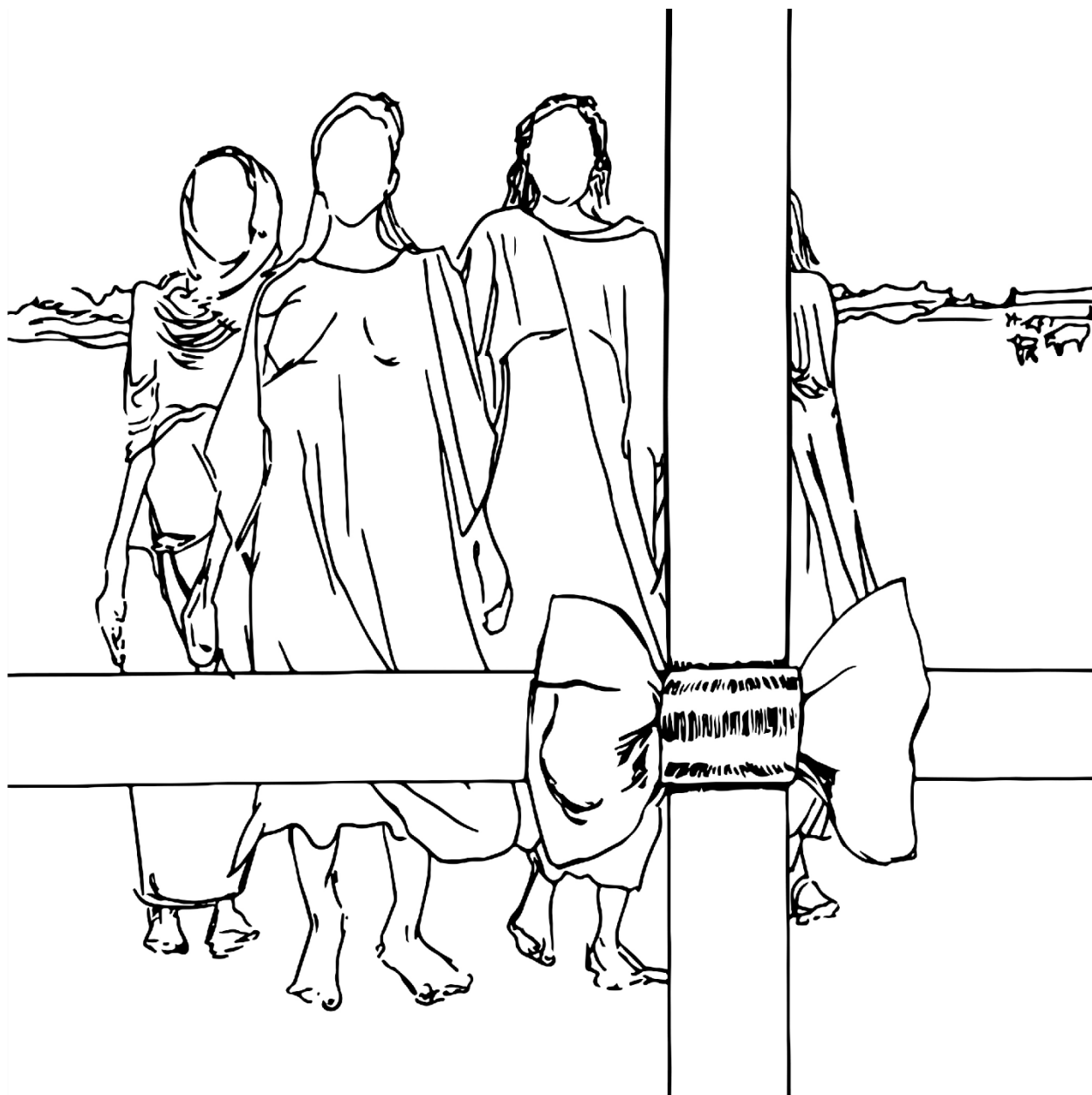


St. Thomas Lutheran Church
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 26, 2026, 8:30 a.m.
Anything but Ordinary



We hope you feel welcome here.

St. Thomas Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered community that lives, shares, and celebrates God's grace with all people!

St. Thomas is located on the ancestral homelands for the myaamiaki, Lënape, Bodwéwadmik, and saawanwa people. We acknowledge and give thanks that they have occupied and cared for this land over countless generations, and we celebrate the continuing contributions to the life of this region by the Indigenous People who call this land their home.

We hope you can participate fully in worship.

Today's worship service is printed in this bulletin; the hymns are found in the back third of the red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) or purple *All Creation Sings* (ACS) found under the seat in front of you. Places to stand are marked with * and to respond are indicated with bold type. Please sit, stand, and move as you need to be comfortable. Use a blue chair with arms or move orange chairs to accommodate mobility needs. Assisted hearing devices and large-print worship aids are available on the Worship Aids column in the narthex.

