

August 17, 2025
Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

10:00am service with Holy Communion
The Reverend Ben Groth, Preaching and Presiding
Matthew Harrison, Director of Music

Welcome!

We are so glad you have joined us for worship! If this is your first time here, please fill out the yellow welcome card in the pew and place it in the offering plate if you would like to be contacted by Pastor Ben, would like more information about the church, or would like to sign up for our weekly news email.

Restrooms: Our restrooms are located downstairs at the bottom of the stairways at the back of the sanctuary. There are signs about which side has the men's and women's restrooms. There are any-gender solo restrooms in the education wing, one of which has a changing table. Please knock and ensure no one else is inside!

Care and Prayer: If you would like to request prayer or speak with Pastor Ben about struggles, joys, or anything else, please feel free to email him at bgroth@1stlutherannb.org or call/text at 860-348-3966.

Children: We love having children in worship! At the front of the sanctuary there is a "pray ground" with lots of space to spread out and sit comfortably, some toys, and a great collection of books for different ages. All children and caretakers are welcome to use that space anytime during the service!

Volunteering: We have lots of opportunities at First Lutheran to volunteer and serve our community. Our Monday Morning Mingle free meal takes place from 8-9am each Monday, while our free Pasta Dinners take place from 5-6pm each Wednesday. Both of these programs can always use volunteers. If you'd like to help out, or are interested in helping with worship or other things at First Lutheran, please contact Pastor Ben.

Coffee Hour: After the service, please join us downstairs for goodies and coffee, and a chance to get to know one another better!

Gathering

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

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

A brief silence.

P Gracious God,

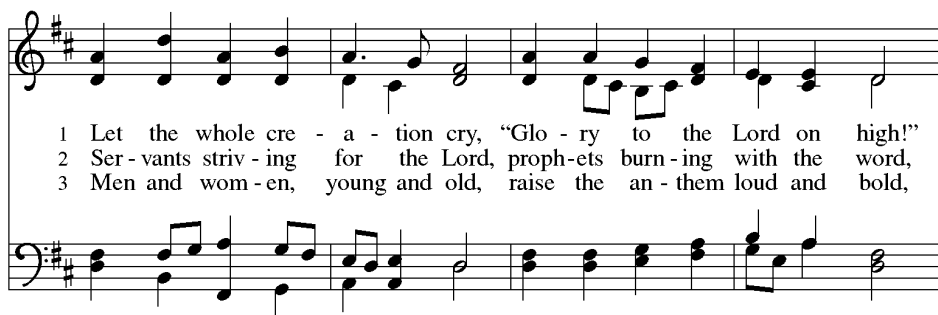
C have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and
given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and
humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known
and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to
do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we
may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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.

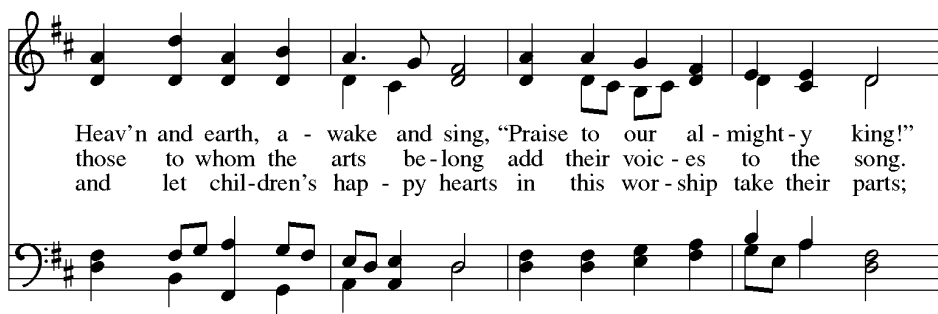
C Amen.

