



The kingdom  
of heaven  
is like a  
merchant  
in search  
of fine pearls

MATTHEW 13:45

### *Introduction*

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!

*Our Saviour Lutheran Church*  
300 West Fowler Ave., West Lafayette  
743-2931 [www.osluth.org](http://www.osluth.org)  
Pastor Randy Schroeder

*Purdue Lutheran Ministry*  
330 West Fowler Ave., West Lafayette  
743-2398 [www.plm.org](http://www.plm.org)  
Pastor Kristin Rice

*July 26, 2026, 9:00 A.M.*

*All are welcome here*  
*All people of faith, All people of doubt*  
*All people of any origin, race, ability, sexual orientation or gender expression*  
*All people who seek a compassionate community*

*All are welcome here*  
*Welcome to worship, Welcome to pray*  
*Welcome to learn, Welcome to give thanks*  
*Welcome to serve God and neighbors*

*All are welcome here*  
*All are redeemed by a gracious God*



## *The Gathering*

### **Prelude Music**

*Medley of Praise* (setting by Lynette Maynard; 2016 Hope Publishing Co.; Augsburg Fortress)

*Please stand.*

### **Call to Worship** ([lectionarylitergies.blogspot.com](http://lectionarylitergies.blogspot.com))

PR On this day of worship, we call on God's name,  
C **and hear our own invitation to work for the good of all.**

PR Gathered with neighbors and strangers, we call on God's hope,  
C **and discover that a lifetime of service seems but a few days.**

PR In this place of praise and prayer, we call on God's love,  
C **and receive that grace which is as old as creation,**  
**yet as fresh as each morning.**

## Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

PR Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose compassion endures forever.

C **Amen.**

PR Let us confess our sin to God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

PR Compassionate God,  
C **we confess to you all our sins.  
Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.  
In your mercy, call us back to you.  
Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.  
Restore us to dwell in your peace.  
In Christ's name we pray,  
Amen.**

PR Jesus says, "Come to me,  
all you who are weary  
and are carrying heavy burdens,  
and I will give you rest."  
In the name of God,  
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
your sins are forgiven.  
Rest in God's love.

C **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: ELW (red), hymn 757: *All My Hope on God Is Founded*

1 All my hope on God is found - ed who will all my  
 2 Mor - tal pride and earth - ly glo - ry, sword and crown be -  
 3 Great thy good-ness, e'er en - dur - ing; deep thy wis - dom,  
 4 Still from earth to God e - ter - nal sac - ri - fice of

trust re - new, who through change and chance will guide me,  
 tray our trust; what with care and toil we fash - ion,  
 pass - ing thought; splen - dor, light, and life at - tend thee,  
 praise be done, high a - bove all prais - es prais - ing

on - ly good and on - ly true. God un - known, God a -  
 tow'r and tem - ple, fall to dust. But thy pow'r, hour by  
 beau - ty spring - ing out of naught. Ev - er - more from thy  
 for the gift of God's own Son. Christ doth call one and

lone, call my heart to be thine own.  
 hour, is my tem - ple and my tow'r.  
 store new - born worlds rise and a - dore.  
 all: ye who fol - low shall not fall.

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; para. Robert Bridges, 1844-1930, alt.  
 Music: Herbert Howells, 1892-1983  
 Music © 1958 Novello & Co, Ltd., London

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## Greeting

PR 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.**

## Hymn of Praise



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;



yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.  
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.  
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.



Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;  
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;  
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;



ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.



Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;



yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

## Prayer of the Day

PR 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.

*Please be seated.*

## *The Word*

L A reading from the book of 1 Kings.

### **1 Kings 3:5-12**

<sup>5</sup> At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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?”

<sup>10</sup> It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup> 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, <sup>12</sup> 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.”

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 119:129-136** (Read responsively by whole verse.)

<sup>129</sup> Your decrees are wonderful;  
therefore I obey them with all my heart.

<sup>130</sup> **When your word is opened it gives light;  
it gives understanding to the simple.**

<sup>131</sup> I open my mouth and pant  
because I long for your commandments.

<sup>132</sup> **Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
as you always do to those who love your name.**

<sup>133</sup> Order my footsteps in your word;  
let no iniquity have dominion over me.

