



O BEAUTIFUL FOR SPACIOUS SKIES
by Katherine I. Bates

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

HOLY COMMUNION

Christ the King Lutheran Church

Great Falls, Virginia

July 5, 2026

10:00 a.m.

*Our vision is to be a vibrant community of Jesus' disciples,
empowered by the Holy Spirit to bring God's grace into our world.*

ELW refers to Evangelical Lutheran Worship, the red hymnal in the pew. W&P refers to Worship & Praise. ACS refers to All Creation Sings.

A: indicates Assisting Minister; L: indicates Leader; P: indicates Presiding Minister;
C: indicates Congregation.

At places where the ✝ appears, it is customary to make the sign of the cross in remembrance of your baptism.

Should you need to use an enlarged order of service, complete with Bible readings and hymns, you will find several in black binders just outside the sanctuary.

A few notes about worship:

- **We are glad to have children in worship.** We also know that children sometimes need to move and express themselves in ways that the service (and the pews) don't accommodate. There is a family break room/nursery available with toys, a rocking chair, changing table, and other items. It is staffed during Sunday School and the worship service, but you are free to use it as needed.
To find the family break room, turn left in the foyer and go past the doors leading to the parking lot. It's the first door on the left down the hall.
- The worship service is streamed live on Facebook. The camera angles are set so that worshipers' faces are never seen on camera (the camera may occasionally pick up the back of the heads of those sitting in the front rows); only those leading worship from the chancel, lectern, piano, and organ are ever shown fully or face-on.

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church Office: 703-759-6068
Hours: Mon - Wed, 10:00 - 3:00

10550 Georgetown Pike
Great Falls, VA 22066

King's Kids Preschool: 703-759-6935
Website: gflutheran.org



Pastor	The Rev. Sandy Kessinger	Pastor@gflutheran.org
Music Director & Organist	Paul Park	ppark117@gmail.com
Administrator	Karen Utter	admin@gflutheran.org
Bookkeeper	TBD	book.keeper@gflutheran.org
Communications Coordinator	Kim Buckingham	comms@gflutheran.org
Youth Admin	Karen Anderson	youthadmin@gflutheran.org
KKP Director	Katelyn Merchant	kkp@gflutheran.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christ the King Lutheran Church

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

July 5, 2026

CtK Red Cross Blood Drive, Thursday, July 16 _____

Our next blood drive will be on Thursday, July 16, 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in Gysan Hall. **Please click [here](#) to sign up to donate on the Red Cross website. Donors will receive a Fandango Movie Reward by email!** We need 30 donors to be able to host the blood drive. We need help with setup at noon and cleanup at 6:00 p.m. We also need some home-baked goods, please. Questions? Please call Melody Starya Mobley at (571) 276-7356.

Cornerstones Backpack Drive 2026 _____

Christ the King is once again collecting backpacks to support the Cornerstones backpack drive for children. The backpacks should be new, elementary, middle, and high school age-appropriate, and large enough to accommodate pocket folders, notebooks, and pencil boxes. No wheels. No corporate branding. Please bring the backpacks and place them in the basket labeled "Backpacks" in the narthex. **The deadline is Sunday, July 26.** Questions? Please call Suzanne Gaibler at 703-851-5600.

The Alzheimer's Association Summer Fundraiser _____

This year, the Alzheimer's Association's fundraiser is "Do What You Love to End Alz" (formerly "The Longest Day"). As we have for the past ten years, Christ the King's Service Team is supporting the Alzheimer's Association and the large number of loved ones who have been affected by memory loss diseases. Please fill out a sticker in the name of your family members or friends and stick it on the tablecloth.

We are asking for donations to "End Alz". To make an online donation, please click [here](#) for the link to Karen Magley's donation page (preferred donation method). For a cash donation, please give it to Karen personally including your name, address, phone number, and email address.

To use a check, make it out to the Alzheimer's Association and put it in the box on the END ALZ table in the narthex with your name, address, email address, and phone number or mail it to Karen Magley at 11608 Holly Briar Lane, Great Falls VA with that information.

Today's Altar Flowers _____

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Bill and Janet Hiatt in loving memory of Bill's brother, Rex Hiatt.

WELCOME!



ELCA

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www.facebook.com/gflutheran.org



www.instagram.com/gflutheran

Christ the King Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Metro DC Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

MEMBERSHIP

If you would like to know more about Christ the King or are interested in living out your discipleship as a member of this community, please contact the church office at (703)759-6068.

If you would like to be on our email list to receive our weekly newsletter, please contact the church office at (703)759-6068 or visit our website: gflutheran.org.

CALENDAR



Vacation Bible School at Christ the King: July 27-31 _____

Christ the King will partner with Abiding Presence Lutheran Church (Burke) to offer VBS at Christ the King during the week of July 27-31, 12:00-3:00 p.m. each day. Each day, groups of similarly aged kids will rotate through stations such as games, art, science, snack, life-size board games, and Bible adventures.

Click [here](#) to register your child or to volunteer to help.

Questions? Please contact Antonia Siebert at antonia.c.siebert@gmail.com

Honey Harvest Festival: Sunday, August 30 _____

Christ the King is hosting our Fourth Annual Honey Harvest Festival on Sunday, August 30, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. This family-friendly event will have craft vendors, a petting zoo, baked goods and honey for sale, a Rocklands Barbecue food truck, and outdoor music.

At 5:00 pm, please join us for a Great Falls Philharmonic children's concert, "Peter and the Wolf." Tickets are required for the concert and can be purchased here: www.gfphil.org/upcoming

Prayers for the Congregation _____

Please pray for the **Saba family** as they mourn the death of Peter's mother, Heidi Maria Saba.

Linda McMillen asks for prayers for healing for **Angie Froscheiser**. If anyone has any questions, please call Linda at 703-868-8114.

David Whelan asks for prayers for his sister Virginia Peters who is battling a recurring cancer.

For healing: **Lynda & Roger Hammel; Karen Magley; Pat & Carol Murphy; Vivienne Wardian**

Summer Lay Helper Sign Up Genius _____

Please click [here](#) to sign up to help with our services.

This Morning's Lay Helpers 10:00 a.m.
Asst Minister – Joni Holeman
Lector – Kristine Heine
Greeter/Usher – Open
Refreshments – Open
Counters – Open

AT CTK THIS WEEK July 5 – July 12

Sunday, July 5

8:45 a.m. – Adult Forum, In-person & [Zoom](#)
10:00 a.m. – In-person Worship
([streaming available on Facebook Live](#))
7:00 p.m. – AA

Tuesday, July 7

7:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast, la Madeleine

Thursday, July 9

7:00 p.m. – AA

Saturday, July 11

7:00 p.m. – AA

Sunday, July 12

8:45 a.m. – Adult Forum, In-person & [Zoom](#)
10:00 a.m. – In-person Worship
([streaming available on Facebook Live](#))
7:00 p.m. – AA



CHRIST THE KING & KKP STAFF

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Reflections on Stewardship

Pentecost 6 • Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

It's difficult to find many these days who don't feel "overburdened." We all seem to have a great deal on our "plates." Jesus reminds us that the faithful steward is the one who comes to Jesus and asks him to share the burden.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, source of hope in every nation, rest for the weary, glory and peace to the ends of the earth.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us bring every burden to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of all mercy,

C: **we have sinned against you, our neighbors, and your creation. Within ourselves and our communities, our desire to do what is good is at war with the evil that dwells in us. We lament the evil that holds us captive. We repent of the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us for lives of compassion and courage through our Savior Jesus Christ.**

P: God forgives you all your sins through the death and resurrection of ✚ Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, and by the power of the Holy Spirit who strengthens you to do what is good and right.

C: **Amen.**

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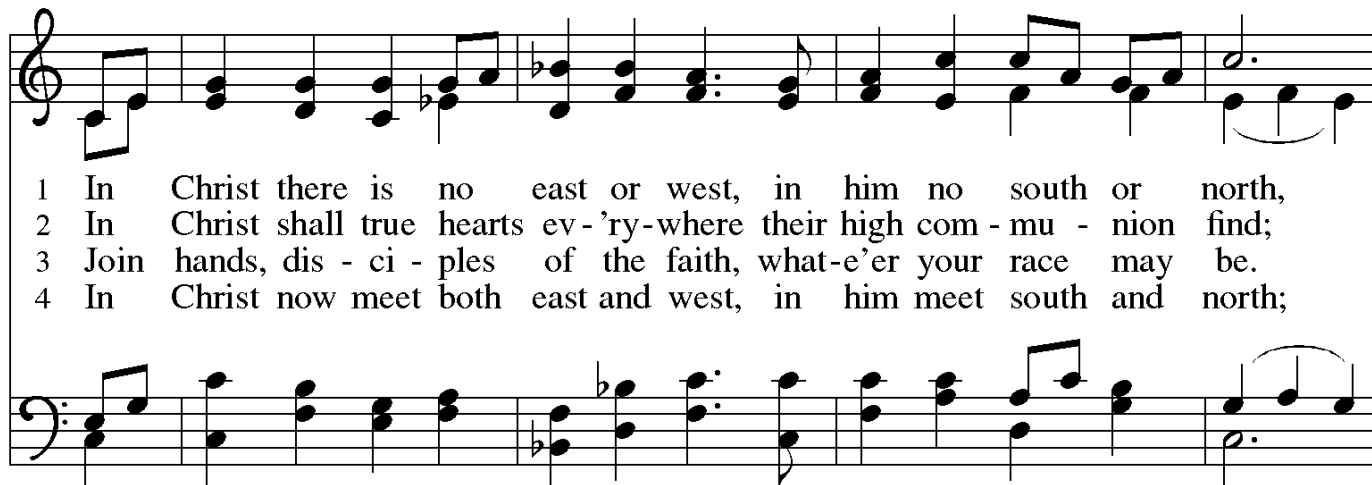
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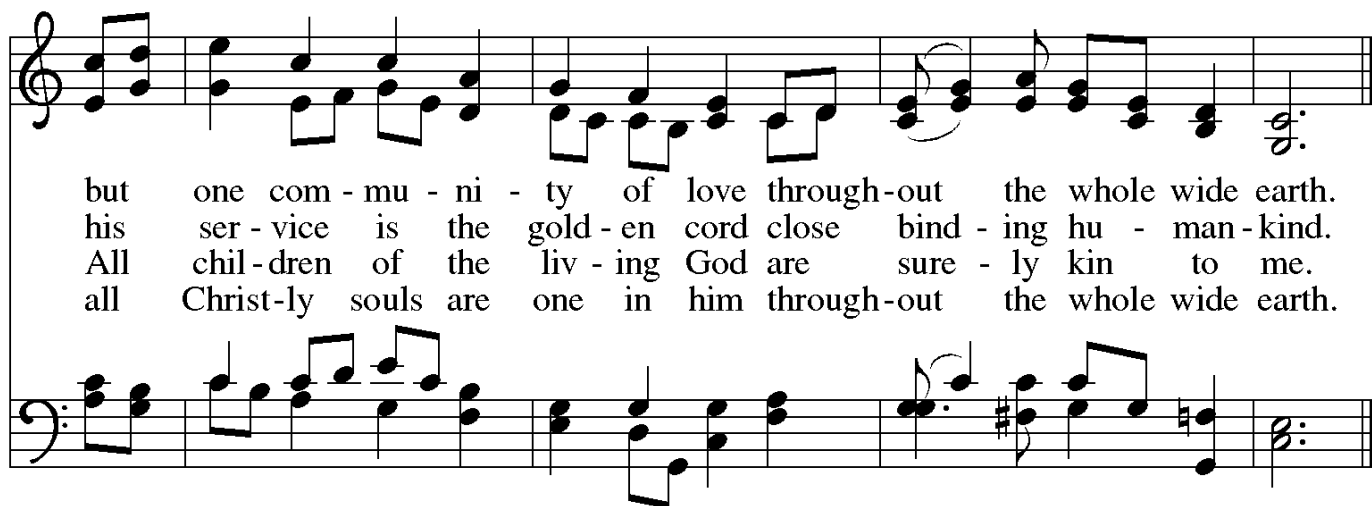
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GATHERING HYMN: ELW 650 In Christ There Is No East or West



1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com - mu - nion find;
3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com - mu - ni - ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser - vice is the gold - en cord close bind - ing hu - man - kind.
All chil - dren of the liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

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.



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
 Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
 Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
 on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
 Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
 Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
 For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORD _____

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST LESSON: Zechariah 9:9-12

R: A reading from Zechariah.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 145:8-14

said responsively

*The Reader (R) says the regular text; the Congregation (C) says the **bold text**.*

R: ⁸ The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

C: ⁹ **Lord, you are good to all, and your compassion is over all your works.**

R: ¹⁰ All your works shall praise you, O Lord, and your faithful ones shall bless you.

C: ¹¹ **They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power,**

R: ¹² that all people may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

C: ¹³ **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages. You, Lord, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**

R: ¹⁴ The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 7:15-25a

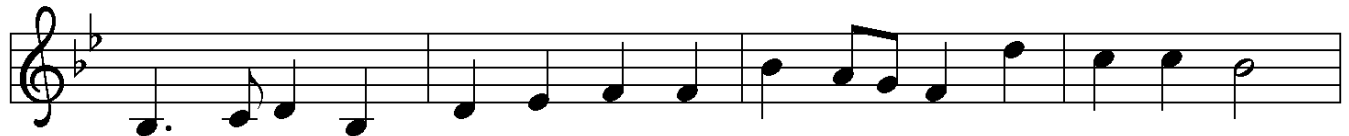
R: A reading from Romans.

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a} Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

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

P: Jesus spoke to the crowd saying: ¹⁶“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸“For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁰Then he began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done because they did not repent. ²¹“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²²But I tell you, on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ²³And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven?

No, you will be brought down to Hades.

“For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. ²⁴But I tell you that on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you.”

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Sandy Kessinger

Silence for meditation may follow the sermon.

The worship service continues on the following page.

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 888 O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

1 O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain,
 2 O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - at - ing strife,
 3 O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the years

for pur - ple moun - tain maj - es - ties a - bove the fruit - ed plain:
 who more than self their coun - try loved, and mer - cy more than life:
 thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam, un - dimmed by hu - man tears:

A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - 'ry flaw,

and crown thy good with broth - er - hood from sea to shin - ing sea.
 till all suc - cess be no - ble - ness, and ev - 'ry gain di - vine.
 con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, thy lib - er - ty in law.

APOSTLES' CREED

said in unison

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.

Please sit or kneel as you are comfortable for our time of prayer.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

Gathering God, send your Spirit on the church you have called out from every nation. Knit us together into one body and heal the divisions we have caused. Overcome our timidity to witness and act in the public square when your purpose is being thwarted. Bless rostered and lay leaders with clarity and courage as they center your people in the gospel. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: All your works praise you, O God. From the Arctic to the Caribbean, from the Atlantic to the western islands, these lands and waters have sustained its peoples over many centuries. As we take our part in creation's praise, revive our wonder at what you have fashioned, and enliven our will to ensure its health for future generations. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Holy Trinity, you show us the splendor of diversity and the beauty of unity in your own divine life. We come from many nations with many languages; make us a united people that delights in our many different gifts. As the United States of America marks its declaration of independence, give those whom we have entrusted with authority the spirit of wisdom, and curb every abuse of that trust, so that both here and abroad, justice, humility, and peace may flourish. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You are the Mother of exiles, O God. Extend your arms to all who are tired, who live with poverty, the tempest-tossed, all who yearn to breathe free. Embrace people seeking refuge; those incarcerated, detained, or disappeared; and neighbors fearing those they once trusted. Give healing and hope to people in any oppression and need, especially these we name on our prayer list and those we name in our hearts before you now (*a brief silence*). God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We remember before you those who have died in every generation: Jan Hus, executed for protesting the ecclesial system; Benedict, teacher of a prayerful life; and those who have died ensuring the freedoms of this country: people in the armed services, peace officers, advocates, and activists. Gather us, together with those who have gone before us, and with saints of every tribe and nation, into the holy city you have prepared. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Into your mercy, O God, we entrust our restless hearts and all our cares, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Please greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace by saying Peace be with you as you shake hands or embrace. Please be seated following the sharing of the peace.

