

CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

10:30 A.M.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
901 EAST STROOP ROAD
KETTERING, OH 45429-4688
(937) 298-0136

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

Introduction

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

No One Is Lost to God

Our relationship to God is bound together with our relationships to one another. We are church together. Whenever hurt or conflict arises in community, Jesus calls us toward reconciliation. But what about those times when, despite our most sincere efforts, the one who has caused us harm refuses to listen? What do we do when it doesn't feel safe to invite them back into relationship? Or what about those times when we ourselves choose to separate rather than return to a community that has refused to believe us?

Sometimes in our quest to do what's right, we might hold so tightly to our checklist for church discipline that we leave little room for grace. In such cases, we might keep the peace or avoid open disagreement without attending to the real wounds at the heart of any conflict. The truth is also that sometimes, whether for our own safety or our own self-respect, we may wisely choose to keep our distance from others who have refused to take to heart the harmful impact of their words or actions. Yet, even when we allow ourselves the space that we need, God remains present.

Jesus doesn't say that whatever we lose on earth will be lost in heaven. The operative word isn't lose, but loose—as in “release,” “set free,” or “let go of.” When we've responded in good faith to the conflicts that arise between us and have exhausted every option for reconciliation, Jesus invites us to tenderly acknowledge our failure, loosen our grip on the situation, and give that one over to God. We should never take this letting-go lightly. At the same time, we can trust that when we are left to release a member of our community into God's mercy, we do not lose them. For no one is ever lost to God.

PRELUDE

Goodness is Stronger Than Evil
music by John L. Bell
text from *An African Prayerbook* by Desmond Tutu
Chancel Choir

GATHERING

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Jamie Vannoy

CALL TO WORSHIP

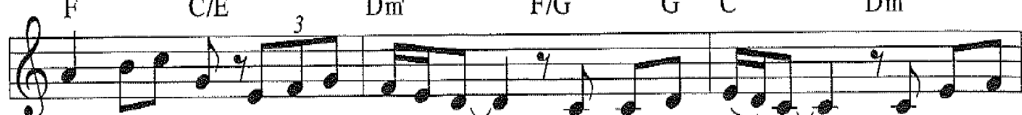
We Are an Offering (W&P 146)

F/G G C² Dm⁷ C²/E C/E




We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our

F C/E 3 Dm⁷ F/G G C² Dm⁷




lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our

C²/E C/E F C/E 3 Dm⁷ F/G G/F



hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering.

Em⁷ Em⁷/A A Dm⁷ Dm⁷/G Esus D/F# E/G# Am



All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we

Dm⁷ C²/E Bb/C Dm^{7sus2} Dm⁷ F/G



give to you, we give to you.

G C² Dm⁷ C²/E C/E

We lift our voic - es, we lift our hands, we lift our

F C/E 3 Dm⁷ Dm⁷/G 3 C

lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

OPENING LITANY:

“Celebration of Vocation and Blessing of Hands for Ministry”

We are called to proclaim the good news:

God is at work!

This good news is not left in some history long ago or a place far away:

God is at work in the world still today!

In us and through us, God is glorified in our work.

When we offer a helping hand, God is praised.

When we share of our abundance, God is known in the world.

God is at work in us!

In our service today, and in our daily lives,

let us live out what God has called us to in baptism.

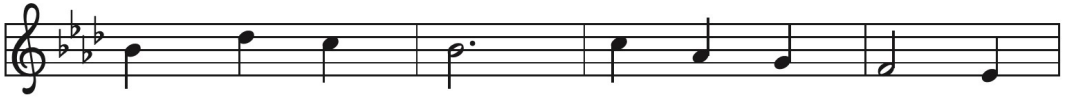
God is at work through our hands!



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,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Take My Life that I May Be (ELW 583)

Refrain/Estrillo



To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -
 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord



da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón
 to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;



y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.
 let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.