THE GATHERING HYMN # 876

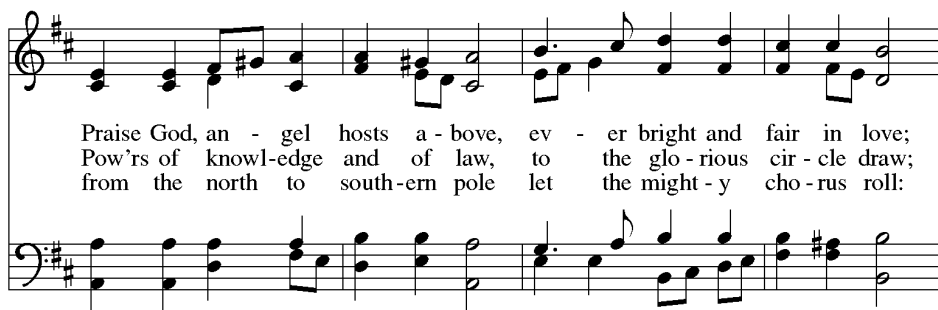
Let the Whole Creation Cry



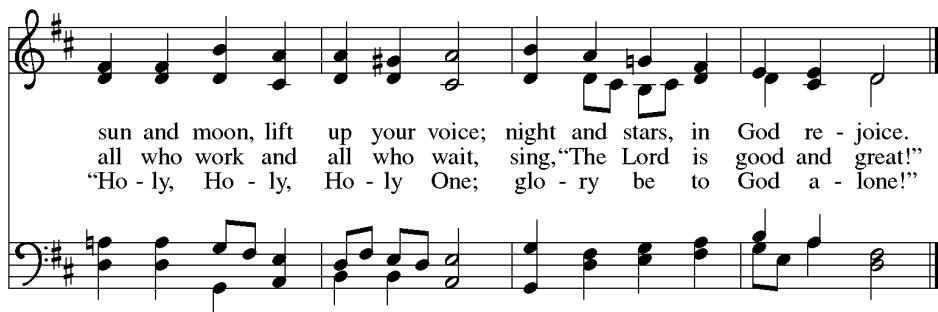
1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high!"
 2 Ser - vants striv - ing for the Lord, proph - ets burn - ing with the word,
 3 Men and wom - en, young and old, raise the an - them loud and bold,



Heav'n and earth, a - wake and sing, "Praise to our al - might - y king!"
 those to whom the arts be - long add their voic - es to the song,
 and let chil - dren's hap - py hearts in this wor - ship take their parts;



Praise God, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;
 Pow'rs of knowl - edge and of law, to the glo - rious cir - cle draw;
 from the north to south - ern pole let the might - y cho - rus roll:



sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God re - joice.
 all who work and all who wait, sing, "The Lord is good and great!"
 "Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One; glo - ry be to God a - lone!"

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray. O God, judge eternal,
C you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

Word _____

THE FIRST READING

A A reading from Jeremiah:

Jeremiah 23:23-29

²³Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? ²⁴Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. ²⁵I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, “I have dreamed! I have dreamed!” ²⁶How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. ²⁹Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces? The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 82

Read Responsively

- A** ¹God stands to charge the divine council assembled,
 giving judgment in the midst of the gods:
C ²**“How long will you judge unjustly,
 and show favor to the wicked?”**
A ³Save the weak and the orphan;
 defend the humble and needy;

**☒ ⁴rescue the weak and the poor;
deliver them from the power of the wicked.**

**☒ ⁵They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about
in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.**

**☒ ⁶Now I say to you, ‘You are gods,
and all of you children of the Most High;**

**☒ ⁷nevertheless, you shall die like mortals,
and fall like any prince.’”**

**☒ ⁸Arise, O God, and rule the earth,
for you shall take all nations for your own.**

THE SECOND READING

☒ A reading from Hebrews:

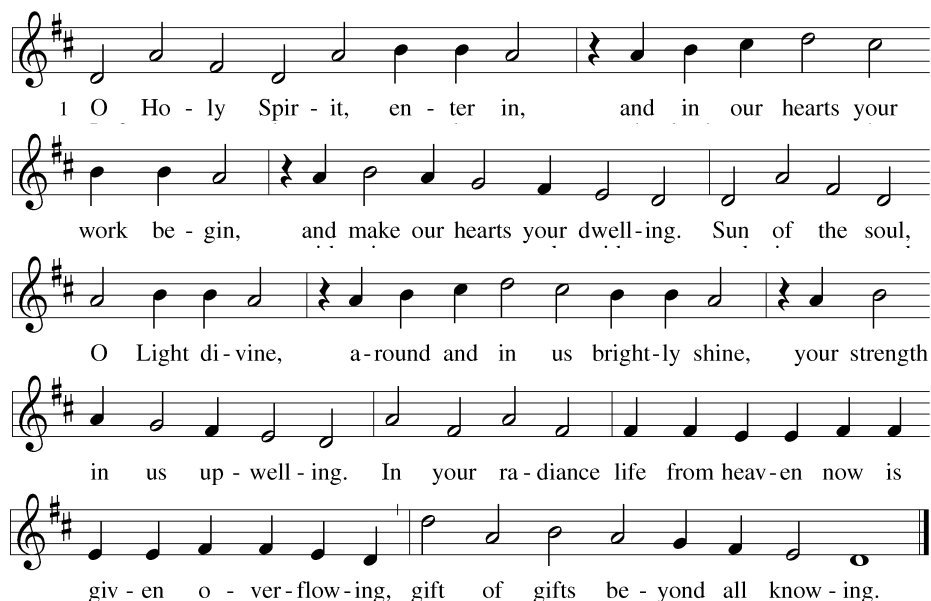
Hebrews 11:29--12:2

²⁹By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. ³²And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented ³⁸of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground. ³⁹Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect. ^{12:1}Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. The word of the Lord.

☒ Thanks be to God.

Please stand as able

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION # 786 V. 1 O Holy Spirit, Enter In



1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, en - ter in, and in our hearts your
work be - gin, and make our hearts your dwell - ing. Sun of the soul,
O Light di - vine, a - round and in us bright - ly shine, your strength
in us up - well - ing. In your ra - diance life from heav - en now is
giv - en o - ver - flow - ing, gift of gifts be - yond all know - ing.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke:

Luke 12:49-56

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: ⁴⁹“I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵²From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided:

father against son

and son against father,

mother against daughter

and daughter against mother,

mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law

and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?” The Gospel of the Lord.

📌 Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

THE SERMON

Pr. Ben Groth

Please stand as able

HYMN OF THE DAY # 815

I Want to Walk as a Child

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous - ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the
 day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the
 cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

P Let us confess the Christian faith, using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C 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.

THE PRAYERS

A Let us pray for the church, the creation, and all people of God.

A brief silence.

A Raise up faithful leaders for your church around the world. Inspire global missionaries with a spirit of accompaniment, as they walk alongside our partners in solidarity, interdependence, and mutuality. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Embrace all who suffer in isolation: for those who are incarcerated or detained, those who are fleeing from unsafe environments, and those who are sick or homebound. Especially Scott, Louise, Gini, Bill, Susan, Marcia, and Lin Reassure them of your care in all times and places. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Guide the leaders of this congregation in these late summer weeks. Inspire their planning for a new program year ahead. Kindle in us a spirit of collaboration and support for their work. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A With thanksgiving, we remember the cloud of witnesses who surround us. By the example of their faith, enable us to run with perseverance the race set before us, until that day when we join their unending praise. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

C Amen.

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

**The minister and congregation may greet one another
in the name of the Lord.**

P Peace be with you. **C** Peace be with you.

Please be seated.

THE OFFERING is received as the Lord's table is prepared.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

The offering is brought to the altar during the Offertory Response

Please stand as able

THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE #876 V. 1 Let the Whole Creation

1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high!"

Heav'n and earth, a - wake and sing, "Praise to our al - might - y king!"

Praise God, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;

sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God re - joice.

Meal

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE INITIAL DIALOG

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

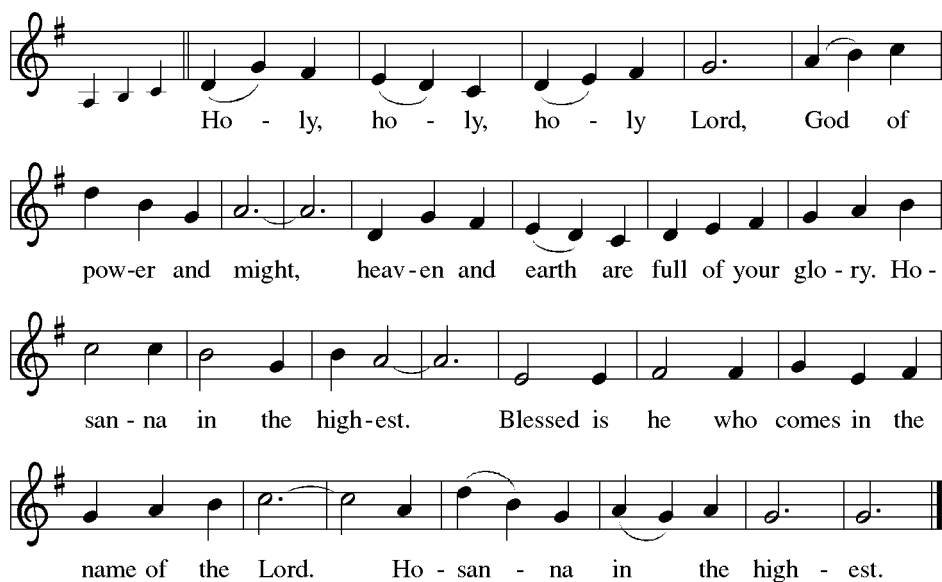
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PREFACE

- 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.
 Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection,
 you pour out the fire of your Spirit,
 uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue.
 And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the
 resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures,
 and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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. Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

- 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
- 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.**

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

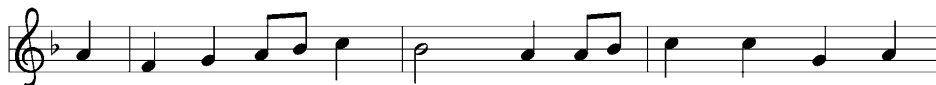
P The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

Please be seated

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

HYMN # 480

O Bread of Life From Heaven



1 O bread of life from heav - en, O food to pil - grims
2 O fount of grace re - deem - ing, O riv - er ev - er
3 We love you, Je - sus, ten - der, in all your hid - den



giv - en, O man - na from a - bove: feed
stream - ing from Je - sus' wound - ed side: come
splen - dor with - in these means of grace. Oh,



with the bless - ed sweet - ness of your di - vine com -
now, your love be - stow - ing on thirst - ing souls, and
let the veil be riv - en, and our clear eye in



plete - ness the souls that want and need your love.
flow - ing till all are ful - ly sat - is - fied.
heav - en be - hold your glo - ry face to face.

