

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost July 12, 2026

Welcome!

We delight in have guests and are glad that you have joined us today.

First Lutheran Church

6 Eddy Street
Waltham, MA 02453-7753
781-893-6563

firstlutheranwaltham.org

Follow us on Facebook at
First Lutheran Church - Waltham, MA

The Rev. Thomas E. Maehl,
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Ms. Cynthia Niiler,
Director of Music
and Parish Secretary
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@gmail.com

Vicar Trevor Boe, Intern
firstlutheranwalthamvicar
@gmail.com

Today's Worship Leaders

Pastor

Tom Maehl

Vicar

Trevor Boe

Musician

Cynthia Niiler

Assistant Minister

Emily Codner

Acolyte

Kalyse Black

Lector

Pat Clem

Ushers

Emily & Penelope Codner

A/V

Curt Schroeder

Altar Care

Ann Sjodin

Counters

Ted Sjodin

Alan Sieving

Prelude: "Amazing Grace!"

setting, John Carter

Welcome and Announcements

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

The congregation is invited to stand

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.
Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,
help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways
of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding
rather than trusting in you.**

**We take offense at your teachings and your ways.
Turn us again to you.**

Where else can we turn?

**Share with us the words of eternal life
and feed us for life in the world.
Amen.**

Beloved people of God:
in Jesus, the manna from heaven,
you are fed and nourished.
By Jesus, the worker of miracles,
there is always more than enough.
Through Jesus, the bread of life,
you are shown God's mercy:
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn: "Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil"



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

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



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:

Hymn 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



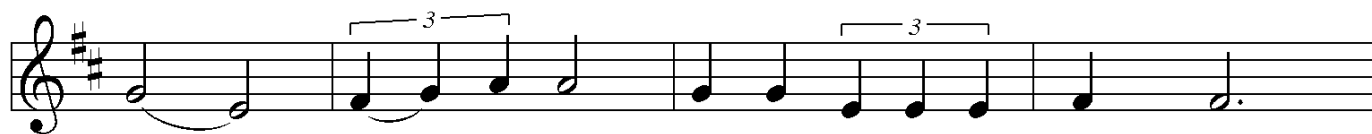
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



☐ 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



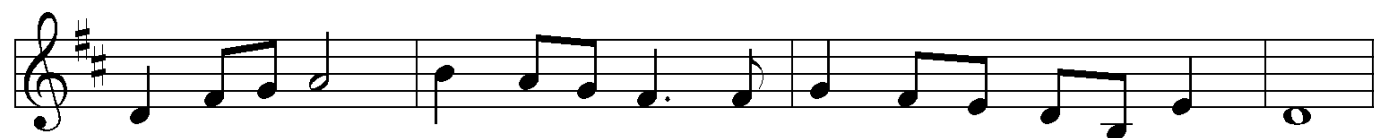
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



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



C 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.



C 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.

The Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

The congregation is seated

First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
¹² For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 65:9-13

You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water. You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

**You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

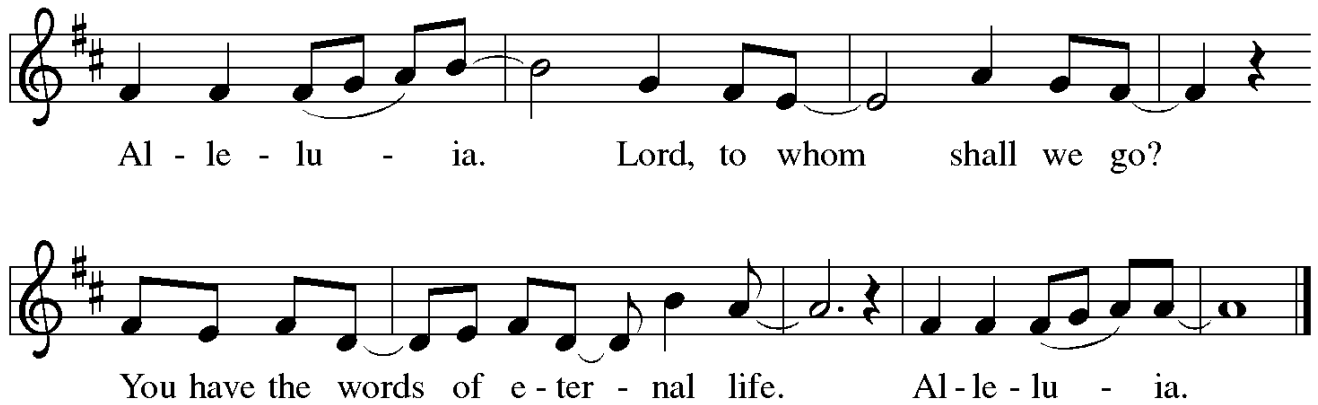
You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.

**May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.**

May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

The congregation is invited to stand

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. If you have ears, hear!"

"Hear, then, the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation is seated

Children's Sermon

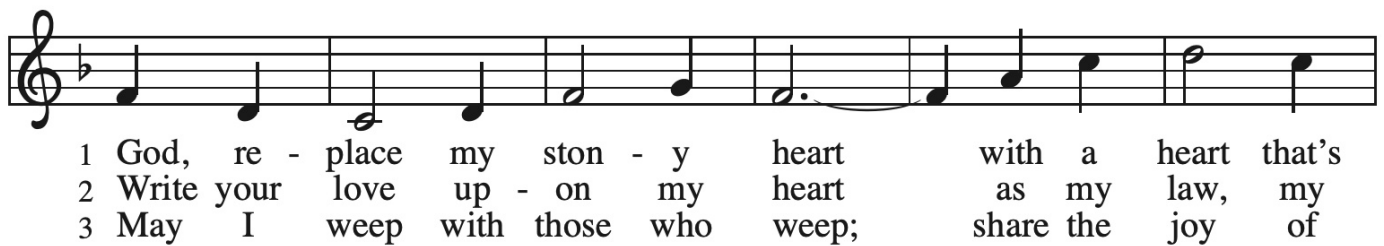
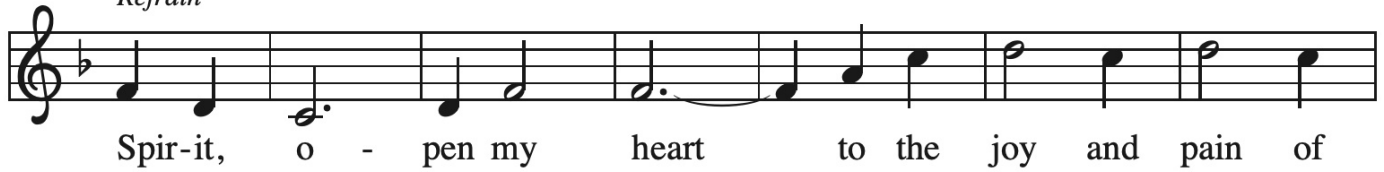
Sermon

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

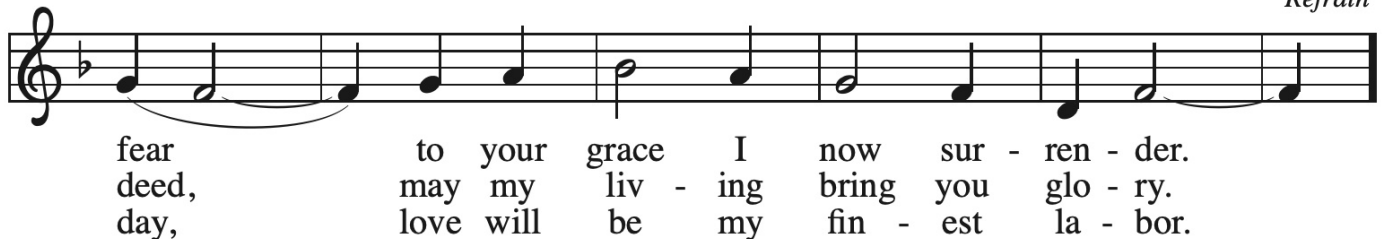
The congregation is invited to stand

Hymn of the Day: "Spirit, Open My Heart"

Refrain



Refrain



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 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:

Response: God of grace,
hear our prayer.

The Peace

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

The congregation is seated

Offering is Gathered

Musical Offering: "This Joy" arr. Keith Hampton

Prayer List

Members of our First Lutheran Community: Glow, Bethany, and Roland Adams; Joyce Anderson; Jen Biter; Ardeith Froeberg; June Jahrling; Erika Jerram; Lovequist/Shread family; Kathryn McCowan; Don & Britta McNemar; Kerry Meaney; Cynthia Niiler; Joan Niiler, Stacey Reed; Karson Sprague; Flavio Vallejos; Valarie Waters.

Friends and Family: Clinton Braganza; Rhona Chen; Emily Dallman; Evan DaRos; Sheila Dumbrowik; Wendy Fournier; Lisa Fugger; Jay Higham; Josh Kalisa; Sylvia & Chris Lee-Thompson; Nathan Maehl; Pappas family; Roland Pesch; Rachel and sons; Lynn Reihart; Bill Sanderson; Brian Schmitz; Roger & Margie Schroeder; JoAnn Shade; Fay Sieving; Betsy Smith; Wilson Viertel; Chip Weinkauff; Jim Wroe; Marlys Yu.

For those who grieve: the family and friends of Miles McAdams - infant son of Kevin and Samantha (cousins of Hannah & Matt Burke)

For our partners: Santuario Luterano, the Spanish speaking Lutheran congregation in Waltham. For other organizations we actively support: the Waltham Family School, the Waltham Community Day Center, Chaplains on the Way, WATCH, Camp Calumet, and ELCA World Hunger.



Another way to collect the offering.

Our church provides both spiritual, physical and emotional nourishment for all who attend in person and online. We invite you to consider donating to support the mission of our church, as we work to support programs in the church, in the community, and for the online community.

To make your offering through credit card, scan the code to the left.

The congregation is invited to stand

Congregational Offertory



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Offering Prayer

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
Amen.

SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

The congregation is invited to stand

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

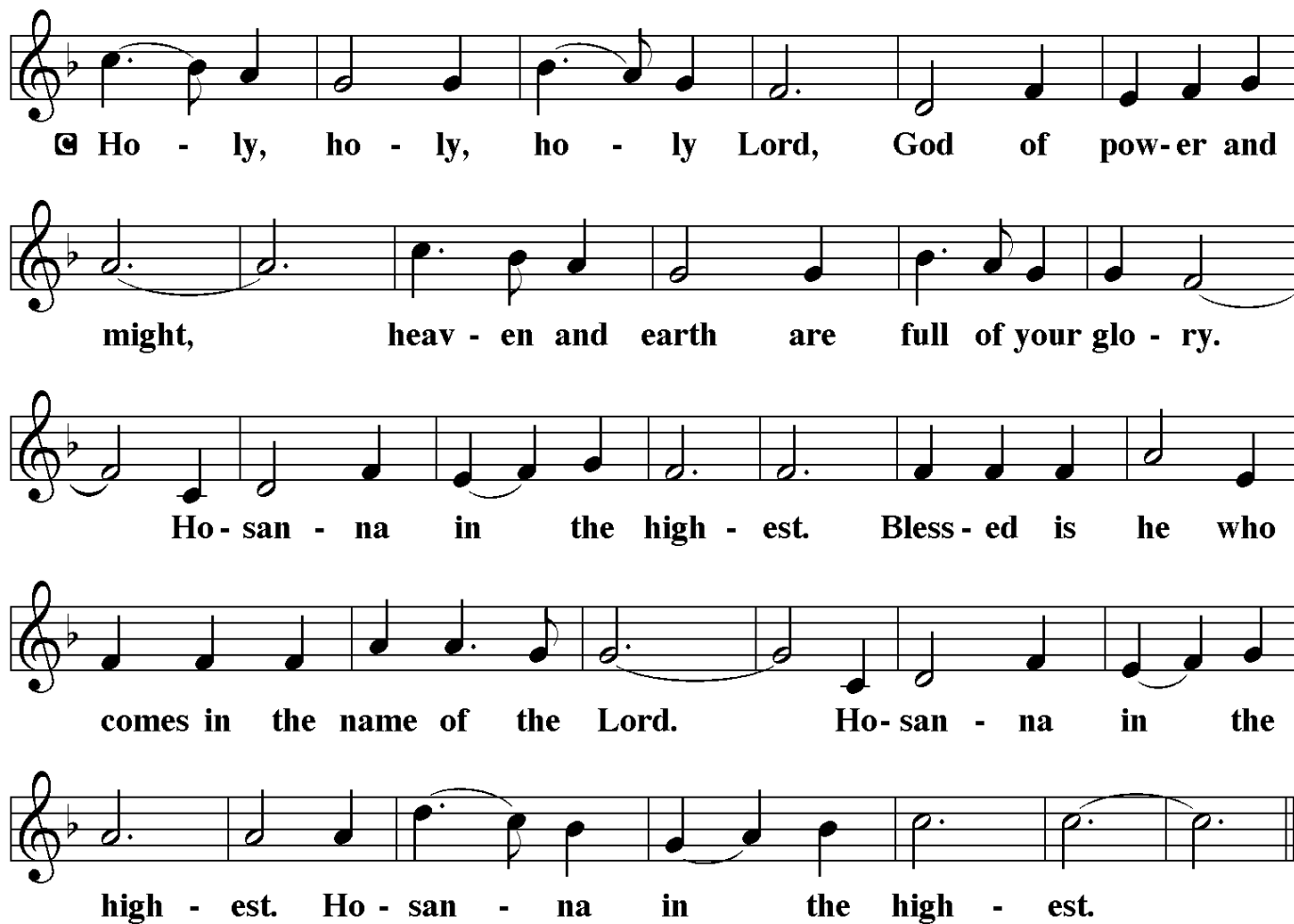
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ...

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

About Communion

We believe that Jesus Christ is present in the bread and wine we share and therefore he is the host of the meal. In his name, we welcome all who desire to commune.

- An usher will direct you to come forward, and you may either kneel or stand at the altar rail.
- *Bread*: The pastor will place bread in your hands, which you may then consume. We have gluten free bread available; indicate to the pastor/vicar if that is your preference.
- *Wine/Juice*: the assistant will then offer a tray of individual glasses (juice in the center ring). The acolyte will follow with a tray for empty glasses. Also, you may skip the wine altogether trusting that Christ is fully present in the bread.
- Children and adults who do not yet commune are welcome to come to the altar for a blessing.
- If walking is difficult for you, please inform an usher, then stay in your pew and the pastor will come to you.

Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

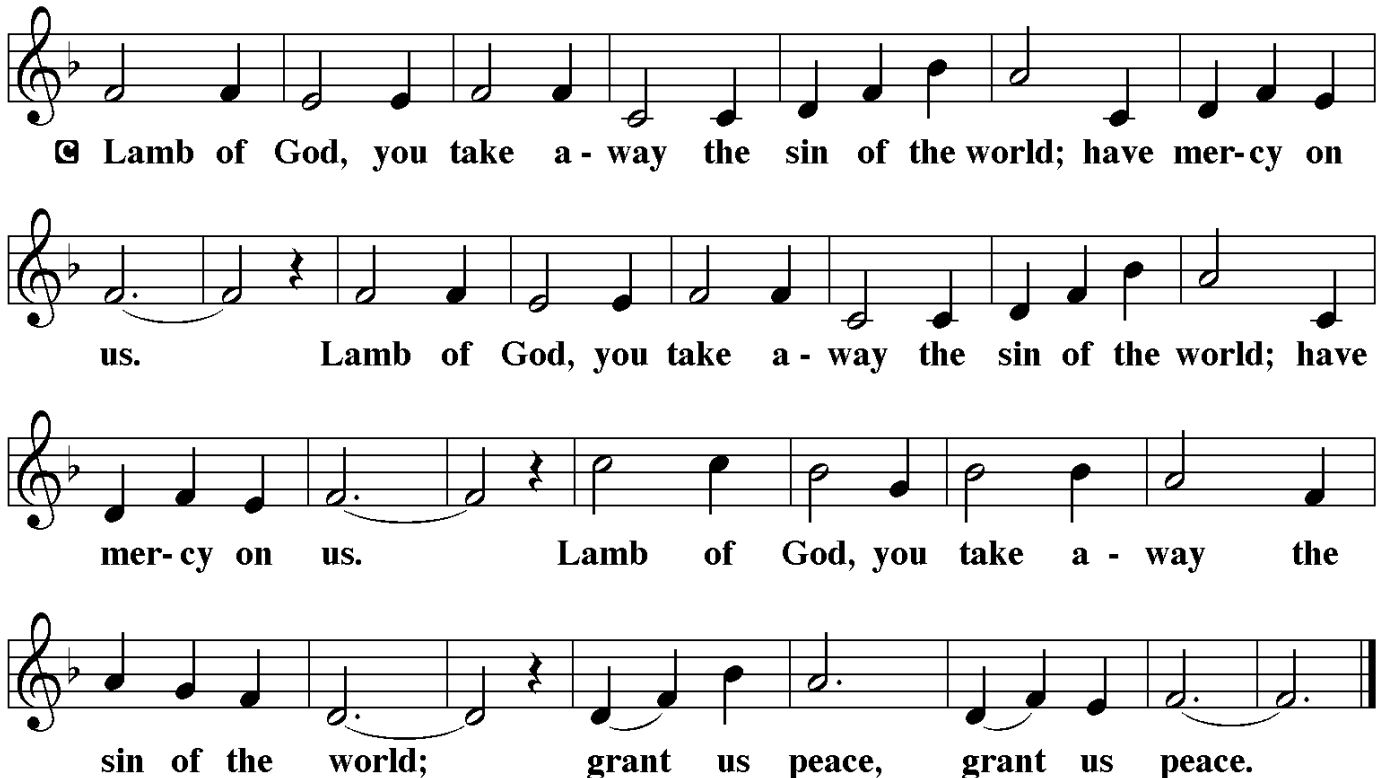
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation is seated

Lamb of God



☐ 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, grant us peace.

Distribution of Communion

Communion Hymns:

"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;
 oh, oh,

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;
 oh,

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,
 oh,

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.

"God, The Sculptor of the Mountains"

1 God the sculp - tor of the moun - tains,
 2 God the nui - sance to the Pha - raoh,
 3 God the dress - er of the vine - yard,
 4 God the un - ex - pect - ed in - fant,

God the mill - er of the sand,
 God the cleav - er of the sea,
 God the plant - er of the wheat,
 God the calm, de - ter - mined youth,

God the jewel - er of the heav - ens,
 God the pil - lar in the dark - ness,
 God the reap - er of the har - vest,
 God the ta - ble - turn - ing proph - et,

God the pot - ter of the land:
 God the bea - con of the free:
 God the source of all we eat:
 God the re - sur - rect - ed truth:

you are womb of all cre - a - tion,
 you are fount of all de - liv - 'rance,
 you are host at ev - 'ry ta - ble,
 you are pres - ent ev - 'ry mo - ment,

we are form - less; shape us now.
 we are sight - less; lead us now.
 we are hun - gry; feed us now.
 we are search - ing; meet us now.

The congregation is invited to stand

Post-Communion Prayer

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine
 our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
 Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
 may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
 We ask this in the name of Jesus,
 through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING

Benediction

Sending Hymn: "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



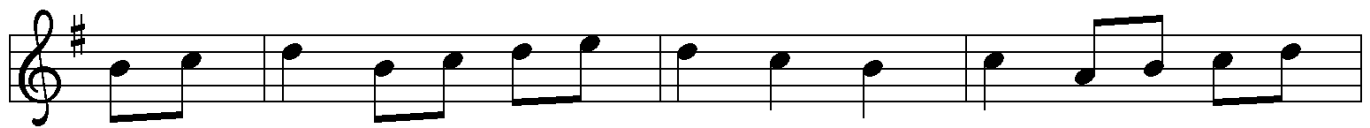
the peo - ple of our God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



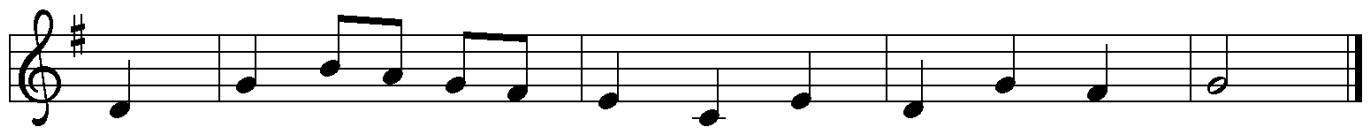
The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing



to give work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: "The Ash Grove"

arr. Anne Krentz Organ

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"Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil"

Text and music: Handt Hanson, b. 1950 © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc.

"Spirit, Open My Heart"

Text: Ruth Duck b. 1947 ©1996 Pilgrim Press

Music: Irish Melody; adapt. Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1963 © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

"This Little Light of Mine"

Text: African American Spiritual

Music: African American Spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Benson, b. 1935 © Horace Clarence Benson

"God the Sculptor of the Mountains"

Text: John Thornburg, 1954 © 1993 John Thornburg

Music: Amanda Husberg, b. 1940 © 1996 Abington Press, admin. The Copyright Company

"Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt. © 1964 World Library Publications

Music: Welsh folk tune

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"Amazing Grace!" setting, John Carter © 2005 Augsburg Fortress

"This Joy" African American Spiritual, arr. Keith Hampton from "Let It Rip! at the Piano" © 2000 Augsburg Fortress

"The Ash Grove" Welsh Folk Tune, arr. Anne Krentz Organ from "Let it Rip! at the Piano" © 2000 Augsburg Fortress

Announcements

VBS Thanks: We had a wonderful week of Vacation Bible School with over 40 children participating. Thanks to all the leaders and supporters, and thanks to all who were praying for us during the week. Also, thanks to all who contributed toward the 45 art kits VBS children assembled for the Waltham Family School. After worship, please join us in the room adjoining the sanctuary for refreshments, and then if you are able take a walk downstairs to look at the decorations and sample projects from the week.

Can you help take care of our Blessing Box? We could use help checking the sidewalk box—refilling it with items from the Pearson Room and occasionally emptying out some items. You can find a sign up in our This Week email. Thank you! ***If you are interested in learning more or would like a walk through of what to do to pick up produce and stock the blessing box, Vicar Trevor will be doing just that following worship on Sunday!***

WFCF Farm shares—Pick up help *still needed!* We are about to begin picking up fresh produce from Waltham Fields for our blessing box this week! And we still need folks to sign up to take part in our produce pick up days at the Mobile Outreach Market between 4:30 and 6:00 pm on Tuesdays at First Parish in Waltham. Sign up with the link in our "This Week" email.

Lawn Care help needed: Can you help mow the church lawn this summer? Sign up in the Pearson Room. We provide the lawn mower and gas, and someone from the Property Team would be happy to show you what is needed. All help is welcome—just once—or repeatedly through the summer!

Coffee Hosts Needed! Can you help foster community by hosting coffee? Sign up in the Pearson Room or by using the link in the This Week email. First time hosting? We're happy to provide instruction.



First Lutheran's Welcome Statement

Walking together in God's love, we rejoice in the diversity of God's wonderfully made children. We celebrate lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, and non-binary people and all members of our human family regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, race, ethnicity, age, marital status, physical and mental ability, faith history, economic status, education, family configuration, or immigration status. We renounce the sin of racism and all forms of discrimination. We welcome all to join us in worship, leadership, participation in rites and sacraments of the church, and fellowship on our journey of nurturing faith, doing justice, and serving all.