Our youngest worshipers may appreciate the Prayer Pond in the worship space or listening to the service from our unstaffed nursery. Activity bags and children's bulletins are available on the Worship Aids column in the narthex.

We hope you know Holy Communion is for you.

At communion, everyone is welcome. This includes doubters, young children, and folks who have yearned for this feast. Come forward at the direction of an usher and receive hand-torn bread or gluten-free wafers and pink wine or red grape juice. If you have mobility limitations, please take the closest available place at the altar, or ask an usher for Communion to be brought to you at your seat.

We hope you know our welcome extends beyond our building.

Gifts placed in the offering plate during the worship service contribute to this mission. Today's 8:30 a.m. service is livestreamed. By attending this service, you are giving permission to be in the video we produce.

We hope you know we pray for you.

We would love to pray for the concerns of your heart during this service. Prayer request slips are located on the table near the main doors.

+ GATHERING +

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the living Spirit helping us in our weakness when we do not know how to pray.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who calls us according to God's unseen and holy purposes.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P. We pray,
Holy God, we confess our dismay at the world's chaos; our frustration at our powerlessness; our anger at the profound suffering brought by famine and armed conflict. We resent those whose understanding of the world differ from ours. We are heartsick. Put our feet on your path, guide us, strengthen us, breathe in us, and renew our trust that you are with humanity in the struggle and that your will for the world is good.

P: Beloved, put aside despair and in the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, receive the forgiveness of all your sins. You are free to become the good yeast leavening everything around you and the mustard seed springing up into a refuge for the birds of the air.

C: Amen.

*ENTRANCE HYMN O God of Jacob



- 1 O God of Ja - cob, by whose hand your peo - ple still are fed,
- 2 Our vows, our prayers, we now pre - sent be - fore your throne of grace.
- 3 Through each per - plex - ing path of life our wan-d'ring foot-steps guide;
- 4 Oh, grant us your pro - tect - ing care till all our wan-d'rings cease,



who through this wea - ry pil - grim - age a wa - v'ring Is - rael led:
O God of Ja - cob, be the God of their suc - ceed - ing race.
give us this day our dai - ly bread, and shel - ter fit pro - vide.
that to those man - sions kept for us we all may come in peace.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751, adapt.

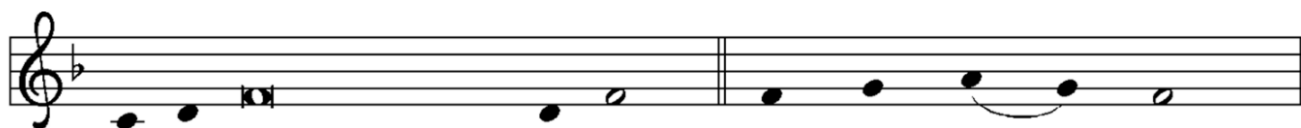
Music: ST. PETER, Alexander R. Reinagle, 1799–1877

*GREETING

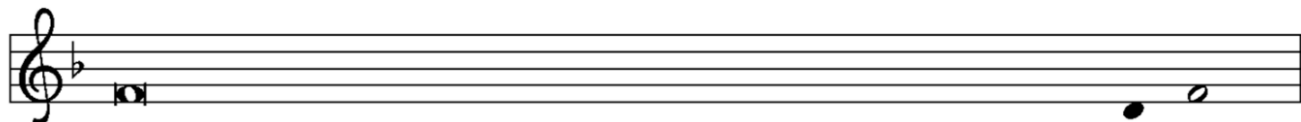
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

*KYRIE



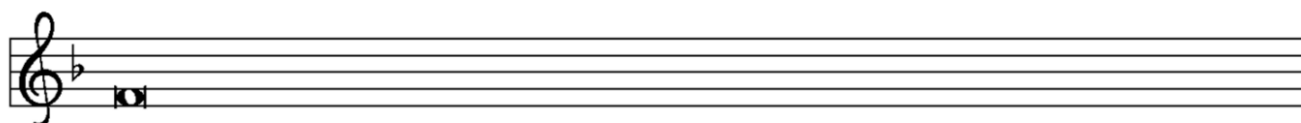
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



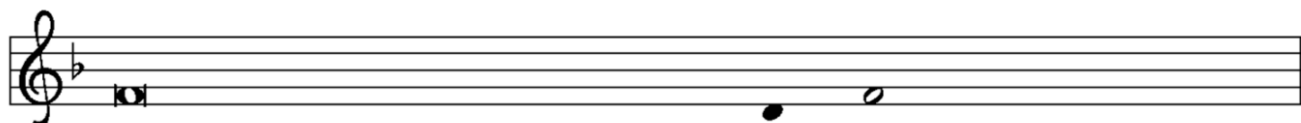
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



