

Traditional Worship

September 6, 2026

Time after Pentecost

Lectionary 23



GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

UBI CARITAS ET AMOR – arr. Gerald Near
Based on Hymn #653

Where dwelleth charity and love, there God is found.

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL *

As the bell is rung the assembly stands for the Opening Hymn.

*A * in the order of service indicates that those who are able are invited to stand.*

WELCOME *

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

Assembly: **And also with you.**

OPENING HYMN #836 *

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS *

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose mercies are new every morning.

Assembly: Amen.

Leader: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Leader: Merciful God,

**Assembly: we confess that we have not always lived as people of your light.
We have withheld love when we could have offered it.
We have been impatient, judgmental, and self-centered.
We have allowed the cares and desires of this world to distract us
from loving you and our neighbors.
Forgive us, Lord.
Wake us from our complacency and turn us toward your light.
Teach us to love one another,
to put aside the works of darkness,
and to clothe ourselves with Jesus Christ.
Renew us by your grace,
that our lives may reflect your love
and give witness to your kingdom.
Amen.**

Leader: Hear the good news:
"Love does no wrong to a neighbor;
therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law."
In Jesus Christ, God has shown us a love greater than our sin.
By the grace of God, we are forgiven, renewed,
and called to walk in the light of God.

Assembly: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE *

Glory to God



PRAYER OF THE DAY *

Leader: Let us pray.

O God,

you call us to love one another
and to live as children of the light.

Awaken us from all that keeps us from you.

Turn our hearts away from selfish desires and toward the needs of our neighbors.

Clothe us with Christ, that our words and actions may reflect his love,
and that we may live each day with hope, faith, and courage.

Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Assembly: Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 33:7-11

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 119:33-40

*The Psalm Refrain is sung by the Cantor and then the Assembly joins in the Psalm Refrain.
The Cantor sings the Psalm Verses and the Assembly joins in the Psalm Refrain as indicated.*



³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴ Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching; I shall keep it with all my heart.

³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire.

³⁶ Incline my heart to your decrees and not to unjust gain...*Refrain*

³⁷ Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood; give me life in your way.

³⁸ Fulfill your promise to your servant, which is for those who fear you.

³⁹ Turn away the reproach that I dread, because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰ Behold, I long for your commandments; by your righteousness enliven me...*Refrain*

SECOND READING

Romans 13:8-14

*The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law.
Clothes make the person as we "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" and live today in light of the
future God has in store for us.*

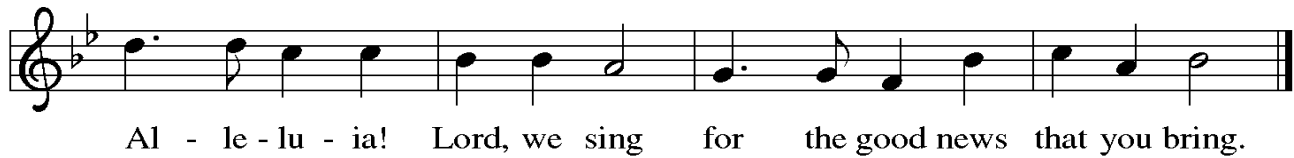
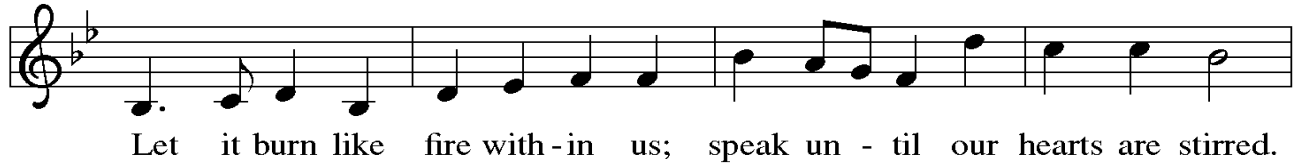
⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *



HOLY GOSPEL*

Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

Assembly: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY #359 *

Where Charity and Love Prevail

APOSTLE'S CREED *

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 *

The assembly responds to each petition ending in "Hear us, O God,"

Assembly: Your mercy is great.

The assembly responds to the final petition ending with "We ask this in Jesus' name."

Assembly: Amen.

PEACE *

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

Assembly: And also with you!

The assembly greets each other with "peace be with you...and also with you."

You're invited to share God's peace with those around you.

If you're worshipping on Facebook, you may also greet one another in the comments.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

In Christ's body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission.

OFFERING

Beloved God's Chosen – Robert Hobby

As we respond to hearing God's Word and prepare to feast at God's table we contemplate the many ways we serve the Kingdom of God through our time, talents, and gifts.

Offering plates will be passed among the assembly by the ushers.

Gifts can also be given electronically using this QR Code.



*Beloved, God's chosen,
put on as a garment compassion, forgiveness, and goodness of heart.
Above all, before all, let love be your raiment that binds into one every dissonant part.*

*Within, call forth Wisdom, to dwell in you richly;
let peace rule your hearts and that peace be of Christ.
And from the heart's chamber, beloved and holy, let singing thanksgiving to God ever rise.*

OFFERTORY *

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Musical notation for the first line of the Offertory. It consists of a treble and bass staff joined by a brace. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;"

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;

Musical notation for the second line of the Offertory. It consists of a treble and bass staff joined by a brace. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The melody continues in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are: "praise him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost."

praise him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.

GREAT THANKSGIVING *

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

Assembly: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Assembly: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: 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 Jesus Christ our Lord.
For you have called us out of darkness
and awakened us to the light of your salvation.
You have shown us that love is the fulfillment of your law
and have gathered us into one people through Christ.
In him you forgive our sin, renew our lives,
and teach us to love our neighbors as ourselves.
Therefore, with angels and archangels, and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *

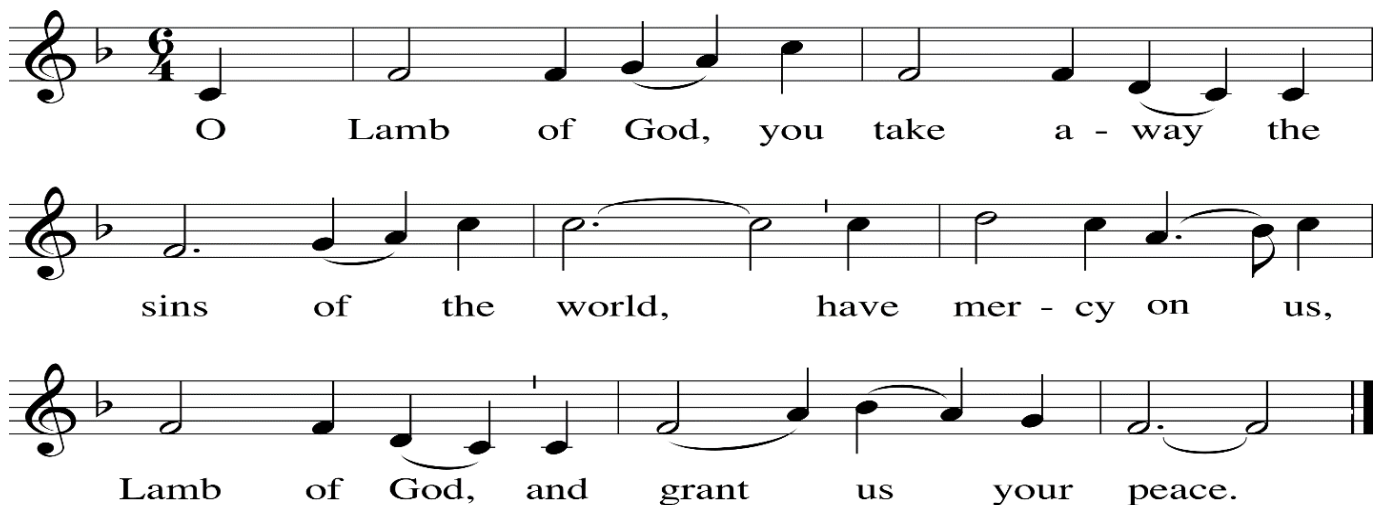
Leader: In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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 *

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 *



HOLY COMMUNION

All those who confess Jesus as Lord and Savior are welcome to the table.

We invite you to come forward to receive the communion elements from the servers.

You will be handed a wafer from the server and are invited to select a cup of wine from the tray.

Pre-packaged elements of grape juice and gluten free wafers are available

in the baskets at the communion rail and at each entrance to the sanctuary.

You may partake of the elements at the communion rail and dispose of the cups and packaging in the baskets at the end of each communion rail or take the elements back to your pew to partake of them and dispose of the cups and packaging after the service.

"Bread from the Lord's Table" and/or a pastoral blessing are available for children who do not yet commune.

Leader: The table is prepared.
Come, share in this feast of love.

As you are served communion:

Communion Server: The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you

Communion Receiver: Amen.

Music at Distribution – *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

Organ Meditation – arr. Wayne Wold

Hymn #656

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Let us pray.

Loving God,

thank you for feeding and nourishing us with the body and blood of Christ.

Fill us with your love, that we may love our neighbors as ourselves.

Open our hearts to those in need, our eyes to those who are hurting,
and our hands to serve them.

Clothe us with Christ and send us forth in love.

Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Assembly: Amen.

SENDING

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

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION & SERVICE

BLESSING *

Leader: Go now in the light of Christ.
Love one another as Christ has loved you.
Serve your neighbor with compassion,
and let your life shine with God's grace.
May the blessing of almighty God,
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

Assembly: Amen.

SENDING HYMN #543 *

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

DISMISSAL *

Leader: Go in peace.
Be God's love in the world.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *

HYMN TO JOY – arr. Gordon Young

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SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor Leslie Fox Lott, Transition Pastor

Pastor Denny Asp, Associate Pastor

Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Director of Youth & Family

Brian Timm, Lector & Communion Assistant 8:00

Joe Weaver, Lector & Communion Assistant 10:45

Chad Baker, Director of Worship & Music

Alyse Hancock-Phillips, Cantor

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FLOWER DEDICATION:

*The altar flowers are given in memory of the 92nd birthday (September 5)
of our Dad, Orlan F. Kopp,
by Brad & Judy Kopp and Nelson & Linda Kopp and families.*

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