



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2026



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!

As disciples of Christ who value the faith, gifts, and ministry of all God's people, and who seek justice, racial equity, and reconciliation, we welcome all God's children to an inclusive community. This welcome is extended without exception and regardless of sex, race, national origin, educational background, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, physical and mental ability, age, or economic condition.

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

MINISTRY MOMENT

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who pours love into our hearts and healing
upon the earth.

C: Amen.

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace
through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

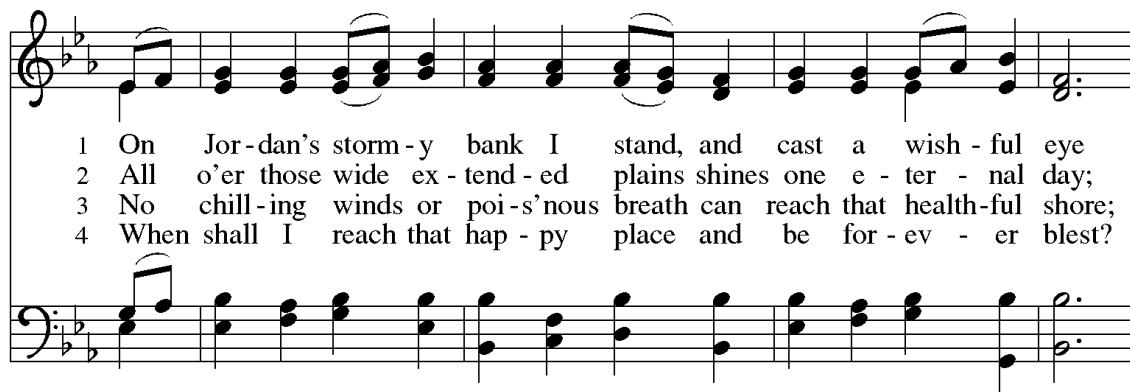
P: Compassionate God,
we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

P: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C: Amen.

*ENTRANCE HYMN

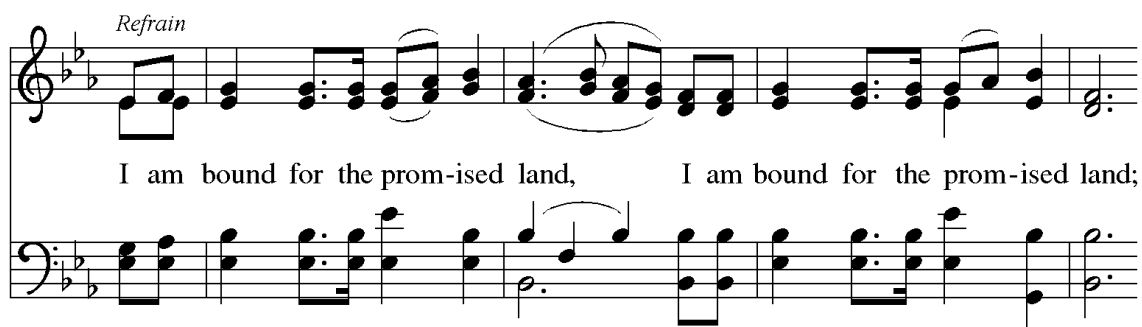
On Jordan's Stormy Bank I Stand ELW#437



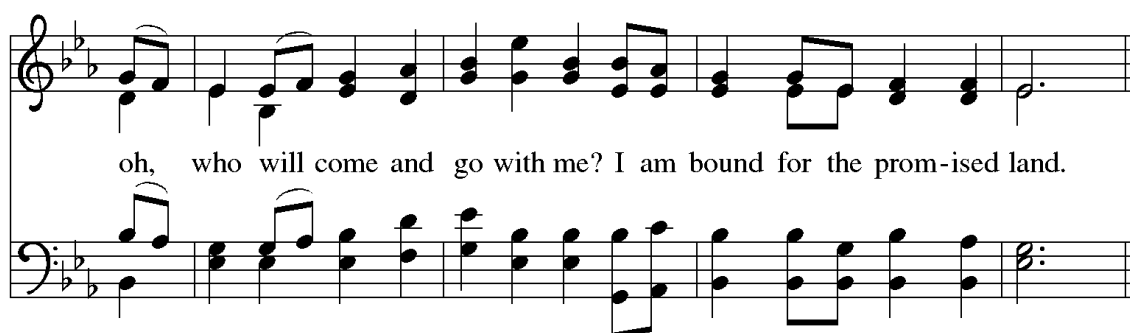
1 On Jor-dan's storm-y bank I stand, and cast a wish-ful eye
2 All o'er those wide ex-tend-ed plains shines one e-ter-nal day;
3 No chill-ing winds or poi-s'nous breath can reach that health-ful shore;
4 When shall I reach that hap-py place and be for-ev-er blest?



to Ca-naan's fair and hap-py land, where my pos-ses-sions lie.
there God the Son for-ev-er reigns and scat-ters night a-way.
sick-ness and sor-row, pain and death, are felt and feared no more.
When shall I see my Sav-ior's face and in God's bos-om rest?



