



TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST AUGUST 15 / 16, 2026

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

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 **YouTube**
bit.ly/SJyoutube

Today's service is televised locally

Channel 14 - Comcast: Monday at 6:00 p.m. & Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. & Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

Channel 3 - Nuvera: Mondays at 6:00 p.m. & Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. & Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 15/16, 2026

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: God, we know that we aren't worthy to ask for any blessings. But trusting in your grace, we plead with you for your help. You give us the greatest help we need in your Son, Jesus, who secured our salvation by his work. Now, help us to pray boldly knowing that you will only answer in a way that is for our eternal good. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Service Setting 4

OPENING HYMN *In Christ There Is No East or West* CW 860

- 1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.
- 2 With God there is no tribe or race; in him we all are one.
He loves us as his children through our faith in his dear Son.
- 3 So, brothers, sisters, praise his name who died to set us free
from sin, division, hate, and blame, from spite and enmity!
- 4 Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be;
who serves my Father as his child is surely kin to me.
- 5 In Christ now meet both east and west; in him meet south and north.
All Christian souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

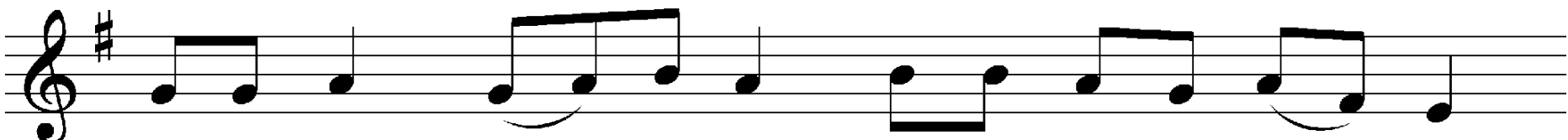
Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

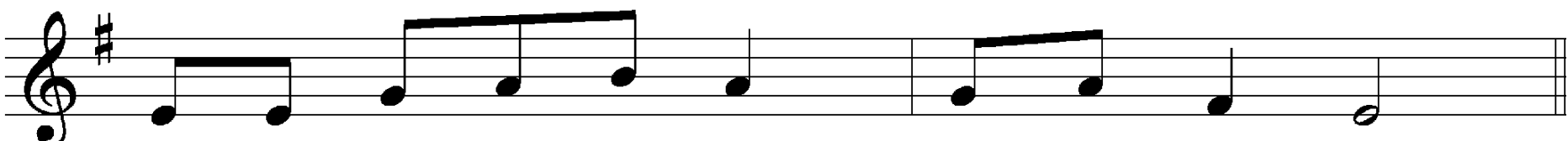
LORD HAVE MERCY



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



For the peace from a - bove and for our sal - va - tion,



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

For the peace of the whole world, for the well - be - ing

of the Church of God, and for the un - i - ty of all,

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

For this ho - ly house and for all who of - fer here their

wor - ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, com-fort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. **A - men.**

GLORY TO GOD

Glo-ry to God in the high - est and peace to his 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. Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his

peo - ple on earth. 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

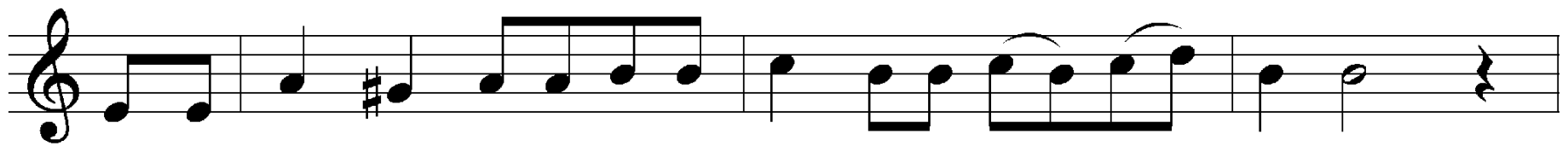
us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the

Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.

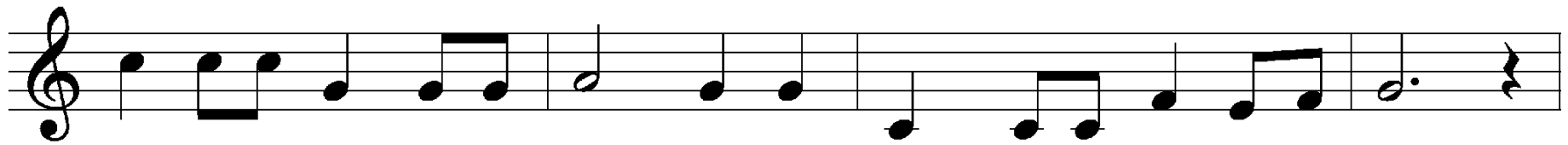
Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on

earth. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

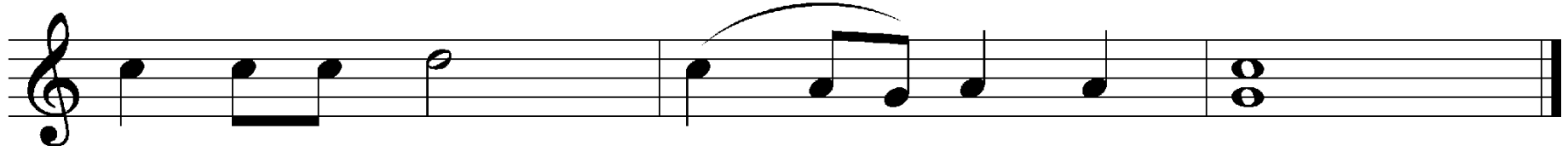
Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,



with the Ho - ly Spir-it in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Gracious God, in Christ you bring people from near and far into the fellowship of your church. Open our eyes to your saving plan, and move us to embrace all who seek your salvation so that we may rejoice together at the banquet of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 56:1,6-8

¹ This is what the LORD says: “Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed. ⁶ And foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant— ⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.” ⁸ The Sovereign LORD declares— he who gathers the exiles of Israel: “I will gather still others to them besides those already gathered.”

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 67D

Let the People Praise You, O God

Refrain

Let the peo - ple praise you, O God, let all the peo - ple praise you.

Tone

May God be gracious to us and / bless us
and make his face / shine on us—
so that your ways may be / known on earth,
your salvation among all / nations.
May the peoples / praise you, God;
may all the peoples / praise you.
May the nations be glad and / sing for joy,
for you rule the peoples with equity and guide the nations / of the
earth. *Refrain*

The land yields its / harvest;
God, our God, / blesses us.
May God / bless us still,
so that all the ends of the earth will / fear him.
Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 2:13-22

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came

and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

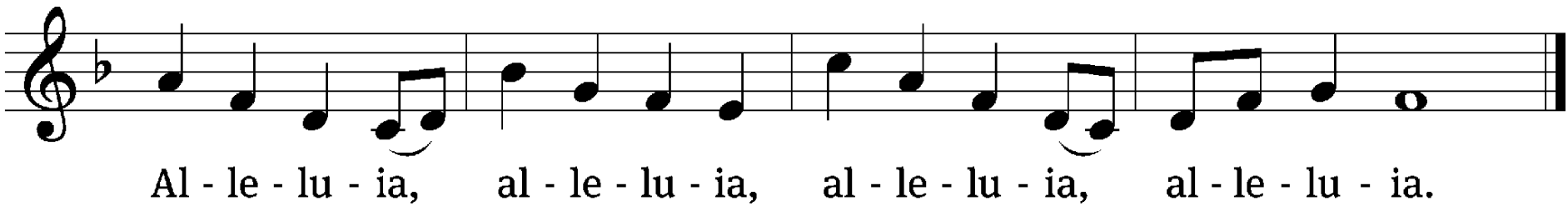
¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

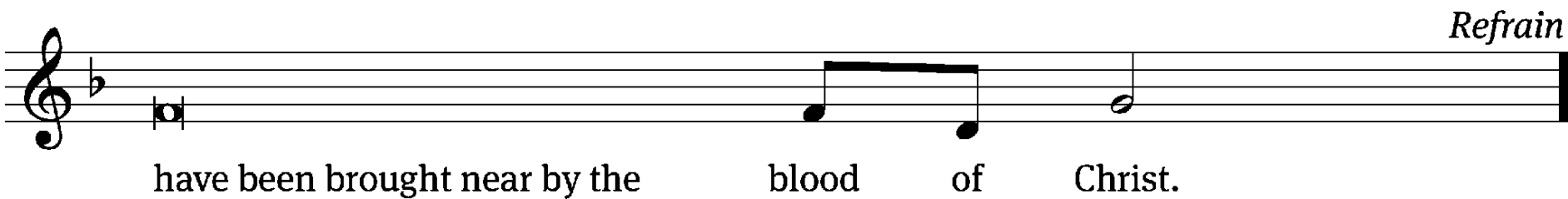
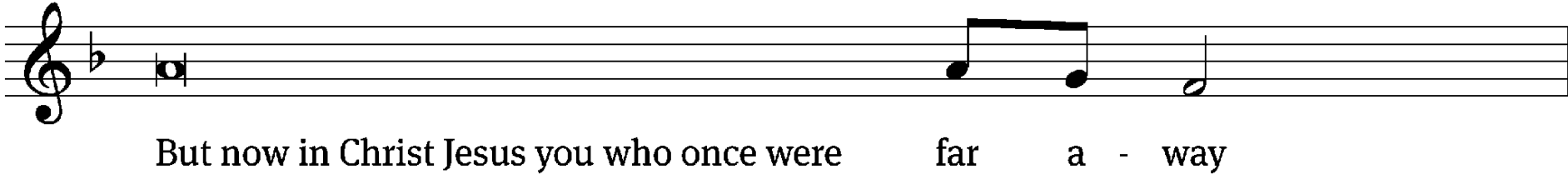
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Refrain



Tone



GOSPEL Matthew 15:21-28

²¹ Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon.
²² A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.”
²³ Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.”
²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.”
²⁵ The woman came and knelt before him. “Lord, help me!” she said.

²⁶ He replied, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.”

²⁷ “Yes it is, Lord,” she said. “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.”

²⁸ Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed at that moment.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY *The Church’s One Foundation* CW 855

- 1 The Church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the Word.
From heav’n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
- 2 Elect from ev’ry nation, yet one o’er all the earth;
her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with ev’ry grace endued.
- 3 The Church shall never perish. Her dear Lord, to defend,
to guide, sustain, and cherish, is with her to the end.
Tho’ there be those that hate her and strive to see her fail,
against both foe and traitor she ever shall prevail.
- 4 Tho’ with a scornful wonder the world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, “How long?”
and soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.
- 5 Mid toil and tribulation and tumult of her war
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
and the great Church victorious shall be the Church at rest.

SERMON

You Are God’s Dogs

Matthew 15:21-28

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity.

Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

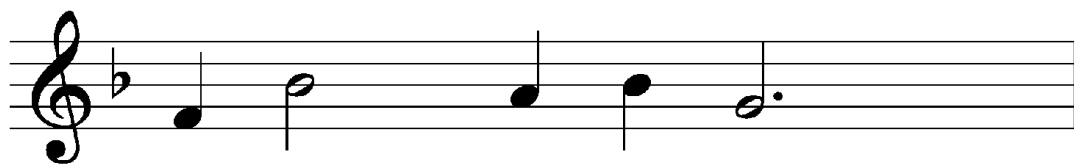
Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

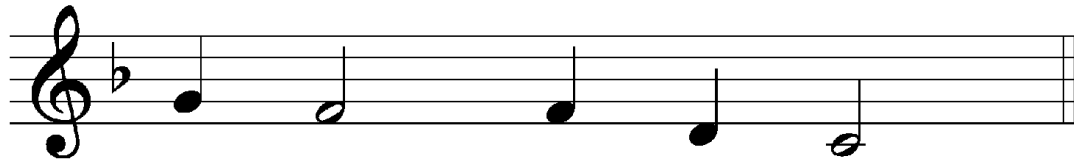
Amen.

OFFERING

THE SACRAMENT



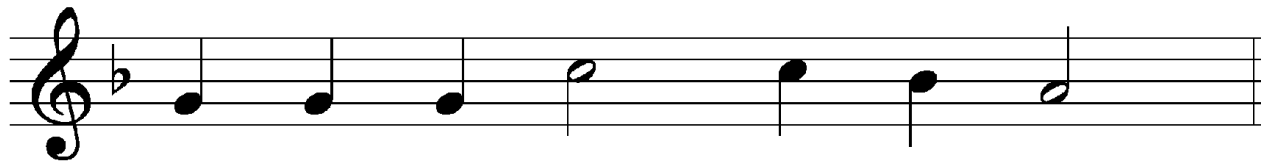
The Lord be with you.



