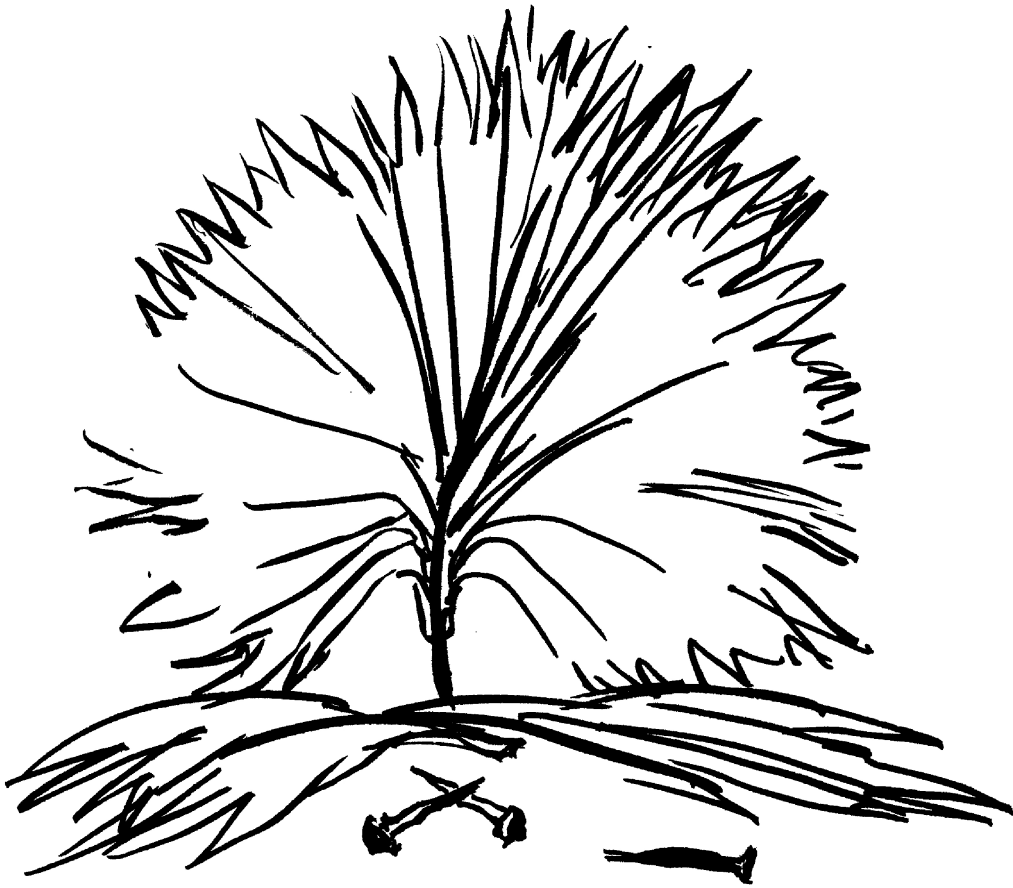


CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2026
10:30 AM

— SERVICE OF THE WORD —

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
901 East Stroop Road
Kettering, Ohio 45429
(937) 298-0136

INTRODUCTION

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

There Must Be another Way

Peter may be the “rock” on which Christ will build the church (Matt. 16:18), but when Jesus reveals the suffering that will come first, Peter becomes a tempter and stumbling block. Assuming God must have a different way to save the world, Peter protests Jesus' suffering and death. Jesus explains to Peter and all his disciples that, in fact, this is the way to life—losing one's life in order to find it.

By tempting Jesus to an easier way than his journey through suffering to resurrection, Peter personifies a temptation common to all generations of Jesus' disciples: seeking a way to avoid “losing oneself” instead of surrendering all to and with the one we follow. Rather than losing our lives—our selves, possessions, and time—we hold on more tightly, afraid of what will happen to our comfort, success, and identity if we let go. Those things we hold onto then become, like Peter, stumbling blocks along the way of self-giving love.

But while “saving one's life” sounds sensible, those things also stand in the way of the new life into which Jesus beckons us to follow him. Perhaps Peter's problem is that he sees only the suffering and death, without grasping the new life that comes through it. In times when we too are tempted by worldly ways of comfort and success, convinced that *surely* God must have an easier way than the way of self-giving love, this gospel reminds us that resurrection and life await on the other side of suffering and death.

This is the way of our God who becomes human in Jesus: emptying himself of power and dignity, losing his very own life for the sake of the world's life. Seen through the lens of resurrection just ahead on the journey, what other way could there be?

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

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

** CONFESSION

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

**we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.
In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.
Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

** GATHERING HYMN

"For the Beauty of the Earth"



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
 hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
 for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Refrain

Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

** 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



Leader

O Lord, have . . . mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy.



** CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!
 2 Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to Christ Je - sus!
 3 Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to the Spir - it!



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!
 Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to Christ Je - sus!
 Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to the Spir - it!



To God be glo-ry for - ev - er! To God be glo-ry for - ev - er!



Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

**** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 15:15-21

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

A reading from Jeremiah, the fifteenth chapter.