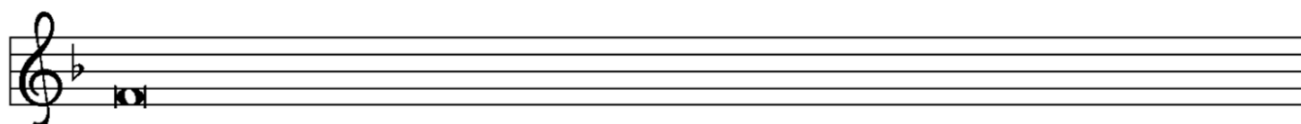
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



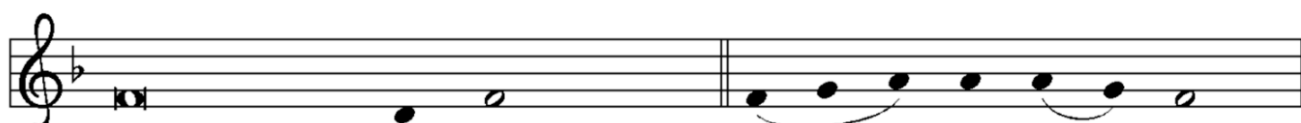
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



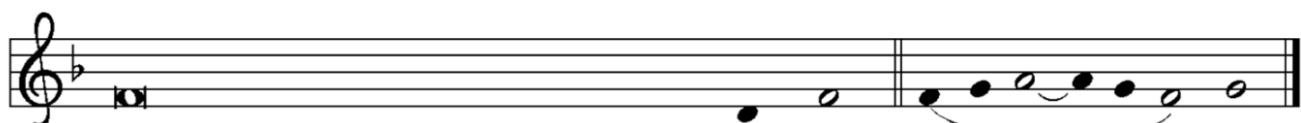
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



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



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE



Glory to God in the highest, 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.



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.



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.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Seed-planting, fish-netting, bread-baking, pearl-hunting God, you shape us into living parables. Pray with your Spirit in us so that we may understand our experiences as healing metaphors, and become creative and abundant stewards of the environment you entrusted to our love, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

+WORD+

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kris Stewart

FIRST READING

Genesis 29:15-28

Then Jacob's uncle Laban, whom he was living with and working for, said to him, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel, so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give

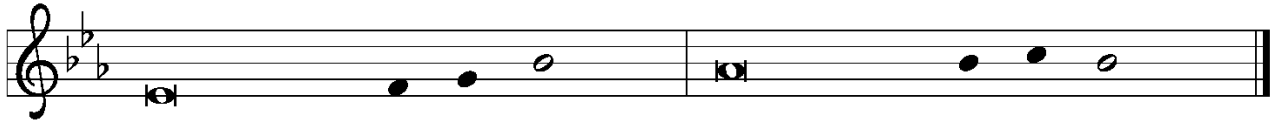
her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of his love for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" Laban said, "This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." Jacob did so and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 105:1-11, 45b



Give thanks to the Lord and call up- | on God's
name;

make known the deeds of
the Lord a- | mong the peoples.

**Sing to the | Lord, sing praises,
and speak of all God's | marvelous
works.**

Glory in God's | holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek
the | Lord rejoice.

**Search for the strength | of the Lord;
continually | seek God's face.**

Remember the marvels | God has done,
the wonders and the judgments | of God's
mouth,

**O offspring of Abra- | ham, God's servant,
O children of Jacob, God's | chosen
ones.**

The Lord | is our God,
whose judgments prevail in | all the world,
**who has always been mindful | of the
covenant,
the promise made for a
thousand | generations:**

the covenant I made with Abraham,
the oath I sworn to Isaac,
which God established as a statute for Jacob,
an everlasting covenant for Israel,
saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan
to be your allotted
inheritance." I Hallelujah!

SECOND READING

Romans 8:26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. For those whom God foreknew God also predestined to be conformed to the image of God, in order that the Son might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined God

also called, and those whom God called God also justified, and those whom God justified God also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? The one who did not withhold the very Son of God but gave him up for all of us, how will God not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;

we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than victorious through the one who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor

depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***HOLY GOSPEL**

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a person found and reburied; then the joy they go and sell all that he had and buy that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And Jesus said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

P: The Gospel of Our Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pr. Adrienne Meier

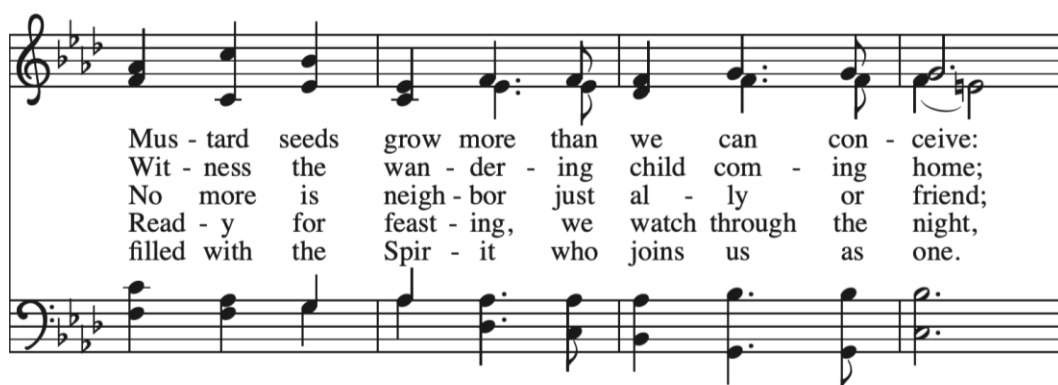
*HYMN OF THE DAY

What Is the World Like

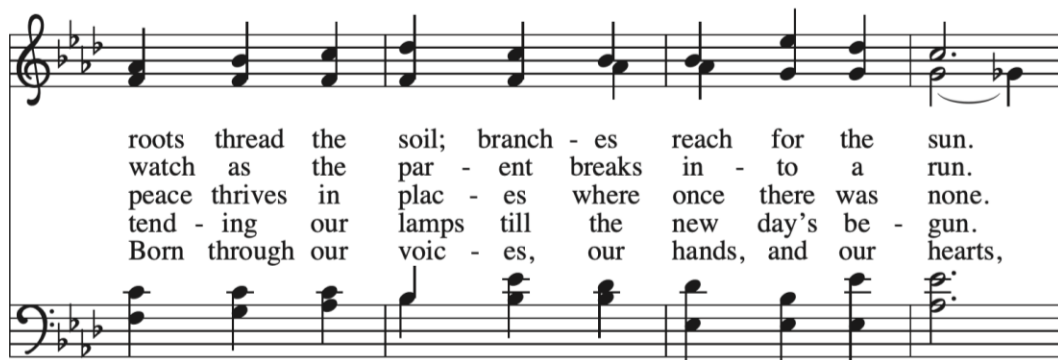
ACS#1047



1 What is the world like when God's will is done?
2 What is the world like when God's will is done?
3 What is the world like when God's will is done?
4 What is the world like when God's will is done?
5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im - parts,



Mus - tard seeds grow more than we can con - ceive:
Wit - ness the wan - der - ing child com - ing home;
No more is neigh - bor just al - ly or friend;
Read - y for feast - ing, we watch through the night,
filled with the Spir - it who joins us as one.



roots thread the soil; branch - es reach for the sun.
watch as the par - ent breaks in - to a run.
peace thrives in plac - es where once there was none.
tend - ing our lamps till the new day's be - gun.
Born through our voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,



This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.
This is how God longs for us when we roam.
This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.
This is how God read - ies us for the light.
this is a new world where God's will is done.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

Music: NEW WORLD, Sally Ann Morris, b. 1952

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***APOSTLES' CREED**

A: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**C: 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 THE CHURCH

A: Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A: God our wisdom, we ask that you guide bishops, those preparing for seminary, those awaiting call as deacons or pastors, and all who seek to lead your disciples. Encourage chaplains who offer pastoral care in hospitals, prisons, or hospice. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our breath, bring an end to raging wildfires and provide water to thirsty land. Purify the air where lingering smoke persists. Protect wildlife with places to rest safely. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our peace, open the hearts of civic leaders to hear all their peoples' stories with compassion and curiosity. Encourage civil servants who protect us as emergency responders, nurses, doctors, nurse's aides, and firefighters. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our healer, be near to all who live with chronic illness, mobility struggles, pain, and uncertainty. Comfort all who struggle to breathe, who depend on oxygen, whose conditions are exacerbated by poor air quality. We pray especially for Ethelyene, Sara, Scott, Helen, Bob, Leslie, Lynn, Dallis, Doug, Yvonne, Kent, and Mark. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our redeemer, may we trust your love above and beyond all else that distracts, annoys, frightens, exhausts, or divides us. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God who seeks, finds, and saves, we give you thanks for our community's part in the ongoing gift of creation, and for the riches of faith and hope in those who came before us and now live in your presence. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A: Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Share the peace with a wave, a bow, or maybe an elbow, checking in with your neighbor for whatever feels safe and conveys the spirit of peace and reconciliation this ritual intends.

OFFERING

*Please sign and pass the **Together In Community pads**. Make note of the names of your neighbors so you can introduce yourself after the service.*



*An offering is collected as a grateful response for all of God's gifts. Gifts support St. Thomas's mission of living, sharing, and celebrating God's grace with all people. A portion of our offerings support Lutheran Campus Ministries at IU/Rose House and many local, national, and international ministry partners. **You may place gifts in the offering plate as it reaches you or give on our website, stlconline.org (the QR code above on the right will direct you).***



Use the QR code on the left to add your volunteer hours to our 5000-hour challenge.