1 Que mi vi - da en - te - ra es - té
 1 Take my hands and let them move
 2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,
 3 Take my voice and let me sing
 4 Take my will and make it thine;



con - sa - gra - da a ti, Se - ñor;
 at the im - pulse of thy love;
 not a mite would I with - hold;
 al - ways, on - ly for my King;
 it shall be no lon - ger mine;



que a mis ma - nos pue - da guiar el im -
 take my feet and let them be swift and
 take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry
 take my lips and let them be filled with
 take my heart, it is thine own; it shall



pul - so de tu a - mor.
 beau - ti - ful for thee.
 pow'r as thou shalt choose.
 mes - sag - es from thee.
 be thy roy - al throne.

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

(Refrain - Music Ministers)

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul.

Worship his holy name.

Sing like never before, O my soul;

I'll worship your holy name.

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,

It's time to sing your song again.

Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,

Let me be singing when the evening comes.

(Refrain - All)

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul.

Worship his holy name.

Sing like never before, O my soul;

I'll worship your holy name.

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers)

You're rich in love, and you're slow to anger.

Your name is great and your heart is kind.

For all your goodness, I will keep on singing;

Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

(Refrain - All)

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul.

Worship his holy name.

Sing like never before, O my soul;

I'll worship your holy name.

(Verse 3 - Music Ministers)

And on that day, when my strength is failing,

The end draws near, and my time has come;

Still, my soul will sing your praise unending

Ten thousand years and then forevermore!

(Refrain - All/Music Ministers)

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul.

Worship his holy name.

Sing like never before, O my soul;

I'll worship your holy name.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul.
Worship his holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship your holy name.
I'll worship your holy name.
Lord, I'll worship your holy name.**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Trusting that Jesus dwells in our midst and loves us into life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, Holy One, for washing us and drawing us into your community.

We give you thanks for the waters that have shaped and formed your people in every time and place:

For water that washed the earth and brought about your promises;
For water that parted so that your people could dance in freedom;
For water that quenched the thirst of your promised people;
For water that shaped a holy land;
For water that washed a foreigner clean;
For water that satisfied a woman who did not even know she was thirsty;
For water that welcomed an outsider on the road;
For water that cleanses and makes whole;
For water that drenches us and makes us your own.
Holy One, we give you thanks that your love
flows over and into and through us.
May your Spirit live in us,
that we might live for others.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

WORD

*Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets,
Jesus interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.*

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 33:7-11

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

A reading from the book of Ezekiel.

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalms 119:33-40

I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)

Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.

**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.

**Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.**

Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life | in your way.

**Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.**

Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.

**Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness en-liven me**

SECOND READING:

Romans 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

** GOSPEL READING

Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ..**

YOUTH MESSAGE

MESSAGE

Pastor Jamie Vannoy

**** APOSTLES' CREED**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
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 COMMUNITY

GATHERING OF GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*Antiphonal Praise with How Great Is He
by Steve Green and Tom Fettke; arr. Tom Fettke
Mary Pierce, soprano
Mark Shoemaker, baritone*

OFFERING PRAYER

Holy God, giver of all good things, receive the gifts we bring, fruit of the earth and the work of human hands, that they may be used to your purposes for life and love in the world. Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Honor, praise, glory and thanksgiving
to you, God, our loving Creator.

In the beginning you reached your hands into the earth
and formed humanity in your own image.

You breathed into us your own breath of love
and gave us hearts and hands and voices
to live your loving purpose in the world.

Seeing the lonely creature of earth,
you created a partner that we would know the joy of community.
Throughout the history of your people, you never abandoned us,
but brought us into community with one another and with you,
and guided us through your prophets.

With endless patience and love,
you called to us time and again to return to life with you.

In the fulfillment of all things, you came to us in Jesus,
born into a human family,
raised in a hometown,

who gathered around himself a community formed by your love,
and yearned to gather all people under the loving wings of a mother hen.

Sitting at dinner with friends
and knowing one among them would break the bonds of love,
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.

