

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 2026

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by the Faith Singers – “We Are the Body of Christ,” arr. Jeff Anderson

GATHERING

Call to Worship

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song – “All Are Welcome”

(piano)

*Refrain: All are welcome, friend and stranger, at the banquet of the Savior.
All are welcome. All are welcome here.*

1. From the woman who comes crying, leaving tears at Jesus’ feet,
To the man who knows the right way but cannot see. *Refrain*
2. From the ones who feel forgotten, those who sense their place is gone,
To the ones who live in hunger, here you belong. *Refrain*
3. Go into the streets and cities, to the farms and families,
Tell about the splendid table, God’s mercy. *Refrain*

**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: God of welcome, you open your arms to all through your grace. Give us open hearts and open doors to welcome all in your name.

C: Amen.

**Sharing Christ’s Peace*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

Children’s Sermon – VBS Celebration

(piano)

"Jesus Loves the Little Children" and "He's Got the Whole World, in His Hands"

WORD

Reading: Romans 15:5-7

Reader: Sharon Woodworth

⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

R: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Reading:* Matthew 25:35-40

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’

P: The gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon: “What About Worship? Open Doors of Welcome”

Song of the Day – “God, We Gather As Your People” (ACS 1038) (piano)

- 1 **God, we gather as your people to raise our song above,
and we dare to claim the promise of your love.
Though the day may not yet be here,
we trust it soon will be, when your children will be free.**

*Refrain: Oh, may our hearts and minds be opened,
fling the church doors open wide.
May there be room enough for ev'ryone inside.
For in God there is a welcome, in God we all belong.
May that welcome be our song.*

- 2 Oh, we sing for all the children, that one day they be free;
and we sing for generations yet to be,
that they never have a reason to doubt that they are blest.
May they, in your love, find rest. *Refrain*
- 3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and shame,
so afraid of who they are and whom they love.
May the message now be banished that your love is for the few;
may their faith in you renew. *Refrain*
- 4 God, we're working for the future when children far and wide
can live their lives with dignity and pride.
As they grow in strength and stature, may they join us hand in hand,
as against all hate we stand. *Refrain*

**The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Prayers of Intercession*

Stewardship Time

by Sandi Watts

—We now have Worship Cards in the pews. Please let us know if you are communing, share a prayer request, and place your card in the offering plate as a gesture of stewardship as we grow in relationship with God through the use of our time, talents, and finances—

**Offering Prayer*

P: Merciful God,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with musical symbols indicating the start of phrases.

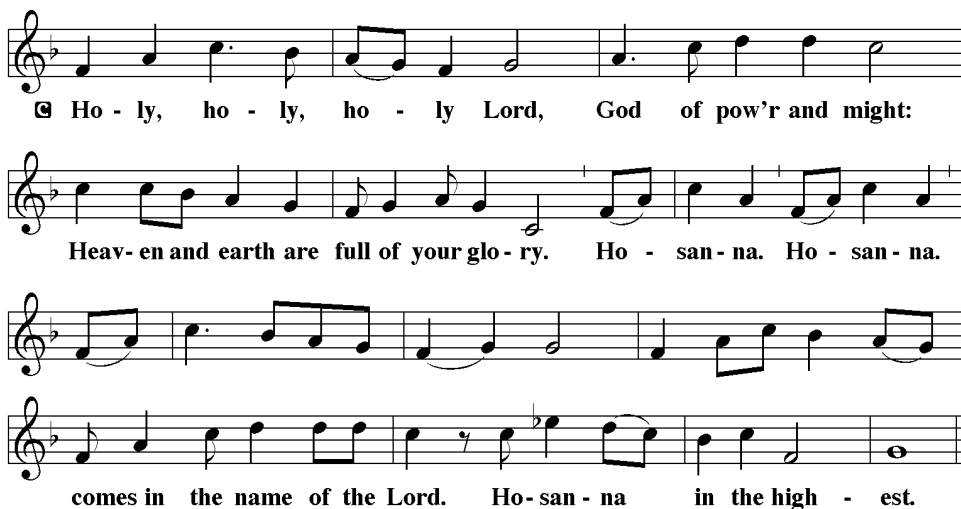
Staff 1: **P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

Staff 2: **P** Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

Staff 3: **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Staff 4: **C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ... and join their unending hymn:



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.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**Lord's Prayer*

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.

Communion Songs

“The Church’s One Foundation” ELW 654 (organ)

- 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 Though with a scornful wonder this 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.
- 4 Through 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.
- 5 Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by your grace,
that we, like saints before us, may see you face to face.

“All My Days”

(piano)

1 All my days I will sing this song of gladness,
give my praise to the Fountain of delights;
For in my helplessness You heard my cry,
and waves of mercy poured down on my life.

2 I will trust in the cross of my Redeemer, I will sing of the blood that never fails;
Of sins forgiven, of conscience cleansed, of death defeated and life without end.

*Refrain: Beautiful Savior, Wonderful Counselor, clothed in majesty, Lord of history,
You're the Way, the Truth, the Life, Star of the Morning, glorious holiness,
You're the Risen One, heaven's Champion, and You reign, You reign over all!*

3 I long to be where the praise is never ending,
Yearn to dwell where the glory never fades;
Where countless worshippers will share one song,
And cries of 'worthy' will honor the Lamb! *Refrain*

**Post-Communion Blessing*

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

C: **Amen.**

**Closing Prayer*

SENDING

**Benediction*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor, and + give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

**Sending Song – “All Are Welcome” ELW 641*

(organ)

1. **Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:**

Refrain: All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

2. **Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
Where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: *Refrain***

3. **Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat:
A banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us: *Refrain***

4. **Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
Let us bring an end to fear and danger: *Refrain***

5. **Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: *Refrain***

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The altar plants are donated today by Monica Proefrock
in honor of Reiss' 4th birthday on August 18 and Baptismal birthday on August 4
and
by Greg & Terri Kimler in celebration of their 47th wedding anniversary

Song Credits

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"All My Days," by Stuart Townend. © 1998 Thankyou Music/Adm. Used by permission.

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Pam Devlin
Greeter: Vicki Robson
Reader: Sharon Woodworth
Ushers: Judy Dillard & Vicki Robson
Pastor: Adam Dichsen
Music Director: Jean Welch
Organist: Sandi Watts
Pianist: Jean Welch
Drummers: John Demien & Louis Dichsen
Financial Assistants: Patty Nelson & Monica Proefrock
Chancel Committee: Pat Glyshaw
Coffee Hosts: Laura Sweatman & Verla Buckner



Singers:

Maddie Crossin	Kelly Hartz	Adam Krohe	Cole Street
Benen Dichsen	Terri Kimler	Kris Roth	Melissa Street

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson	Kevin Krohe	Monica Proefrock	Cory Street
Greg Kimler	Patty Nelson	Kay Schnitker	John Williams

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, August 16, 9:30am: Indoor Worship – VBS Sunday **Newsletter Deadline**

Wednesday, August 19, 10:00am: Read the Bible in a Year Group – Faith Library

Thursday, August 20, 6:00pm: Church Council Meeting

Sunday, August 23, 9:30am: Indoor Worship – Scavenger Hunt

Wednesday, August 26, 10:00am: Read the Bible in a Year Group – Faith Library

News Updates

Lay Ministry Sign-Up Sheets

Sign-Up Sheets are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*

Summer Worship Schedule

We are alternating between outdoor and indoor worship services through the summer with one blended service each Sunday. **We will be INDOORS on August 23 with a Scavenger Hunt** (a change from the original schedule) **and indoors again on August 30.** As always, outdoor services will move indoors in poor weather, and we have solid-surface seating available on the parking lot and air-conditioned seating indoors in the Justice Room.

Faith's Little Flock and Faith's Older Flock

We now have two groups of children meeting during worship on the Sundays we are inside. Faith's Little Flock is for children ages 2-7, and Faith's Older Flock is for children grades 1-6.

VBS Sunday August 16

Today we hear what the kids have been learning all summer at their Vacation Bible School sessions as we join them in music, storytelling, and maybe even a visit from Sandi the Seagull! "At the Table" is a VBS program designed by ELCA World Hunger to help our kids understand the challenges other children face around the globe, and how we can help when we work together as the church. To join in this work, we will be taking a collection for ELCA World Hunger, a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America that works in over 60 countries, collaborating with congregations, international Lutheran churches, and various partners to address the root causes of hunger and poverty.

Youth Sunday August 30

Come hear what our youth have been up to this summer. They've been on mission trips and camps from Gulf Shores, Alabama to the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, and lots of places in between. While the scenery has been very different, one thing has remained constant... God's faithfulness. Our youth will tell stories of where they experienced God and served as God's hands and feet. We will take a collection to support future youth mission trips, camps, and our efforts to hire a Children, Family, and Youth Coordinator to help grow this important ministry.

Altar Flowers for Faith's Gardens

We are purchasing flowers and plants for the altar that will then be planted in our church gardens. If you would like to donate a plant, the cost is \$15, and you can sign up at the podium in the Gathering Area.

Doorbell Dinners – September 7-11

Help us deliver meals in the community. We are in need of drivers & deliverers to cover the needs of five routes — time commitment is 11:15-12:30 each day. For more information and to sign up, visit the signup counter by the Fair Trade coffee sales.

Read the Bible in a Year

Join us in reading the Bible over the course of a year, **Wednesdays at 10:00am in the Faith Library**. We gather weekly to discuss our insights and reflections. We are utilizing The Bible Recap by Tara-Leigh Cobble, available on the YouVersion Bible app, to guide our journey. For more information, feel free to reach out to Pam Devlin.

Post-Service Discussions – Digging Deeper

is taking a Summer break but will resume in the Fall.

SUNDAY SACK LUNCHES TO GO -- Help stop hunger in our community

The Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches is partnering with Go Church to collect food items for their 'Sunday Sack Lunches to Go' program, helping the hungry in the Jacksonville Area.

Collected supplies will be donated to Go Church to include in their food distribution program. Needed items include:

(continued on next page)

Mixed Fruit Cups
NutriGrain Breakfast Bars
Quaker Chewy Granola Bars
Nature Valley Trail Mix Bars
Individual Packets of Cookies
JIF To Go, Creamy Peanut Butter Cups
Peanut Butter Cracker Variety Packs
Tuna Salad with Crackers (Individual Servings)
Chicken Salad with Cracker Packs (Individual Servings)
Vanilla Pudding Cups
Chocolate Pudding Cups
Slim Jims

Monetary donations are appreciated and needed, with checks payable to ‘Go Church.’

Items will be collected **through September 20, 2026**. Supplies can be left with all participating Conference of Churches member churches in their collection boxes.

Questions? Contact coordinator Pat Glyshaw at pat.glyshaw@gmail.com