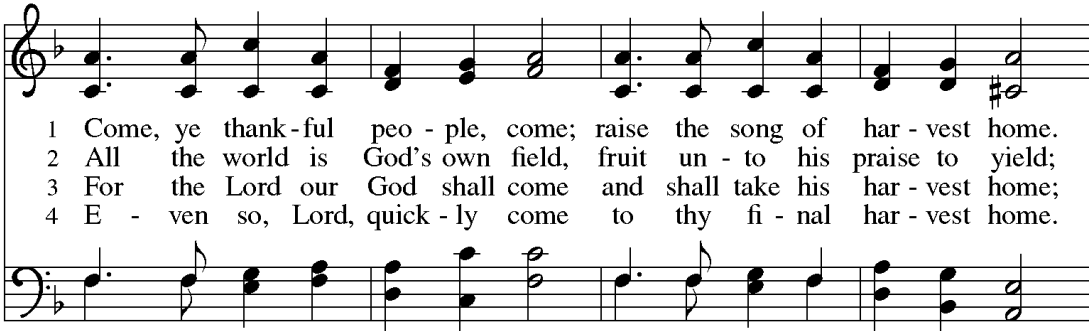
OFFERTORY

*OFFERTORY HYMN

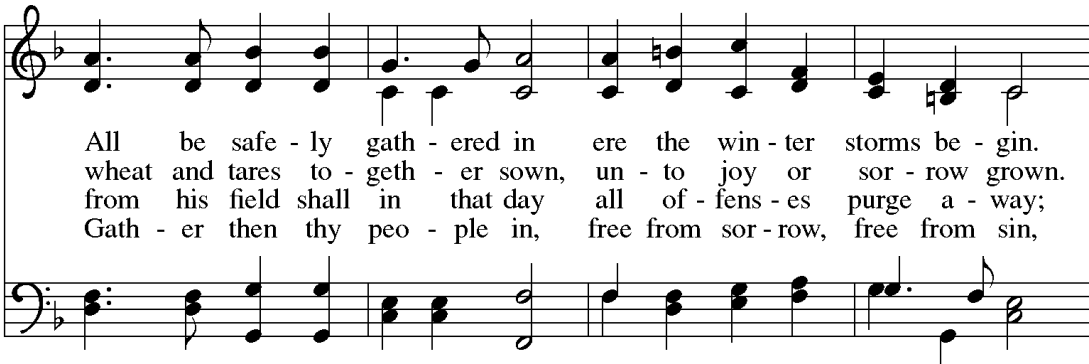
Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

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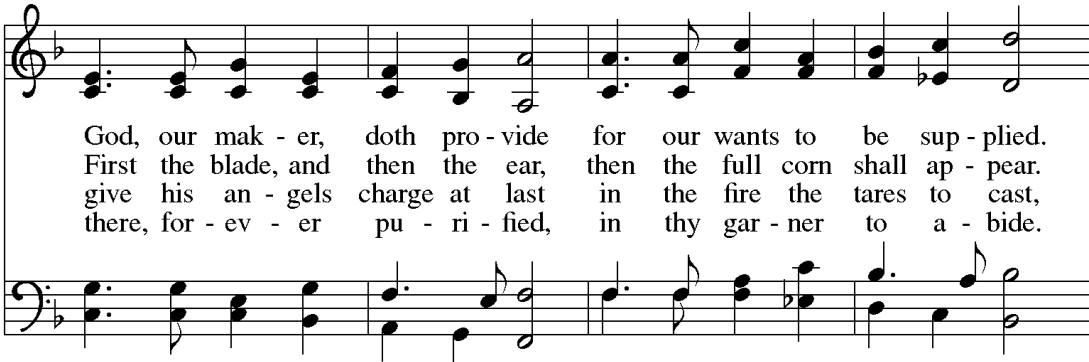
verse 4 only



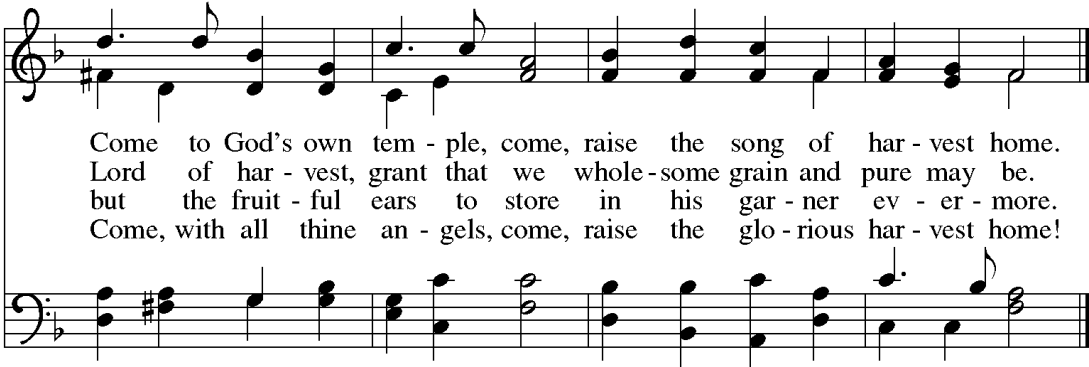
1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;
3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



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!

