

ST. ANDREW'S

LUTHERAN CHURCH



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
With the Liturgy of Holy Communion
✠ September 13, 2026
10:00 am

Ministers, The People of God
MNYS Bishop Rev. Dr. Katrina Foster
Reverend Jean Dougherty
Director of Music, Yuxuan Chen
Cantor, Cynthia Davis
Bell Choir Director, Laura Gustavsen
Assisting Minister, Mary Fjellstad
Readers, Chris Lloyd, Rick Madarasz
Ushers, Lorna Bosak, Barbara English
Danielle Lloyd, Leslee Mathieson



ST. ANDREW'S

LUTHERAN CHURCH

This is Christ's Church:

There is a place for you here. We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person—questions, complexities, and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world. **Those with us for the first time** are kindly asked to introduce themselves to the pastor and greeters and are welcome to sign our guest book in the narthex.

NEED PRAYER? Kindly share prayer concerns at the lectern located at the church entrance to have a name read aloud during worship. Completing a prayer card or calling the office assures the name will appear in print, and you may ask to receive a call from the pastor.

Our Mission:

Because God shows His Love through Jesus Christ, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, a community of faith, gathered around Word and Sacrament, lives to WORSHIP, WITNESS, LEARN, and SERVE, and welcomes all people to share God's love and to be workers together in this mission of the Church.

Communion:

St. Andrew's practices eucharistic hospitality.
All are welcome at God's table.

In response to Jesus's command, we celebrate with a worship meal of bread (or gluten-free by request) and white wine or red grape juice (in the center of the communion tray.) It is the Lutheran tradition to commune using both elements. However, we believe Christ is fully present when receiving one kind (bread or wine/grape juice). The living practice of our Lutheran tradition is an open table for the baptized to receive Holy Communion. Those desiring a blessing but not communion are invited forward and may cross their arms to indicate their intentions.

What is Reconciling in Christ?

This means we joyfully welcome all of God's people to worship with us regardless of age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, ability, or socio-economic circumstances.



GATHERING

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

WELCOME *(presiding minister)*

CALL TO WORSHIP *(presiding minister)*

Here in this place, there are no strangers,
for all are welcome in God's house.

Here in this worship, there is only acceptance,
for love is the language of faith.

Here in our lives, there are no divisions,
for God dwells in each of us.

Come, let us worship in unity and love.

Oh, come let us worship!

Oh, come let us worship!

PRELUDE *(acolytes light candles) (water is poured into the font)*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(please stand as you are able)

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins at the font.

In the name of the Father,

and of the ✙ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God whose love never quits

help us admit that we have been wrong.

Give us the world we cannot.

Tell us again you believe in us,

so we can love ourselves and each other like you do. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence is kept for reflection. Please kneel as you are able)

Loving God,

**We confess that we have turned from your way
to follow our own ways.**

Forgive us for the times

we have spoken or acted too quickly;

we have not spoken or acted at all;

we have hurt those closest to us;

we have hurt those we have yet to know;

we have made ourselves more important than we really are;

we have thought less of ourselves than we ought.

Forgive us, turn us around and give us a fresh start,

so that we can live again as your children. Amen.

Here is the good news!

Even when we have done wrong, God sees the good in us.

Even when we have messed up, God gives us a fresh start.

God's love never runs out, and God never tires, calling us beloved children.

Hear God say to you now; your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN 677 This Little Light of Mine



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

(Please be seated)

GREETING THE HIVE

(Pastor will invite the children forward)

GREETING *(presiding minister)*

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.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE setting three pg 139



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 *(presiding minister)*

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

O Lord God, **merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness.**

Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

(please be seated)

ANTHEM Use Me, Lord by Sheldon Curry (ST. ANDREW'S CHOIR)

