

Be opened



**Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Plano, Texas**

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

3601 W. 15th Street, Plano, Texas 75075

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Our Mission Statement

Bring people into a living relationship with Jesus Christ by

† reaching up to God in worship and prayer,

† reaching in to be empowered by God's Word as members of His family &

† reaching out at every opportunity with the Gospel of Christ.

A Prayer before Worship

Almighty, ever-living God, grant that I may gladly hear Thy Word and that all my worship may be acceptable unto Thee; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen

Large Print Bulletin and Children's Bulletin

Copies of today's bulletin are available in LARGE PRINT. Children's Activity Bulletins are also available. Please ask an usher if you would like to use either of these options.

Nursery/Cry Room

The nursery is available for families with young children ages 2 and under in Room 109. It will not be staffed until further notice. Or, if you prefer, Room 100 also is available as a cry room and/or a room for nursing mothers. Please ask an usher if you need assistance or directions.

For Those Desiring Holy Communion, Please Read:

"Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself." 1Corinthians 11:27-29

Being admonished to receive Christ's Body and Blood in a worthy manner, let us prepare our hearts for reception of this sacrament by privately answering the following:

1. Do I believe that I am a sinful person without hope of eternal life except for God's mercy in Christ?
2. Do I believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and my Savior?
3. Do I believe that He is present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion with His Body and Blood?
4. Do I hope by the power of the Holy Spirit to live a godly life?

AS YOU COME TO THE LORD'S SUPPER you are affirming with each communicant that Jesus is your Savior and Lord, that you believe His Body and Blood are present, and that you desire to serve Him as a disciple in the fellowship of His church. If you are not an active member of an LCMS congregation, please speak with the Pastor before communing.

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 5, 2021

8:00 AM and 10:45 AM

Divine Service I – *LSB 151*

Prelude

Stand

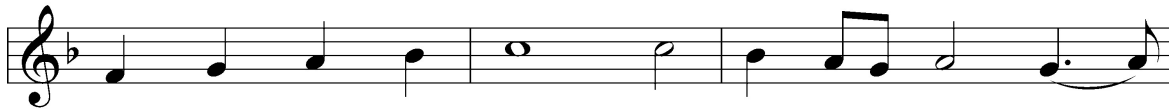
Entrance Hymn

“O Son of God, in Galilee”

LSB 841



1 O Son of God, in Gal - i - lee You
2 O lis - ten to the si - lent prayer Of
3 The speech - less tongue, the life - less ear You
4 Mean - while to them the lis - t'ning ear Of
5 Then in Your prom - ised hap - py land Each



made the deaf to hear, The mute to speak, the
Your af - flict - ed ones. O bid them cast on
can re - store, O Lord; Your “Eph - pha - tha,” O
stead - fast faith im - part, And let Your Word bring
loss will prove a gain; All mys - t'ries we shall



blind to see; O bless - ed Lord, be near.
You their care; Your grace to them make known.
Sav - ior dear, Can in - stant help af - ford.
light and cheer To ev - 'ry trou - bled heart.
un - der - stand, For You will make them plain.

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005220

Invocation, Confession, and Absolution

LSB 151

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Matthew 28:19b, [18:20]

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

1 John 1:8–9

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

[John 20:19-23]

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

+++Service of the Word+++

Introit

Psalm 28:1–2, 6–7; antiphon: v. 8



The LORD is the strength of his | people;*
he is the saving refuge of his a- | nointed.

**To you, O LORD, I call; my rock, be not | deaf to me,*
lest, if you be silent to me, I become like those who go down | to the pit.**

Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to | you for help,*
when I lift up my hands toward your most holy sanctu- | ary.

Blessèd | be the LORD!*
For he has heard the voice of my pleas for | mercy.

