

Sunday Bulletin | August 22, 2021

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering Song ELW #834

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render; oh, help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

Confession and Forgiveness

When we confess, we acknowledge the ways we have been living apart from relationship with God and each other.

Moment of reflection and confession

Gracious God,
we confess our sin, our separation, and our suffering. Grant us mercy, undeserved and extravagant, so we are restored to dignity, belonging, and purpose that come from you.

We are loved by a God who keeps promises, whose grace is restless to find and free us, who calls us beloved from the first day until the last, always eager to welcome us home.

Friends in Christ, your sins are forgiven. May your liberation be a gift to the world still aching for freedom and may you be strengthened by the love of this community and the healing power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

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

... let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, and defend us, O God.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise ELW #525

You are holy, you are whole.
You are always ever more
 than we ever understand.
You are always at hand.
Blessed are you coming near.
Blessed are you coming here
 to your church in wine and bread,
raised from soil, raised from dead.

You are holy, you are wholeness, you are present.
Let the cosmos praise you, Lord!
Sing hosanna in the highest! Sing hosanna!
Sing hosanna to our God!

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Source of life,
**you feed us with the spiritual milk of your love
and deliver us from despair to insight, from sorrow to joy.
Encompass us in the circle of your protection,
that, secure in your sustaining power,
we may find the wisdom and strength
to challenge the evils of our time,
listening to your Word and following your will and your way --
and not the voices of hatred and violence. Amen.**

Lesson Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors--Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor--lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods.

"Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God." (NRSV)

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Lord and Savior:
 open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us;
 speak until our hearts are stirred.
Alleluia! Lord, we sing
 for the good news that you bring.

Gospel John 6:56-69

The holy gospel according to John, the 6th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." (NRSV)

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon **Pastor Pam Stalheim Lane**

Hymn of the Day ELW #479

We come to the hungry feast hungry for a word of peace.
To hungry hearts unsatisfied the love of God is not denied.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.

We come to the hungry feast hungry for a world released
from hungry folk of ev'ry kind, the poor in body, poor in mind.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.

We come to the hungry feast hungry that the hunger cease,
and knowing, though we eat our fill, the hunger will stay with us; still
we come, we come to the hungry feast.

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 the People

Prayer Refrain

**Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.**

... Come, Holy Spirit, **hear our prayer.**

Repeat Prayer Refrain

Offering

We worship God by supporting our church and the mission we share. Our mission of the month for August is NEAR Food Shelf.

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Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Merciful God,
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 these gifts. Make us a blessing in your world. Amen.

Words of Institution

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.

Sharing Communion

*The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

Sending Song ELW #856

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!**

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; ***Refrain***

But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing
he bled and died to take away my sin; ***Refrain***

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" ***Refrain***

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Blessing

May the Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace. (*Numbers 6:24-26*)
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in grace, grow in faith, serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

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Worship Schedule All Are Welcome!

Worship online, in the sanctuary, parking lot or at home.

Online worship available at faithlilacway.org

9:30 AM Worship in Sanctuary* and Parking Lot - Simultaneously

10:30 AM Coffee and treats in the Parking Lot! (masks optional)

*When you are ready to return inside, you are welcome! Based on the CDC guidance and after the Governor has removed the mask mandate, **our council voted to not require masks for fully vaccinated people inside worship.** However, if you feel more comfortable wearing a mask, please do so. **For those not fully vaccinated, please continue to wear a mask,** if you can, to protect yourself and others who are not vaccinated. During this transition time, we encourage people to physically distance inside the sanctuary.