Refrain
I am bound for the prom-ised land, I am bound for the prom-ised land;



oh, who will come and go with me? I am bound for the prom-ised land.

Text: Samuel Stennett, 1727-1795

Music: PROMISED LAND, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; adapt. Rigdon M. McIntosh, 1836-1899

*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 a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



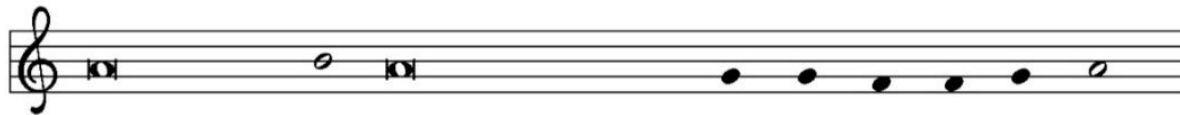
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 wor-ship and praise,



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



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

*HYMN OF PRAISE



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, who has the world be -
 2 O Fa - ther, for your lord - ship true we give you praise and
 3 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's
 4 O Ho - ly Spir - it, per - fect gift, who brings us con - so -



friend - ed; to us no harm shall now come nigh, the
 hon - or; we wor - ship you; we trust in you; we
 au - thor, re - deem - er of your wan - d'ring ones, and
 la - tion: to men and wom - en saved by Christ as -



strife at last is end - ed. God shows good - will to
 give you thanks for - ev - er. Your will is per - fect,
 source of all true plea - sure; O Lamb of God, O
 sure your in - spi - ra - tion. Through sick - ness, need, and



one and all, and peace when trou - bled sin - ners call. Thank
 and your might re - lent - less - ly con - firms the right; your
 Lord di - vine, con - form our lives to your de - sign, and
 bit - ter death, grant us your warm, life - giv - ing breath; our



God for grace and mer - cy!
 lord - ship is our bless - ing.
 on us all have mer - cy.
 lives are in your keep - ing. A - men.

Text: Nikolaus Decius, 1485–1550; tr. composite

Music: ALLEIN GOTT IN DER HÖH, plainsong; adapt. Nikolaus Decius

Text st. 1 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress; sts. 2–4 © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

+WORD+

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pr. Adrienne Meier

FIRST READING Exodus 14:19-31; 15:20-21

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. The

Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord, in the pillar of fire and cloud, looked down on the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into a panic. The Lord clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in Moses, the servant of the Lord.

Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand;

and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing.

And Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the Lord, who has triumphed gloriously; throwing horse and rider into the sea."

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 114



Hallelujah! When Israel came | out of Egypt,
the house of Jacob from a people | of
strange speech,

**Judah became God's | sanctuary
and Israel | God's dominion.**

The sea beheld | it and fled;
Jordan turned | and went back.
**The mountains | skipped like rams,
and the little hills | like young sheep.**
What ailed you, O sea, | that you fled,
O Jordan, that | you turned back,
**you mountains, that you | skipped like
rams,
you little hills | like young sheep?**
Tremble, O earth, at the presence | of
the Lord,
at the presence of the | God of Jacob,
**who turned the hard rock into a | pool of
water
and flint-stone into a | flowing spring.**

SECOND READING

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall.

And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your sibling? Or you, why do you despise your sibling? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,

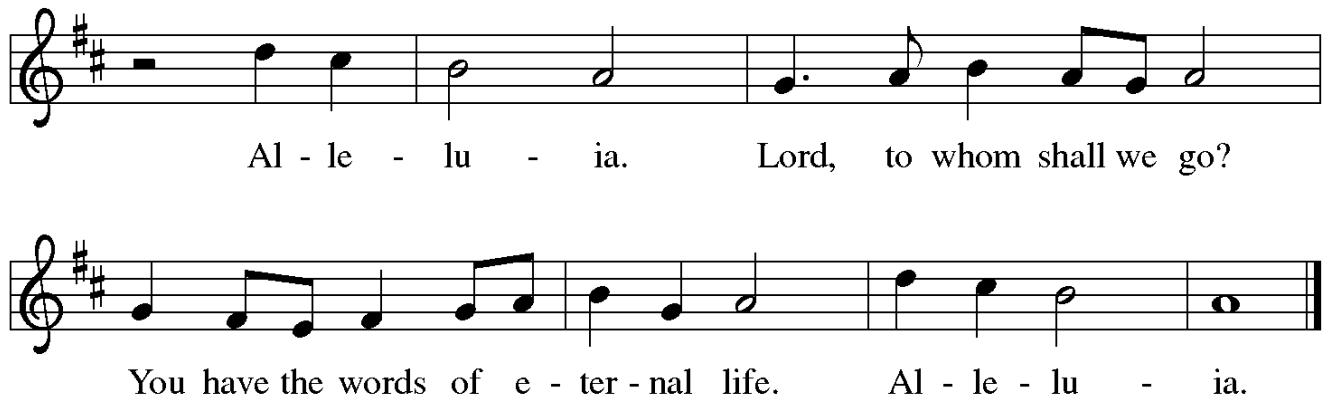
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

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.

