

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



EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 3, 2025
10:30 AM

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
901 EAST STROOP ROAD
KETTERING, OHIO 45429-4688
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INTRODUCTION

Today's texts offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the "unhappy business" of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the "things that are above." To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord's supper and the encouragement of God's word.

Dying to be Rich

"All is vanity and a chasing after wind," says Ecclesiastes, yet we chase wealth like it will last forever, forgetting that we ourselves will one day die and that everything we have stored up here will be useless to us. Into the tragedy of our human drive to be rich in possessions, even at the cost of being poor in everything else, Jesus tells the parable of the rich fool. It is first told to brothers squabbling over an inheritance, and now it is told to us, some of us squabbling with our relatives or neighbors over wealth and possessions. The rich fool, despite his great wealth, is poor in every other way, eating alone, and even dying alone. In Jesus' depiction of this fool our own sinful hearts are exposed. We too vainly chase after even more, sacrificing right relationship with God and neighbor in the process. Death comes to the rich fool when he least expects it, as it must come to all of us. How, then, are we to be "rich toward God"? Paul reminds the Colossian Christians of their own unexpected deaths in the waters of baptism: "you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God." In baptism we are joined to Christ's death, and we are to be dead to all foolish chasing after more possessions. We have died, not alone, but with Christ. Our lives now are hidden with Christ in God, and in Christ we share a fortune of true riches that also are good for our neighbors. Death will come, but our treasure is already secure. By faith we have acquired abounding riches above, and by faith we are freed from storing up treasures for ourselves here on earth.