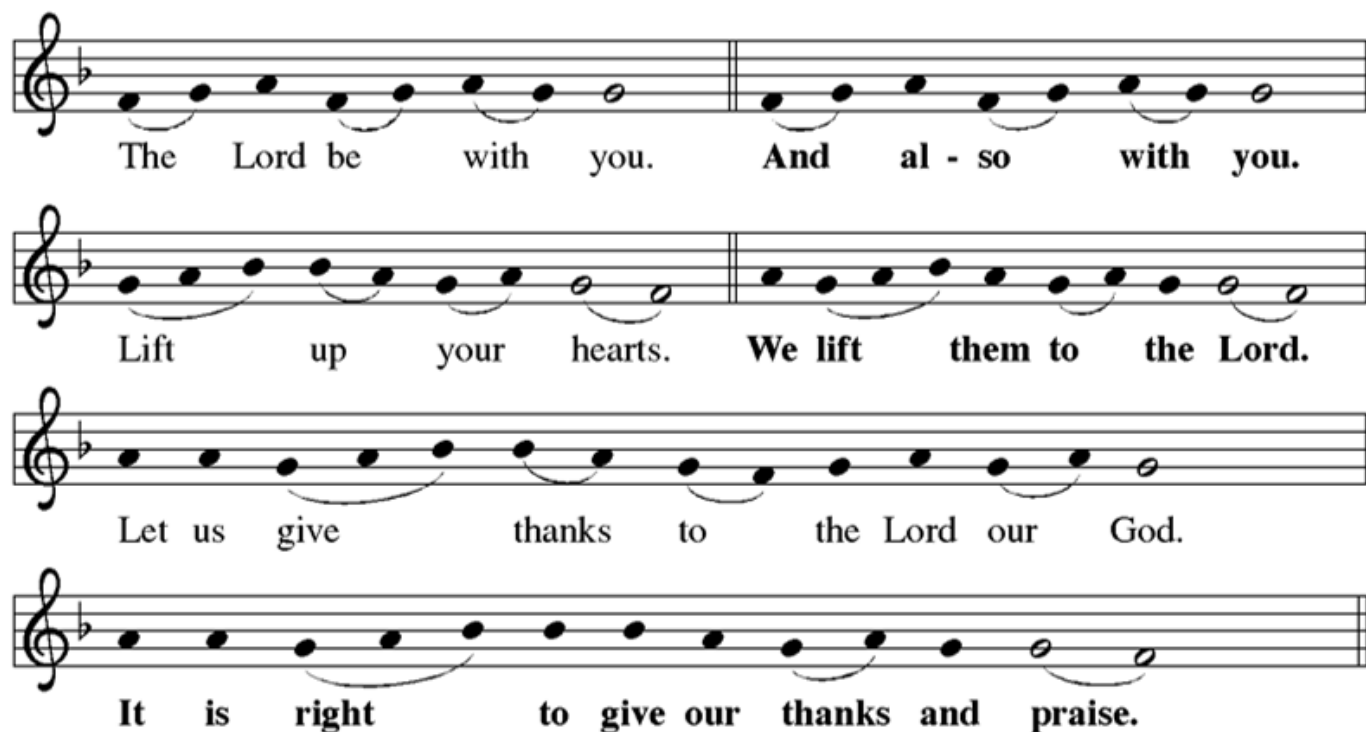
*OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray. God of light, who is in secret, receive our gifts, teach us to shelter the strangers we meet in the heat of day, and lead us into your Promised Land, bearing to Your altar the hope of our hearts, that in giving all we may receive all, and in losing our lives may save them, through Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

C: Amen.

+ MEAL +

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are mostly quarter notes and half notes, with some beamed eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words in bold. The first staff has a double bar line after the first phrase. The second staff also has a double bar line after the first phrase. The third and fourth staves end with double bar lines.

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.

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:



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. Blessed is the one who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: God, our life, our home, our road, over the generations, you called ordinary people to trust you in extraordinary ways, to follow you through barren and wilderness places, and, ultimately, to be recipients of overflowing blessing and grace.

P: You called Sarah and Abraham, Rebekah and Isaac, Esau and his spouse, Mahalath, Leah and Rachel with Jacob and with their slaves, Zilpah and Bilhah, Joseph and his siblings, Moses and Miriam and Aaron, together with their birth and adoptive mothers. When it seemed they might shatter under the weight of fate,
 or family conflict,
 or even faith in you,
you opened their eyes to wells in the desert,
you provided lavish hospitality, and you sent people of courage and grit to save and preserve your people.