***HOLY GOSPEL**

Matthew 18:21-35

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Peter came and said to [Jesus,] "Lord, if my sibling sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle

accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured

until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

P: The Gospel of Our Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

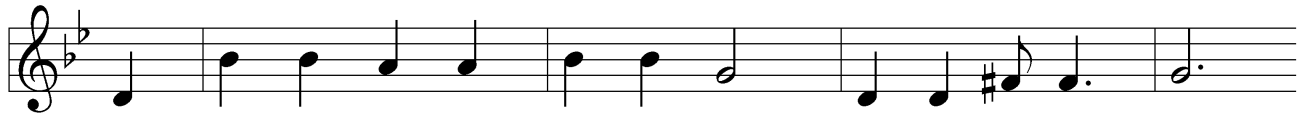
SERMON

Pr. Adrienne Meier



Honoring the Composers of
African American Spirituals
royalties paid to Sphinx Organization

*HYMN OF THE DAY When Israel Was in Egypt's Land



- 1 When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land,
2 The Lord told Mo - ses what to do, let my peo-ple go;
3 The pillar of cloud shall clear the way,
4 As Is - rael stood by the wa - ter - side,



op - pressed so hard they could not stand,
to lead the childr'n of Is - rael through, let my peo-ple go.
a fire by night, a shade by day,
at God's com-mand it did di - vide,



Refrain
Go down, Mo - ses, way down in E - gypt's land,



tell old Pha - raoh: Let my peo - ple go!

- 5 When they had reached the other shore,
let my people go;
they sang the song of triumph o'er,
let my people go. *Refrain*
- 6 Oh, let us all from bondage flee,
let my people go;
and let us all in Christ be free,
let my people go. *Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual
Music: TUBMAN, African American spiritual

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING OF TEACHERS

P: *A reading from Ephesians.* I pray that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through God's Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (*Eph. 3:16-19*)

P: Siblings in Christ, you have volunteered your time, your energy, and your gifts to the children, youth, and family ministries of this congregation. Will you offer your giftedness to this ministry in the confidence that it comes from God?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

P: Will you carry out this ministry centered in Christ's call, striving to trust God as your guide and inspiration?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

P: Will you trust in God's care, seek to grow in love for those you serve, strive for excellence in your skills, and honor the gospel with a faithful life?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

P: I now ask you, people of St. Thomas Lutheran Church: Will you today renew your commitment to our youngest siblings, our children and youth who look to you for guidance, support, and examples of righteous living?

C: We will, and we ask God to help us.

Will you claim these gifted people as those called by God to help carry out our congregation's ministry to children, youth, and families? Will you support them and enthusiastically celebrate the work they do?

C: We will, and we ask God to help us.

Will you pray for these leaders and the young people they serve, celebrating our children and youth as the ones Jesus blessed and welcomed?

C: We will, and we ask God to help us.

P: Let us pray. Gracious God, for Jesus' sake, empower these ministers to care for the young ones in our family of faith. Help them to teach faithfully, lead patiently, and guide confidently. Stir up in these servants the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, who has given you the gifts and the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

C: Amen.

P: On behalf of St. Thomas, we now commission you for ministry, grateful for your gifts and your willingness to serve.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

A: Christ our friend, we praise you for the gift of the Church. Inspire ministers, deacons, musicians, and artists. Give them holy messages of hope. Bear fruits of hope in their preaching, singing, painting, writing, weaving, and artistry of endless kinds. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We praise you for the endless beauty of your creation. Thank you for this fruitful season; for poplars and persimmons; for goldfinches and gourds. Bless the harvest and the harvesters. Enrich the soil and scatter the seeds. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We praise you for togetherness that is peaceful. Where discord is dominant, let harmony quietly emerge. Motivate our local and national leaders to act for the greater good, to lift the oppressed, and to free the unjustly accused. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We praise you for your compassion in suffering. Encourage those in rehabilitation, in senior living facilities, in treatment for addiction, and in Hospice care. Remember your children who are hurting, especially Drew, Del, Kristin, Helen, Bob, Leslie, Dallis, Doug, Yvonne, Kent, and Mark. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We praise you for befriending us. Companion us with friends to whom we can joyously belong—young and old, new and longtime; friends at school, at work, and at home. Bond us through laughter, honesty, and vulnerability. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We praise you for your presence at our beginning and at our end. Gently carry the dying into your eternal light, that they may drink from the spring of the river of new life. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

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.