*** indicates to stand as you are able.*

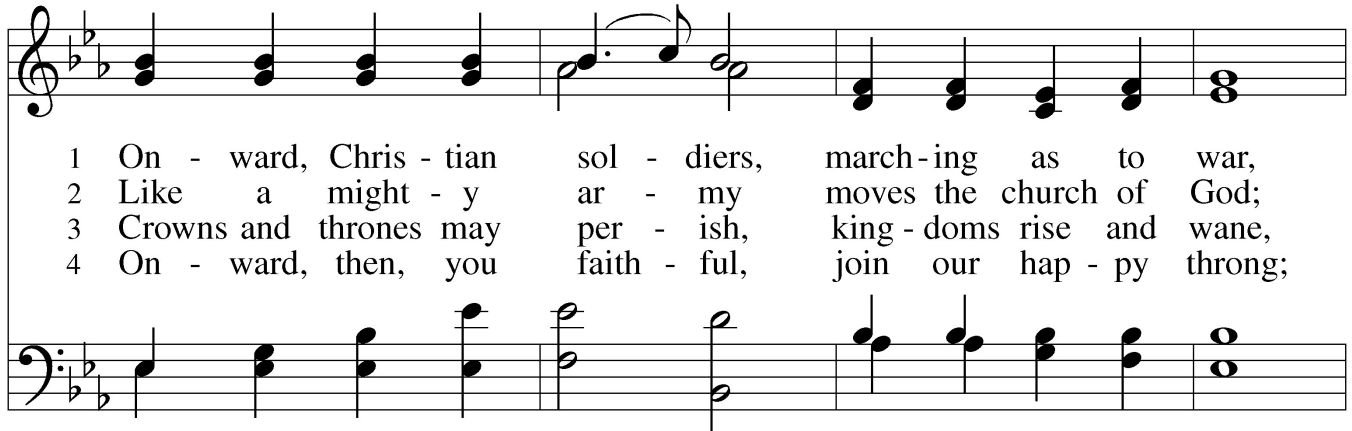
GATHERING

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

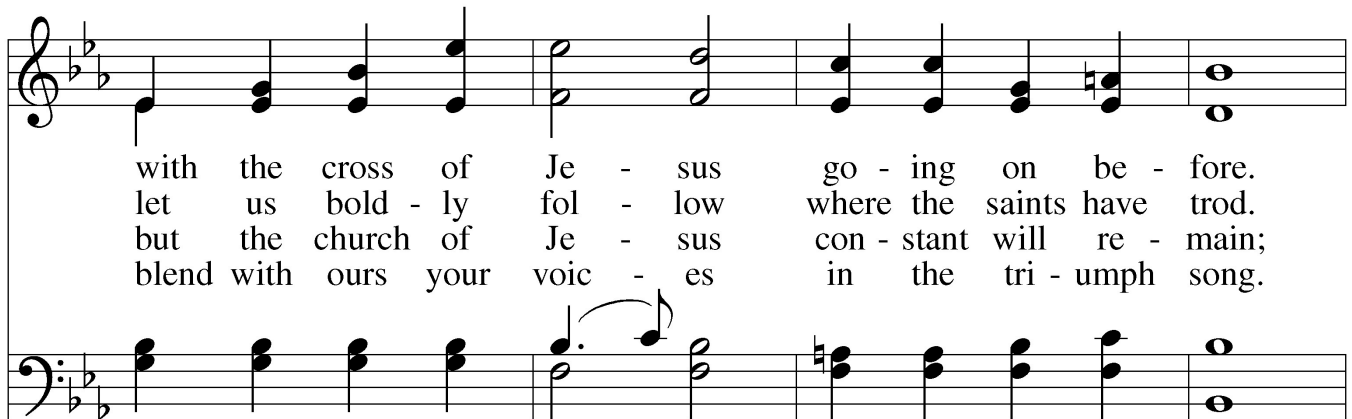
PRELUDE

"Onward, Christian Soldiers"

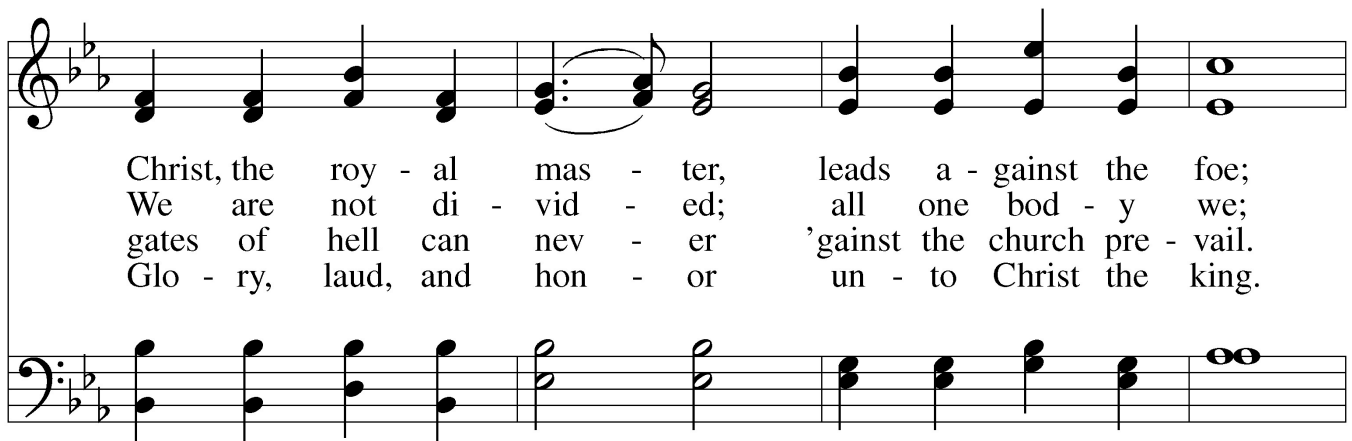
From the survey of favorite hymns.



1 On - ward, Chris - tian sol - diers, march - ing as to war,
2 Like a might - y ar - my moves the church of God;
3 Crowns and thrones may per - ish, king - doms rise and wane,
4 On - ward, then, you faith - ful, join our hap - py throng;



with the cross of Je - sus go - ing on be - fore.
let us bold - ly fol - low where the saints have trod.
but the church of Je - sus con - stant will re - main;
blend with ours your voic - es in the tri - umph song.