P: Your saving work through the seemingly ordinary is amplified in Jesus, whose healing work wasn't for the great and powerful, but the least and lowly, whose call to follow came to unlikely fisherfolk and tax collectors, whose table spread to welcome thousands.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, he 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.

P: 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: And so we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Mighty God of mercy, by your Spirit, gather all who share the abundance of this bread and wine, so our lives together may be anything but ordinary. Make us a people who are faithful, resilient, and bold, a church that sets tables as wide as your grace, wonder sat your marvelous creation, and, anointed with your blessing, is a blessing to all the world.

P: To you, O God, God of our lives—past, present, and future, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

*Speak this prayer in your preferred language.
The pastor will continue when all versions are
complete. Norwegian is provided on the right.*

**C: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on Earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

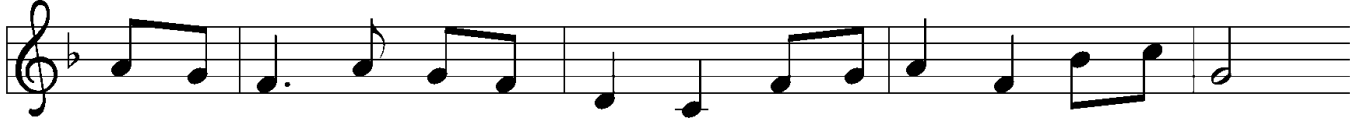
Vår Far i himmelen!
La navnet ditt helliges.
La riket ditt komme.
La viljen din skje på jorden slik som i
himmelen.
Gi oss i dag vårt daglige brød,
og tilgi oss vår skyld,
slik også vi tilgir våre skyldnere.
Og la oss ikke komme i fristelse,
men frels oss fra det onde.
For riket er ditt og makten og æren i evighet.
Amen.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

We believe that God is our host and that all people are welcome to this feast of grace, community, and forgiveness. Come forward at the direction of an usher, and receive bread or gluten-free wafer and wine in a common chalice or pink wine and red grape juice in individual cups. If you wish to receive a blessing, cross your arms over your chest.

AGNUS DEI



- 1 By your hand you feed your peo - ple, food of an - gels, heav-en's bread.
- 2 In this meal we taste your sweet-ness, bread for hun - ger, wine of peace.
- 3 Send us now with faith and cour - age to the hun - gry, lost, be - reaved.



For these gifts we did not la - bor, by your grace have we been fed:
Ho - ly word and ho - ly wis - dom sat - is - fy our deep - est needs.
In our liv - ing and our dy - ing, we be - come what we re - ceive:



Christ's own bod - y, blessed and bro - ken, cup o'er - flow - ing, life out - poured,



giv - en as a liv - ing to - ken of your world re - deemed, re - stored.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952

Music: CAMROSE, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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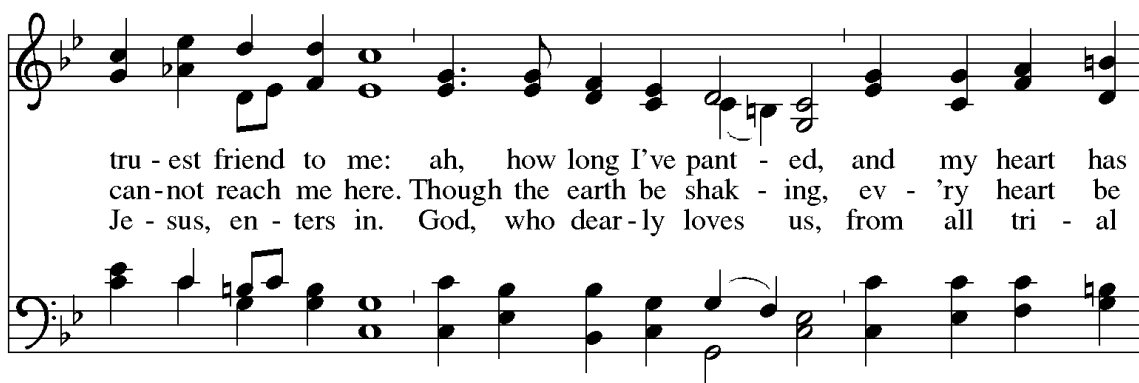
COMMUNION HYMNS

Jesus, Priceless Treasure

ELW#775



1 Je - sus, price-less trea - sure, source of pur - est plea - sure,
2 In thine arm I rest me; foes who would mo - lest me
3 Hence, all fears and sad - ness, for the Lord of glad - ness,



tru - est friend to me: ah, how long I've pant - ed, and my heart has
can-not reach me here. Though the earth be shak - ing, ev - 'ry heart be
Je - sus, en - ters in. God, who dear-ly loves us, from all tri - al



faint - ed, thirst - ing, Lord, for thee! Thine I am, O spot - less Lamb;
quak - ing, Je - sus calms my fear. Light-nings flash and thun - ders crash;
saves us, gives sweet peace with-in. I have borne this world - ly scorn;



no - thing in this world can hide thee, naught I ask be-side thee.
yet, though sin and hell as - sail me, Je - sus will not fail me.
still in thee lies pur - est plea - sure: Je - sus, price-less trea - sure!