<sup>134</sup> **Rescue me from those who oppress me,  
and I will keep your commandments.**

<sup>135</sup> Let your face shine upon your servant  
and teach me your statutes.

<sup>136</sup> **My eyes shed streams of tears,  
because people do not keep your teaching.**

L A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

## Romans 8:26-39

<sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> 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.

<sup>28</sup> We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup> What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup> 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? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

<sup>34</sup> 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. <sup>35</sup> Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> 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.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## Gospel Acclamation



PR The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

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

### **Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

<sup>31</sup> Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;<sup>32</sup> 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.”

<sup>33</sup> 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.”

<sup>44</sup> “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.

<sup>45</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup> on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup> when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup> So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup> and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup> “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” <sup>52</sup> 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.”

PR The Gospel of our Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Children’s Sermon**

**Sermon**

**Pastor Randy Schroeder**

*Please stand.*

# Hymn of the Day: ELW (red), hymn 793: *Be Thou My Vision*



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.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931

Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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PK    **Apostles' Creed**

C    **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**

A    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.*) 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. God of grace,  
C    **hear our prayer.**

A    God our breath and our heartbeat, help us to recognize signs of your presence among us. Protect and support diverse ecosystems, from national parks to family farms, from ranches to wild places. We pray for those in the path of Tropical Storm Bertha and the relief from flooding in Texas and New York and wildfires in Canada, Minnesota, and California, and for rescue teams supporting recovery. We pray for all those living in areas with dangerous air quality. God of grace,  
C    **hear our prayer.**

A    God our peace and our guide, help civic leaders hear all their peoples' stories with compassion and curiosity, and remind us of your love from which we can never be separated. We pray for peace and reconciliation among the nations, especially in Iran, Lebanon, Gaza, Mali, South Sudan, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Mexico, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Venezuela. We pray for the families of American service members and civilians killed in the US-Iran escalations. We pray for the safety and resolution to mass protests in India. God of grace,  
C    **hear our prayer.**

A God our intercessor and our lawgiver, dismantle the barriers to care and recognition of all who live with chronic illness, mobility struggles, pain, and uncertainty. We pray especially for Mary W., Lea L., Mary Jo B., Family of Jay P., Charlotte E., Ishraq's family, Sara F., Joe, Ron H., Jace C., Mary Ann, Anna, Jim B., Carol W., Jake, Dan S., Betty, Jamie J., Megan O., Jennifer, Mike, Fred G., Sally, Jean, Nathan, Haley, Renee and Sam R. We pray for the global health and for those continuing to navigate Ebola and cyclospora outbreaks. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A God our redeemer, may we trust your love above and beyond all else that distracts, annoys, frightens, exhausts, or divides us. We pray for the wisdom and integrity of world leaders making critical geopolitical decisions. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A God of new beginnings, we thank you for the presence of your Holy Spirit as we have prayed, listened, and discerned together. As we step forward from this season of wondering into a season of action, make us willing to be all in for the future you are unfolding among us. You are calling us to serve our neighbors and to imagine how this place we steward might become a greater blessing for our community. Give us courage for the adventure ahead. When the path feels uncertain, remind us that you are always doing a new thing—and that the One who calls us forward will also provide the way. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A God who seeks, finds, and saves, for our community's part in the ongoing gift of creation, and for the riches of faith and hope which came before, we give you thanks. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

PK 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.**

### **Peace**

PK The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

## *The Meal*

### **As we prepare to receive Holy Communion, please read the following:**

*For today's distribution of Holy Communion, after the Invitation to the Table, the presiding pastor will invite the worship assistants (lector, assisting minister, usher) to commune behind the altar. The presiding pastor will then commune those worshipping online and those in the sanctuary who wish to commune in their pews. Then the presiding pastor will commune those who wish to come up to the altar while the Lamb of God is played.*

### **Offering**

*Please feel free to send your regular tithe in the mail, drop it off to the church office or if you have not checked out our website and the "Donate" tab, this could be your opportunity.*



*Please Stand*

## Offering Prayer

- A 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 Great Thanksgiving

- PK The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

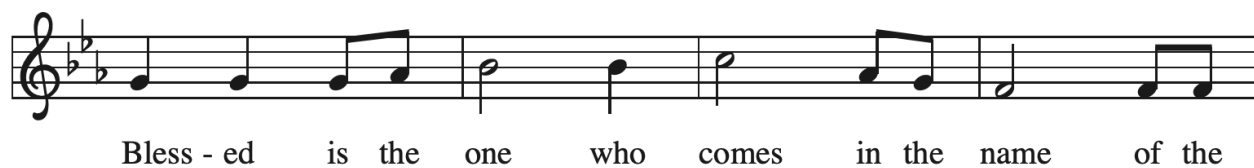
- PK Lift up your hearts.