O Lord, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.
In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.
Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,
for I am called by your name,
O Lord, God of hosts.
I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.
Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

Therefore thus says the Lord:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.
And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
says the Lord.

I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 26:1-8

Your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you. (Ps. 26:3)

Give judgment for me, O Lord, for I have lived with integrity;
I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.

**Test me, O Lord, and try me;
examine my heart and my mind.**

For your steadfast love is before my eyes;
I have walked faithfully with you.

**I have not sat with the worthless,
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

I have hated the company of evildoers;
I will not sit down with the wicked.

**I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord,
that I may go in procession round your altar,**

singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

**Lord, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides.**

SECOND READING

Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

A reading from Romans, the twelfth chapter.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The musical notation is presented in two systems, each with a treble and bass staff joined by a brace. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The first system contains the lyrics: "Al-le - lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia." The second system contains the lyrics: "Al-le - lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia. Christ is ris - en, ris'n in-deed." The melody is primarily composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests and ties.

**** GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 16:21-28

After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

From that time on, after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

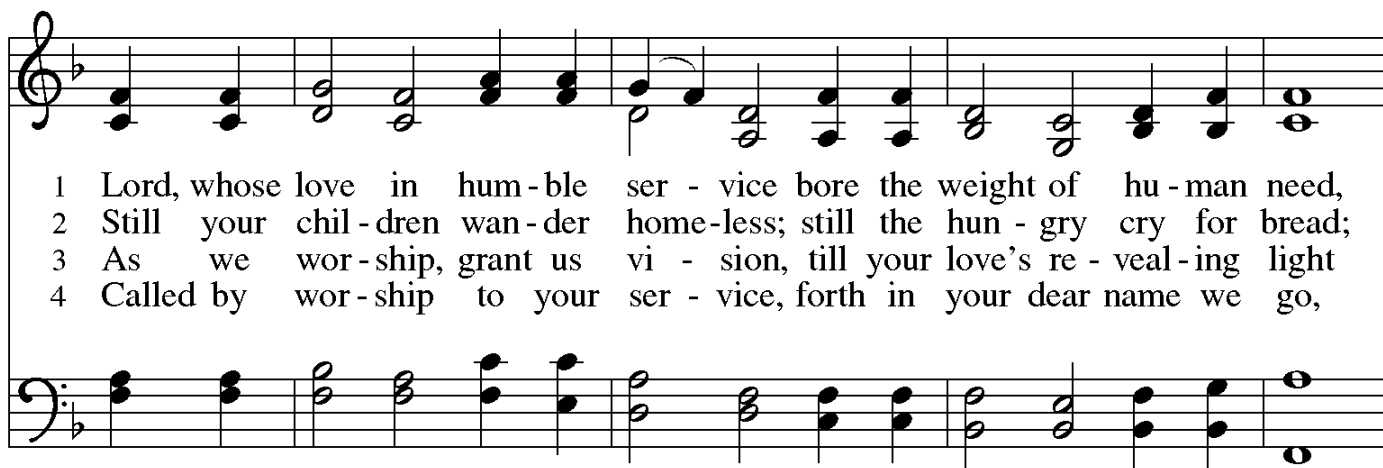
The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

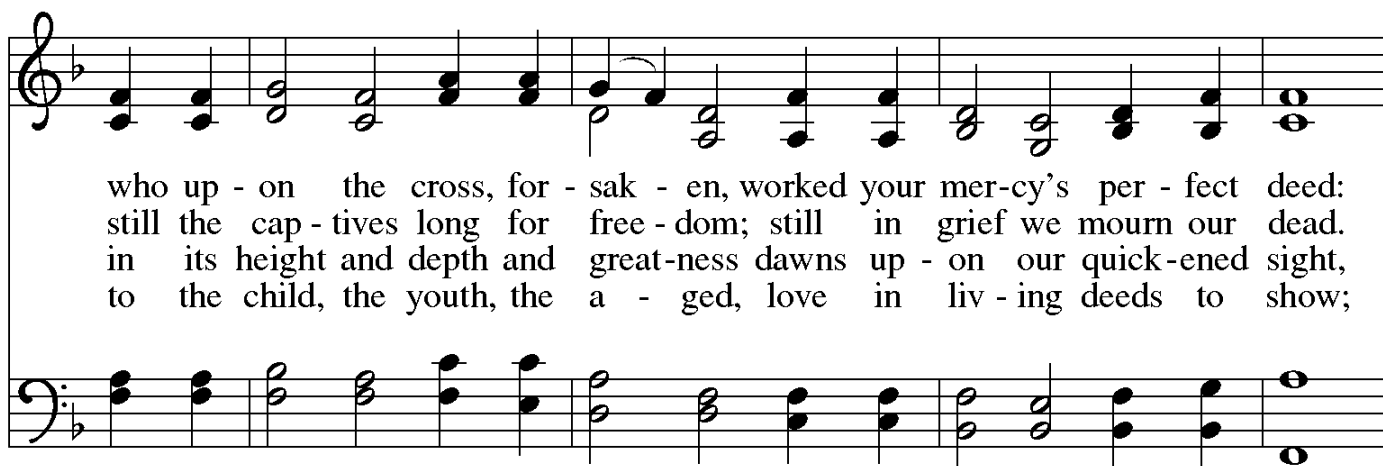
REFLECTION

** HYMN OF THE DAY

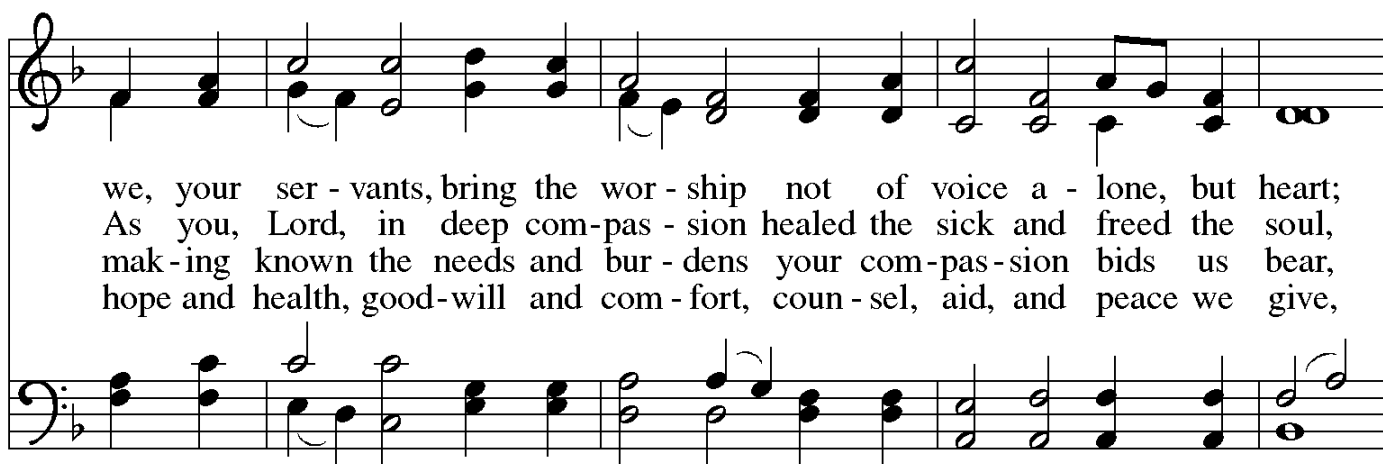
"Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu - man need,
 2 Still your chil - dren wan - der home-less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;
 3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal - ing light
 4 Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer-cy's per - fect deed:
 still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
 in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up - on our quick-ened sight,
 to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;
 As you, Lord, in deep com-pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
 mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com-pas - sion bids us bear,
 hope and health, good-will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,

con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.
 by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.
 stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.
 that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

**** APOSTLES' CREED**

With one voice, let us profess our faith:

**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.**

**** FAREWELL & GODSPEED TO EILEEN HUNTER**

Eileen, as you leave our congregation, we wish to bid you farewell.

A reading from Exodus:

The Lord said, "I am going to send an angel in front of you, to guard you on the way and bring you to the place that I have prepared." (*Exodus 23:20*)

In holy baptism, our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you a member of his church. When you came to this congregation, we rejoiced to welcome you into the mission we share as the people of God. In this community, you have come to know and to share in God's loving purpose for you and for all creation. God has blessed you in this community, and God has blessed us through you.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we thank you for Eileen and for the time we have shared with her.

As she has been a blessing to us, so now send her forth to be a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

After each petition concludes:

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY

**** THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory 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.

SENDING

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

**** BLESSING**

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, one God,
bless, heal, and hold us today and always. **Amen.**

**** SENDING SONG**

"That's Why We Praise Him"

(Verse 1 - All)

**He came to live, live a perfect life;
He came to be the Living Word, our Light.
He came to die so we'd be reconciled;
He came to rise to show his power and might.**

(Refrain - All)

**That's why we praise him, that's why we sing;
That's why we offer him our everything.
That's why we bow down and worship this King,
'Cause he gave his everything, 'cause he gave his everything.**

(Verse 2 - All)

He came to live, live again in us;
He came to be our conquering King and Friend.
He came to heal and show the lost ones his love;
He came to go prepare a place for us.

(Refrain - All)

That's why we praise him, that's why we sing;
That's why we offer him our everything.
That's why we bow down and worship this King,
'Cause he gave his everything, 'cause he gave his everything.

(Music Ministers / All)

Halle, hallelujah. Halle, hallelujah.
Halle, hallelujah. Halle, hallelujah.
Halle, hallelujah. Halle, hallelujah.
Halle, hallelujah. Halle, hallelujah.

(Refrain - All)

That's why we praise him, that's why we sing;
That's why we offer him our everything.
That's why we bow down and worship this King,
'Cause he gave his everything,
'Cause he gave his everything,
'Cause he gave his everything.

**** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Created, saved and gifted by God,
we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ. Hallelujah, thanks be to God!

“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

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

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

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.