8:30 a.m. only

ORGAN OFFERTORY

Matthew Benkert

11 a.m. only

CHORAL ANTHEM

With a Voice of Singing

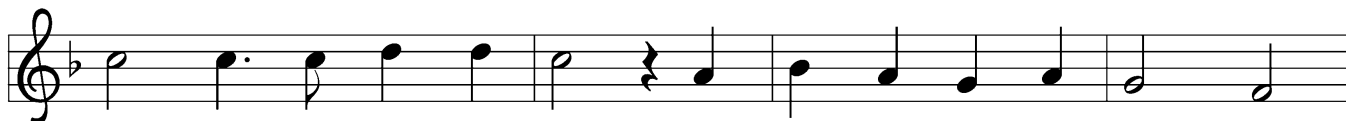
Martin Shaw

*OFFERTORY HYMN

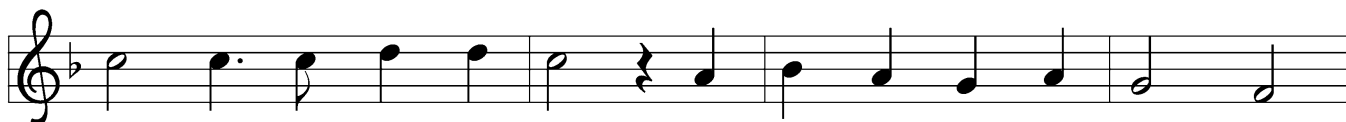
Now Thank We All Our God

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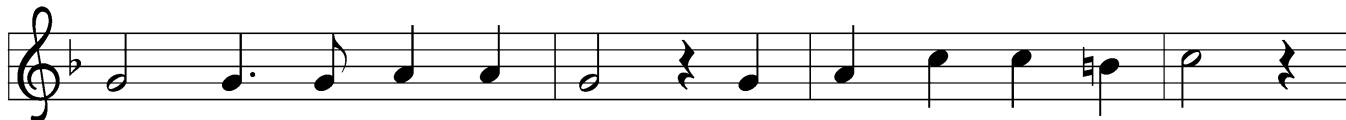
verse 3 only



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 blest 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.

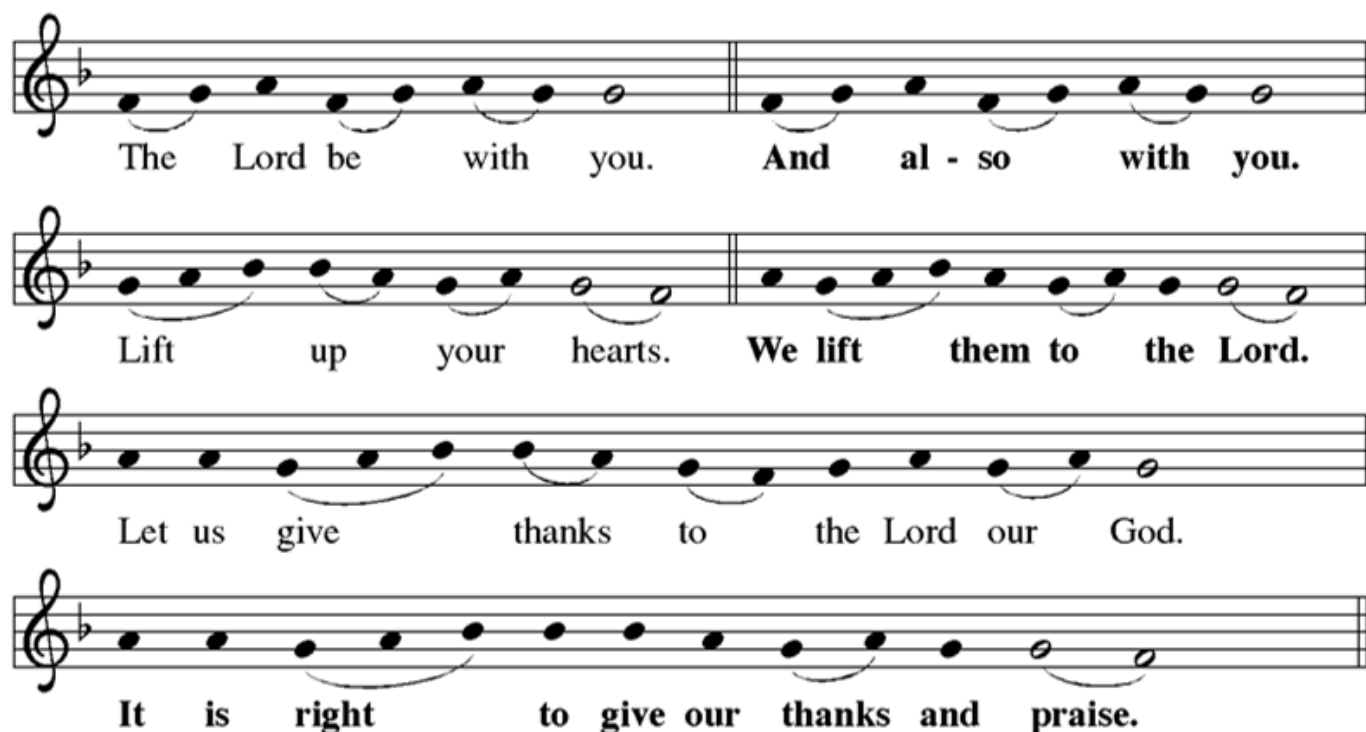
*OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray. God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

C: Amen.