All My Hope on God Is Founded

ELW #757



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, 1650-1690; para. Robert Bridges, 1844-1930, alt.

Music: Herbert Howells, 1892-1983

Music © 1968 Novello & Co. Ltd., London

MICHAEL
87 87 337

*EUCHARISTIC BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

C: Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray. God of life, whose body was broken for us, feed us every morning with the bread of heaven, that we may live by the Word that will not pass away, grow like lilies to be a blessing to our neighbors, and fall like sparrows, none apart from You, until we walk with You again in the evening breeze of the garden, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C: Amen.

+ SENDING +

***BENEDICTION**

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

C: Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

ELW#793



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

*DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

*We depart in peace to continue our worship
in lives of witness to Christ's love
in work, play, service, and care for creation.*

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Today's readings are selected from the Revised Common Lectionary. The texts for the scripture readings are from the *New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*, emendations are provided by the pastoral staff of St. Thomas in consultation with emendations provided for Augsburg Fortress by Gordon Lathrop and Gail Ramshaw.

The Confession and Forgiveness, Eucharistic Prayer, Offertory Prayer, Prayer after Communion, and Benediction were written by the St. Thomas Lutheran Church Writers' Guild, including Ian Bensberg, Janine Giordano Drake, Pamela Smith, and Pr. Adrienne Meier.

Prayer of the Day emended from Revised Common Lectionary Prayers © 2002 Consultation on Common Texts admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used with permission.

At A Glance: This Week at St. Thomas

Sunday July 26

8:30 a.m. Worship/Livestream Worship

11 a.m. Outdoor Worship in the Park

11:45 a.m. Potluck Lunch

Monday July 27

1 p.m. Pastor's Bible Study

Sunday August 2

Loaves and Fishes Collection

8:30 a.m. Worship/Livestream Worship

10:15 a.m. Worship

Collecting "Loaves and Fishes" Next Sunday, August 2

Return to school time for our youngest students coincides with the reading of the familiar story of Jesus and his disciples feeding five thousand with 5 loaves and 2 fishes. To mark this occasion the St. Thomas Mission Committee will be collecting foil packets or cans of fish and small packages of cornbread, biscuit, or muffin mixes. These items will be donated to Community Kitchen's Backpack Buddies program and Pantry 279's Food Bank. Items will be collected at church **Next Sunday, August 2 during both services.** Shop locally or through our Amazon wish list here:

<https://amzn.to/3T0v3jp>

Volunteer with your friends from St. Thomas at Pantry 279

For the summer months we will also be helping with Pantry 279's Children's Summer Supplemental Food Program. We will be taking the Pantry van to the Fayetteville Elementary School parking lot (223 Old Farm Rd, Bedford) on **Thursday afternoons through July from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.** to distribute weekly bags of child friendly food. This provides summer breakfast and lunch food to children who receive free breakfast and lunch at school during the school year. We need at least two volunteers per week to help with this program. Sign up sheets for volunteer opportunities can be found on the Welcome Desk. We also welcome food donations. There are collection shelves for the Pantry behind the welcome desk. If you have any questions about the programs, please contact the church office or Susan Kinzer for details.

Back to School Blessing

Next Sunday, August 2, we will bless all who return to school - students, teachers, administrators, and school staff. Stop in the narthex and create a backpack tag to remind them of this blessing through the year.

Prayers for those with health and safety concerns

Ethelyene Thomason, Sara Gore, Scott O'Reilly, Helen Kane, Bob Osborn, Leslie Main, Lynn Weddle, Dallis Fox-Nagal, Doug Bauder, Yvonne Leber, Kent Unger, and Mark Wilkes.

Contact the church office for inclusion in this list of concerns and to be included in the Sunday prayers.

A separate, confidential prayer chain is also available. Contact **Susan Colston** at skcolston@aol.com to join the prayer chain or make a request for prayer.

Today's Worship Leaders

Altar Care: Barb Unger, Rebekah Arnold,
Lydia Arnold

Prayer Writer: Mary Thomason-Smith

A/V Tech: Jim Ward

Assisting Minister: Kris Stewart

Lectors: Kathleen Boggess, April Armstrong

Ushers: Lynn & Ute Coyne

Communion Stewards: Barb Unger,
Kathleen Boggess

Greeters: Del & Letty Newkirk

Council Coordinator: Lynn Coyne

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Adult Choir Director
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Melissa de Graaf
Children's Choir Director

**St. Thomas Lutheran Church and LCM-IU
are Reconciling in Christ Ministries**

**We are a Christ-centered community that lives,
shares and celebrates God's grace with all people!**