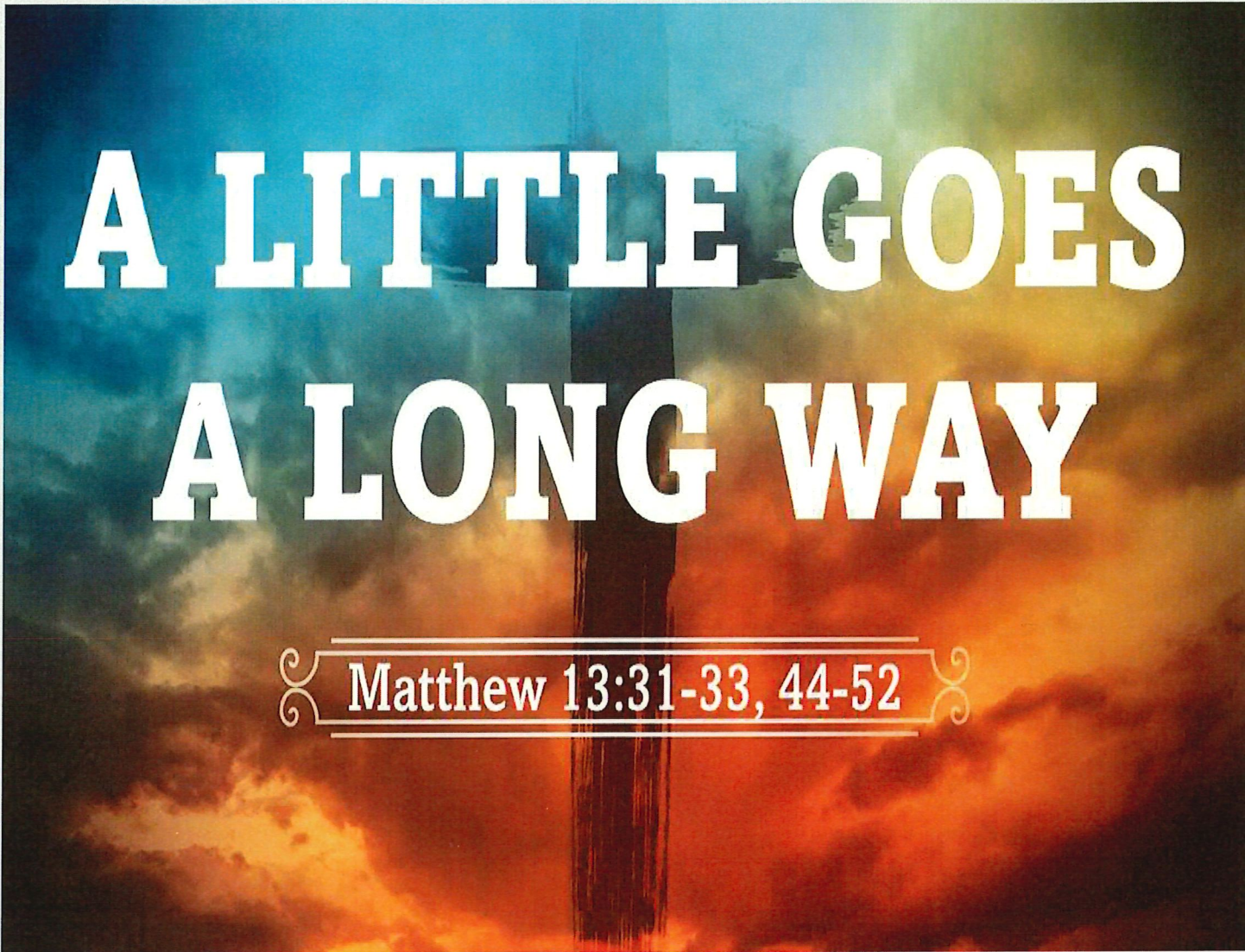


A dramatic sky with a cross silhouette and a rainbow. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a fiery orange and red at the bottom, with dark, swirling clouds. A dark silhouette of a cross is centered vertically, extending from the top of the image down to the bottom. A faint rainbow is visible in the upper right portion of the sky.

A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

First Lutheran Church

July 26, 2026

Pentecost 9

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

SLANE

Robert A. Hobby

Be Thou My Vision

MORNING PRAYER

The assembly stands.