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

*Make checks payable to "Christ the King Lutheran Church".
Contributions go toward the ministries and programs of Christ the King Lutheran Church.*

OFFERING AND REGATHERING SONG: ELW 512 Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below each staff. The lyrics are: "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."

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, for waves of grain and harvesters, fruitful vines and winepresses, for our labor and our rest, for the gifts of your hand in this land. Transform us and what we offer into the banquet of your compassion, serving your love without limits through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also 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 our thanks and praise.**

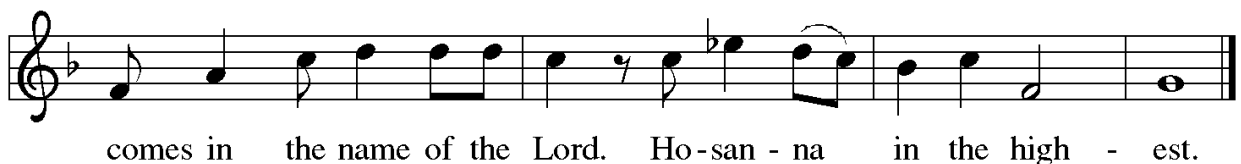
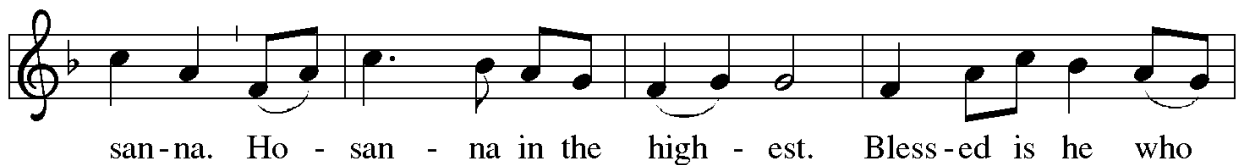
PREFACE

P: 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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW page 144



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy God,

Within the vast reaches you splashed into being, you formed our star and this planet: purple mountains, fruited plains, crystal waters, towering forests, gleaming mines. Here you fashioned human beings in our infinite variety and hue, yet each one created equal, to care for one another and our earthly home.

In a time of peace enforced by the cruelty of the Roman empire, you came in Jesus to share our life. Born under the rule of a merciless king, Jesus revealed the merciful realm of God. Moving across borders to people broken and oppressed, Jesus brought healing, restoration, and freedom.

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.

Remembering, therefore, Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension to rule with love forever, we declare the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: God, shed your grace on us. Shower your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine and on your people gathered this day. Ignite in us the flame of freedom – freedom from prejudice, from supremacy, from fear; freedom for acceptance, for welcome, for the shalom that you have first shown to us.

Yours, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is the everlasting kingdom, the peaceable power, and the humble glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

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 WITH MUSICAL OFFERING

Instructions for communion distribution will be given at this time. All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to participate in Holy Communion. Those who have not received instruction or who wish not to receive communion may come forward for a blessing.