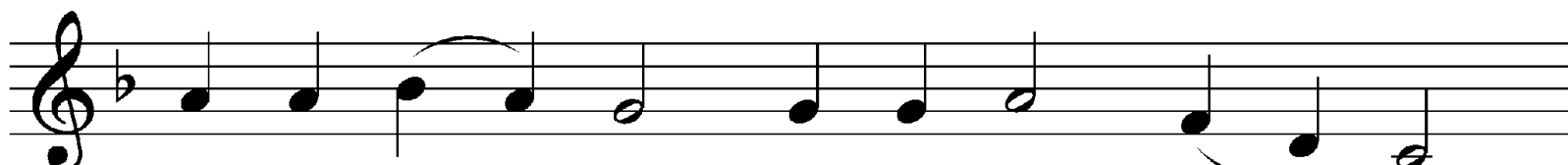
And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er, God of might.

Heav'n 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, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil’s power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ’s body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

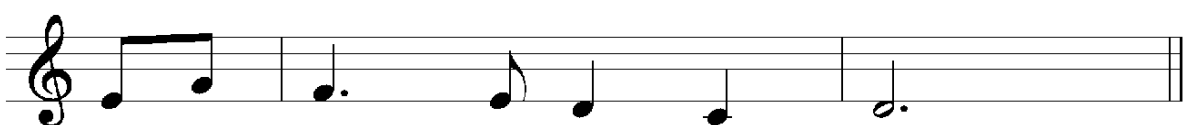
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my ✝ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

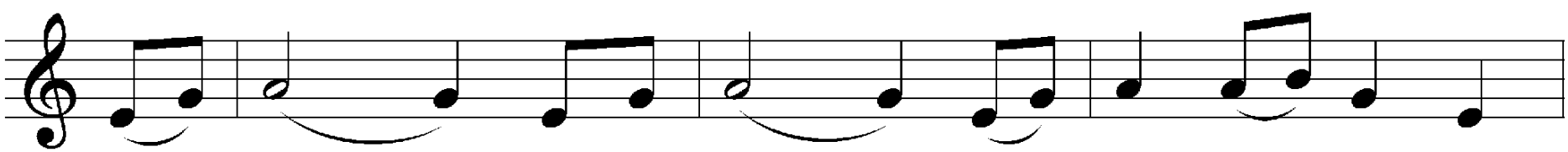
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my ✝ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

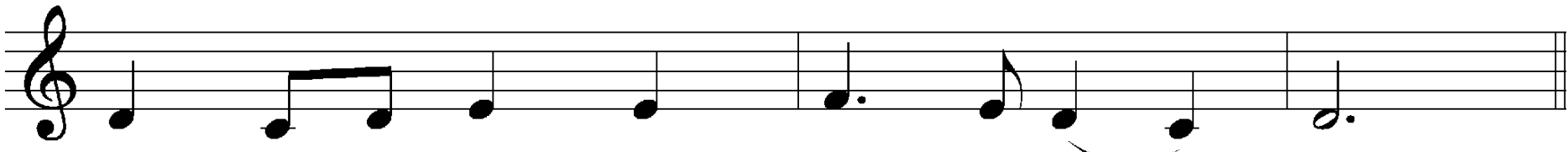
LAMB OF GOD



O Christ, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the



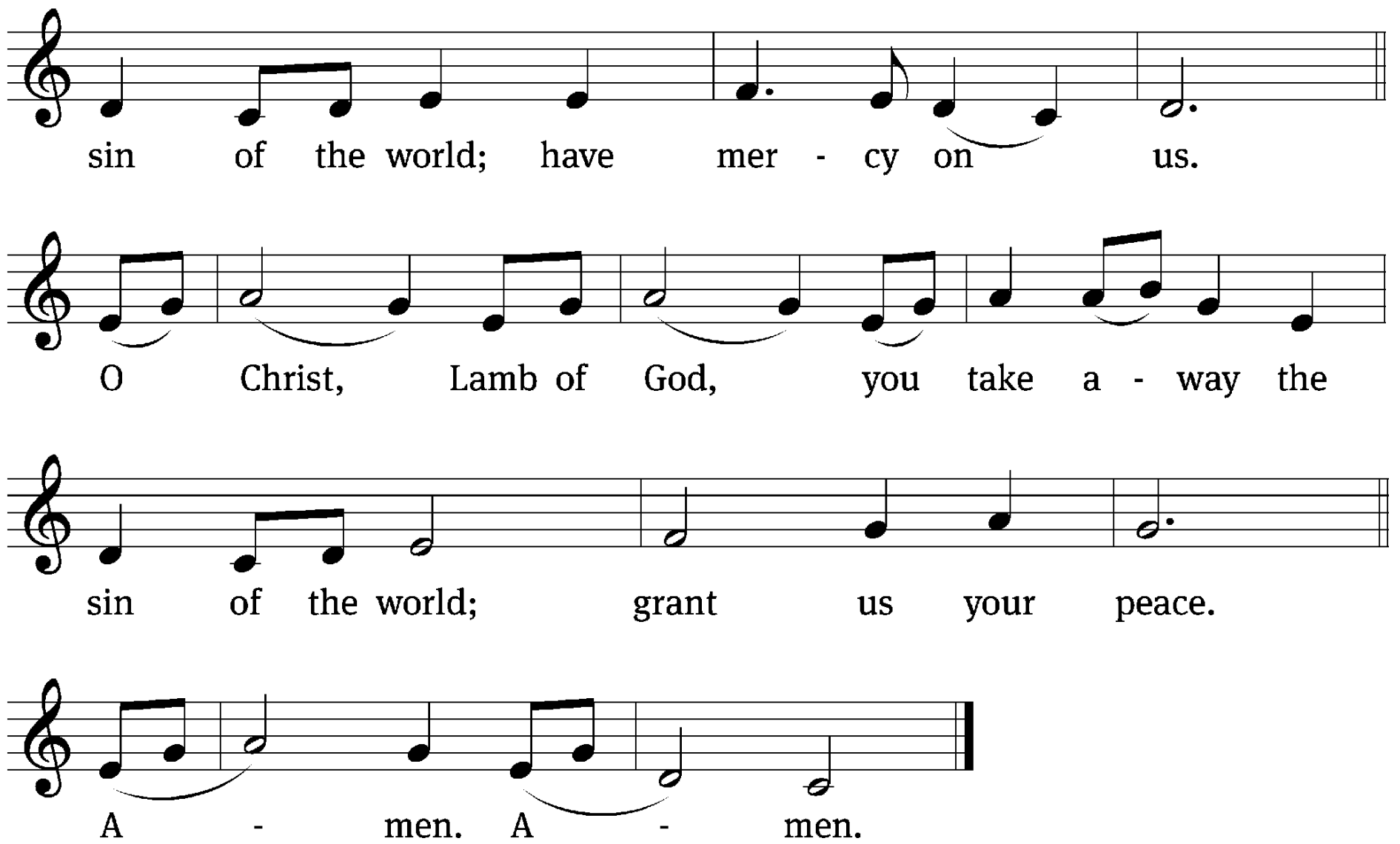
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the



DISTRIBUTION HYMN *I Come, O Savior, to Your Table* CW 670

- 1 I come, O Savior, to your table,
for weak and weary is my soul;
O Jesus, you alone are able
to satisfy and make me whole. (Refrain)
- Refrain Lord, may your body and your blood
be for my soul the highest good.
- 2 O grant that I in manner worthy
may eat and drink and be restored,
and, dwelling on your boundless mercy,
look only unto you, O Lord. (Refrain)
- 3 I should not be your sheep, dear Savior;
I stray in sin’s accursed terrain.
And yet you pardon my behavior;
my faithful Shepherd you remain. (Refrain)
- 4 O let me loathe all sin forever
as death and poison to my soul,
that I through willful sinning never
may see your judgment take its toll! (Refrain)

- 5 Your holy heart has one obsession,
one blessed thing it burns to do—
to cleanse the sinner from transgression;
so I, a sinner, come to you. (Refrain)
- 6 My soul is burdened; Lord, relieve me,
by all this weight of sin oppressed!
Though sinful, yet, in grace receive me
and feed me as your grateful guest. (Refrain)
- 7 Within me, Lord, your vision traces
a heart of deep humility
that mourns its sin and yet embraces
the merit you have earned for me. (Refrain)
- 8 By faith I call your holy table
the testament of your deep love,
for by your gift I now am able
to know the heart of God above. (Refrain)
- 9 This meal with blessing is abounding:
to poor ones wealth, to weak ones pow'r,
to angels joy, to hell confounding,
and life for me in death's dark hour. (Refrain)
- 10 My heart has now become your dwelling,
O blessed, holy Trinity.
With angels I, your praises telling,
shall live in joy eternally. (Refrain)

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
Amen.

PREACHER	Pastor Rob Guenther
PRESIDING MINISTER	Pastor Jeff Bovee
ORGANIST	Jon Roux

Acknowledgments

Setting Four from Christian Worship
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THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN’S

Sunday	8 & 9:30 am	Worship
	11 am	Bible Class
	2 pm	Worship Committee Meeting
	3:30 pm	Youth group
	5 pm	Church Picnic
Tuesday	7 pm	Council Meeting
Saturday	8 am	Properties Meeting
	6:30 pm	Worship

NEXT WEEK AT ST. JOHN’S

Fall Schedule Begins

Sunday, Aug. 23	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
Saturday, Aug. 29	6:30 pm	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance last weekend was 339.

