

# Faith Lutheran Church

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10:00am Worship Service • Sunday, September 10, 2023 • 14th Sunday After Pentecost

## PRELUDE

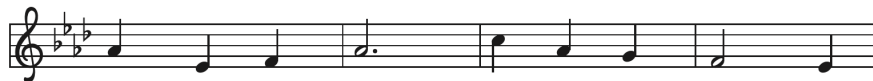
*Please stand as you are able.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP (sung 3 times)

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true; with thanksgiving,  
I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

## HYMN OF PRAISE:

### God's Work, Our Hands



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,  
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,  
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,  
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,  
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,  
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,  
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,  
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,  
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,  
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.  
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.  
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.  
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,  
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922-1987  
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*Please be seated.*

## **PASTORAL WELCOME**

*Faith's Mission is to preach, teach, and share God's love in Christ.*

### **BLESSING OF TEACHERS**

**P** I now ask you, people of Faith Lutheran Church and School: Will you today renew your commitment to our youngest brothers and sisters, 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.**

**P** People of Faith Lutheran Church and School: 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.**

**P** 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.**

*People in the assembly may raise their hands in blessing as the presiding minister continues.*

**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 Faith Lutheran Church and School, we now commission you for ministry, grateful for your gifts and your willingness to serve.

### **BLESSING OF BACKPACKS AND STUDENTS**

**P** For the marvels of your creation,

**C** **we praise you, O God.**

**P** For the opportunity to explore and study,

**C** **we praise you, O God.**

**P** For those who guide us, teachers and mentors,

**C** **we praise you, O God.**

**P** Teach us your ways and guide us in your path, for you are the creator of all that is seen and unseen.

**C** **Amen.**

### **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.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen**

### **FIRST LESSON: EZEKIEL 33:7-11**

**A** The First Lesson is from the 33rd chapter of Ezekiel.

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God**

### **PSALM 119 (Sung responsively)**

Teach me, O Lord, the way | of your statutes,  
and I shall keep it | to the end.

**Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your teaching;  
I shall keep it with | all my heart.**

Lead me in the path of | your commandments,  
for that is | my desire.

**Incline my heart to | your decrees  
and not to | unjust gain.**

Turn my eyes from be- | holding falsehood;  
give me life | in your way.

**Fulfill your promise | to your servant,  
which is for | those who fear you.**

<sup>9</sup>Turn away the reproach | that I dread,  
because your judg- | ments are good.

**Behold, I long for | your commandments;  
by your righteousness en- | liven me.**

### **SECOND LESSON: Romans 12:9-21**

**A** The Second Lesson is from the 12th chapter of Romans.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

- A The word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**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.

**GOSPEL**  
**Matthew 18:15-20**

- P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
- C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*You may be seated*

**SERMON**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**Hymn of the Day:** *Where Charity and Love Prevail* ELW 359

*You may be seated.*

**FAITH MISSION MOMENT & GOD SIGHTINGS**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

*A brief silence. You may speak petitions aloud or in the silence of your heart.*

We pray for the ministry of Faith Lutheran Church and School, and for your Church around the world....

Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for your good creation.... Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

We pray for leaders of our nation and around the world.... Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

We pray for those who are sick, grieving, or otherwise in special need of your care; those we name aloud and in the silence of our hearts... Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for the joys and blessings we have experienced this week... Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you all. **And also with you.**

## OFFERING

*please stand as you are able*

### OFFERING PRAYER

**God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

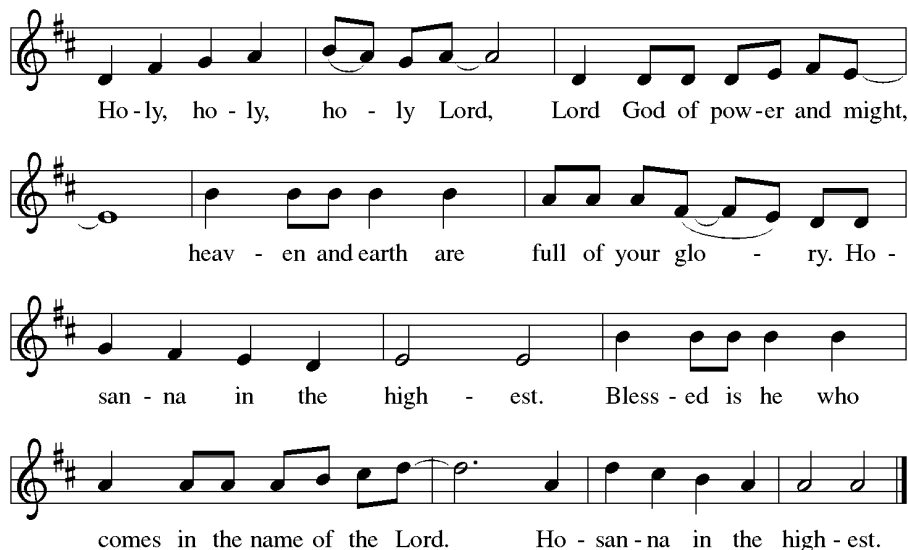
C **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and salutary...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-  
san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

C **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**

*You may be seated.*

## HOLY COMMUNION

### LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Please stand as you are able.*

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

C **Amen.**

### BLESSING

P The God of glory, + Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

C **Amen**

**Sending Song:** *Jesus Loves Me* ELW 595

### DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. God is at work in you!

C **Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE