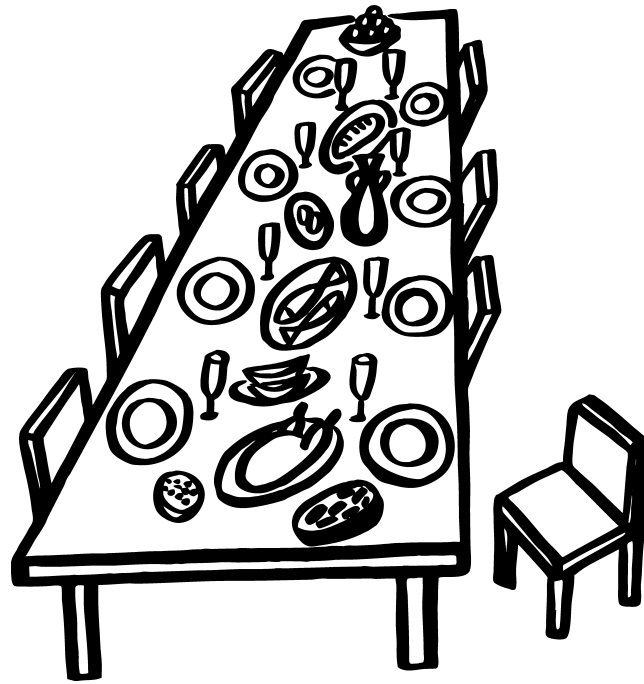


CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,  
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
AUGUST 31, 2025  
10:30 AM

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

# INTRODUCTION

Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God’s grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ’s banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

## Radical Love Triumphs

For most of human history wisdom was largely part of an oral tradition. From one generation to the next, wisdom was passed down. These days it sometimes seems that technology has replaced that tradition of shared wisdom. Rather than ask a trusted elder the temptation is to pull out a smartphone and do a quick Internet search. Next thing you know, there it is, wisdom at your fingertips—maybe. Could it be that something is lost in the process? We can find facts online, but virtues like humility, respect of elders, hospitality, servanthood, and peacemaking do not seem to translate as easily in the electronic age. In the gospel reading Jesus takes the time to pass on some ancient-yet-prudent wisdom from the proverbs of Solomon to a crowd of social climbers who obviously were not familiar with such prudence or wisdom.

More significantly Jesus lifts up the mysteriously gracious and life-transforming values of the kingdom of God. Jesus lifts up the humility required to take the lowest seat at the table, never hoping to be invited to a place of greater honor or status. Jesus invites his followers to practice the hospitality that offers a banquet of the finest of foods for people who cannot repay. Jesus invites his followers to embody the kind of radical-yet-relational love of Jesus himself. This radical love is taught by both individuals and congregations. Communities of faith by their practices of generosity and compassion embody the love of Jesus in their communities.

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

# GATHERING

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

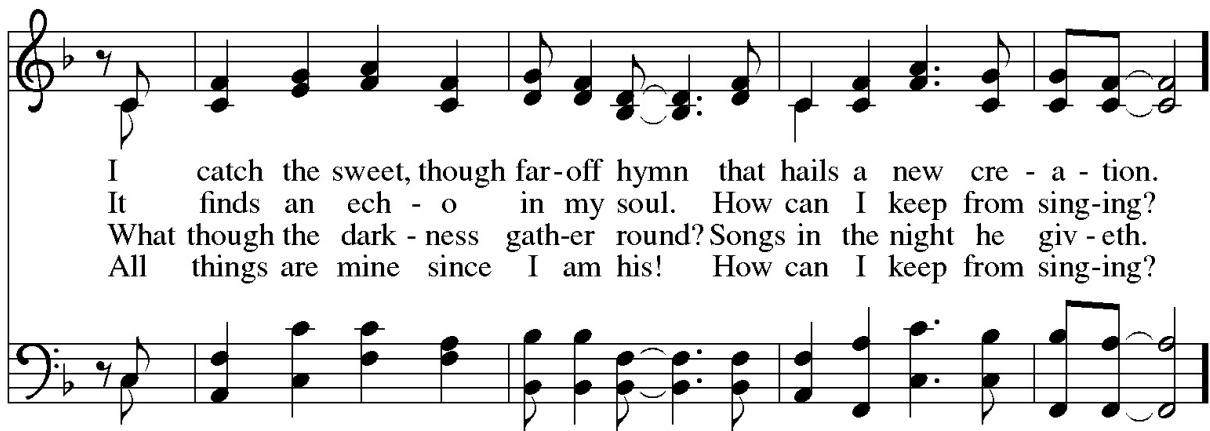
## PRELUDE

"My Life Flows on in Endless Song" (ELW 763)

*From the survey of favorite hymns.*

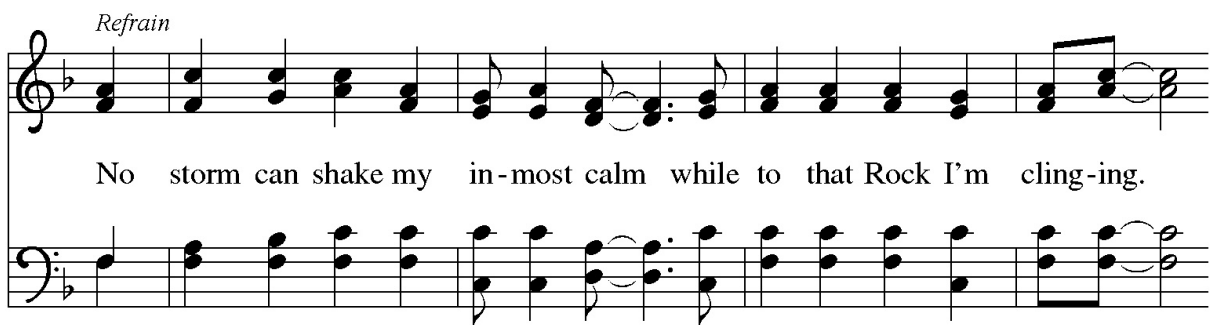


1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,  
2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.  
3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.  
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.  
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?  
What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.  
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

*Refrain*



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

### **\*\* 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**

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds" (ELW 656)

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;  
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;  
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,  
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;

the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.  
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Blest Be the Tie That Binds". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are written between the staves. The first system contains four lines of lyrics, and the second system contains four lines of lyrics. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature.

**\*\* 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.**



**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;



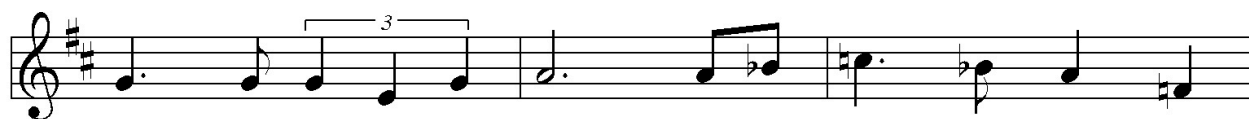
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



**☐** 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



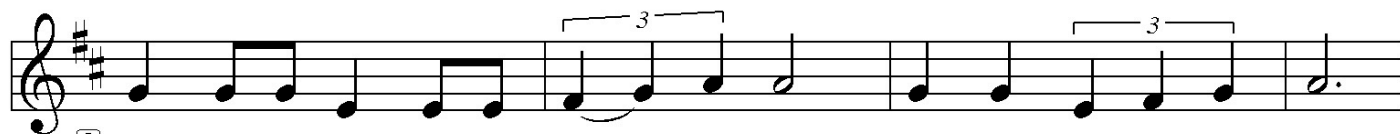
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



**☐** 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*

O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble.  
Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus  
Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.

**\*\* PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**WORD**

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

**FIRST READING**

Proverbs 25:6-7a

*The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.*

A reading from Proverbs.

Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence  
or stand in the place of the great,  
for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"  
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

Psalm 112

*The righteous are merciful and full of compassion. (Ps. 112:4)*

Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord  
and have great delight in God's commandments!

**Their descendants will be mighty in the land;  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

Wealth and riches will be in their house,  
and their righteousness will last forever.

**Light shines in the darkness for the upright;  
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

It is good for them to be generous in lending  
and to manage their affairs with justice.

**For they will never be shaken;  
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;  
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

**Their heart is established and will not shrink,  
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever;  
they will hold up their head with honor.

**The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away;  
the desires of the wicked will perish.**

## **SECOND READING**

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

*The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.*

A reading from Hebrews.

Let mutual affection continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

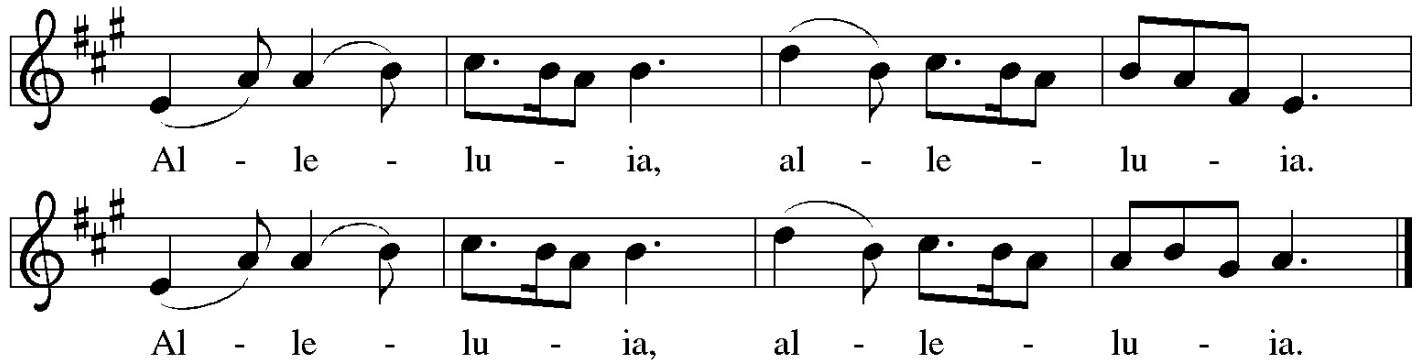
What can anyone do to me?"

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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 14:1, 7-14

*Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

# YOUTH MESSAGE

## MESSAGE

Pastor Bob Swanson

### \*\* HYMN OF THE DAY

"Here I Am, Lord" (ELW 574)



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.  
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.  
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.  
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

**\*\* 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

“Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring”  
from “Cantata No. 147: Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben”  
by Johann Sebastian Bach  
Chancel Choir

Jesu, joy of our desiring,  
Holy Wisdom, Love most bright,  
Drawn by you, our souls aspiring,  
Soar to uncreated Light.

Word of God, our flesh that fashioned  
With the fire of life impassioned,  
Striving still to truth unknown,  
Soaring, dying ‘round your throne.

## 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

### "Living Waters"

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

Are you thirsty? Are you empty?  
Come, and drink these living waters.  
Tired and broken? Peace unspoken,  
Rest beside these living waters.

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers)

Christ is calling, find refreshing  
At the cross of living waters.  
Lay your life down: all the old gone;  
Rise up in these living waters.

(Refrain - Music Ministers)

There's a river that flows  
With mercy and love,  
Bringing joy to the city of our God.  
There our hope is secure;  
Do not fear anymore;  
Praise the Lord of living waters.

(Verse 3 - All)

**Spirit moving, mercy washing,  
Healing in these living waters.  
Lead your children to the shoreline;  
Life is in these living waters.**



(Refrain - All)  
There's a river that flows  
With mercy and love,  
Bringing joy to the city of our God.  
There our hope is secure;  
Do not fear anymore;  
Praise the Lord of living waters.

(Bridge - Music Ministers)  
Ooh...

(Verse 4 - All)  
Are you thirsty? Are you empty?  
Come, and drink these living waters.  
Love, forgiveness: vast and boundless;  
Christ - he is our living waters.

(Final Refrain - All / Music Ministers)  
There's a river that flows  
With mercy and love,  
Bringing joy to the city of our God.  
There our hope is secure;  
Do not fear anymore;  
Praise the Lord of living waters.

There our hope is secure;  
Do not fear anymore;  
Praise the Lord of living waters.

**\*\* 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.**

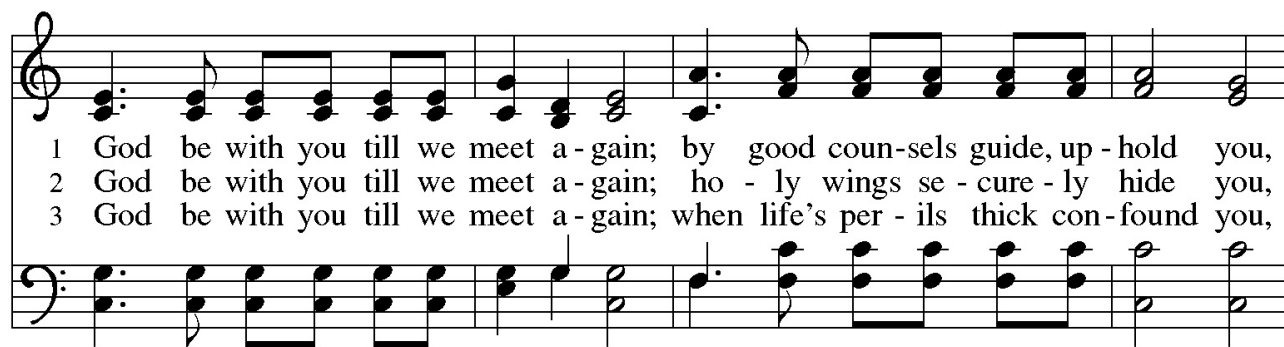
## **FAREWELL & GODSPEED**

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for Pastor Bob and Wanetta Swanson. You have called us together in community, and now we prepare to say farewell. As they have been a blessing to us, so too may they be a blessing to others as they return to family in Terre Haute, Indiana. Sustain them with hope, courage, and trust that your Holy Spirit will always be with them, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

You have been a blessing to us. We now bless you as we say farewell.

**Go forth with good courage and with our love.  
God's Spirit is with you always. Amen.**

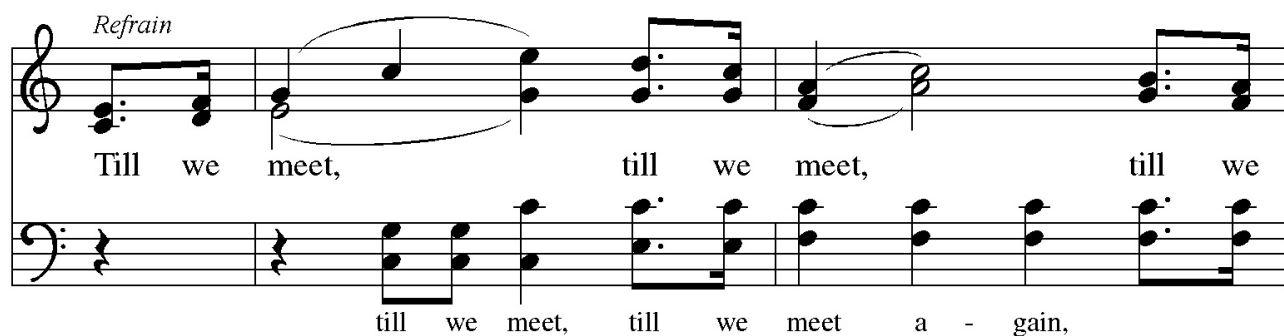


1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,  
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,  
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils thick con-found you,

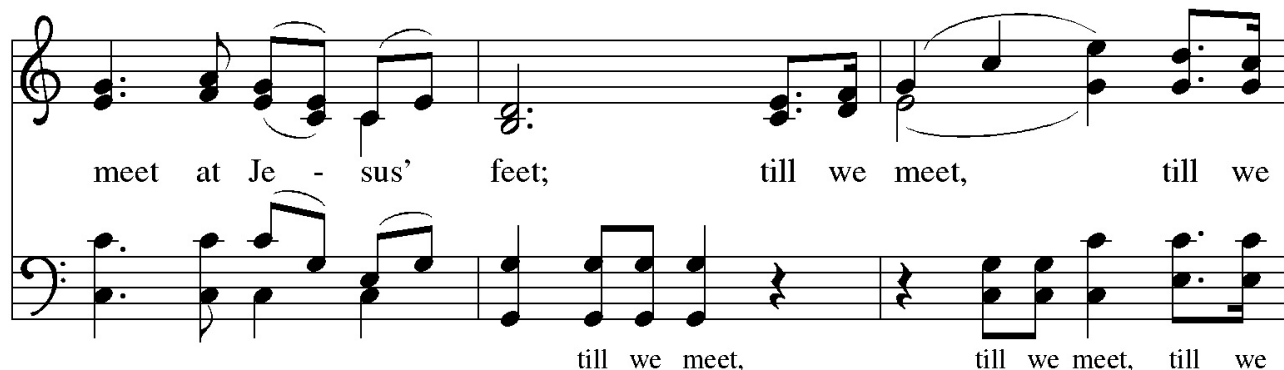


with a shep-herd's care en - fold you;  
 dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
 put un - fail - ing arms a - round you;

*Refrain*



Till we meet, till we meet, till we  
 till we meet, till we meet a - gain,



meet at Je - sus' feet; till we meet, till we  
 till we meet, till we meet, till we



meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
 meet a - gain,

**\*\* 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**

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**“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**

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**UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS**

**Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church,  
died 1872**

**Tuesday, September 2, 2025**

Grundtvig was, with Søren Kierkegaard, one of the two great Danish theologians of the nineteenth century. As a pastor, he battled the prevalent idea that Christianity was more a philosophy than divine revelation. He wrote over a thousand hymns.