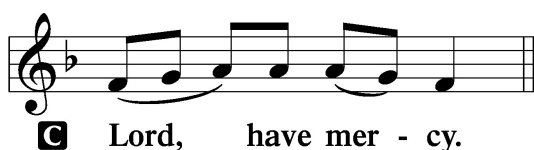
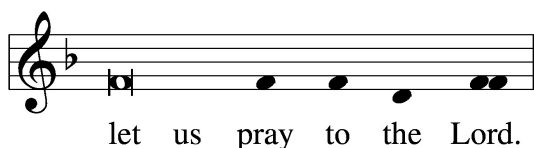
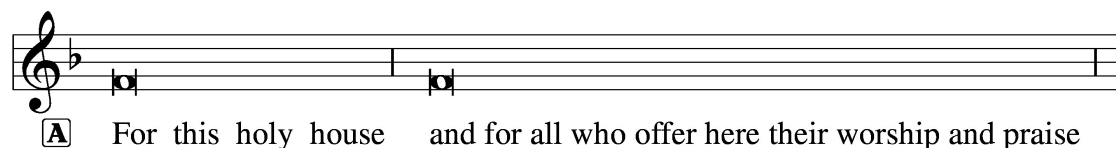
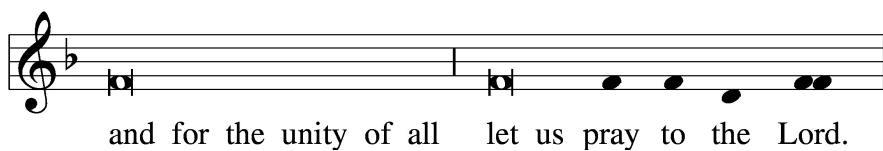
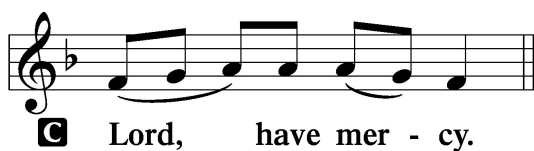
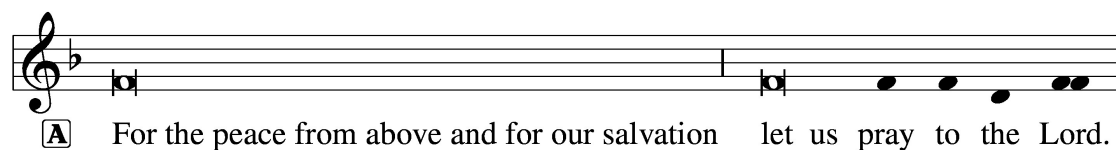
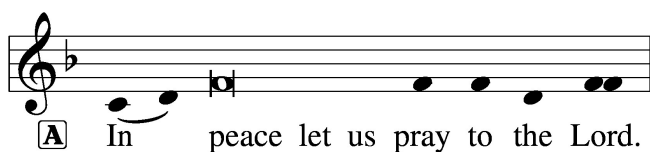
The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and | I am helped;*
my heart exults, and with my song I give | thanks to him.

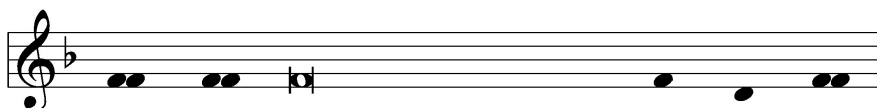
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

The LORD is the strength of his | people;*
he is the saving refuge of his a- | nointed.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47; LSB 152





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

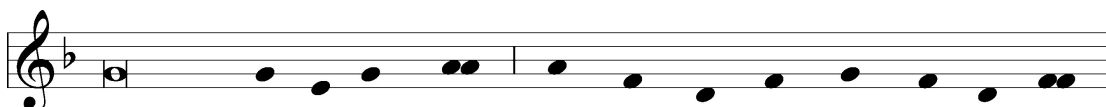


C A - men.

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14, John 1:29

LSB 154



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



C 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:



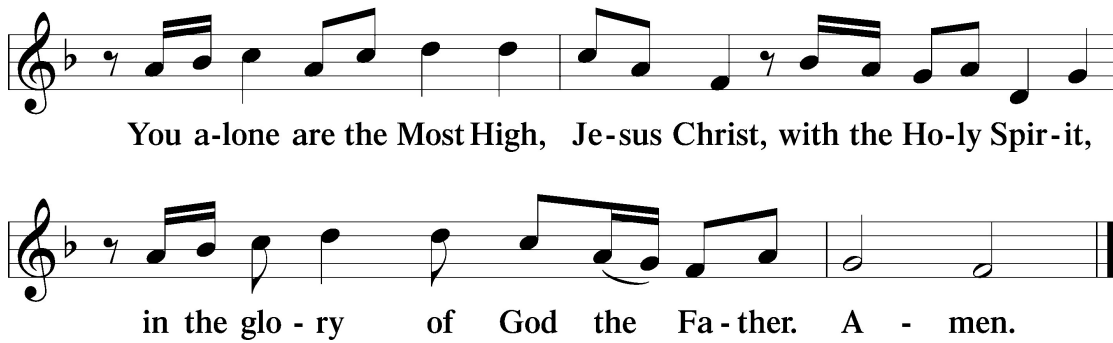
You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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,



Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O Lord, let Your merciful ears be open to the prayers of Your humble servants and grant that what they ask may be in accord with Your gracious will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 35:4–7a

⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart,

“Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God

will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness,

and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,

and the thirsty ground springs of water.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

James 2:1–10, 14–18

¹My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. ²For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, ³and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “You sit here in a good place,” while you say to the poor man, “You stand over there,” or, “Sit down at my feet,” ⁴have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? ⁷Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

⁸If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. ⁹But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. . . .

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

¹⁸But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156



C 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

Mark 7:24–37

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the seventh chapter.



G Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

²⁴From there [Jesus] arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And he entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden. ²⁵But immediately a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophoenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷And he said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁸But she answered him, “Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” ²⁹And he said to her, “For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter.” ³⁰And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. ³⁴And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” ³⁵And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, “He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day

“Praise the Almighty”

LSB 797



- 1 Praise the Al - might - y, my soul, a - dore Him!
- 2 Trust not in rul - ers; they are but mor - tal;
- 3 Bless - ed, oh, bless - ed are they for - ev - er
- 4 Pen - i - tent sin - ners, for mer - cy cry - ing,
- △ 5 Praise, all you peo - ple, the name so ho - ly



Yes, I will laud Him un - til death; With songs and
Earth - born they are and soon de - cay. Vain are their
Whose help is from the Lord Most High, Whom from sal -
Par - don and peace from Him ob - tain; Ev - er the
Of Him who does such won - drous things! All that has



an - thems I come be - fore Him As long as
coun - sels at life's last por - tal, When the dark
va - tion can noth - ing sev - er, And who in
wants of the poor sup - ply - ing, Their faith - ful
be - ing, to praise Him sole - ly, With hap - py



He al - lows me breath. From Him my life and
grave en - gulfs its prey. Since mor - tals can no
hope to Christ draw nigh. To all who trust in
God He will re - main. He helps His chil - dren
heart its a - men sings. Chil - dren of God, with



all things came; Bless, O my soul, His ho - ly name.
help af - ford, Place all your trust in Christ, our Lord.
Him, our Lord Will aid and coun - sel now af - ford.
in dis - tress, The wid - ows and the fa - ther - less.
an - gel host Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!



Al - le - lu - ia,	al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia,	al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia,	al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia,	al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia,	al - le - lu - ia!

Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed

LSB 158

**☐ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Sit

(Ordinarily, this is the time to collect our offerings. As we are forgoing passing a plate, an offering plate has been placed at the rear of the sanctuary. You may also mail your offerings or contribute online from our website's "Giving" link.)

Stand

Offertory

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19; LSB 159

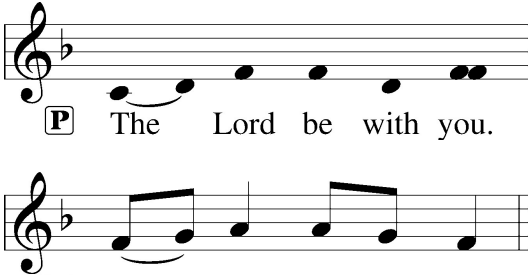


C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa-lem.

+++Service of the Sacrament+++

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136; LSB 160



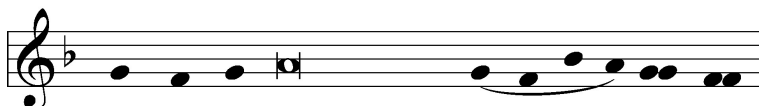
P The Lord be with you.
C And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9; LSB 161



C 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. Bless - ed is He who



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



Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24;

Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25; LSB 162

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”
- P** In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Proclamation of Christ

1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.
- C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

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.

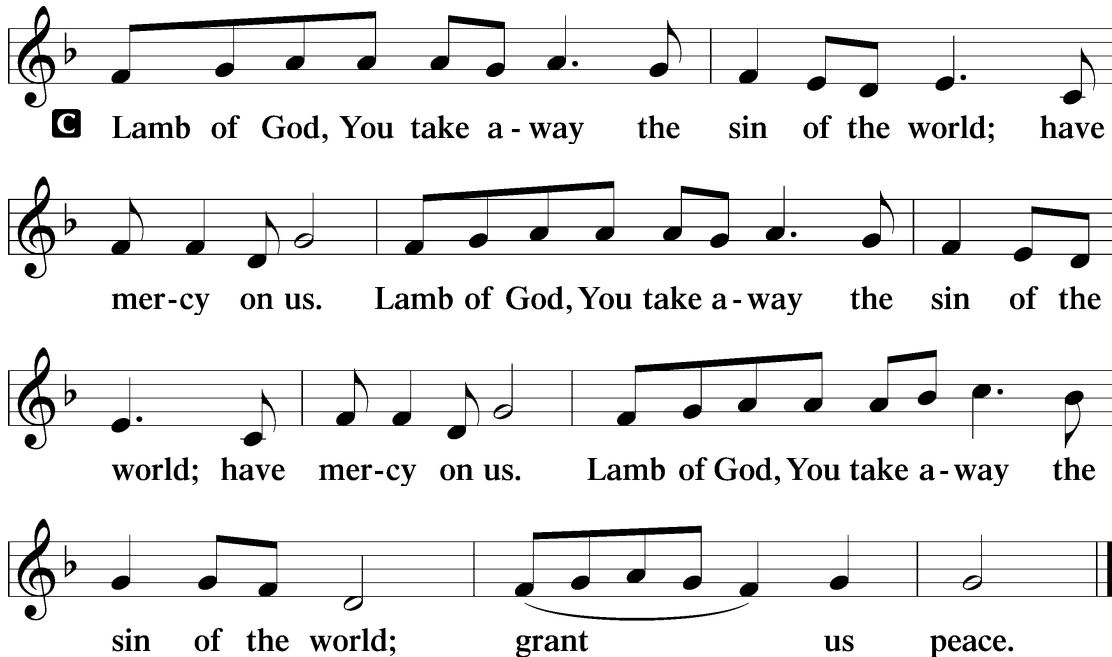
Pax Domini

John 20:19; LSB 163

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

Sit

Agnus Dei



C 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.

Distribution

Communicants are asked to hold forth their open hand to receive the bread so the elder may discern who is confirmed. Gluten-free wafers are available. Non-alcoholic wine is offered in the center circle of individual cups for those who prefer it. If you take an individual cup, please keep it visible; otherwise the Pastor will offer you the common cup.

Distribution Hymn

The *Lutheran Service Book* is located in the basket underneath the chair in front of you.

Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old

LSB 846

Stand

Post-Communion Canticle

“Thank the Lord”

LSB 164



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'-ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re - calls His prom - is - es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

LSB 166

A Let us pray.

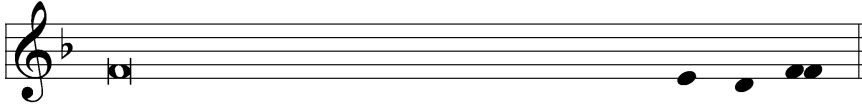
Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever..



C A - men.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26



P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



C A - men.

Recessional Hymn

“O God of Mercy, God of Might”

LSB 852



1 O God of mer - cy, God of might, In love and
2 And Thou, who cam'st on earth to die That our lost
3 Teach us the les - son Thou hast taught: To feel for
4 All are re - deemed, both far and wide, Since Thou, O
5 In sick - ness, sor - row, want, or care, May we each
6 And may Thy Ho - ly Spir - it move All those who



pit - y in - fi - nite, Teach us, as ev - er
world might live there - by, O hear us; for to
those Thy blood hath bought, That ev - 'ry word and
Lord, for all hast died. Grant us the will and
oth - er's bur - dens share; May we, where help is
live to live in love Till Thou shalt greet in



in Thy sight, To live our lives in Thee.
Thee we cry, In hope, O Lord, to Thee.
deed and thought May work a work for Thee.
grace pro - vide To love them all in Thee!
need - ed, there Give help as un - to Thee!
heav'n a - bove All those who live in Thee.

Announcements

Dismissal

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

An offering may be placed in the offering plate as you exit.