INTRODUCTION

AM: As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

OPENING



Leader: O Lord, o - pen my lips,

and my mouth shall pro - claim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,

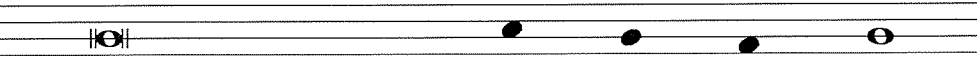
and to the Ho - ly Spir - it:

as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now,

and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

PSALMODY

INVITATORY



Oh, come, let us wor - ship and praise.

MORNING PSALM OF PRAISE

PSALM 95:1-7

Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us

shout for joy to the rock of our sal - va - tion.

The Cantor will sing the verses.

FINAL INVITATORY

Give glory to God, our light and our life.

Oh, come, let us wor - ship and praise.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PM: Beloved and sovereign God,
through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your
kingdom of justice and mercy.

By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life
that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

The assembly is seated.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

WORD

FIRST READING

1 KINGS 3:5-12

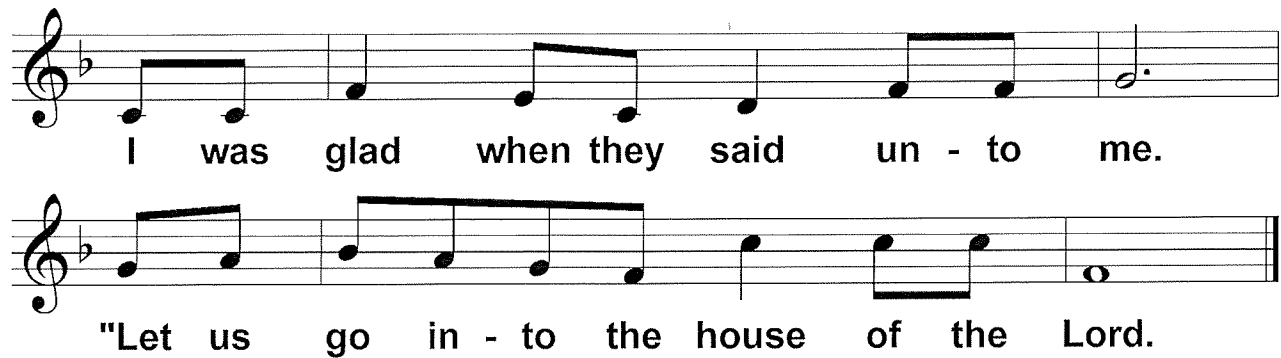
*Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his
enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people
well.*

AM: A reading from 1 Kings, the third chapter.

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?" ¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

AM: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



The Cantor will sing the verses:

- ¹ I was glad when they | said unto me, "Let us go into the house | of the Lord."
- ² Now our | feet are standing within your gates, | O Jerusalem.
- ³ Jerusalem is built | as a city that is at unity | with itself;
- ⁴ to which the tribes go up, the tribes | of the Lord,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name | of the Lord. **Refrain**
- ⁵ For there are the | thrones of judgment, the thrones of the | house of David.
- ⁶ Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem: "May they pros- | per who love you. **Refrain**
- ⁷ Peace be with- | in your walls and quietness with- | in your towers.
- ⁸ For the sake of my kindred | and companions, I pray for | your prosperity.
- ⁹ Because of the house of the | Lord our God, I will seek to | do you good." **Refrain**

SECOND READING

ROMANS 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

AM: A reading from Romans, the eighth chapter.

- ²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those

whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

AM: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly stands.

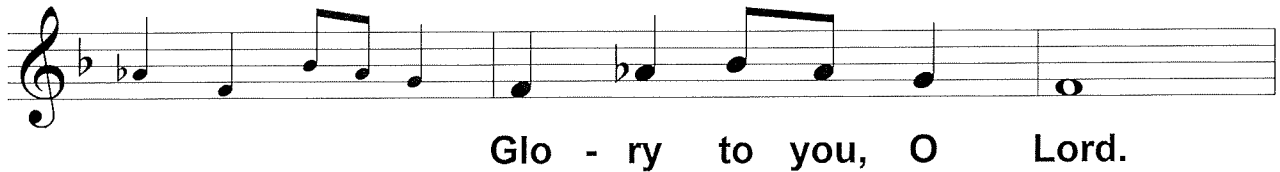
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Cantor will sing the verse: Many will come from ¹ east and west*
and will eat in the king- ¹ dom of heaven.
(Matthew 8:11)

