

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS LUTHERAN CHURCH

1669 Arcade Street North
 St. Paul, Minnesota 55106
 651-774-5954
www.gachurch.org
 Deb Hogen,
 Lector
 Time After Pentecost
 September 7, 2025 • 9:00 am

The Rev. John Hierlinger,
 Senior Pastor
 The Rev. Ruthie Mhanga,
 Associate Pastor
 Pastor Bethany Ketchem,
 Ministerial Associate
 Andrew Parr,
 Director of Worship and Music

WE ARE AN ELCA CONGREGATION WHO SEEK TO BE A GATEWAY OF FAITH FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

DURING THE WORSHIP SERVICE, **THE CONGREGATION JOINS IN RECITING THE BOLD TEXT.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

The Son of God, Our Christ

by Alfred M. Smith

WELCOME

The assembly is invited to rise in body and/or spirit.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

C: Amen.

L: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

L: Merciful and loving God,

C: we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor.

Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.

L: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ✠ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

God's Work Our Hands

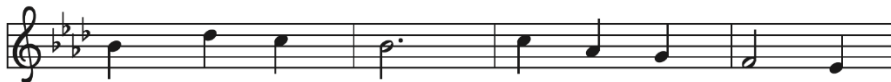
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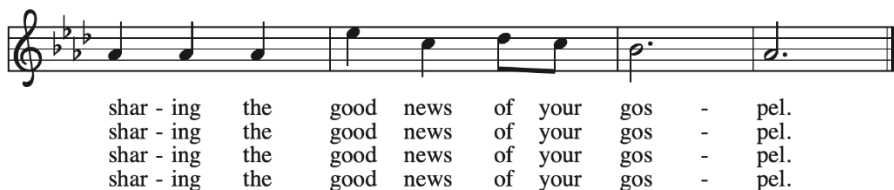
1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
 Music: David N. Johnson, 1922-1987

GREETING

L: 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.**





Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

FIRST LESSON

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

“See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

C: Word of God, word of life.

L: Thanks be to God.

Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the LORD; or choose death by following other gods.

PSALMODY

The assembly joins in reciting the Psalm at the bold text.

Psalm 1

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

**Their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves
that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

**It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

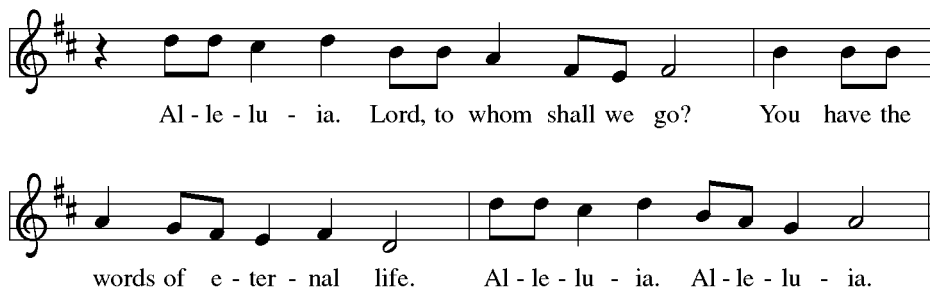
Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

**For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

The assembly is invited to rise in body and/or spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW page 142



GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 14:25-33

L: A reading from the Gospel of Saint Luke, fourteenth chapter.

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

Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord

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

The assembly is seated.

Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.

SERMON

The Rev. John Hierlinger



1 The Son of God, our Christ, the Word, the Way,
 2 In ev - 'ry test, in tri - als man - i - fold,
 3 To - day, as then, Christ sum - mons us to dare
 4 In cit - y street, in town, or on the soil,
 5 Wher - e'er we find our wit - ness should be made,



shared hu - man life and toiled through - out the day;
 these ser - vants wit - nessed, by their faith made bold;
 to fol - low bold - ly and his work to share,
 may each serve Christ in faith - ful dai - ly toil,
 what - e'er our task, be thou, O Christ, our aid,



from com - mon folk he called the twelve to be
 and with the gifts and tal - ents which they brought
 to help and heal the sick, the blind, the lame,
 and in each thought and kind - ly word and deed,
 that we may glad - ly give for thee our best



co - work - ers in his sa - cred min - is - try.
 the church was found - ed and God's mes - sage taught.
 de - clar - ing to the world his ho - ly name.
 o - bey Christ's call and go where he shall lead.
 and find each task di - vine - ly sent and blest.

Text: Edward M. Blumenfeld, 1927-2013
 Music: Alfred M. Smith, 1879-1971

The assembly is invited to rise in body and/or spirit.

THE 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 OF THE PEOPLE

L: Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Each petition ends with

L: God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

L: We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

*You may also say **Peace Be to You** or use similar words.*

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

OFFERING

Your offering here is an act of worship that support's Christ's mission through Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church. In addition to our ministry of worship, your gifts teach the story to all ages, keep the lights shining bright, serve our neighbors in need, and support our partners in mission. These partners include Merrick Community Services, Every Meal, Lutheran Social Services and many others. This month's special concern giving supports our partners in the Iringa Diocese of the ELCT.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Praise to the Lord, Alleluia
Gustavus Adolphus Chancel Choir

by John Carter

Praise to the Lord, Alleluia! Praise to His name, Alleluia!