+ MEAL +

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The musical notation is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple, using quarter and eighth notes with slurs. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words split across lines. 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 do not have double bar lines.

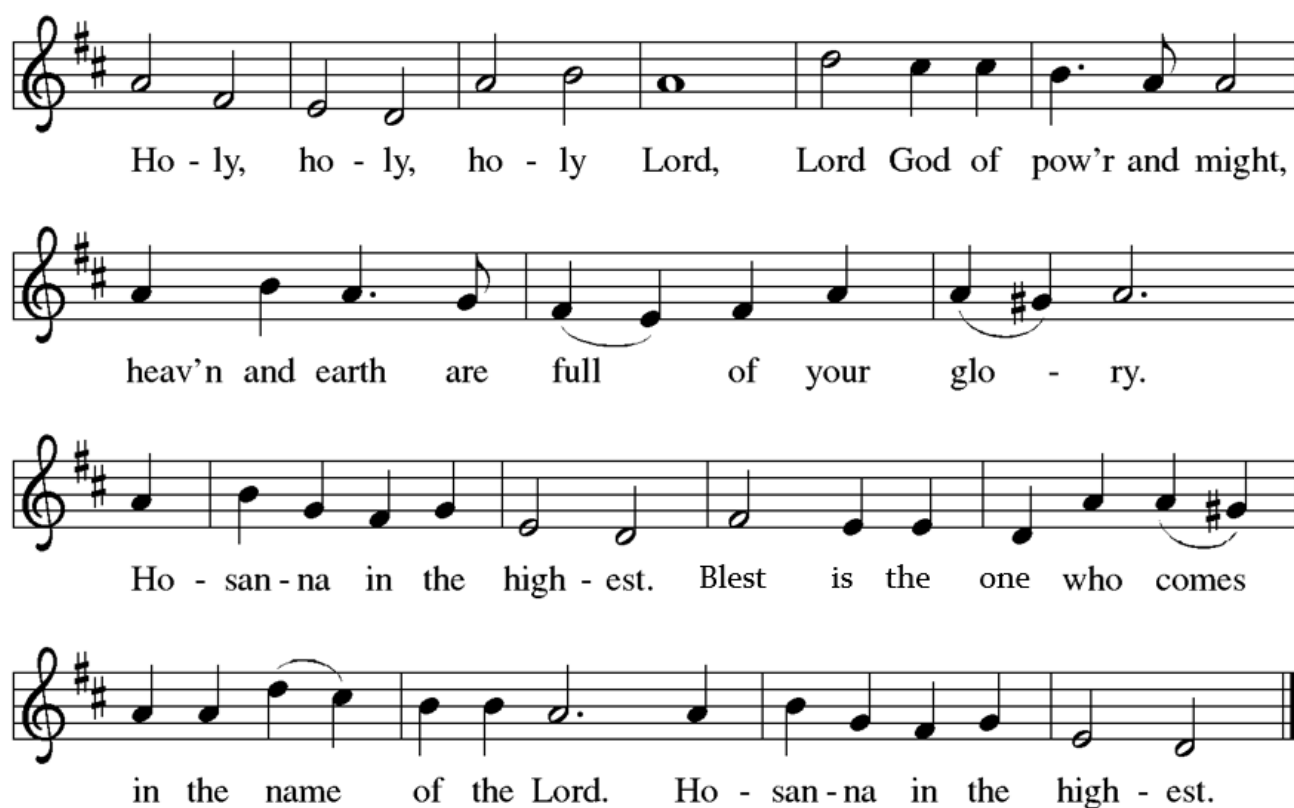
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Blest is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**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.**

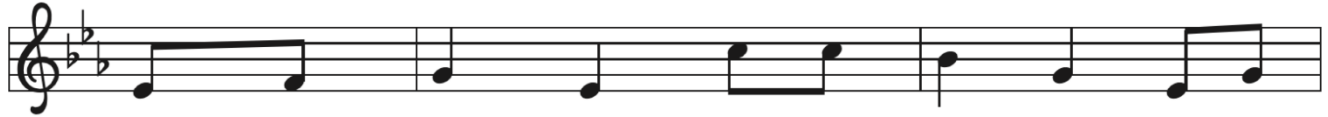
Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo,
santificado sea tu nombre.
Venga tu reino.
Hágase tu voluntad
en la tierra como en el cielo.
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.
Perdona nuestras ofensas
como también nosotros
perdonamos a los
que nos ofenden.
No nos dejes caer en tentación
y líbranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es
el poder y tuya es la gloria,
ahora y siempre. Amén.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

