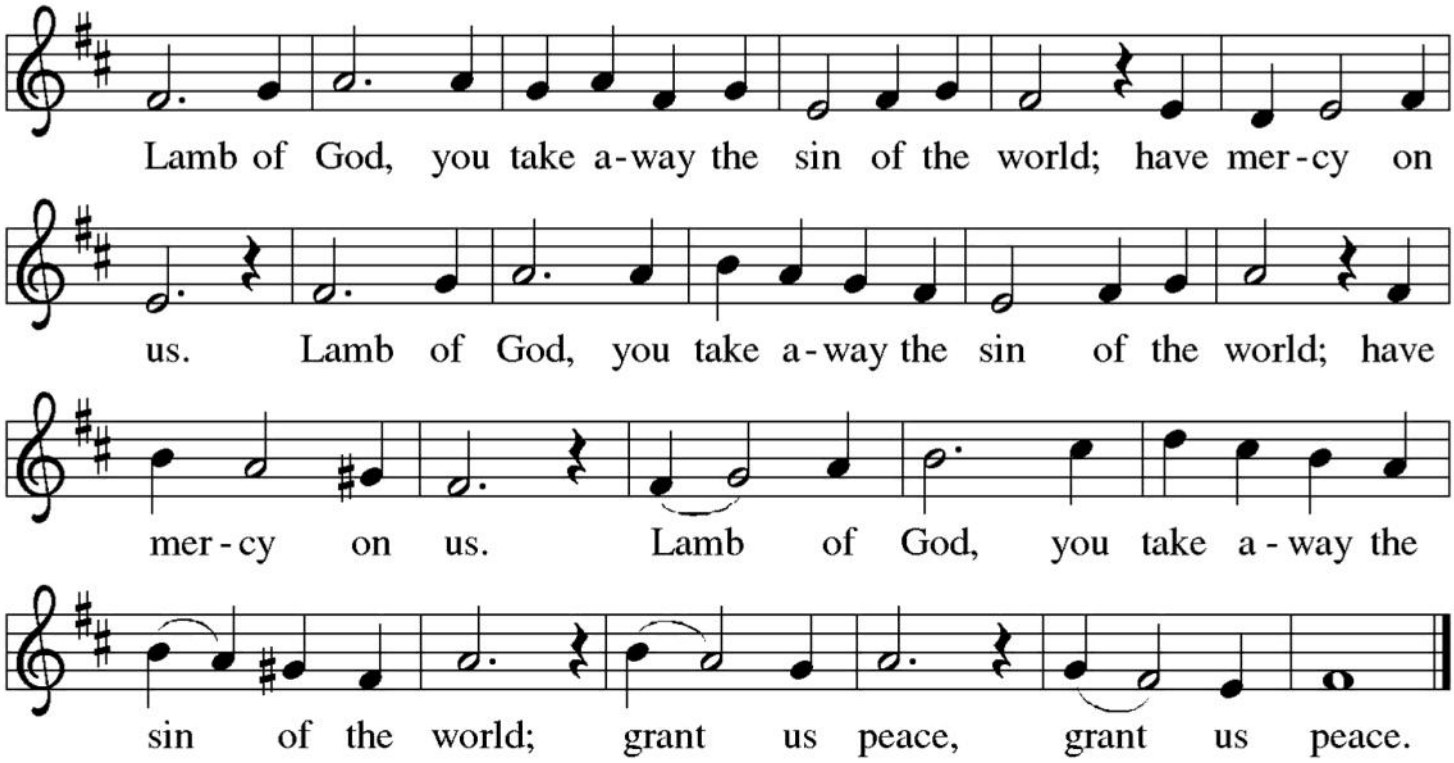
The Lamb of God … page 154



(9a) Special Music: "There Is a Balm" - Arr. Eithun
Handbell Ensemble

Prayer Prompt slides if time allows: "T:\Projector\healing communion Slides.pptx

Communion Hymn: *ELW* #465 "As the Grains of Wheat"
Lector—go to the ambo as Pastor covers communion elements.