A Prayer after Worship

Almighty and merciful God, we have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for our many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. We thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep us in faith until we inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Sunday School - Children K - 5th Grade

Sunday school classes begin at 9:25 am in Room 116 for music. At 10:30 am parents may pick up K – 5th graders from Room 113.

IMPACT Bible Class

Students meet at 9:30 am with Scott Peters in Room 122.

Adult Bible Class

Adult Bible Class, led by Pastor Shaltanis, meets in the fellowship hall at 9:30ish.

Adult Bible Class Small Group Alternative

Mike Kunschke leads a study on Ephesians. Anyone who is interested is invited to attend this class at 9:30 am in Room 115, just let Mike know.

Choir Rehearsal Begins This Wednesday at 7PM

New and returning singers, please join us this Wednesday, September 8 at 7PM as we kick off the new choir season. No experience is necessary; we'd love to have all voices contribute to our worship service in this meaningful way.

LWML Mites

The focus for September is on the Texas District LWML Grant *Reaching Immigrants in North Texas* for \$10,084. This ministry was started in 2017 and is a partnership of the Texas District, Faith, Plano, and Our Redeemer, Dallas. They help meet the spiritual, physical and social needs of the recent immigrants to our area. **Your mites count!** Mite offerings will be collected on the second Sunday of each month or may be turned into the office any time. Each member of LOL is encouraged to collect their mites as the widow in the Bible, and prayerfully support the mission service projects of the LWML. LOL has contributed over \$279 to LWML Mites in 2021.

Tuesday Women's Bible Study Starts Back Up

Women's Bible Study starts a new study on Tuesday, September 28th at noon. It will be over *Chosen, A Study of Esther*, by Donna Snow. Each workbook is \$15, available from Charis or in the office. Bring your lunch and study God's word with friends! Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex or let Charis Bennett know if you plan to attend.

Life Thoughts in the Church Year

God's grace shows no partiality (James 2:1). All have sinned, and all have received the mercy of justification for Jesus' sake. Christians cannot encourage abortion because it discriminates against neighbors based on size, skills, or circumstances. We cannot ignore physician-assisted suicide because it discriminates against neighbors based on age, appearance, or ability. Instead, we rejoice to receive every member of our race as sister and brother.

CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUE.org

Begin studying Zephaniah on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), study Psalm 142-144 and 9-10 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), and hear stories about vocation and living boldly Lutheran on The Coffee Hour (weekdays at 9:00 a.m. CT). Find your favorite programs on demand at kfue.org or on our KFUE Radio app!

Real Options Prayer Requests

Real Options sends out weekly newsletters, which include prayers needed for those grappling with hard choices on life topics. They are posted on the Lutherans for Life bulletin board in the hallway, between the narthex and the church offices.

Serving Our Worship Today:

Pastor:

Pastor Joel Shaltanis

Organist:

Victoria Frinsko

Altar Guild:

Lynda Abbott, Beverly Moudy, Carol Nance

Elders:

Mike Kunschke, Doug Hite

Ushers:

Charles Hacker, Jeff Loewecke

Sound:

Russ Wilkerson, Doug Hite

This Week at Lord of Life-Today, Sept. 5, 2021

8:00 am Early Worship Service

9:30 am Children's Sunday School
(K-5th Gr, Room 113)
IMPACT Class (Room 122)
Adult Bible Class (Fellowship Hall)
Adult Bible Small Class (Room 114)

10:45 am Late Worship Service

Monday, September 6, Labor Day
Office Closed

Tuesday, September 7
7:00 pm Elders

Wednesday, September 8
10:00 am Midweek Bible Study
7:00 pm Adult Choir

Next Sunday's Readings September 12, 2021

Old Testament: Is. 50:4-10

Epistle: James 3:1-12

Gospel: Mark 9:14-29



The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God by Dave & Dee Peters in celebration of their 57th wedding anniversary; and by Dick & Vera Hemingway in celebration of Vera's 98th birthday.



Pentecost

About the Cover: Ephphatha! Be opened! Jesus' healing hand and command make the man's deaf ears to hear and mute tongue to speak. Jesus says the word, and it happens! The Holy Spirit opens our ears and hearts to listen to the Word so that the healing effects of the Gospel might take hold within us. While Jesus wanted all who witnessed this miracle to keep silent for a time, He opens our ears to hear and receive the Gospel, and He gives us mouths to proclaim His mercies to all.