Fruits of Faith:

\$10,528 Home Operations ~ Needed: \$551,341 / YTD: \$564,277

\$1,469 WELS Missions ~ YTD: \$56,044 (2026 Goal: \$100,701)

\$727 MVL ~ YTD: \$36,406 (2026 Goal: \$62,278)

\$370 Building Fund

\$125 St. Paul’s School Building Fund

\$30 K-12 Tuition Assistance Fund

\$30 LWMS



Givelify Scan the
QR code to use the
Givelify app and
donate your offering.

2026 Church Picnic ~ Join us on Sunday, August 16th at 5:00 PM for our annual church picnic at Hermann Heights, where we have both shelters reserved. The church will provide the hot dogs, buns, condiments, paperware, and water. Because this is a potluck-style meal, please bring a side dish or dessert to share, as well as any alternative beverages you might prefer. Most importantly, we encourage you to bring a friend! This is a relaxed, welcoming opportunity to introduce your neighbors and loved ones to our church family.

7th Street Doors ~ The 7th Street doors are now "Exit Only". This entrance will remain locked during the week and during worship services on weekends. Worshippers can still exit through these doors. Please use the Washington St entrances to gain entry for worship services. Thank you for helping keep our campus safe for all who work, volunteer, and worship at St. John's!

Sunday School Teachers Needed ~ Sunday School is scheduled to begin on Sunday, September 13 at 9:30 a.m. St. John's is looking for Sunday School teachers. It has always been our practice to have more than one teacher per class so that teachers do not have to teach every week. We also can always use substitutes if that is something you might be interested in doing from time to time. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Bovee by email, text, or phone: revbovee@gmail.com or 507-217-6364. You may also call the church office, but Pastor Bovee's personal cell number is preferable. Thanks!

Ask the Pastor ~ Come to the next “Ask the Pastor” evening and bring a friend! We have really enjoyed listening to and learning from the pastors' responses in the past events we have had! Bring your questions that evening or place your questions in the box on the table in the narthex area. There is a sign-up sheet next to the box to help us plan for refreshments. Hope to see you there!

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Job Openings at MLC ~ Part-time Dormitory Custodians: Enjoy flexible scheduling while caring for the place that our students call home during their time at MLC. Part-time Receptionist: Be the welcoming first point of contact for students, visitors, and the MLC community while providing excellent service, assisting with daily office operations, and extending Christian hospitality.

Sound of Music at the Orpheum ~ WELS and ELS members are invited to join MLC students on Wed, Oct 21 (7:30) for Rodgers & Hammerstein's beloved musical, The Sound of Music, at Minneapolis' historic Orpheum Theatre. Tickets are \$55 for Mid-balcony or \$60 for lower orchestra (\$5 off all tickets purchased by Aug 28). Deluxe motorcoach transportation is available for \$30, with boarding in New Ulm, St. Peter, or Shakopee. Learn more or reserve your seats at bit.ly/FWT_SOM or visit fathersworldtours.com.

Travel with WELS Groups ~ Father's World Tours is partnering with WELS Home Missions to offer two upcoming trips, and we'd love to have you along. Cool Canyons (Nov 7-19) takes us to see some of the Southwest U.S.'s most stunning scenery, including the Mighty Five national parks in Utah, the Grand Canyon, and much more. We'll also worship with and tour our Apache missions in Peridot and East Fork, along with a home mission in St George, UT. Flora and Fauna of Florida (Jan 23-Feb 7, 2027) offers a two-week midwinter warmup to the Sunshine State as well as an Eastern Caribbean Cruise aboard the Sky Princess. We will again connect with our missions and missionaries in the area while enjoying encounters with wildlife (gators, manatee, and maybe monkeys), gorgeous gardens, and fabulous fellowship. Learn more at www.fathersworldtours.com or call Steve at 507-217-1731.

About the Cover ~ A Canaanite woman begged Jesus to help her demon-possessed daughter. Jesus called her a dog. But he wasn't insulting her. He was testing her faith. And she passed the test with flying colors. She remained persistent and Jesus gave her what she asked for. May we be so bold as to pray to God for the help that we need, trusting that he will always give us what is best.