WORD

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

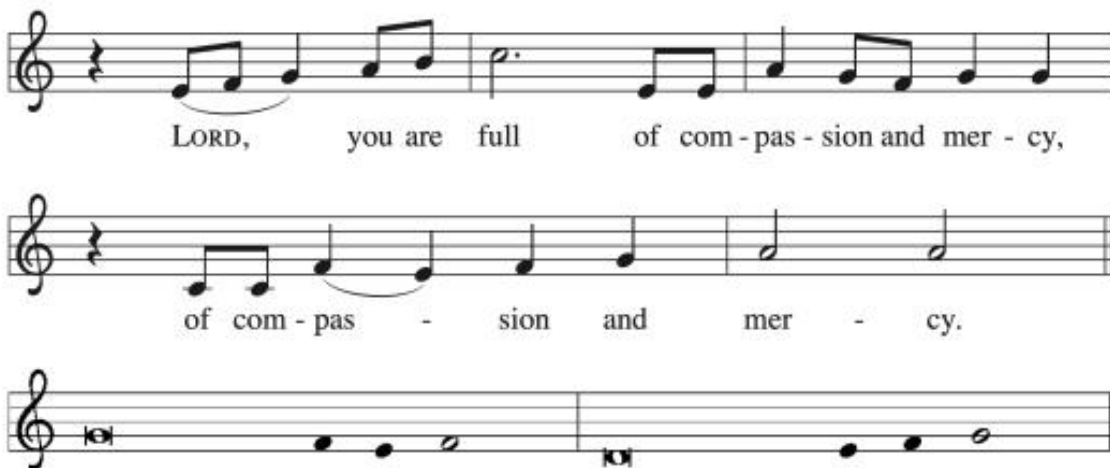
FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

A reading from Genesis.

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 1- 8



- ¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.
- ² **Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—**
- ³ who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;
- ⁴ **who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy; Refrain**
- ⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- ⁶ **O LORD, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**
- ⁷ You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.
- ⁸ **LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Refrain**

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

A reading from Romans.

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

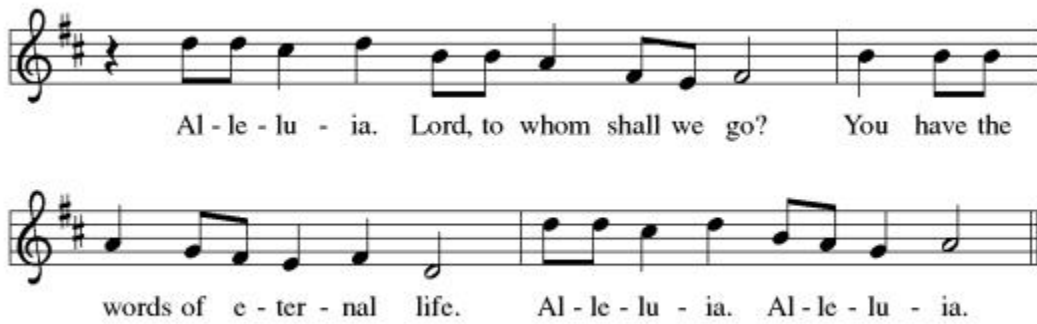
"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

(please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*setting 3 page 142*)



GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.

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

(please be seated)

SERMON *(presiding minister)*

(please stand as you are able)

HYMN OF THE DAY 608 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain

watch - ing for you and for me.
mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
par - don for you and for me.

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

APOSTLES' CREED (*presiding minister*)

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 INTERCESSION

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

Move your church throughout the world away from judging and despising others. Lead us to embody the forgiveness you have given us in Jesus. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

The endless beauty of your creation reminds us of your mercy. Protect those who care for farms and ranches. Guide those who lead us to wonder at your creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Raise up leaders to hold all in authority accountable for any misuse of the power entrusted to them. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Calm the fears of all in need with your promises. Compassionately free the lives of any who feel bound by their failures. Remember your children in need especially for all on our prayer list and those we now name silently or aloud. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Ground this congregation in the welcome you show us in forgiving our sin. Inspire each of us to welcome others for your honor and glory. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With you is found the joy and promise of eternal life. Keep us in that joy as we remember all those who have gone before us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

PEACE *(presiding minister)*

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

(The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.)

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*The assembly may be seated. An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. **Children are invited to collect food donations from pews.***

OFFERING



(When Jesus fed the 5000 with only five loaves of bread and two fish, he was showing us how God's love can multiply the effects of our generosity [see Mt. 14:13-21]. Thank you for sharing from the abundance you have received. Offerings may also be given online at the church website.)

OFFERING HYMN #674 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

Refrain



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

(please stand as you are able)

OFFERING PRAYER *(assisting minister)*

God of creation,
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING: DIALOGUE AND PREFACE *(presiding minister)*

The Lord be with you. **And also 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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God.
You reveal your glory
as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:
equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God,
ever to be adored in your eternal glory.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS *ELW setting three pg 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

(presiding minister)

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.
In the night in which he was betrayed,
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.

Again, 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 sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER *(presiding minister)*

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 gifts of creation for God's beloved creatures. Come and share. *(The assembly may be seated during distribution. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Those desiring a blessing but not communion are invited forward and may cross their arms to indicate their intentions. Children are welcome to come forward for a blessing.)*

LAMB OF GOD *ELW setting three, pg 146*

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.

COMMUNION HYMN 471 Let Us Break Bread Together

1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;
let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing
sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

(please stand as you are able)

EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING *(presiding minister)*

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace and peace. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

(Teachers & children with their backpacks are invited forward)

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Lord, bless these backpacks and the children, youth, and adults who carry them as they begin yet another year of school. Give them peace when they feel nervous, focus when they feel distracted, energy when they feel tired. Open their minds to the lessons they will learn both in and outside the classroom. Help them to make friends that build one another up, and be friends to those who need them. Guide them in making good choices as they grow in wisdom and maturity. Be ever-present with them in the classroom, on the school bus, on the playground, and at home, and may they feel your loving care in all they do. **Amen.**

INSTALLATION OF TEACHERS

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation. You are to be faithful in teaching the children so that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you:
Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of St. Andrew's Teachers?
If so say, I will, and I ask God to help me.

People of God, I ask you:
Will you support these, teachers, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized? If so say,
We will, and we ask God to help us.

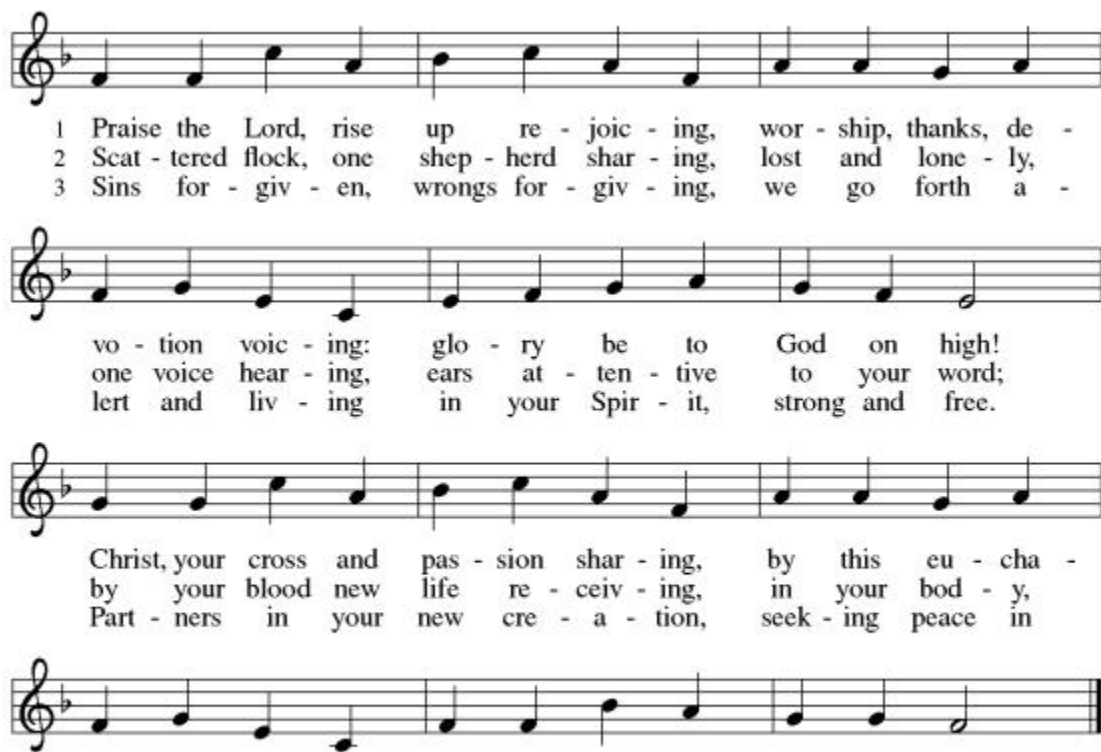
I now declare you installed as teachers of the children and youth of this congregation. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(presiding minister)*
(please stand as you are able)

BLESSING *(presiding minister)*

Creator God bless you and keep you.
Creating Christ shine through you with grace and mercy.
Creative Spirit nourish you and give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG 544 Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing



1 Praise the Lord, rise up re - joic - ing, wor - ship, thanks, de -
2 Scat - tered flock, one shep - herd shar - ing, lost and lone - ly,
3 Sins for - giv - en, wrongs for - giv - ing, we go forth a -

vo - tion voic - ing: glo - ry be to God on high!
one voice hear - ing, ears at - ten - tive to your word;
lert and liv - ing in your Spir - it, strong and free.

Christ, your cross and pas - sion shar - ing, by this eu - cha -
by your blood new life re - ceiv - ing, in your bod - y,
Part - ners in your new cre - a - tion, seek - ing peace in

rist de - clar - ing yours the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
firm be - liev - ing, we are yours, and you the Lord.
ev - 'ry na - tion, may we faith - ful fol - l'wers be.

DISMISSAL *(assisting minister)*

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING:

The Diehl family

Xavier Taylor, Crew Fritz, Lisa, Noah, Lilly [requested by Joy Suffis]

John Dugan, John Dugan, Jimmy LaSurdo, David Schwack, Amanda Haeffer, Ruth Clark

Paul Mchugh, Xavier Wilson Alex & Nicolas Hoffmann [requested by Hoffmann family]

Jackson Robinson [requested by Rick Madarasz]

Mary Pat Velasco [requested by Ashley & Marie Gyscek]

Tom Moebus [requested by the Meystrik family]

Kit, Linda, Jeffrey, James [request by Anastasia Glasheen]

Eileen [requested by Lynn Ripa]

Giuseppe Fontana [Requested by Lauren]

Richard Delaney [by Cookie Delaney]

Martha Hahn, David Palmer, Peter Gambitsky, Joan Petersen, Debbie Bartfield [requested by Pastor Jean]

Frances Sanzone [Requested by John, Dana, Juliana & Joseph Sanzone]

Elena Quandt [requested by Doreen Flanagan]

Vanessa Marie Lahann, Gavin Lahann [requested by Violet & Donnalee]

Allie Abruzzi, Tania Dufour [requested by Ashley & Maria Gyscek]

Tom Wray, Mike Cento, Jimmy, Richard & George Mengert, Bruce Logan, Betty Perlsh, [requested by Carolyn Gabelman]

Deirdre Reilly, Jeanne McCurdy, Belinda Busaca, Zeitlin, Margo Naranjo [requested by Barbara English]

Nita Samulevich Mel Flaherty, Elizabeth Flaherty [requested by Amanda Flaherty]

Family of Richie Cardoza [requested by Bill Moser]

Fran Favara [requested by Liz DeLuca]

Jennifer Jones, Jimmy Sullivan, Joseph Wannemacher, Anita Ahrens, [requested by Janis Raineri]

Sal Agnello, Charlie Macaluso [requested by Jane DeRosa]

Lyla Suffis [requested by Jen & Brett Suffis]

Karen Crimi, Jeffrey Gilmore, Rev. Wayne Gollenberg, [requested by Jill Breimann]

Debbie, Kimmie Lacci, Ivy [requested by Mary Fjellstad]

Carolyn Martin [requested by Linda Overton]

James Riley [requested by Lita Riley]

Marissa Evers, Lauren Cravotta [requested by Joe & Margie Costello]

Rev. Margaret Casses, Jeff Taylor [requested by Fred Swanson]

Mary Ellen Tiffany [requested by the Klouda Family]

Grace Ann Skepco, Bobby Hazen, James Pallazzo, Don Spagna, Rose Marie Peragine, Amy Jane McGlynn,

Richard Lewis, Rocky Cinque [requested by Marianne Spagnal]

Judy Daley, Jennifer Meisenkothen, John Sullivan [requested by Dorothy & Jim Clavell]

Carolyn Bennett [requested Jill Spagel]

Arthur Schaeffler [requested by the Poulos Family]

Judy G., Nancy M., Judy Zimmerman, [requested by Cindy Davis]

Emily Richardson, Betsy Johnsrud, Laura Hicks [requested by Leslee & Steve Mathieson]

David Travis [requested by Richard Travis]

THOSE IN MILITARY SERVICE:

Sgt Eric Hodosky, Lt Col Lenore Livingston née Fortin, Corporal August Detting,

LT Col William Fortin, Sgt Jack Dougherty, Sgt Jasmine Dougherty