Christ, the roy - al mas - ter, leads a - gainst the foe;
We are not di - vid - ed; all one bod - y we;
gates of hell can nev - er 'gainst the church pre - vail.
Glo - ry, laud, and hon - or un - to Christ the king.

for - ward in - to bat - tle, see, his ban - ners go!
 one in hope and doc - trine, one in char - i - ty.
 We have Christ's own prom - ise, and that can - not fail.
 We through count - less a - ges with the an - gels sing:

Refrain

On - ward, Chris - tian sol - diers, march - ing as to war,

with the cross of Je - sus go - ing on be - fore.

**** CONFESSION**

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✚ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
**you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life.
Amen.**

**** FORGIVENESS**

You belong to Christ Jesus
and you are God's children through faith.
In the cross of ✚ Christ,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.
Amen.

**** GATHERING HYMN**

"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" (W&P 90)

G C D C G C

Lord, I lift your name on high, Lord, I love to sing your

D C G C D C

prais - es. I'm so glad you're in my life,

G C D^{sus} D G C

I'm so glad you came to save us. You came from heav - en to earth

D C G C

to show the way, from the earth to the cross,

D C G C

my debt to pay; from the cross to the grave,

D Em⁷ Am⁷ D^{sus} D G C/G G

from the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.

**** GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**** KYRIE**

Assisting Minister



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



A Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **C** Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

**** CANTICLE OF PRAISE**



☐ Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, 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.



☐ Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



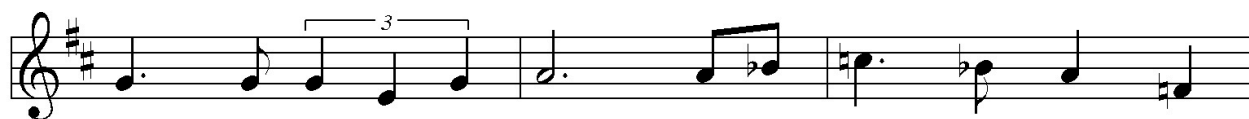
glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.



☐ 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.



☐ Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



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



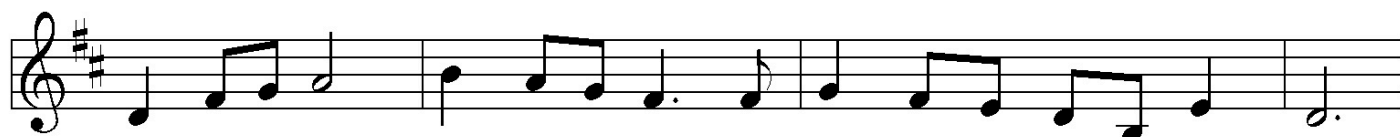
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



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



☐ Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth,



and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

**** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Assisting Minister

Benevolent God, **you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**
Amen.

**** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

The teacher of wisdom who wrote Ecclesiastes sees that working for mere accumulation of wealth turns life into an empty game, a “vanity of vanities.” Nevertheless, he asserts in the next verse, it is good to find enjoyment in one’s work because such enjoyment is a gift from God.

A reading from Ecclesiastes.

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with. I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 49: 1-12

My mouth shall speak of wisdom. (Ps. 49:3)

Hear this, all you peoples;
give ear, all you who dwell in the world,
**you of high degree and low,
rich and poor together.**

My mouth shall speak of wisdom,
and my heart shall meditate on understanding.

**I will incline my ear to a proverb
and set forth my riddle upon the harp.**

Why should I be afraid in evil days,
when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me,
**the wickedness of those who put their trust in their own prowess,
and boast of their great riches?**

One can never redeem another,
or give to God the ransom for another's life;
**for the ransom of a life is so great
that there would never be enough to pay it,**
in order to live forever and ever
and never see the grave.

**For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stupid they perish
and leave their wealth to those who come after them.**

Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from generation
to generation,

though they had named lands after themselves.

**Even though honored, they cannot live forever;
they are like the beasts that perish.**

SECOND READING

Colossians 3:1-11

Life in Christ includes a radical reorientation of our values. Just as the newly baptized shed their old clothes and put on new garments, so Christians are called to let go of greed and take hold of a life shaped by God's love in Christ.

A reading from Colossians.

