



July 30, 2023

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Thanksgiving for Music

Commemoration of Bach, Schütz, and Handel

WELCOME, GUESTS

Welcome to all who worship with us today. We are thankful for your presence and invite you to share in "the food which endures to eternal life."

Please sign the visitor's book at our Welcome Center in the narthex. If you'd like to know more about us or are considering becoming a member, please complete the form found in each pew, return it to an usher or simply put it in the collection plate. There is a cry room down the stairs off the narthex where the service can still be heard. Busy-bags, children's bulletins and magazines and are also provided in the Narthex.

We'd like for you to learn more about us!

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation: We welcome people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions; and we are committed to work for racial equity.



A Green Congregation: for being stewards of the earth.

In Covenant with Lutheran Campus Ministry (LuMin St. Louis), lcmstl.org



Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)



Heinrich Schütz (1585-1672)



George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Musicians commemorated on the liturgical calendar on July 28

These three German-born musicians have done much to enrich the life of the church. **Schütz** was an early master who focused on settings of biblical texts. **J. S. Bach** wrote over 300 cantatas along with works for organ and instrumental pieces, and has been called the "fifth evangelist" for the way he proclaimed the gospel in music. **Handel**'s great work, *Messiah*, is a setting of scriptural texts.

In support of our goal of being a caring, inclusive, Christ-centered community, we

- * care for God's creation
- promote the non-violence of Christ and care for those who suffer
- * participate in the Spirit toward a global religious community

+ The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost +

July 30, 2023

Lectionary 17

Thanksgiving for Music Commemoration of Bach, Schütz, and Handel

setting: Schubert's Deutsche Messe

The responses of the assembly appear in **bold** type. "ELW" refers to Evangelical Lutheran Worship, the cranberry-colored book in the pew racks. Standing and sitting are corporate acts of the assembly. When the assembly stands, those who are able stand on behalf of those who cannot.

In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

> With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. [Colossians 3:16b]

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

Fugue in G minor, "Little," BWV 578 Music of Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

The assembly stands for the Gathering Hymn.

GATHERING HYMN When in Our Music God Is Glorified

ELW # 851

tune: by Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

words based in part on Psalm 150: Fred Pratt Green, 1971

THANKSGIVING FOR MUSIC

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \oplus one God, whom saints and angels worship in song. Amen.

10 AM

THANKSGIVING FOR MUSIC, continued

Let us give thanks for the gift of music.

We give you thanks, O God, that you created music, which, next to the Word of God, deserves the highest praise, and that the church sings together to proclaim the Word and to form us into your beloved community, binding us together as one people.

The Israelites sang after their deliverance from Egypt.

David sang in time of trouble and of rejoicing.

The hand of God came upon Elisha when a harpist played.

Mary, Zechariah, and Simeon sang songs of thanksgiving.

On the night of the Last Supper, Jesus and his disciples sang a hymn.

John the Divine heard the glorious songs of the angels in his vision.

We sing as we gather around the sacraments, the means of grace.

Your gift of music nurtures the faith from one generation to another.

We praise you for the gift of music,

through which the Holy Spirit empowers us to participate in God's mission to the world.

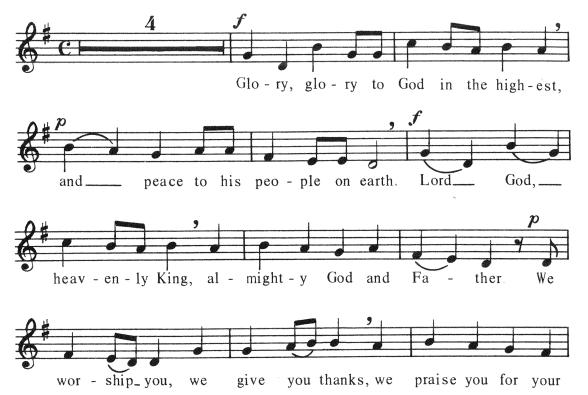
To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE from German Mass

Franz Schubert

The Gloria in excelsis, the Christmas canticle of the angels.





APOSTOLIC GREETING

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

In commemoration of musicians

Sound out your majesty, O God, and call us to your work; that, like your servants Johann, Heinrich, and George, we might present our lives and our works to your glory alone. Pour out your Spirit on your servants who, with the gifts of music, enliven our praises and proclaim your word with power. Through this ministry give us new awareness of your beauty and grace, and join our voices with all the choirs of heaven, both now and forever; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

Word

God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song

FIRST READING

2 Chronicles 5:2, 11-14

Praising God when the Ark was brought into the Temple

A reading from Second Chronicles.

Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the ancestral houses of the people of Israel, in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion.

Now when the priests came out of the holy place (for all the priests who were present had sanctified themselves, without regard to their divisions), all the Levitical singers, Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun, their sons and kindred, arrayed in fine linen, with cymbals, harps, and lyres, stood east of the altar with one hundred twenty priests who were trumpeters. It was the duty of the trumpeters and singers together to make themselves heard in unison in praise and thanksgiving to the LORD, and when the song was raised, with trumpets and cymbals and other musical instruments, in praise to the LORD,

"For God is good, for God's steadfast love endures forever,"

the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

All sing the "Alleluia" antiphon after the choir, and again after each couplet.

Choir Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

All sing the alleluia antiphon:



Choir
O praise God in his holiness;

praise him in the firmament of his power.

Praise God for his mighty deeds;

praise him for his excellent greatness.

Alleluia, Alleluia.

All repeat the alleluia antiphon.

Choir Praise him in the sound of the trumpet;

praise him upon the lute and harp.