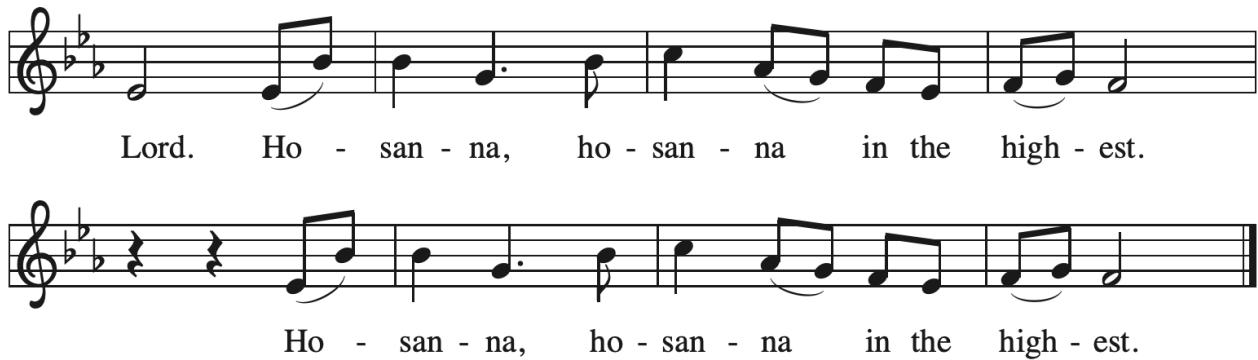
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

- PK Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

- PK It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





PK O God triune, how majestic is your name in all the earth.  
 Over the eons your merciful might evolved our home, a fragile tree of life.  
 Here by your wisdom are both life and death, growth and decay,  
 the nest and the hunt, sunshine and storm, darkness and light.  
 Sustained by these wonders, we creatures of dust join in the ancient song:  
 The earth is full of your glory.

**C The earth is full of your glory.**

PK O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer.  
 In Christ you bring life from death; we remember his cross, we laud his resurrection.  
 Broken like bread, he enlivens our body.  
 Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness.  
 Receiving this mystery, we mortals sing our song:  
 The earth is full of your glory.

**C The earth is full of your glory.**

PK We praise you for the heart of Jesus,  
 so filled with your love for this earth.

On 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.

Gathered around this table, we your children unite in this song:  
 The earth is full of your glory.

**C The earth is full of your glory.**

PK O God triune, you create the worlds, you uphold the living, you embrace the dead.  
Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.  
Strengthen us for our journey with this meal, the body and blood of Christ.  
Give us a future that trusts in you and cares for your earth.  
Empowered by your promises, we rise from our deaths to praise you again:  
The earth is full of your glory.

**C The earth is full of your glory.**

PK Amen, and Amen.