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God

**** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

**** GOSPEL READING**

Luke 12:13-21

In God's reign, the "rich will be sent away empty." Jesus uses a parable to warn against identifying the worth of one's life with the value of one's possessions rather than one's relationship with God.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample

goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

YOUTH MESSAGE

MESSAGE

Pastor Bob Swanson

** HYMN OF THE DAY

"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" (ELW 335)



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain

In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;

till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

**** 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 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 INTERCESSION**

Assisting Minister

Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

Each petition concludes:

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY

OFFERING PRAYER

Assisting Minister

Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**** DIALOGUE**

Lift up your heads; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your voices; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your hearts; **we lift them up to God.**

**** THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

And so we gather at the table. We come from many different places in life. And as we come together around the table we discover that our differences are not something we just tolerate, but that our differences are indeed a blessing. So come, children of God, just as you are. Wherever you are on this journey of life and faith, you are welcome here - here in this place, here in this community, here at this table. Come, children of God, come and remember. Remember the stories that Jesus' friends tell: Stories of bread broken and shared to feed a multitude; stories of gathering both enemy and friend together around a common table; stories of unlikely guests revealing the face of the sacred.

On a night of both celebration and betrayal Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it; gave it to his disciples and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this

for the remembrance of me.” Then Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to his disciples 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.”

And so we pray: Lord, bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be open, and that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, indeed in one another.

**** 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**

The kingdom of God is set before you.
Eat and rejoice.

For those communing at home or in the pew:

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. For those choosing to remain in the pews, there are communion all-in-one cups containing grape juice available in the Narthex.

REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION

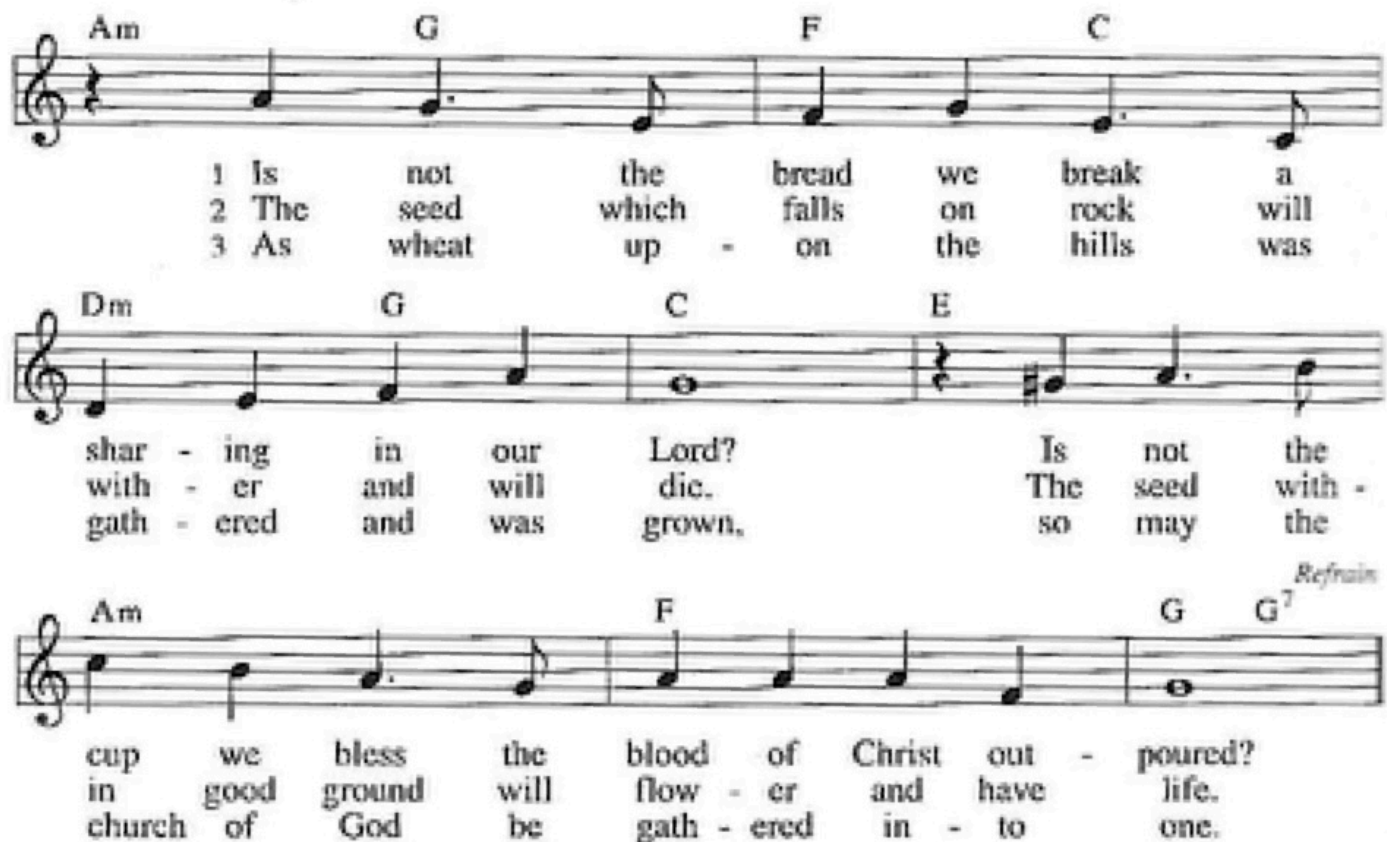
As we prepare to receive the sacrament today, may we quietly take this time to center ourselves on Christ, and reflect the amazing gifts of grace and forgiveness that we have been given. As we receive the body and the blood of our Lord, let us reflect upon His sacrifice. Finally, may we take this time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