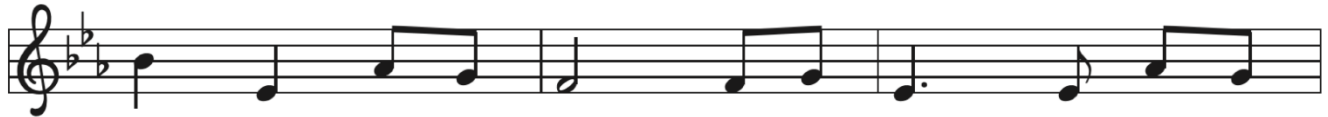
P: Christ invites you to this table. All who are
thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

*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 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the
2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a



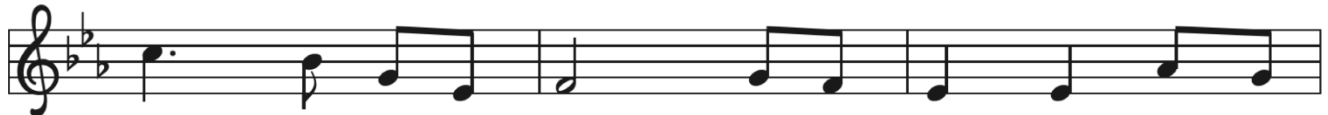
Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from
qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you



heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.
gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.



By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

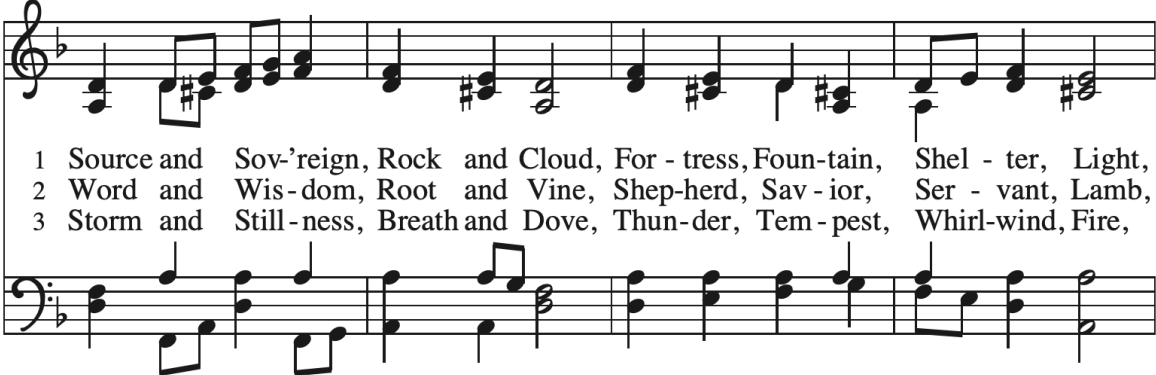
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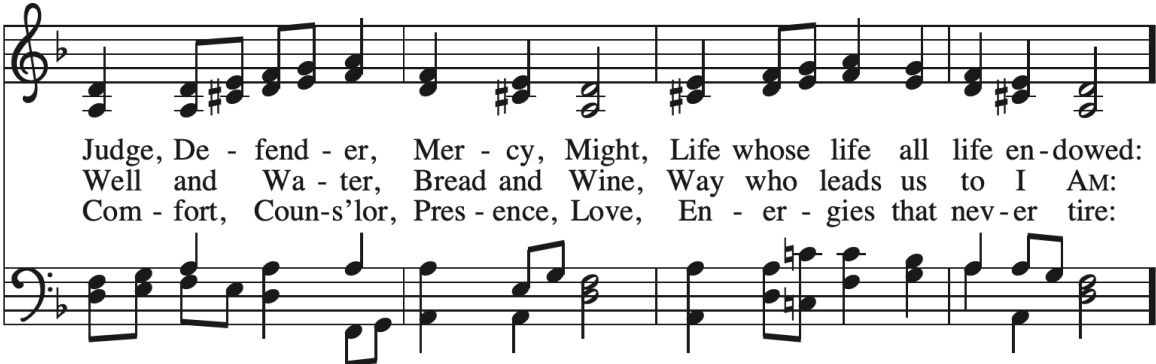
COMMUNION HYMNS

Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud

ACS#947

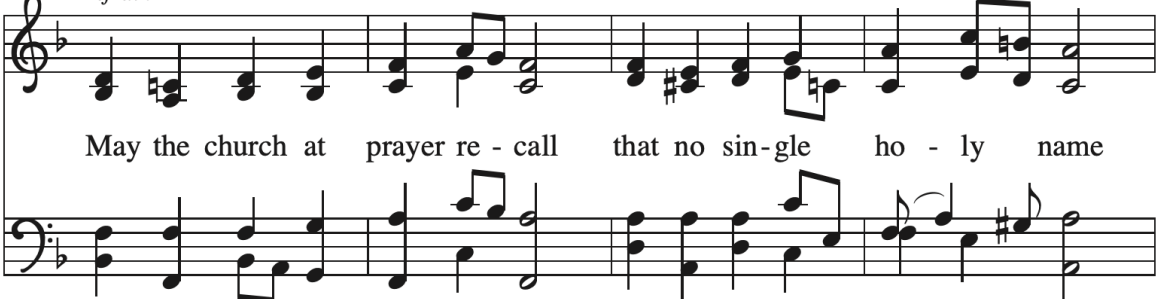


1 Source and Sov'-reign, Rock and Cloud, For - tress, Foun-tain, Shel - ter, Light,
2 Word and Wis-dom, Root and Vine, Shep-herd, Sav - ior, Ser - vant, Lamb,
3 Storm and Still-ness, Breath and Dove, Thun-der, Tem - pest, Whirl-wind, Fire,



Judge, De - fend - er, Mer - cy, Might, Life whose life all life en-dowed:
Well and Wa - ter, Bread and Wine, Way who leads us to I AM:
Com - fort, Coun-s'lor, Pres - ence, Love, En - er - gies that nev - er tire:

Refrain



May the church at prayer re - call that no sin-gle ho - ly name



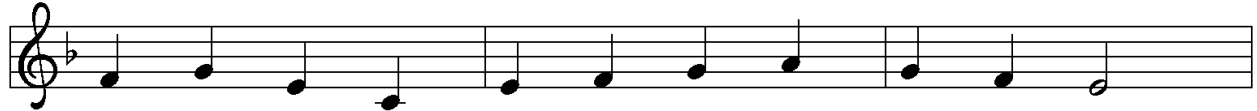
but the truth be - hind them all is the God whom we pro - claim.

Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing

ELW #544



1 Praise the Lord, rise up re - joic - ing, wor - ship, thanks, de -
2 Scat - tered flock, one shep - herd shar - ing, lost and lone - ly,
3 Sins for - giv - en, wrongs for - giv - ing, we go forth a -



vo - tion voic - ing: glo - ry be to God on high!
one voice hear - ing, ears at - ten - tive to your word;
lert and liv - ing in your Spir - it, strong and free.



Christ, your cross and pas - sion shar - ing, by this eu - cha -
by your blood new life re - ceiv - ing, in your bod - y,
Part - ners in your new cre - a - tion, seek - ing peace in



rist de - clar - ing yours the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
firm be - liev - ing, we are yours, and you the Lord.
ev - 'ry na - tion, may we faith - ful fol - l'wers be.

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902–1983, alt.
Music: ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN, Johann Löhner, 1645–1705, adapt.
Text © Oxford University Press.

*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. Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C: Amen.

+ SENDING +

*BENEDICTION

P: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

P: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

Through the Red Sea Brought at Last

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment line. Chord symbols are placed above the vocal line. The lyrics are in English and German. The first system covers the first two lines of the hymn. The second system covers the next two lines. The third system covers the final line and the concluding phrase. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Chord symbols: D, A, Bm, A, D, G, D, Asus, A, D, D, A, Bm, C#m7(b5), F#, Bm7, Asus, A, D, A, D, B, E, A, D, A/C#, Esus, E, A, G, Bm7, Asus, A, D.

Lyrics:

1 Through the Red Sea brought at last, al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Like the cloud that ov - er - head, al - le - lu - ia!
 3 In that cloud and in that sea, al - le - lu - ia!

E - gypt's chains be - hind we cast, al - le - lu - ia!
 Through the bil - lows Is - rael led, al - le - lu - ia!
 Bur - ied and bap - tized were we, al - le - lu - ia!

Deep and wide flows the tide sev - ering us from
 By his tomb Christ makes room, souls re - stor - ing
 Earth - ly night brought us light, which is ours e -

bond - age past, al - le - lu - ia!
 from the dead, al - le - lu - ia!
 ter - nal - ly, al - le - lu - ia!

Chord symbols represent a simplified harmony.

Words: Ronald A. Knox (1888-1957), P.D.

Music (STRAF MICH NICHT 7.4.7.4.6.7.4): *Straf mich nicht*, melody from *Hundert Arien*, 1694, P.D.

*DISMISSAL

A: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

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.

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At A Glance: This Week at St. Thomas

Sunday September 13

8:30 a.m. Worship/Livestream Worship
9:30 a.m. LuMin Grab & Go Lunch
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
9:45 a.m. Adult Forum
11 a.m. Worship
12 p.m. LuMin Grab & Go Lunch

Monday September 14

10:15 a.m. Worship at Redbud Hills
1 p.m. Pastor's Bible Study

Tuesday September 15

1:30 p.m. Altar Guild Meeting
7 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting

Thursday September 17

7 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

Sunday September 20

8:30 a.m. Worship/Livestream Worship
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
9:45 a.m. Adult Forum
11 a.m. Worship
12:15 p.m. Council Meeting

Announcements

LuMin Grab and Go Lunch Today!