**C Amen, and Amen.**

PK **The Lord's Prayer**

**C 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.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

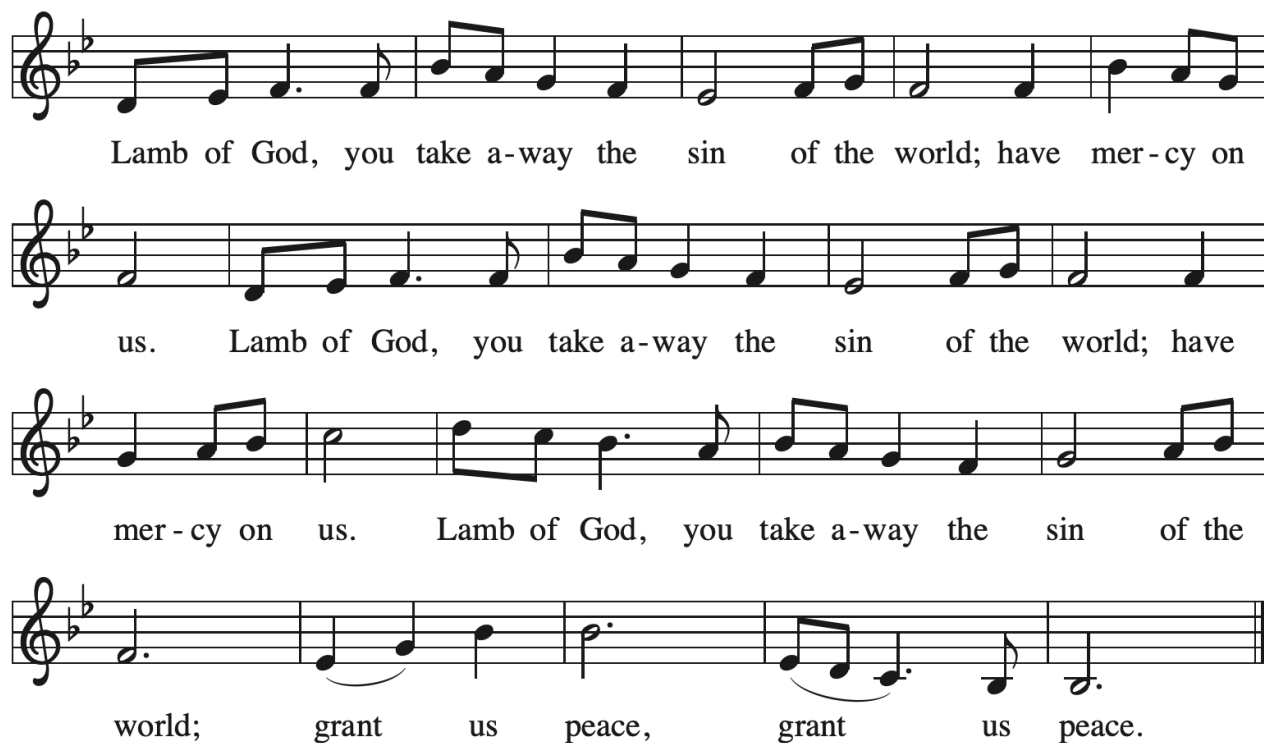
### **Invitation to Communion**

PK God's grace overflows into us through this meal and broken bread and festive drink. No one is turned away from this table because God's love welcomes and receives all of us. Come, for all is ready, and there is a place for you here.

### **Distribution**

*There are gluten-free wafers and grape juice. Please indicate your need to the server.*

## Lamb of God



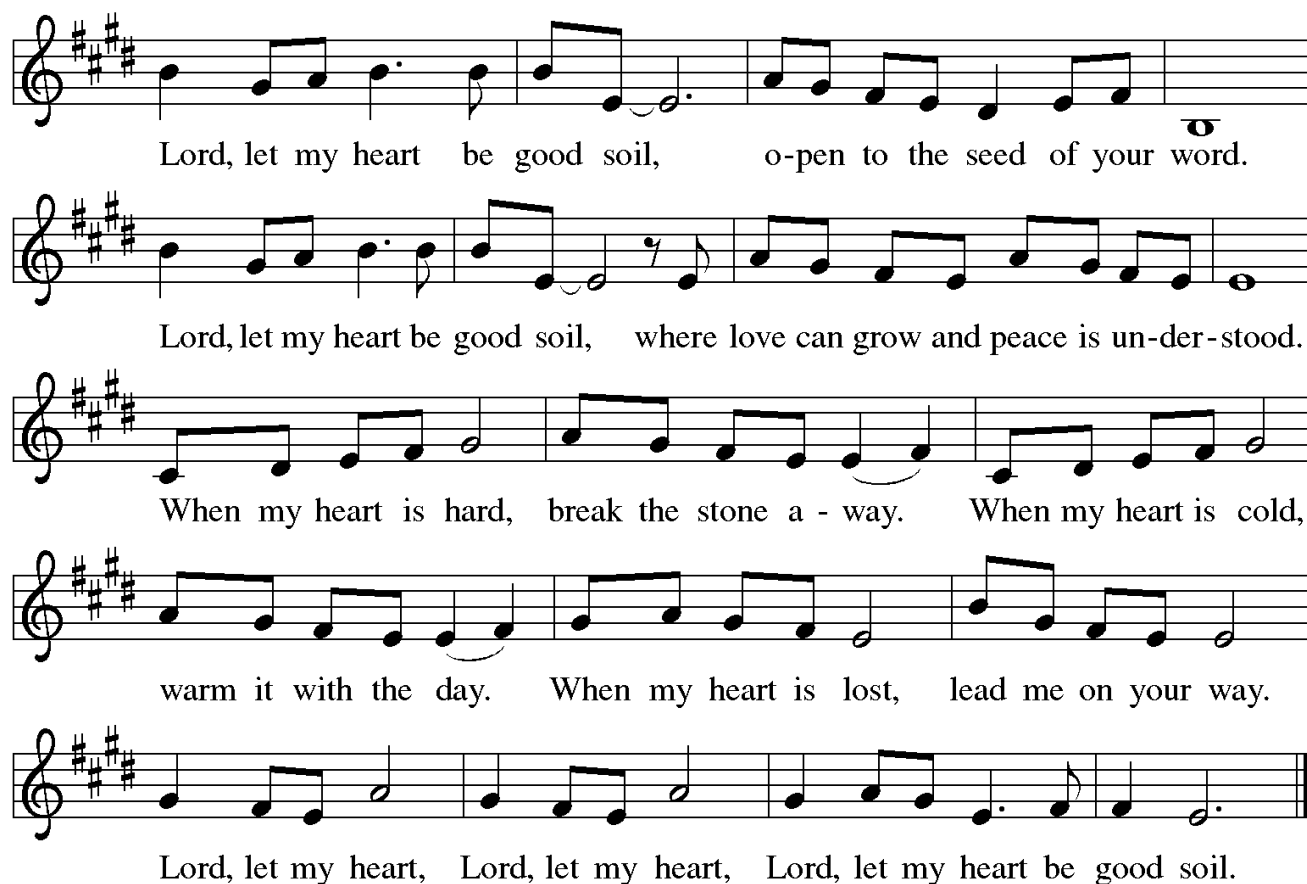
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Communion Hymn: ELW (red), 512: *Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil*



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

*Please stand.*

PK The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever.

C Amen.

### Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray,  
Compassionate God,  
through the gifts of bread and wine  
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.  
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,  
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus,  
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C Amen.

## *The Sending*

### An Invitation

**Sending Hymn: ELW (red), hymn 705: *God of Grace and God of Glory***



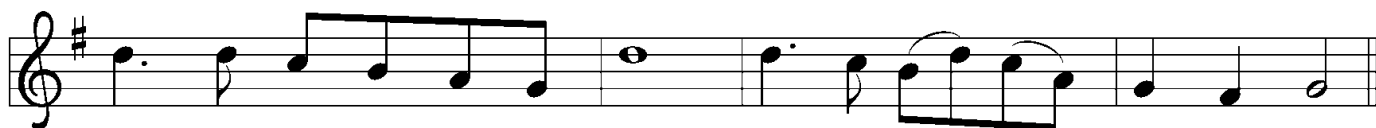
1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -  
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;  
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us  
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,  
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
lest we miss your king-dom's goal, lest we miss your king-dom's goal.  
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969  
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

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## Blessing

PK Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,  
✠ one God,  
bless, heal, and hold you  
today and always.

C Amen.

## Dismissal

A Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C Thanks be to God.

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**Worship Assistants Today:** Julie Huetteman (Musician), Kathy Grogan (Assisting Minister), Reuben Peterson (Lector), Herm & Laurie Snyder (Usher), Mike Williams (A-V Specialist), Matt Ohland (Assistant to Mr. Williams), Jack Johnson (Altar)

**Pastor Randy is available for pastoral care. Please contact him at: 260-402-4476 or by email: [randy@osluth.org](mailto:randy@osluth.org)**

**Pastor Kristin is available for campus ministry-related care and support. Please contact her at: 262-758-1235 or by email: [pastor@plm.org](mailto:pastor@plm.org)**

**We collect toiletries (travel size) to donate to the homeless shelter.** The basket for your donations is in the narthex. (Look beneath the buffet.)

**Our sanctuary is served by a hearing loop.**

Would you like to hear the Pastor, Assisting Minister, Lector, and announcements better? Our sanctuary is served both by a hearing loop and by Auracast. You can use our headphones or your hearing aids.

1. If you have hearing aids that support a telecoil, turn your hearing aids to the setting marked T, or T-coil, or Telephone.
2. If you have hearing aids that support Auracast, turn on Auracast (probably on the smartphone connected to your aids) and select the stream labeled "OSLC Sanctuary".
3. If you want to use headphones, ask an usher for a pair of headphones.

**Kid's Worship Bags and Family Room:** The kids' worship bags have been updated with new items that help children follow along with the worship service, storybook Bibles and fun activities to do. For little ones there are quiet toys, books, and activities in the family in the back of the church for the children to play with during the service. Please feel free to let your children explore.

**Joys and Concerns** can be submitted by filling out the cards which can be found in the narthex or in the pew attendance pads, contacting Erin Thompson in the OSLC office (765-743- 2931) or at [erin@osluth.org](mailto:erin@osluth.org). You can also contact any of the Care Team: Sue Aufderheide ([ska@purdue.edu](mailto:ska@purdue.edu)), Sherri Guido ([dr.guido@comcast.net](mailto:dr.guido@comcast.net)) or Vera Weiser ([weiser.vera@gmail.com](mailto:weiser.vera@gmail.com)). We will run the concern for two weeks under **Concerns** and then move it to on-going prayer list until further notice. The **Joys** will also be run for two weeks.

## **PRAYERS**

Along with the Indiana Kentucky Synod staff, we lift these faith communities and rostered leaders in our prayers:

Gethsemane – Indianapolis, IN – Rev. Lee Welker

Gethsemane – Lexington, KY – SAM Kathy Gosnell

Gloria Dei – Crestview Hills, KY – Rev. Jason Fugate

Gloria Dei – Highland, IN – Rev. Dale Zylstra, Pastor of Record

Gloria Dei – Mulberry, IN – Rev. Kristin Rice, Pastor of Record

Purdue Lutheran Campus Ministry – W. Lafayette, IN – Rev. Kristin Rice

Rev. Rich Sward – Retired – Ocean Isle, NC

Rev. Paul Swartz – Retired – Indianapolis, IN

Rev. Karen Husby – Intentional Interim – Evansville, IN

Rev. Russell Vance – Retired – Evansville, IN

Rev. Forrest VanGundy – Retired – Pleasant Lake, IN

Bishop Jennifer Nagel and the Minneapolis Synod

## About Our Nave

Against the north wall is the Tree of Life, designed by the late liturgical designer Charles Pohlmann and constructed in 1996 by then-OSLC member Ted Marshall. The processional cross was given to OSLC in memory of Jennie Dana. Many of our paraments were designed and hand-woven by OSLC member Bea Stromberg. The west wall is lined with seven wood carvings depicting the life of Christ commissioned from the late Nigerian carver Lamidi Fakeye. At the center of the nave stands a marble baptismal font, a gift from members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. The prints of paintings on the east wall are by nationally known liturgical artist He Qi. The center piece is given by the Church Council in honor of Sam Rasmy for his long-time service as Financial Secretary of OSLC. The Last Supper, by Guatemalan artist Angelina Quic Ixtamer, was purchased by the 2014 Guatemala Mission Team. The OSLC logo was redesigned in 2022 with elements reflecting the unique architecture of the sanctuary, the 2019 addition of the south stained-glass window, our affiliation with the ELCA, and the eternal presence of our Lord and Saviour.

References to the Tree of Life are found in both the Old and New Testaments. It has both literal and symbolic meaning for Christians: it is the literal tree of life in Genesis, and in Revelation it represents everlasting life granted to those who display fruits of the spirit and of righteousness aligned with God's principles.

## Our Saviour's Mission, Vision, and Values (February 10, 2025)

### Mission Statement:

Embraced by God's Love to:

- Honor all people
- Share Christ's compassion
- Serve the world

### Vision:

Make Christ's love known to all:

- Meet people where they are
- Accompany and encourage one another along the way
- Nurture our roots and foster new growth

### Values:

Empathy: Understanding and addressing the needs of others

Growth: Encouraging the development of faith, love, and compassion

Generosity: Giving of time, talents, and assets to care for the community and the world

Belonging: Nurturing a community where all are honored and celebrated

Tradition: Rooted in the Christian faith as members of the ELCA

Caring: managing resources with purpose and integrity.