The heavens above speak of His marvelous love;

All of the works of His hands sing His praise!

Praise to the lord, Alleluia! Praise to His name, Alleluia!

The earth, sky, and sea tell of His great majesty,

Sounding is praise endlessly, Alleluia!

What am I that he should think of me? What am I that he should care for me?

Yet he formed me from the dust of the earth;

And crowned me with glory and light, Alleluia!

Praise to the lord, Alleluia! Praise to His name, Alleluia!

Rejoicing I sing to the Creator and King,

Maker of all wondrous things. Alleluia!

Alleluia!

OFFERTORY
RESPONSE

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

ELW 884

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;
praise him a - bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

The musical score is written for two staves, treble and bass clef, in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with the bass clef providing harmonic support. The lyrics are written below the staves, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across measures.

OFFERING
PRAYER

L: Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

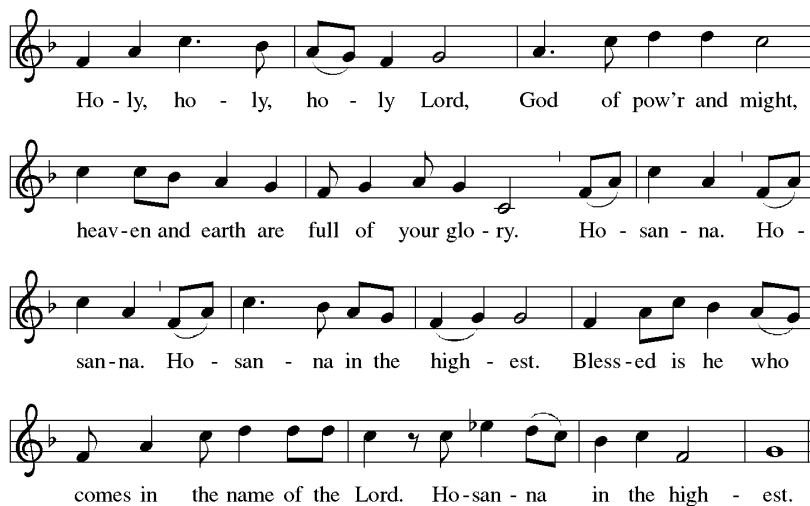
ELW page 152

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The musical score is written for a single staff in treble clef, in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The melody is simple and repetitive, with the lyrics written below the staff. The score is divided into four lines, each corresponding to a line of the prayer text.

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

ELW page 144



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

L: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

The assembly is seated.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

All are welcome to join in this meal of God's mercy for all people...as Lutherans, we simply set the table. The invitation to share in this meal comes from God. The ushers will direct you to a serving station. If going forward is difficult for you, please remain seated and a pastor will come to you.

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.

PARABLES



GOSPEL OF LUKE



The Cost Of Discipleship | Luke 14:25-33

1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
 2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
 3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still
 4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you

re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
 I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
 that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.

I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;

nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
 but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
 now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.
 oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1874
 Music: *Neuvermehrtes Gesandbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

SENDING

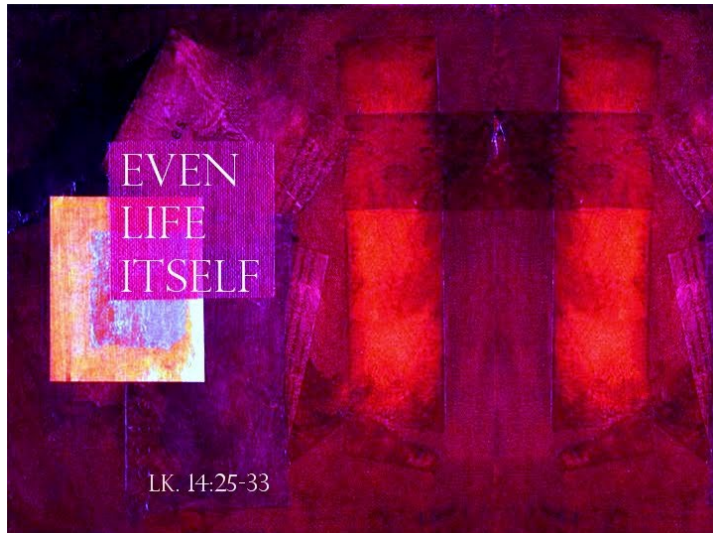
ANNOUNCEMENTS

BACKPACK BLESSINGS

The assembly is invited to rise in body and/or spirit.

BENEDICTION

by Ray Makeever



Refrain

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way;
 for if you lead me, I can - not stray.
 Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
 Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r
 2 Help me tread in the paths of righ - teous - ness,
 3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,

to help me o - ver my weak - est hour.
 be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.
 I am blind with - out . . . thy light to see.

Help me through the dark - ness thy face to see.
 I am put - ting all . . . my trust in thee.
 Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

Refrain

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Text: Doris Akers, 1922-1995
 Music: Doris Akers

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

God Welcomes All

arr. Mary Howarth



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