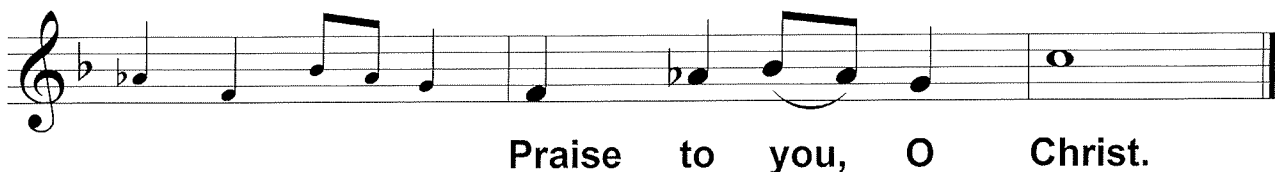
Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

PM: The Gospel according to Matthew:



³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." ³³ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." ⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹ "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵² And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

PM: The Gospel of the Lord.





1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

The assembly is seated.

REFLECTION

PASTOR MARK SCHURING

The assembly stands.

CANTICLE

Refrain

In the ten - der com - pas - sion of our
God the dawn from on high shall
break up - on us.

The Cantor will sing the verses.

BAPTISM

PRESENTATION

PM: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Clementine's Parents: We present Clementine Lauren Luidhardt for holy baptism.

Nevin's Parents: We present Nevin Ballreich Martin for holy baptism.

PM: Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God,
do you desire to have Clementine and Nevin baptized into Christ?

Parents: We do.

PM: As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism,
you are entrusted with responsibilities:
to live with them among God's faithful people,
bring them to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in their hands the holy scriptures,

and nurture them in faith and prayer,
so that your children may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

PM: Do you promise to help your children grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: We do.

PM: Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Clementine and Nevin
in the Christian faith
as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant
of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsors: We do.

The assembly stands.

PM: People of God, do you promise to support Clementine and Nevin
and pray for them in their new life in Christ?

C: We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

PM: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin,
and profess the faith of the church.

PM: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God,
the powers of this world that rebel against God,
and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C: I renounce them.

PM: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

PM: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C: 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.**

PM: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: 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.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

PM: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PM: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

PM: Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things.

Your voice thundered over the waters at creation.

You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh
and satisfy all living things.

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom.

In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock,

and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection,

your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom.

The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up,

for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise.

He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father,

and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water;

clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughter and son,

no longer slave and free, no longer male and female,

but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,

now and forever.

C: Amen.

The assembly is seated.

BAPTISM

PM: Clementine Lauren Luidhardt, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PM: Nevin Ballreich Martin, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PM: Blessed be God, the source of all life, the word of salvation,
the spirit of mercy.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God,
that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughter
and son new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.
Sustain Clementine and Nevin with the gift of your Holy Spirit:
the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,
the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C: Amen.

PM: Clementine, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit
and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C: Amen.

PM: Nevin, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit
and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C: Amen.

WELCOME

PM: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works
and glorify your Father in heaven.

PM: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**C: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:
join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative
and redeeming word to all the world.**



The assembly is seated.

OFFERING AND ORGAN MEDITATION

YISRAEL V'ORAITA

Robert Lind

Open Your Ears, O Faithful People

The assembly stands.

OFFERING SONG

OPEN YOUR EARS, O FAITHFUL PEOPLE

ELW # 519



1 O - pen your ears, O faith-ful peo-ple, o - pen your ears and hear God's Word.
2 They who have ears to hear the mes-sage, they who have ears, now let them hear.



O - pen your hearts, O roy-al priest-hood, God has come to you.
they who would learn the way of wis-dom, let them hear God's word.



God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!

Hal - le - lu - jah!



God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!



God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!

OFFERING PRAYER

AM: Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
C: Amen.

The assembly kneels.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

PM: Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made,
let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

AM: God our wisdom and our song, we pray for bishops, candidacy committees,
those preparing for seminary, those awaiting call as deacons or pastors, and all
who seek to lead your disciples in any way.

Each petition concludes:

PM: God of grace,
C: hear our prayer.

PM: Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness,
we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

The assembly stands.

LORD'S PRAYER

AM: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught 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.

SENDING

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

AM: We Pray together:

C: Oh God, your everlasting love for us is always trustworthy and sure.

We are grateful for your goodness
and we ask now for confidence to go forward into the future.

Bless our community of faith,
bless the changes that are before us,
bless our pastoral leaders who will shepherd us
through this time of transition.

We thank you for the wisdom you show us.

Help us to keep looking to you to define our ministry and our future.

Receive our prayer, O God, through Jesus Christ,
our strength and salvation. Amen.