Free grab and go lunches are available for students **after each service today** in the library. Students are invited to fill a bag with snacks and treats of your choice and stick around as long as you like for conversation.

Sunday School Starts Today!

We're kicking off the year with brunch, games, and conversation for kids and parents between services in Community Hall. There will be faith formation opportunities for all ages, toddlers to adults every week between worship services. Contact our Sunday School coordinator, Leah Iversen, with any questions.

Youth Ministry Kick-Off Picnic

Youth in grades 5 through 12 and their families are invited for a taco bar and lawn games at the Gentry Estate Pavillion on **Sunday, September 27, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.** Bring a taco topping to share and plan to pick up a fall youth ministry schedule.

Welcome Table Lunch Packing

Saturday, September 26, 10 a.m. — YOU are invited to come help pack 110 lunch bags for the hungry people who gather at First Christian Church on Sundays. All ages are welcome. The task is usually done within an hour. We also will need home baked items to put in the bags. A Thrivent Action Team Grant purchases the materials. If you would like to sponsor a packing with a grant, please connect with Allison Ward. See the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Desk for both bakers (helping ahead of time) and packers (helping on the day).

St. Thomas at Spencer Pride, Saturday, October 3, 12 p.m. to 7 p.m.

See the sign-up sheet on the Welcome Desk to staff our congregation's table at a fun, family-friendly festival on the courthouse square in Spencer.

October Music Revue!

On **Sunday, October 4 at 4 p.m.**, all are welcome to enjoy an informal concert featuring the St. Thomas music staff, volunteers, and friends in the worship space. Come support our talented musicians as they play and sing a variety of musical styles! There will be a free will offering at the door to support the Worship & the Arts Program.

Pie with the Pastor

Wondering how you become a bigger part of St. Thomas?
Curious about membership?

Join us **Sunday, September 27 at 3 p.m. in Community Hall for Pie with the**

Pastor—a relaxed gathering with *actual pie* and good conversation. Pastor Adrienne will share about next steps you can take, including membership, and hear your stories, questions, and hopes. Whether you're ready to join or still exploring, you are welcome. The ministries of this church are for everyone—but becoming a member is a way to help shape where we're headed, together.



60+ Group September Events

Tuesday, September 22, 11 a.m. A talk by Julie Mauder from Area 10 on Aging, at St Thomas.

Wednesday, September 23, 3 p.m. Singing Circle in Heritage Hall. Join Pamela and Eliot Smith, and Mike and Debbie Witt for an hour of singing hymns and favorite songs.

Saturday, September 26 at 12 p.m. IU Field Hockey game at Deborah Tobias Field. No ticket required.

Tuesday, September 29 at 7 p.m. Join Kari and David Esarey at the IU Cinema for a showing of the silent classic Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Tickets are \$5.00 and are available online or at the door.

Prayers for those with health and safety concerns

Drew Carman, Del Newkirk, Kristin Vann, Helen Kane, Bob Osborn, Leslie Main, 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.

The altar flowers are given
by the Altar Guild
in honor of Mary Sasse
and her many years of service on the altar guild.

Today's Worship Leaders

Altar Care: Carol Seaman, Nancy Nye

Bread & Wine: Carol Seaman

Flowers: Gail Seegert

Coffee Crew: Larry & Mary Moore,
Kathleen Boggess

Prayer Writer: Mary Thomason-Smith

A/V Tech: Andrew Rhoda

8:30 a.m. Service

Assisting Minister: Allison Ward

Lectors: April Armstrong, Kari Esarey

Ushers: Lynn & Ute Coyne

Communion Stewards: Carol Seaman,
Ian Bensberg

Greeters: Kari Esarey, Mary Sasse

Council Coordinator: Carol Seaman

11 a.m. Service

Assisting Minister: Tim Smith

Lectors: Amanda Ghaffarian, Dean Arnold

Ushers: Brock De-Mark &
Savannah Hadley-DeMark

Communion Stewards: Mary Thomason-Smith,
Amanda Ghaffarian

Greeters: Randy & Nancy Nye

Council Coordinator: Dean Arnold

ST. THOMAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Bloomington, Indiana 47401
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Phone: (812) 332-5252
stlconline.org

Partners in ministry with
**Lutheran Church of
the Living Waters**
Cherokee, North Carolina

Linked with
Sister Parish
Iglesia Santo Domingo
de Guzman, Chichipate
Parish of San Pedro, El Estor,
Izabal, Guatemala

In covenant with
**Lutheran Campus Ministry
at Indiana University**
Rev. Amanda Ghaffarian,
Campus Pastor
lutheran@iu.edu
Phone: (812) 333-2474
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Rev. Adrienne Meier
Senior Pastor
pastor@stlconline.org

Erica Whichello
Parish Administrator
parishadmin@stlconline.org

Matthew Benkert
Director of Music and Organist
directorofmusic@stlconline.org

Ben Wegner
Adult Choir Director
choir@stlconline.org

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!**