THE COMMUNION HYMN# 482

I Come With Joy



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Please stand as able

Sending

THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C Amen

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

THE BENEDICTION

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
- C** **Amen**

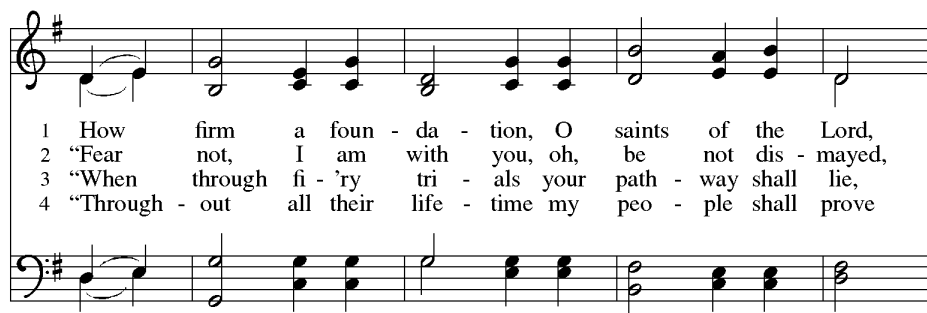
THE SENDING HYMN # 796

How Firm a Foundation

THE DISMISSAL

- A** Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
 4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
 my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign,
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Thanks to
Worship Assistant
Nancy Peterson
Communion Assistant
Jane Holmstrom
Reader
Chloe Groth
Ushers
John Halverson, Louise Patterson
Coffee Hour Goodies
Gail Bates
and
Videographer
Eric Nilsson
for volunteering
to be a part of the service this morning

People Power for 8/24/2025
Worship Assistant - Susan Bisaccia
Communion Assistant - Elaine Borselle
Reader - Frank Murphy
Ushers - Chloe, John Henry, and Ellis Groth
Coffee Hour Goodies - Cindy Pavano

calendar

August 18 - Monday, 8am - Morning Mingle

August 19 - Tuesday, 10am - Cleaning Company

August 19 - Tuesday, 6pm - AA Meeting

August 19 - Tuesday, 6pm - Bible Study

August 19 - Tuesday, 7pm - Council Meeting

August 20 - Wednesday, 4:30pm - Worship Service

August 20 - Wednesday, 5-6pm - Pasta Dinner

August 20 - Wednesday, 6pm - Choir

August 20 - Wednesday, 6pm - AA Meeting

August 22 - Friday, 2pm - Cleaning Company

August 24 - Sunday, 9:30am - Prayer Group

August 24 - Sunday, 10am - Worship with Holy Communion

August 25 - Monday, 8am - Morning Mingle

August 26 - Tuesday, 10am - Cleaning Company

August 26 - Tuesday, 6pm - AA Meeting

August 27 - Wednesday, 4:30pm - Worship Service

August 27 - Wednesday, 5-6pm - Pasta Dinner

August 27 - Wednesday, 6pm - Choir

August 27 - Wednesday, 6pm - AA Meeting

August 29 - Friday, 2pm - Cleaning Company

August 31 - Sunday, 9:30am - Prayer Group

August 31 - Sunday, 10am - Worship with Holy Communion

September 1 - Monday, 8am - Morning Mingle

September 2 - Tuesday, 10am - Cleaning Company

September 2 - Tuesday, 6pm - AA Meeting

September 2 - Tuesday, 7pm - Executive Meeting

September 3 - Wednesday, 1pm - Mission/Outreach meeting

September 3 - Wednesday, 4:30pm - Worship Service

September 3 - Wednesday, 5-6pm - Pasta Dinner

September 3 - Wednesday, 6pm - Choir

September 3 - Wednesday, 6pm - AA Meeting

Monday Morning Mingle 8am-9am
 Wednesday Come-As- You-Are Worship Service 4:30pm
 Wednesday Pasta Dinner 5pm-6pm
 Clothing - Please call Marianne Farr
 for more information (860)-637-6460

PRAYER LIST

Please note: Prayer names will remain for two weeks unless renewed in the church office. Named in parentheses are those who submitted the names they follow.

Louise Patterson; Scott Johnson (Carol McQueeney);
 Gini & Bill Sonstrom (Sue Sonstrom);
 Susan Cramer, Marcia Holmstrom (Jane Holmstrom);
 Lin (Eileen Buys).

Serving in the armed forces: Kevin Dubois; Wesley Givens
 (Beverly Walsh); Zack; Millind; Kienen Dyer (Barbara Pond); Shawn
 Dubois.

OUR VISION

First for what is first: Christ, our Lord

First in nurturing youth and families in faith

First with inspiring worship, fellowship and service

First by reaching out to all

First Lutheran Church of the Reformation

A community of believers in Jesus Christ

77 Franklin Square, New Britain, Connecticut
 (860) 224-2475 + www.1stlutherannb.org



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.