BLESSING

AM: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
+ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.





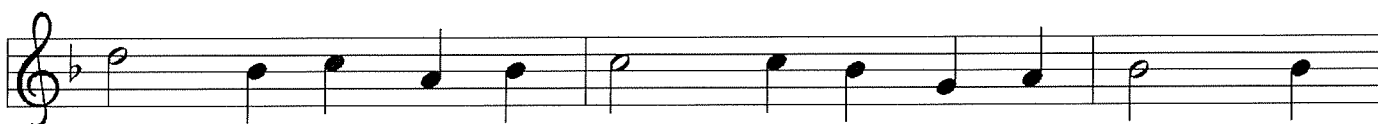
1 In thee is glad-ness a-mid all sad-ness, Je-sus, sun-shine of my
 2 Je-sus is ours! . . We fear no pow-ers, not of earth or sin or



heart. By thee are giv-en the gifts of heav-en, thou the
 death. He sees and bless-es in worst dis-tress-es; he can



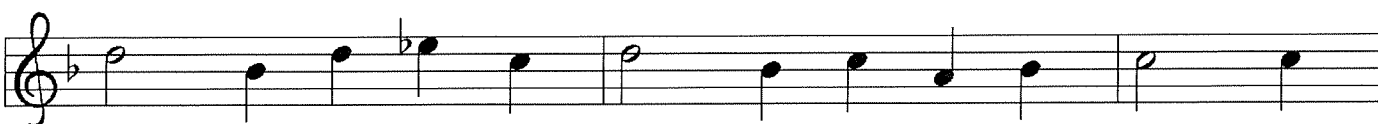
true re-deem-er art. Our souls thou wak-est; our bonds thou
 change them with a breath. Where-fore the sto-ry tell of his



break-est. Who trusts thee sure-ly has built se-cure-ly
 glo-ry with heart and voic-es; all heav'n re-joic-es



and stands for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! Our hearts are
 in him for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! We shout for



pin-ing to see thy shin-ing, dy-ing or liv-ing,
 glad-ness, tri-umph o'er sad-ness, love him and praise him



to thee are cleav-ing; naught can us sev-er: Al-le-lu-ia!
 and still shall raise him glad hymns for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia!

DISMISSAL

AM: Heaven has come near.
 PM: Go, share the good news!
 C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

IN DIR IST FREUDE Robert A. Hobby
 In Thee Is Gladness

Events in Review

<u>Sunday</u>	July 26
10:00 AM	Pentecost 9
<u>Monday</u>	July 27
10:00 AM	Bible Study at Willows
<u>Tuesday</u>	July 28
<u>Wednesday</u>	July 29
<u>Thursday</u>	July 30
<u>Friday</u>	July 31
<u>Saturday</u>	Aug 01



If you have a prayer request for today, please raise your hand during announcements and a host will give you a green card to fill out.

Cookie Sign up sheets are located on the Information Board in the hallway. The time is before and after Church Service. Approximately 4 dozen cookies are needed each week.



Next Week

<u>Sunday</u>	Aug 2
10:00 AM	Pentecost 10
<u>Monday</u>	Aug 3
10:00AM	Bible Study at Willows
<u>Tuesday</u>	Aug 4
<u>Wednesday</u>	Aug 5
<u>Thursday</u>	Aug 6
<u>Friday</u>	Aug 7
<u>Saturday</u>	Aug 8

LAWN MOWER OF THE WEEK

John Kobelt



We have started collecting school supplies for this year's Lutheran World Relief donation. A list of supplies needed is on the table in the hallway. We will be collecting all through August.



There will be a retirement party for Childhood Ministries Director Jane Frederick on August 9th from 11 to 1.

Anyone wishing to donate to her retirement gift, please see Bonnie Oberlander.



Today we will be celebrating the baptism of

Clementine Lauren Luidhardt

(Daughter of Mollie & Derek Luidhardt)

And

Nevin Ballreich Martin

(Son of Katyln & Nevin Martin)

Contact Us



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Our Worship Leaders

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Cantor:	Elijah Shiley
Facebook Camera	The Rosses
Host	
Reader:	Shelley Ross
Worship Assistant	Shelley Ross
Director of Music:	Curtis L. King
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Pastor Mark Schuring

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GLORIA STACY	419 934-3023
RICK SHOLL	419 939-3436

Our Mission Statement

“God is among us!”

**“We are called to go out, care for all, share the gospel,
forgive, reconcile and trust God for all that we need.”**

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July 26, 2026