In the same way 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 sins.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Trusting in his promise to be among us whenever we gather in his name,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Gathered as your people,
meeting in Jesus' name,
and preparing ourselves to feast upon Jesus' very body and blood,
we plead with all creation:

Come, Lord Jesus.

Send your Spirit upon this meal,
the body and blood of Jesus,
that we overflow with your selfless love.
Turn us to face our neighbors,
that by us and through us your love may be known in the world.
Again, we beg:
Come, Holy Spirit.

All honor and praise and glory to you,
God of creative, dirty hands,
God of holy, wounded hands,
God who strengthens and guides our hands,
now and forever.
Amen.

**** LORD'S PRAYER**

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

Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

HOLY COMMUNION - *Receiving the Lord's tangible presence.*

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Each person may respond: **Amen.**

Communion Statement ~ *If you believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is your Savior and Redeemer and would like to receive Holy Communion, then come forward to receive the elements. If you would just like to come forward and receive a blessing, then you may do that also.*

NOTE: We invite everyone to come forward for Holy Communion. If you have a gluten allergy, gluten-free wafers are available upon request when receiving Communion. Also, if you prefer not to receive wine at Communion, apple juice is available upon request.

REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION

*As we prepare to receive the sacrament today, may we quietly take this time to center ourselves on Christ, and the amazing gifts of grace and forgiveness that we have been given. As we receive the body and the blood of our Lord, let us reflect upon His sacrifice. Finally, may we take this time to ask the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts, and then to work **in** us and **through** us in the coming days.*

** TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and always keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy Jesus, in this meal you have fed and nourished us to work in your beloved world. Send us now, filled with yourself and strengthened by your Spirit to live your love for others. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

** BLESSING

God who sets forth the law of love, Jesus who fulfills the law for you, and the Spirit through whom you are called to love, bless you this day, that you may be God's hands and heart and voice at work in the world. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

How Great Is Our God with How Great Thou Art

(Verse 1 - All)

The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty;
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.
He wraps himself in light, and darkness tries to hide,
And trembles at his voice, and trembles at his voice.

(Refrain - All)

How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!
And all will see how great, how great is our God!

(Verse 2 - All)

And age to age he stands, and time is in his hands;
Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End.
The Godhead, three in one: Father, Spirit, Son,
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb.

(Refrain - All)

**How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!
And all will see how great, how great is our God!**

(How Great Thou Art, Verse 1 - All)

**O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works thy hands hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed;
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!**

(How Great Thou Art, Verse 2 - All)

**But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin;
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!**

(Music Ministers/All)

**Name above all names, worthy of all praise.
My heart will sing: How great is our God!
Name above all names, worthy of all praise.
My heart will sing: How great is our God!**

(Refrain - All)

**How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!
And all will see how great, how great is our God!
How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!
And all will see how great, how great is our God!**

**** DISMISSAL**

**Go in peace. You are God's hands at work in the world!
Created, saved and gifted by God, we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ.
Hallelujah! Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

“W + 2” = Worship Plus Two

**Make a commitment to not only worship each week
but also try to find a way to serve in the congregation
and seek out a way to serve our community.**

YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD

Upcoming Commemorations

**John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, died 407
Wednesday, September 13, 2023**

John was a priest in Antioch and an outstanding preacher. His eloquence earned him the nickname “Chrysostom” (“golden mouth”). Appointed bishop of Constantinople, seat of the empire, he criticized corruption in the court. As a result, he was exiled by the empress.

**Holy Cross Day
Thursday, September 14, 2023**

Helena, mother of Constantine, made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and found what may be the actual site of Jesus’ crucifixion. Her son built two churches there, and the dedication of one of them gave rise to this celebration of our Lord’s victory on the cross.

**Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, died around 258
Saturday, September 16, 2023**

Cyprian served as a bishop during a time of great persecution of Christians. He insisted on receiving back those who had left the faith under duress. He also provided medical care during a severe epidemic.

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