

19th Sunday After Pentecost

St. Francis of Assisi

October 4th, 2026

8 & 11 am



Welcome to Calvary Lutheran Church.
We are so glad you are worshipping with us today.

LET US KNOW YOU'RE HERE: Whether this is your first time or you're a regular, we invite you to fill out an attendance sheet located within the blue binders in each pew to let us know you're here. If you're watching online, you can let us know you joined us by clicking the "Let Us Know You're Here" link on our website's worship page.

OFFERINGS: Our mission and ministry is not possible without you. Gifts can be shared in a variety of ways during the service. Checks, cash and "I Give Online" cards may be placed in the offering baskets passed during the service. Online and mobile gifts can be shared via the app and QR codes listed below. Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity.



Download the new
"Vanco Mobile" giving app
from your smart phone's app store

Two Ways to Give

Give online
through this QR code
Use smart phone camera; click link



NURSERY: Children are a joy in worship, *and* we understand that little ones might sometimes need a break. The nursery, for children ages 0-3, is open throughout Sunday mornings until the end of the 11:00 a.m. service. For children in worship, you can find busy books and activity bags outside the sanctuary. Ask one of our ushers if you need help finding the nursery or worship resources.

COMMUNION: All are welcome at Christ's table, including children. Ushers will guide you to the altar where you can either kneel or stand to receive the body and blood of Christ. Bread is received in the hands. Gluten-free wafers are available by request. Wine is received either by drinking from the silver chalice, or by saving the bread and dipping it in the chalice, or in the individual cups. Individual cups include both wine (red) and non-wine (white) and may be discarded in the baskets found at the aisles while returning to your seats. Those not communing may come forward for a blessing, keeping your hands folded over your chest. For those unable to consume either wine or bread, communion is received fully in either element alone. For those unable to commune at the altar, our pastors will bring communion to you.

ABOUT THE CHURCH SEASON: The Season After Pentecost, often referred to as "Ordinary Time", stretches from summer to fall, beginning Pentecost Sunday until Advent. Denoted within the church by the color green, (found in the banners, paraments, and pastor's vestments) this half-year focuses on the teachings of Jesus and the works of the Spirit.

**Visit calvaryftw.org for more information, our newsletter,
and to view the full church calendar.**

The Liturgy at Calvary Lutheran Church

Prelude *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*
Tune: St. Columba (Ancient Irish)
Setting Sam Batt Owens (1928-1998)

We stand & face the baptismal font as we begin our worship.

Confession And Forgiveness

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.

We pause for a moment of silent confession.

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.

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C Amen.

We turn in place, following the cross as it passes in procession to the altar.

Entrance Hymn *God the Sculptor of the Mountains* (ELW #736)



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.

Text: John Thornburg, b. 1954
 Music: Amanda Husberg, b. 1940
 Text © 1993 John Thornburg
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JENNINGS-HOUSTON
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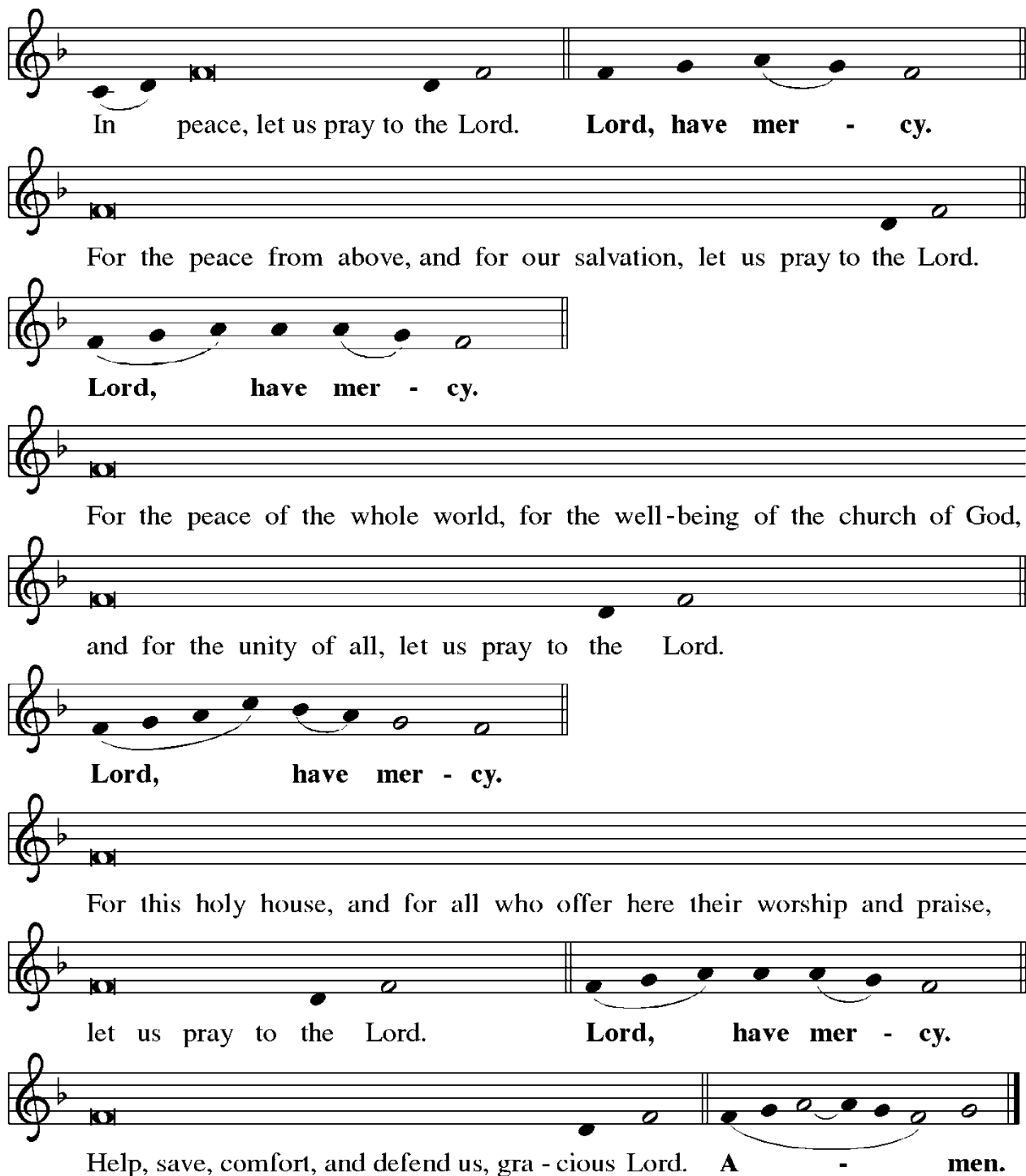
Apostolic Greeting

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 Eleison

Did you know that "Kyrie Eleison" is Greek for "Lord, Have Mercy"?



The musical score is written on ten staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The score is divided into two main sections by a double bar line on the fourth staff. The first section contains the first two staves, and the second section contains the remaining eight staves. The lyrics are: "In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy." (first staff), "For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord." (second staff), "Lord, have mer - cy." (third staff), "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." (fourth staff), "Lord, have mer - cy." (fifth staff), "For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy." (sixth staff), and "Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men." (seventh staff).

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Lord, have mer - cy.

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.

Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Canticle Of Praise

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



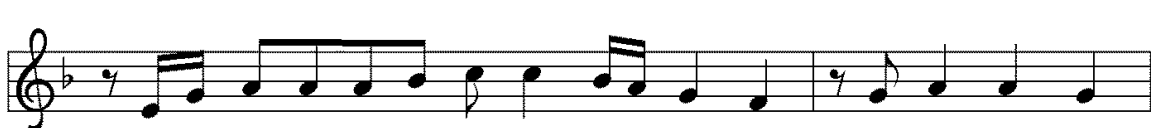
we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



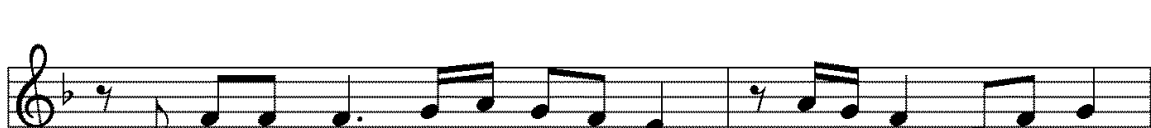
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



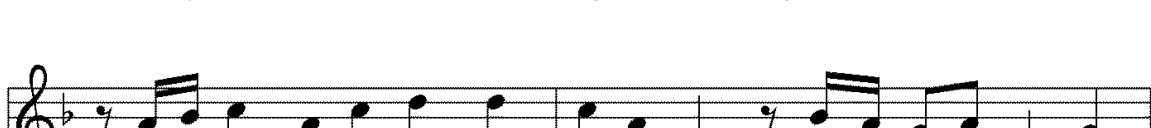
you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



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,

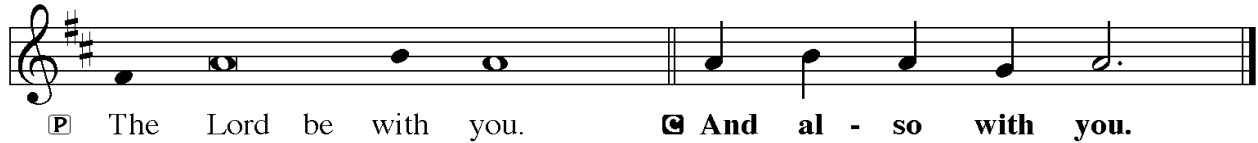


you a - lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Prayer Of The Day



P Let us pray... Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading Isaiah 5:1-7

¹ I will sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

² He dug it and cleared it of stones
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded rotten grapes.

³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.

⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield rotten grapes?

⁵ And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

⁶ I will make it a wasteland;
 it shall not be pruned or hoed,
 and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
 I will also command the clouds
 that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷ For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts
 is the house of Israel,
 and the people of Judah
 are his cherished garden;
 he expected justice
 but saw bloodshed;
 righteousness
 but heard a cry!

L The Word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

*The choir leads our Psalm. They sing the refrain and the congregation echoes it,
 The congregation then sings the refrain following the verses sung by the choir.*

Psalm 80

Refrain

God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on
 us and we shall be saved.

Text © 1963,1986 The Grail (England); Music © 1994 GIA

- O shepherd of Israel hear us. Shine forth from your cherubim throne.
 O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. **REFRAIN**
- God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see.
 Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. **REFRAIN**
- May your hand be on the one you have chosen, the one you have given
 your strength. And we shall never forsake you again; give us life that
 we may call upon your name. **REFRAIN**

Second Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me.

¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

L The Word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God**

We stand for the gospel as Christ, the Word of God, is proclaimed.

Alleluia Verse & Gospel Acclamations

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21st chapter



[Jesus said:] ³³“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

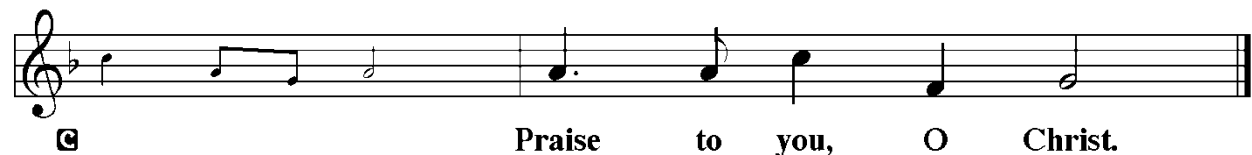
⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes’?

⁴³“Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

P The Gospel of our Lord.



Sermon Pastor Kyle Rouze

Following the sermon, we pause for a time of silence, reflection, and prayer.

Hymn Of The Day (W&P #95)

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Prayer of St. Francis

Refrain after each verse; repeat vs 1 to end

D F#m/C# Bm A⁷ D(sus2) F#m⁷/C#



Make me a chan- nel of your peace.
 Make me a chan- nel of your peace.
 Make me a chan- nel of your peace.

Bm A⁷ D F#m/C# Bm G A(sus4)



Where there is ha- tred, let me bring your love;
 Where there's de- spair in life, let me bring hope;
 It is in par- don - ing that we are par- doned

A Em⁷ Em A(sus4) A Em(add2)



where there is in- ju- ry, your par- don, Lord;
 where there is dark- ness, on- ly light;
 in giv- ing of our - selves that we re- ceive

A(sus4) A Em(add2) Em A D



and where there's doubt, true faith in you.
 and where there's sad- ness, ev - er joy.
 and in dy - ing that we're born to e - ter - nal life.

Refrain G Bm/F# Em A⁷ D(sus4) D



O Mas- ter, grant that I may nev- er seek so

A G Em A D(add2) D(sus4) D



much to be con- soled as to con- sole, to be

G Bm/F# Em A⁷ D(sus4) D



un- der- stood as to un- der- stand, to be

E E(sus4) E A G/A A



loved as to love with all my soul.

Creed

Did you know that "Creed" comes from the Greek "Credo" meaning "I believe"?

A Let us profess the faith in which we are baptized:

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

Prayers of Intercession

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

*The Assisting Minister will end each prayer petition saying "Lord, in your mercy..." to which the congregation responds, "**hear our prayer.**"*

The Pastor will conclude the prayers with the following...

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.

Peace

We greet our neighbors in the name of the Lord.

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Offertory [8] *All Things Bright and Beautiful* Sanctuary Choir
Words: Mrs. C.F. Alexander (1823-1893)
Music: John Rutter b.1945

*Refrain: All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.*
Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
he made their glowing colors,
he made their tiny wings. *Refrain*
The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky. *Refrain*
The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
he made them every one. *Refrain*
He gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well. *Refrain*

[11] *Rosymedre* Music J.D. Edwards 1805-1885 Handbell Choir
Setting by Ralph Vaughn Williams 1872-1956
Transcription by Douglas E. Wagner b.1952

We offer our gifts with joy and thanksgiving.



Two Ways to Give

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We stand as our gifts are presented.

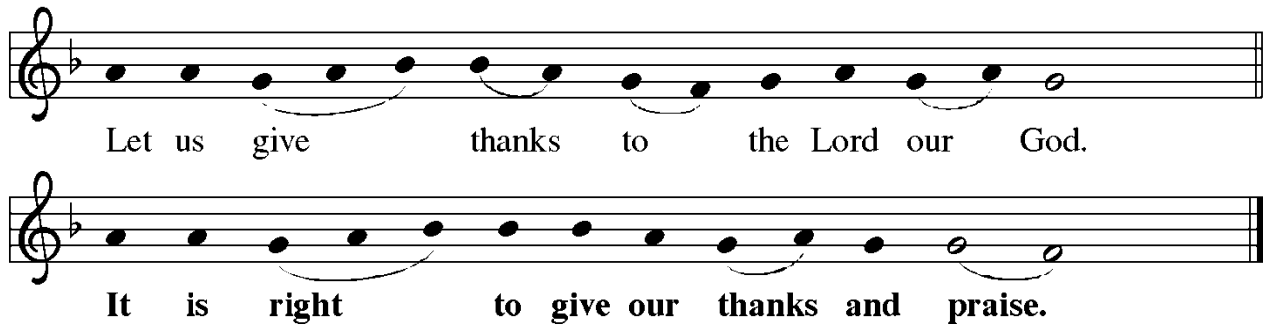
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your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

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

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



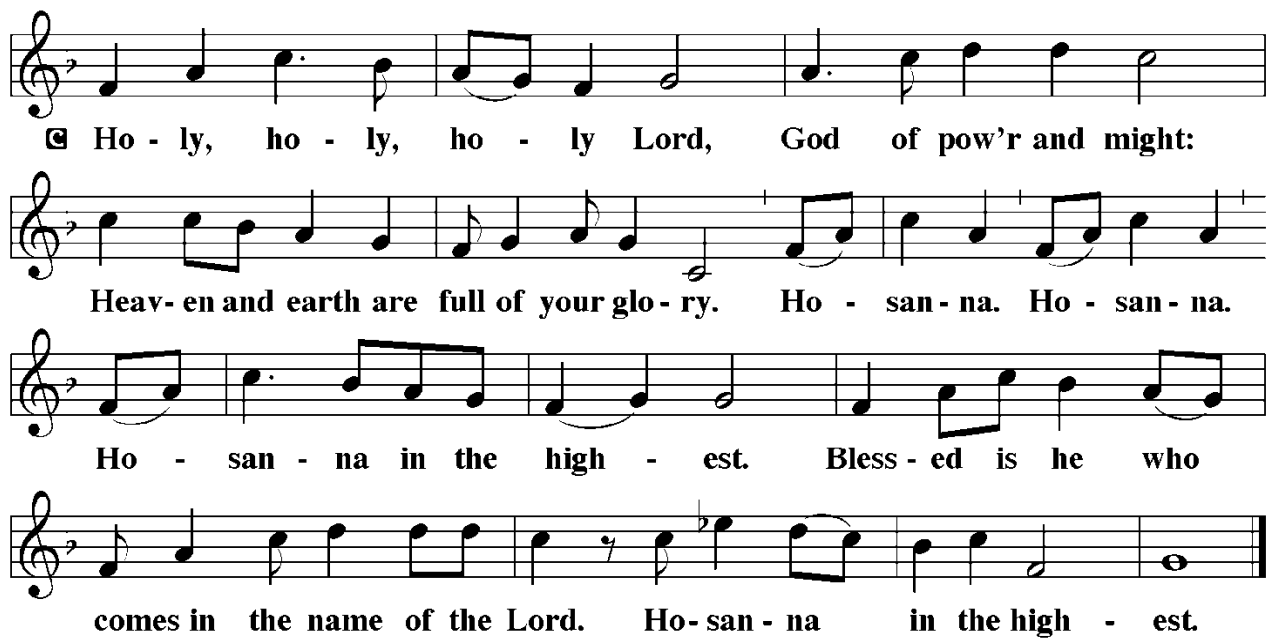
P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ;

who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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 & Benedictus

The Sanctus and Benedictus, translated from the Latin meaning "Holy and Blessed" is an ancient song that draws on the words of Isaiah and recalls Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.



Eucharistic Prayer

Eucharist is from the Greek meaning "Thanksgiving". The Pastor prays the Eucharistic prayer, weaving in the day's themes with the familiar words of Jesus from the Last Supper. We are reminded that we share in this meal "in remembrance of Jesus".

Eucharistic Acclamation



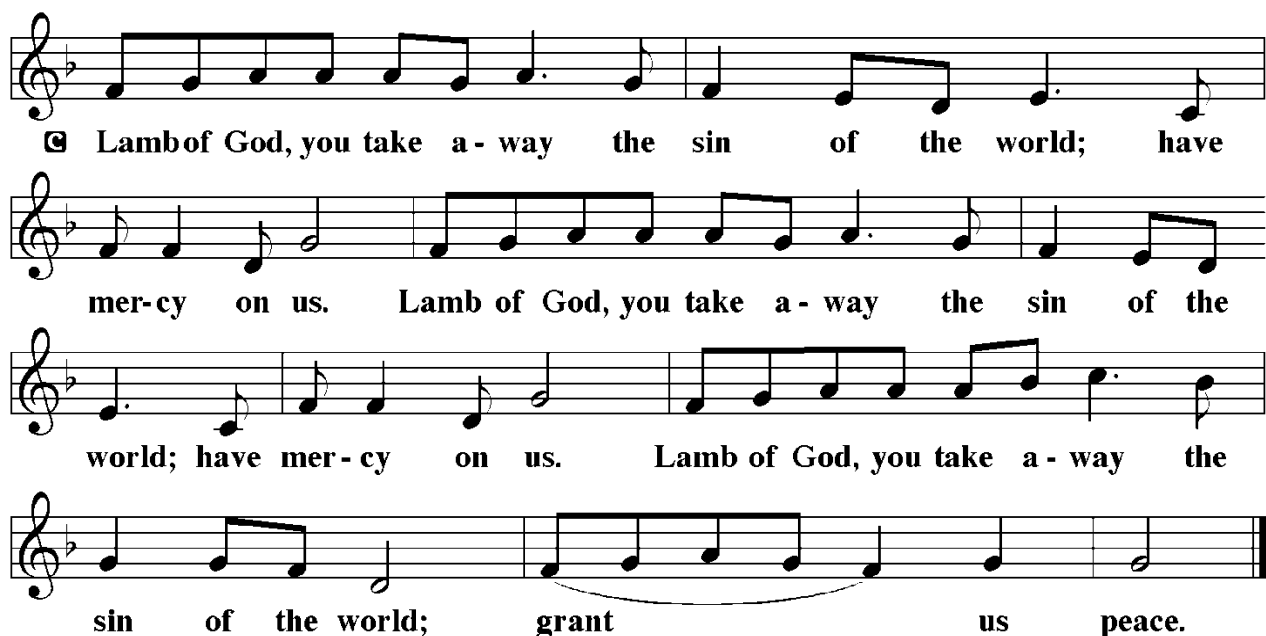
P Remember us in your kingdom, O Lord, and teach us to pray.

All 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.

P The body of Christ given for you. Blood of Christ shed for you.

Agnus Dei

"Agnus Dei" comes from the Latin meaning "Lamb of God".



Sharing of Holy Communion

Everyone is welcome at Christ's table.

Please follow the directions of the ushers as we share in this meal of grace.

As we share in the meal, the words of promise are shared:

"The body of Christ, given for you." and "The blood of Christ, shed for you."

Detailed communion information can be found on the inside cover of your bulletin.



***Here I Am, Lord* Music Dan Schutte b.1947 Handbell Choir
Setting By Arnold B. Sherman 1948-2024**

The following hymns may be sung during the sharing of communion.

Jesus Loves Me! (ELW #595)

1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;

The first system of the song features a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staff, with three verses of text.

lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staff, with three lines of text.

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,

The third system is the refrain of the song. It features a treble and bass staff in G major. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staff, with two lines of text.

yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

The fourth system continues the refrain. It features a treble and bass staff in G major. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staff, with two lines of text.

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt.
Music: JESUS LOVES ME, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

Here is Bread (W&P #58)



1 Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us,
 2 Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us,
 3 Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us,



he is with us. Break the bread, taste the wine,
 he is with us. Know his grace, find his peace,
 he is with us. We'll pro - claim till he comes



Christ is with us here.
 feast on Je - sus here.
 Je - sus cru - ci - fied.

Refrain



In this bread there is heal - ing, in this cup is



life for - ev - er. In this mo - ment, by the Spir - it,



Christ is with us here.

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
 and keep you in God's grace.

C **Amen**

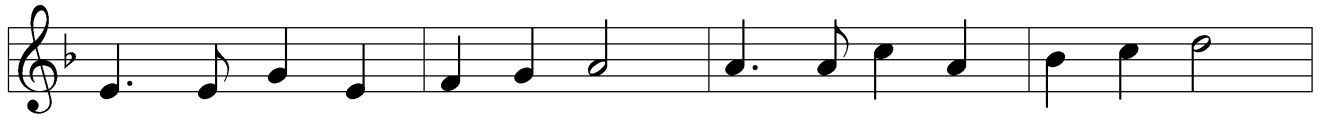
Post-Communion Canticle



Thank the Lord, your voic - es raise: sing to God with high - est praise!



Tell the won - ders God has done: free - dom, life, the vic - t'ry won.



All who seek the Lord, re - joice; proud - ly bear the name of Christ.



Go in joy where God will send. Al - le - lu - ia! Sing a - men!

Text: Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951

Music: ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

- A** Let us pray... 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.
- C Amen**

The Benediction evokes the language of the Priestly Blessing from Numbers 6:24 – 26.

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and
✠ give you peace.

C Amen

Having been fed by the Word and at the table, we are sent to live out our baptismal calling – sharing God's love with our human hands.

During the recessional hymn, we turn in place, following the cross.

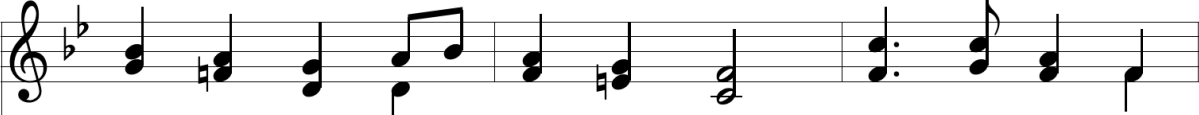
Recessional From the First Word of Creation (LIW #59)



1 From the first word of cre - a - tion, as the works of
 2 Christ has shown us God's com-pas - sion: from the heart of
 3 Cir - cling us, the Spir - it beck - ons, call - ing us with
 4 Ring us round with ho - ly un - ion; pierce us through with



God un - fold, God's de - sire is toward the man - y—
 God all rise; each u - nique and each be - lov - ed,
 sigh - ing deep, that all join with those re - joic - ing,
 gold - en fire; bind our guard - ed hearts to - geth - er;



var - ied flock and var - ied fold— bound to - geth - er
 yet to - geth - er in - ter - twined; wo - ven in a
 that all mourn with those who weep; and, re - fin - ing
 with your love our lives in - spire, that, O God, in



by God's pres - ence like a strand of wo - ven gold.
 seam - less gar - ment by the crim - son love of Christ.
 us from hard - ness, healed and whole our hearts will keep.
 you a - bid - ing, we em - bod - y your de - sire.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien
 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879
 Text © 2020 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress

A Go in Peace. Serve the Lord. C **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude *Built on the Rock*
Ludvig M. Lindeman (1812-87)
Setting by Jacob B. Weber (c. 2017)

Calvary Lutheran Church

7620 Baker Boulevard Richland Hills, Texas 76118
www.godhearthumanhands.org email: calvary@calvaryftw.org
(817) 284-8724

The Reverend Kyle Rouze The Reverend Kyle Symanski
Intern Michael Rivard
Viktor Andersson, *Director of Worship & Music*
Debbie Villavicencio, *Organist*

	8:00 AM	11:00 AM
Lector	Debbie Larsen	Cynthia DeFrang
Assist. Minister	Mickey Nowell	Brent Falkenberg
Ushers & Greeters	Don Acker Jeff Goodwin	Cathy & Charles Rohloff Lois Wehrmeister Val Wilkerson
Altar Guild	Jenny Gibson	Cathrine Andejaske
Audio/Visual	Debra Machos	Christy Gibson, Debra Machos Michelle Lanham

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Scriptures from the NRSVue Bible Translation (2021).

The Lutheran church sets aside days during the year to commemorate saints, martyrs, and renewers of the church to give thanks for the ways they shared God's grace, and to honor the work of the Holy Spirit throughout history. This week, we remember...

The 800th anniversary of St. Francis' death.
Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, died 1226
Sunday, October 4, 2026

Born into the family of a wealthy merchant, Francis gave up his inheritance to serve poor people. He formed the Order of Friars Minor (called Franciscans), who took on poverty and the task of preaching "using words if necessary." Francis had a spirit of gratitude for all of God's creation.

Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society, died 1864

Sunday, October 4, 2026

Fliedner helped to bring about a revival of the ministry of deaconesses among Lutherans. He was influenced in this by Moravian deaconesses he had met. The motherhouse he founded in Kaiserswerth, Germany, inspired many around the world to take up this ministry.

William Tyndale, translator, martyr, died 1536

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

Tyndale was ordained a priest in England, and wished to translate the Bible into English. He was opposed in this by King Henry VIII, causing him to flee to Germany. He completed the New Testament in 1525, but before he could finish the Old Testament, he was tried for heresy and burned at the stake.

Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, pastor in North America, died 1787

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

Divided Lutherans in America asked leaders in Europe to send someone who could take charge and unite their work. Muhlenberg was sent, and was effective in organizing the American Lutherans. Among other accomplishments, his liturgical principles became the basis for the Common Service of 1888.

Massie L. Kennard, renewer of the church, died 1986 (TFF)

Saturday, October 10, 2026

A native of Chicago, Kennard was a major figure in supporting and working toward ethnic and racial inclusiveness in the former Lutheran Church in America. Ordained in 1958, he served in positions including Director for Minority Concerns of the Division for Mission in North America.