COMMUNION HYMN

"Seed, Scattered and Sown" (W&P 121)

Refrain

Seed, scat-tered and sown; wheat, gath-ered and grown;
bread, bro-ken and shared as one, the Liv-ing Bread of God.
Vine, fruit of the land; wine, work of our hands; one cup that is
shared by all; the Liv-ing Cup, the Liv-ing Bread of God.



Am G F C

1 Is not the bread we break a
2 The seed which falls on the rock will
3 As wheat up - on the hills was

Dm G C E

shar - ing in our Lord? Is not the
with - er and our will die. The seed with -
gath - ered and was grown, so may the

Am F G G⁷ *Refrain*

cup we bless the blood of Christ out - poured?
in good ground the will flow - er and have life.
church of God be gath - ered in - to one.

** TABLE BLESSING

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

** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assisting Minister

Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

** SENDING OF COMMUNION

Communion ministers may be sent to take the sacrament to those who are absent. The presiding minister may lead this prayer of sending.

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

**** BLESSING**

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ☩ bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

**** SENDING HYMN**

"No Turning Back"

(Refrain - Music Ministers / **All**)

I will follow you.

I will follow you.

No turning back, no turning back.

No turning back, no turning back.

(Verse 1 - **All**)

This is my heart cry:

Though none go with me,

The cross before me, the world behind me.

This is my heart cry:

Though none go with me,

The cross before me, the world behind me.

(Refrain - **All**)

I will follow you.

I will follow you.

No turning back, no turning back.

No turning back, no turning back.

(Verse 2 - **All**)

This is my anthem:

My life for your fame;

My every move bring glory to your name.

This is my anthem:

My life for your fame;

My every move bring glory to your name.

(Refrain - All / Music Ministers)
I will follow you.
I will follow you.
No turning back, no turning back.
No turning back, no turning back.

(Music Ministers / All)
The cross before me, the world behind me;
I will follow, I will follow.
The cross before me, the world behind me;
I will follow, I will follow.
The cross before me, the world behind me;
I will follow, I will follow.
The cross before me, the world behind me;
I will follow, I will follow.

No turning back, no turning back.
No turning back, no turning back.
No turning back, no turning back.
No turning back, no turning back.

**** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live by the spirit.
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 NOT ONLY TO 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

**Dominic, founder of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), died
1221**

Friday, August 8, 2025

Dominic was a Spanish priest who saw the wealth of the clergy as a stumbling block for the church, so he formed a movement, the Order of Preachers (commonly called Dominicans) devoted to itinerant preaching and living in poverty.