Stand
The Communion Blessing
P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you,
and keep you in his grace.
All: Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer
L: Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
All: Amen.
(Sit)

- Sending -

Blessing of Sheila Anderson at the Conclusion of Ministry

P: Sheila Anderson, ***in January of 2022***, you were hired to serve First Lutheran as Visitation Chaplain. You have served the members of this congregation and the wider community with love and faithfulness. You are now leaving our midst to new ventures. As your fellow members of this congregation we wish to honor your ministry among us and bid you farewell and Godspeed in your new endeavors, bringing closure to your ministry at First Lutheran Church.

Presentation of Gifts

Sheil Anderson: I thank the members of First Lutheran Church for the love,
the kindness, and the support shown to me during my active ministry among you.
I ask forgiveness for the ways I have sinned against you.
I am grateful for the ways my ministry has been accepted.
As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

All: We receive your thankfulness. We offer you our forgiveness. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask forgiveness for the ways we have sinned against you. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.

Sheila: I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

P: Do you, the people of First Lutheran Church release Sheila Anderson from the duties as Visitation Chaplain?
C: We do, with God's help.

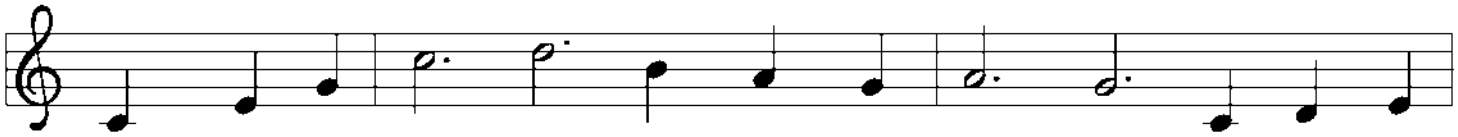
P: Do you offer encouragement for her as she goes from here?
C: We do, with God's help.

P: Do you, Sheila, release the people of First Lutheran from turning to you and depending on you?
Sheila: I do, with God's help.

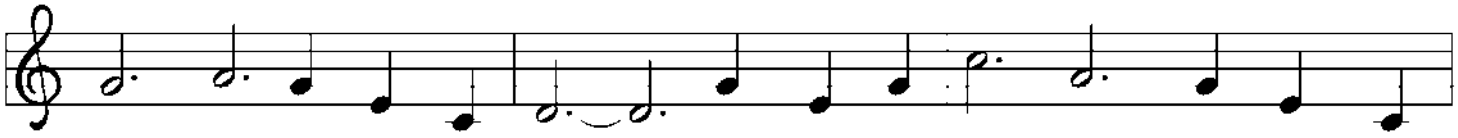
P: Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here?
Sheila: I do, with God's help.

Final Prayer →

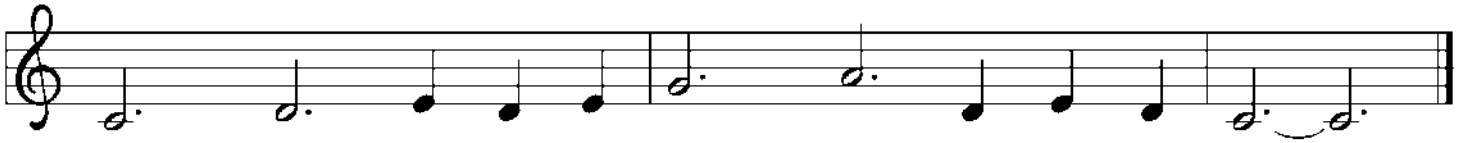
Praise and Thanksgiving



1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things
2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's
4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -



liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the
neigh-bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work
guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -
fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will



or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.
with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.
joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.
hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

Text: Albert F. Bayly. 1901–1984, alt.
Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune
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P: Let us pray: God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. The time we were together in your name saw our laughter and tears, our hopes and disappointments. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories but move us in new directions, until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Benediction:

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, † one God, bless, heal,
and hold you today and always.

All: Amen.

Closing Hymn: *ELW* #689 "Praise and Thanksgiving"

Dismissal:

L: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: "O Holy Spirit, Enter In" - Arr. Jakob Greiss

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