POST-COMMUNION HYMN: ELW 465 As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when



Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

We thank you, God of heaven and earth, that you fill our deepest need with the very gift of Jesus Christ, broken and poured out for us. Pour us out into a broken world. Channel our common life toward the common good, following the way our Savior leads us now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING _____

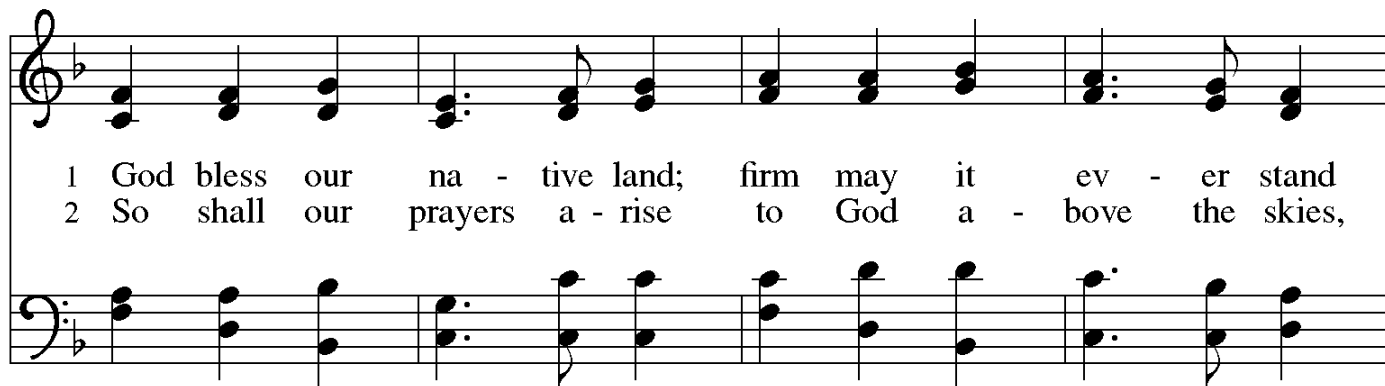
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BENEDICTION

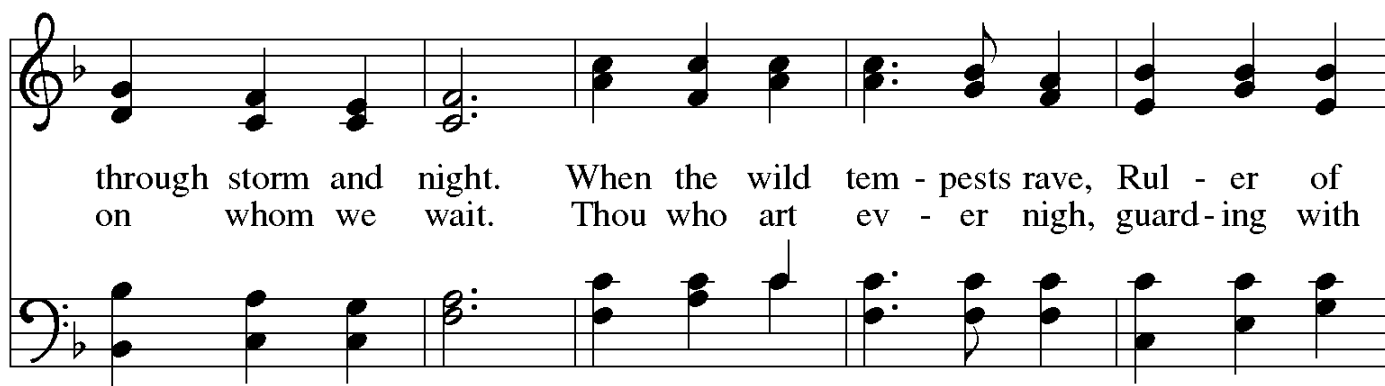
P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: ELW 891 God Bless Our Native Land



1 God bless our na - tive land; firm may it ev - er stand
2 So shall our prayers a - rise to God a - bove the skies,



through storm and night. When the wild tem - pests rave, Rul - er of
on whom we wait. Thou who art ev - er nigh, guard - ing with



wind and wave, do thou our coun - try save by thy great might.
watch - ful eye, to thee a - loud we cry: God save the state!

DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE