



Union Lutheran Church

4770 Bringle Ferry Road
Salisbury, NC 28146
704-636-5092
office@ulcsalisbury.org
www.ulcsalisbury.org



16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

We welcome children to be a part of worship. A nursery is also provided for those attending to the needs of infants and small children.

*(Please stand when indicated by *)*

Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) green hymnal

With One Voice (WOV) blue hymnal

P=Pastor, C=Congregation, L=Lay Reader

+++++

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: *If You But Trust in God to Guide You* (Costello 2008 Birnamwood Publications)

GATHERING

* Brief Order for Confession & Forgiveness

LBW p. 56

1. *The minister leads the congregation in the invocation. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/Stand

2. *Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

3. *The minister stands and addresses the congregation.*

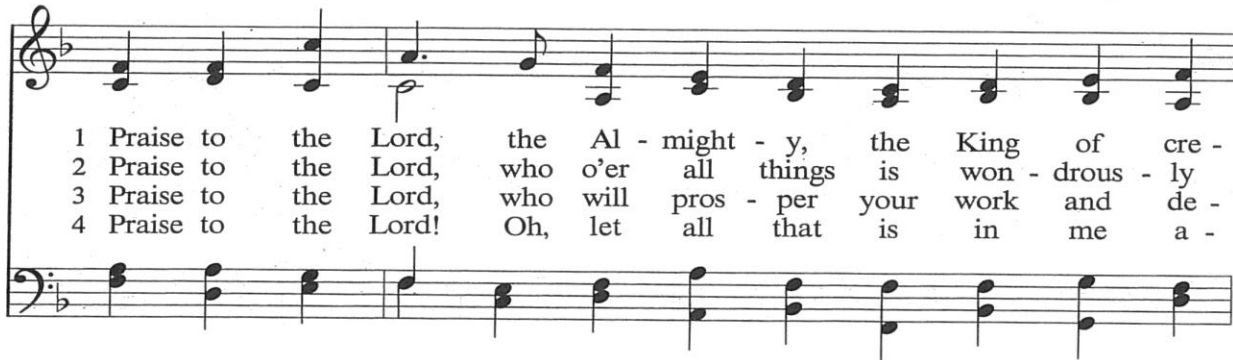
P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

* Hymn: *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

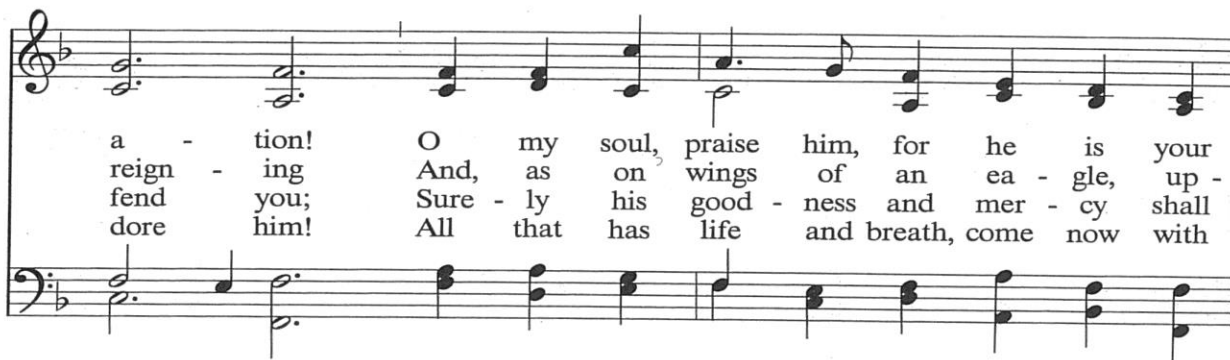
LBW# 543

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

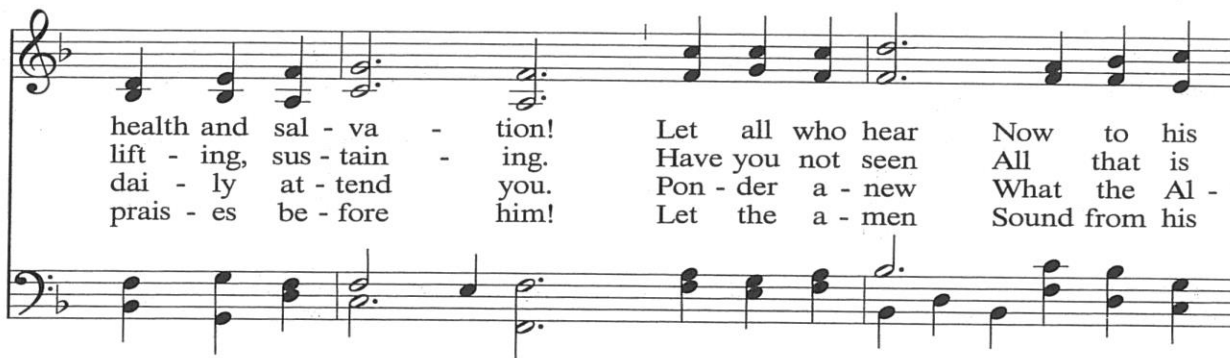
543



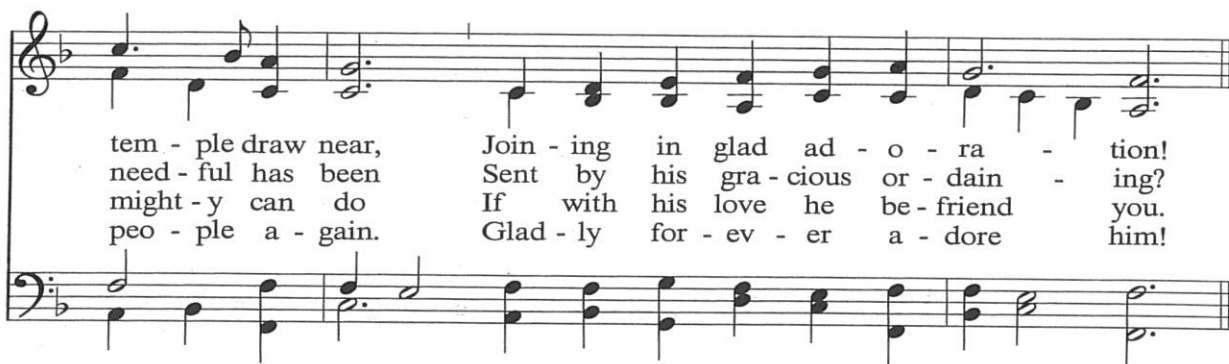
1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly
3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per that your work and de -
4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is your
reign - ing And, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -
fend you; Sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall
dore him! All that has life and breath, come now with



health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear Now to his
lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen All that is
dai - ly at - tend you. Pon - der a - new What the Al -
prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men Sound from his



tem - ple draw near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
need - ful has been Sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
might - y can do If with his love he be - friend - you.
peo - ple a - gain. Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

* Greeting

LBW p. 57

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

C **And also with you.**

* Kyrie (*Hymn of Praise is omitted this week.*)

LBW p. 57-58

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen**

* Salutation

LBW p. 62

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you**

* Prayer of the Day

P O Lord, help your people to avoid the infection of the evil one, and with pure hearts to follow you, our only Lord. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

WORD

Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you." And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

L Here ends the reading.

Psalm 103:1-12 *read responsively*

L ¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

C ²**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits.**

L ³He forgives all your sins
and heals all your infirmities;

C ⁴**He redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with mercy and lovingkindness;**

L ⁵He satisfies you with good things,
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

C ⁶**The LORD executes righteousness
and judgment for all who are oppressed.**

L ⁷He made his ways known to Moses
and his works to the children of Israel.

C ⁸**The LORD is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.**

L ⁹He will not always accuse us,
nor will he keep his anger forever.

C ¹⁰**He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**

L ¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

C ¹²**As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our sins from us.**

New Testament Lesson: Romans 14:1-12

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. ⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸For 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. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your

brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.” ¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

L Here ends the reading.

Children’s Message and Presentation of Bibles

Greeting and Introduction

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, today we set aside time for parents to present their children with the gift of the Holy Scriptures. As I read the names of the children, I ask them to come forward with their parents or sponsors:

After the people have come forward, the minister addresses the group.

P: The Apostle Paul wrote in his Second Letter to Timothy:
Continue in what you have learned and firmly believe, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. (2 Timothy 3:14)

C Thanks be to God.

P At your baptism, you were promised by your sponsors and parents, that they would see to bringing you up as a child of God in the faith of Jesus Christ, who himself is the Living Word of God made flesh. As part of the promises they made to you they, said that in providing for your instruction in the Christian faith, they would place in your hands the Holy Scriptures, so that from these ancient pages, you would learn and grow in God’s Word, until the day of Jesus Christ.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Presentation of the Scriptures

P: So now, as you receive this gift of the Holy Scriptures from their hands, let it be a sign of their faithfulness to you and to God, as well as the means by which you will be “instructed for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.” (2 Timothy 3:14)

Bibles are distributed to parents or sponsors, who in turn present the Bibles to the children.

P: If the parents and sponsors would repeat after me: “Receive the Holy Scriptures, that the Word of God may dwell in your heart.”

R: Receive the Holy Scriptures, that the Word of God may dwell in your heart.

Prayer and Blessing

P: Let us pray: Blessed Lord, you speak to us through the Holy Scriptures. We trust and acknowledge that our whole life and faith is lived out under the authority and promise of your Word. Grant that these young people would hear, read, study, and respect the Holy Scriptures, so that by your Holy Spirit at work in them, they may believe that Jesus is the Christ, and by believing, they may have life in his name. (from John 20:31)

C: Amen

The congregation may be invited to acknowledge the recipients of the Bible, according to local custom. The service continues at the appropriate point in the order of worship.

* Gospel Acclamation (“*Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go...* ”)

LBW p. 62

C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 18th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

* Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Peter came up and said to {Jesus}, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

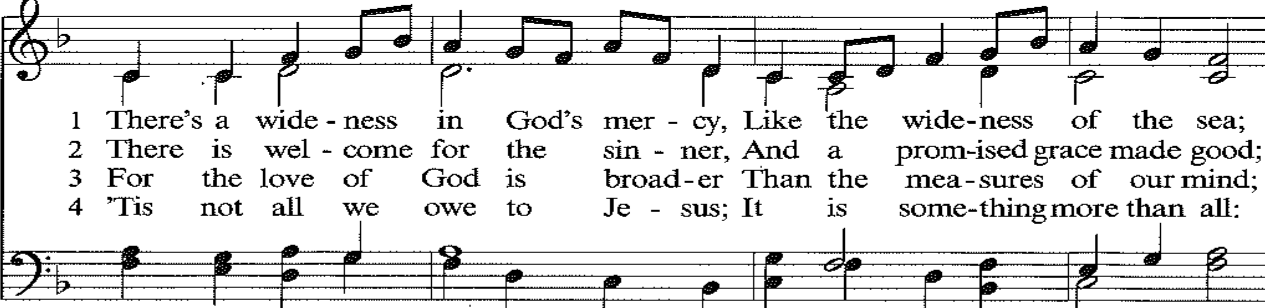
C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: *Bless the Lord, O My Soul*

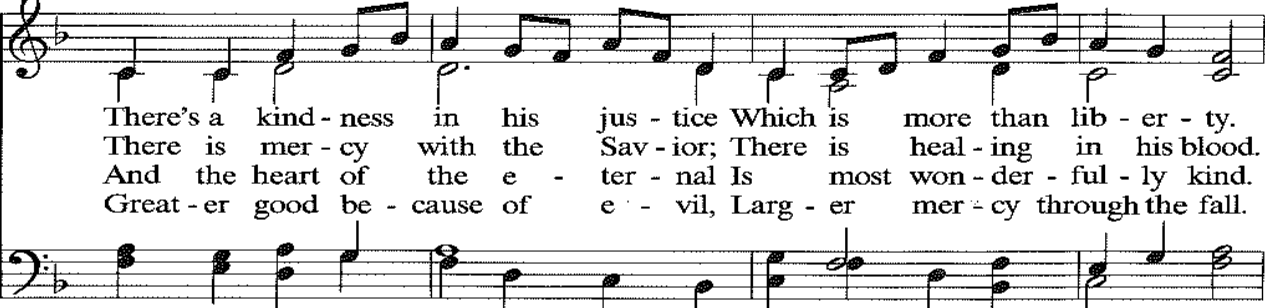
Pastor Heidi Punt

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

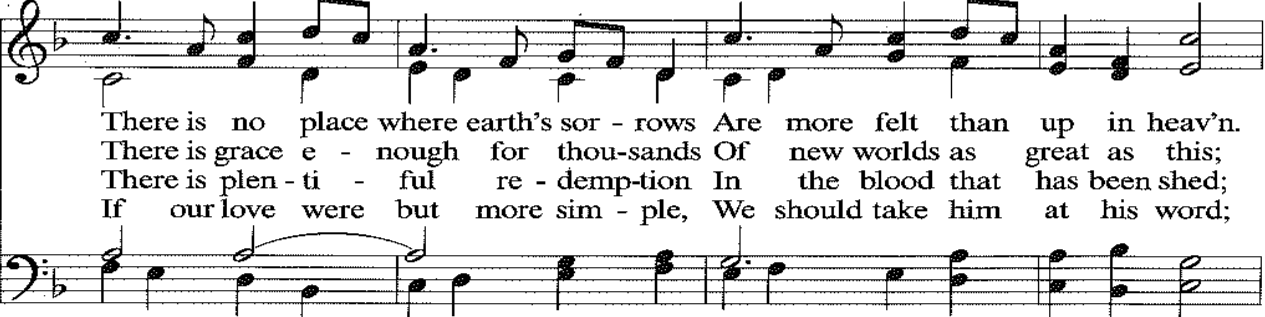
290



1 There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy, Like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, And a prom-ised grace made good;
3 For the love of God is broad-er Than the mea-sures of our mind;
4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; It is some-thing more than all:



There's a kind - ness in his jus - tice Which is more than lib - er - ty.
There is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; There is heal - ing in his blood.
And the heart of the e - ter - nal Is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
Great - er good be - cause of e - vil, Larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows Are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is grace e - nough for thou-sands Of new worlds as great as this;
There is plen - ti - ful re - demp-tion In the blood that has been shed;
If our love were but more sim - ple, We should take him at his word;



There is no place where earth's fail - ings Have such kind - ly judg-ment giv'n.
There is room for fresh cre - a - tions In that up - per home of bliss.
There is joy for all the mem-bers In the sor - rows of the head.
And our lives would be all sun - shine In the sweet-ness of our Lord.

* Installation of Sunday School Teachers & Officers

This service customarily follows the hymn after the sermon, just prior to the Creed. It may include teachers, catechists, teacher's aides and any other education leaders serving the congregation. The minister addresses the group and the congregation.

Presentation of Education Leaders

P Just as our Lord Jesus devoted much of his ministry to teaching his followers, we, too, are called to make disciples through Word and Sacrament, teaching all that our Lord has commanded.

A The following brothers and sisters in the faith have been asked to serve in a special capacity for the good of the entire faith community through the ministry of Christian Education. I ask them to come forward as their names are read. The leaders come forward as their names are read.

P The Lord God has gifted his church with faithful disciples and servants of the Word. We thank you for your willingness to serve among us in the ministry of education, that the mighty acts of God may be proclaimed in this place and to the ends of the earth. St. Peter writes, "As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who utters the oracles of God; whoever renders service as one who renders it by the strength that God supplies, in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen." (1 Peter 4:10-11)

Statement of Intent

The minister addresses the gathered leaders.

P Will you accept this position of leadership and responsibility within Union Lutheran Church, in submission to the Word of God?

R We will, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P Will you provide instruction with diligence and patience, in accordance with the Scriptures and the teaching of the Lutheran church?

R We will, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P Will you strive to be an example of the Christian faith and life by your daily witness, and by your faithful participation in worship through Word and Sacrament?

R We will, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P Will you support your students, pray for them, and guide them in their learning and development?

R We will, and we ask God to help and guide us.

The minister addresses the congregation.

P Will you, as the people of God, pray for these leaders, assist them in the ministry of Christian Education as you are able, and support them in their serving to the glory of God?

C We will, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Commissioning of Leaders

The minister addresses the gathered leaders.

P May the Lord who has given you the will to do these things graciously give you the strength and spirit to carry them out. You are hereby installed as teachers and education leaders in this congregation.

A Let us pray: Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have called these people to serve in the ministry of education, to assist parents in living out the baptismal promises they have made to their children, helping them to teach your Word and be a model of the Christian faith. Bless them and their work by pouring out your Holy Spirit upon them. Give them wisdom, patience, and the heart of a servant, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

The service continues with the Creed, followed by the Prayers of the Church.

* Apostles' Creed

LBW p. 65

P Let us profess our faith by speaking the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He 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,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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**

* Or, He descended to the dead.

**Or, the holy Christian Church,

* Prayer of the Church

LBW p. 65

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

The prayers conclude:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

* Sharing of the Peace

LBW p. 66

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Offering *The Offering is received as the Lord's Table is prepared. All loose offering will go towards the Building & Repair Fund. During the month of September, the Benevolence Teaching Moment is on Lutheran Military Veterans & Families Ministries. Please prayerfully consider giving to the Benevolence Fund.*

Offertory Music: *10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)*

Chorus: Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before O my soul I'll worship Your holy name

Verse 1: The sun comes up it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

Verse 2: You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

Verse 3: And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Tag: Worship Your holy name Lord I'll worship Your holy name

Ending: Sing like never before O my soul I'll worship Your holy name
Worship Your holy name Worship Your holy name

CCLI Song # 6016351

Jonas Myrin | Matt Redman

© 2011 Atlas Mountain Songs; sixsteps Music; Thankyou Music; worshiptogether.com songs
For use solely with the SongSelect® [Terms of Use](#). All rights reserved. www.ccli.com

MEAL

* Offertory (*"Let the Vineyards be fruitful Lord..."*)

LBW p. 66

**C Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with your presence, and give us
a foretaste of the feast to come.**

* Offertory Prayer

LBW p. 67

A Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us--our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

* Great Thanksgiving

LBW p. 68

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and salutary . . . *(Here the minister continues with the preface appropriate to the day or season, concluding:)* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

* Sanctus (*"Holy, Holy, Holy Lord..."*)

LBW p. 69

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

* Words of Institution

LBW p. 69

P 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.

* Lord's Prayer

LBW p. 71

**C 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**

Lamb of God (*"Lamb of God, you take away..."*)

LBW p. 72

**C Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

Distribution of Communion

At Union Lutheran Church the Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday. All baptized Christians who believe in the real presence of Christ in the Lord's Supper are invited to commune. All who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Gluten Free wafers and grape juice are also available upon request. Please fill out the communion card in the pew and hand to the Usher while following their directions to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.

Organ Communion Music: Meditation (Gadd 1992 Broadman Press)

* Blessing

LBW p. 72

**P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C Amen**

* Post-Communion Canticle (*"Thank the Lord..."*)

LBW p. 72-73

**C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.
He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

* Post-Communion Prayer

LBW p. 74

**A Let us pray. Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those
whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C Amen**

SENDING

* Benediction

LBW p. 74

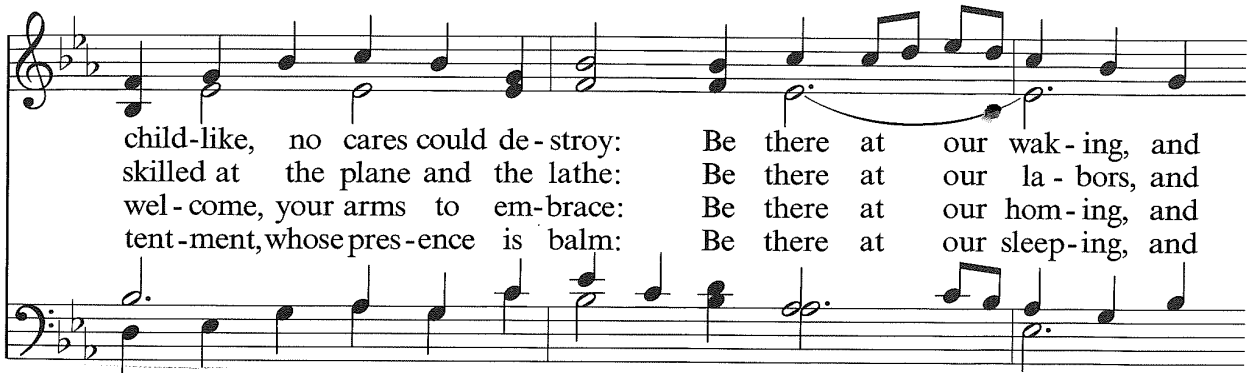
**P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
C Amen**

Lord of All Hopefulness

469



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy, Whose trust, ev - er
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith, Whose strong hands were
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace, Your hands swift to
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm, Whose voice is con -



child-like, no cares could de - stroy: Be there at our wak - ing, and
skilled at the plane and the lathe: Be there at our la - bors, and
wel - come, your arms to em - brace: Be there at our hom - ing, and
tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm: Be there at our sleep - ing, and



give us, we pray, Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
give us, we pray, Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
give us, we pray, Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
give us, we pray, Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

* Sending

P You have been nurtured in Word and Sacrament now go therefore and make disciples of all nations

C **Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and of the Holy Spirit.**

P Union Lutheran Church you are sent!

C **Amen, amen, amen**

Postlude: *Sing and Rejoice Greatly* (Smith 200 Lorenz Publishing Co.)

*The **ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God and in honor of the descendants of The Milas Franklin Cauble Family.*

Those Serving in September

Guest Organist: Nancy Sloop

We welcome Nancy Sloop to worship today!

Acolytes: Jennifer & Scott Curlee

Altar Guild: Jennifer & Scott Curlee, Cathy Painter

Communion Assistants: Jennifer & Scott Curlee, Cathy Painter

Lay Readers: Jennifer & Scott Curlee, Cathy Painter

Ushers:

Phil Cauble (HU), Larry Barringer, Morgan Deaton & Adam Thompson

Offering Counters:

Mary Elizabeth Earnhardt, Sonya Mulkey, & Vivian Sprinkle

If you are unable to serve on a Sunday scheduled, please find a replacement and contact the church office by the Wednesday before with the name.

In the weekly bulletin & news, names are listed of those serving because it's a gentle reminder and helps connect names and faces!

Lutheran Book of Worship Setting 1 (p. 56-76)

Augsburg Fortress license # SBL10475L © AF Liturgies License

Augsburg Fortress license # SBL10475H © AF Hymns License

CCLI License © #20615971 & CCLI Streaming License © #20615988

Sola Worship Resources (www.solapublishing.com) — © 2023 Sola Publishing. Permission granted to active subscribers to photocopy for congregational use.

Scripture taken from ESV Bible® (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®). Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.