Praise God in the timbrel and dance;

praise him upon the strings and pipe.

Alleluia, Alleluia.

All repeat the alleluia antiphon.

Choir Praise him with resounding cymbals;
praise him upon the loud cymbals.

Let every thing that hath breath,
[let every thing] praise the Lord.
Alleluia, Alleluia.

All repeat the alleluia antiphon.

Nothing can separate us from God's love

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

A reading from Romans.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good and for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. For those whom God foreknew God also predestined to be conformed to the image of the Son of God, in order that the Son might be the first born within a large family. And those whom God predestined God also called; and those whom God justified God also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? The very Son of God was not withheld, but was given up for all of us; will God not along with the Son also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

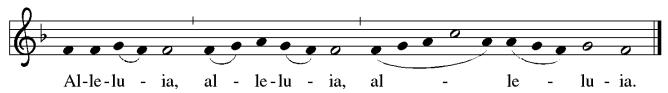
No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through the one who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



The choir sings the proper verse:



Many will come from | east and west * and will eat in the domi- | nion of heaven. | [Matthew 8:11]

All repeat the alleluia.

Parables of the reign of heaven

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the dominion of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

The holy \oplus gospel according to Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.



Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The dominion of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in a field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

Jesus told them another parable: "The dominion of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The dominion of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the dominion of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the dominion of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And Jesus said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the dominion of heaven is like a householder who brings out of the household treasure what is new and what is old."

The gospel of the Lord.



SERMON Pastor BJ Arnold

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY God of Grace and God of Glory CWM RHONDDA

ELW # 705

1. All 2. High voices 3. Low voices 4. All

High voices = soprano/alto Low voices = tenor/bass

The creed is omitted today, but will return next week.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The assisting minister invites the assembly into prayer.

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

After each petition:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Deb, Susan, David, Richard, Charlene, Tom, Stephen, Ellen, Richard, Steve, Donna, Jack, Rudolph, Brittany, Mary, David, Julie, Nick, Evonne, Ronald, Meredith, Joe, Michael, Marcie, and Anne-Marie.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers:

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

After greeting one another, the assembly is seated for announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Printed announcements are on the last inside page.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

An offering is gathered, and the table is set.

OFFERTORY Motet: Oh, Praise Our God

from the Becker Psalter, 1628

Music of Heinrich Schütz (1585-1672)

Oh, praise our God, ye lands abroad, Now praise him, every nation. His tenderness is great toward us To grant us his salvation.

His promise true he doth renew, His truth endures forever, With joyous refrain we laud his name And praise with voices ringing, Hallelujah with singing!

Psalm 117

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Believing in the real presence of Christ in the holy meal, this church practices Eucharistic hospitality. All are welcome at God's table.

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

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,
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 the church on earth,

with all the choirs of angels,

with the archangels who sing your praise,

with the cherubim and seraphim who continually proclaim your holiness, with the whole company of heaven,

we praise your name,

joining our voices with the heavenly chorus in their unending hymn:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,

our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

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.

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.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,

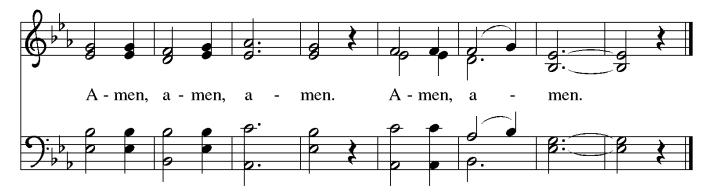
his acts of healing,
his body given up,
and his victory over death,
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your # Spirit upon us and this meal:

as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your holy Child.

Through Christ all glory and honor is yours,

Eternal One, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.



Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:



INVITATION TO COMMUNION AND BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The presiding minister invites the assembly to Christ's table, where all are welcome.

All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good. These are the gifts of God for you, the people of God.

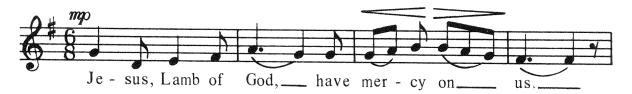
The assembly is seated.

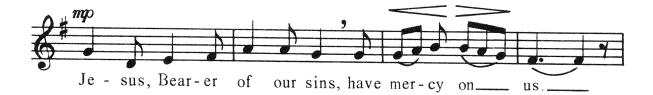
We invite all persons to share in Holy Communion. Those who do not commune are invited to come forward for a blessing. The silver chalices contain wine. In the individual cups, wine is clear; grape juice is a rose color. For sanitary reasons, we do not practice self-intinction: please do not dip the bread into the chalice. Gluten-free wafers are available. If any need to commune under one element (only the bread or only the wine/juice), know that the fullness of the sacrament is present in the one element.

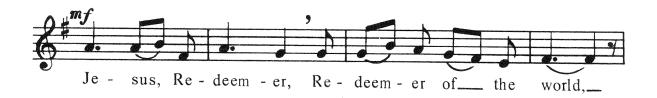
LAMB OF GOD (AGNUS DEI) from German Mass

Franz Schubert

The Baptizer's acclamation of the Messiah, the Lamb of God.









COMMUNION MEDITATION

from *Concerto in D minor*, BWV 596 Antonio Vivaldi, transcribed by Johann Sebastian Bach II. Largo e spiccato

COMMUNION ANTHEM

from *Coronation Anthem*, "Let Thy Hand Be Strengthened" Music of George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) III. Alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The assembly stands. The assisting minister leads the prayer after communion.

We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

POSTCOMMUNION CANTICLE

Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus
WERDE MUNTER MEIN GEMÜTE
Setting by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

The assembly is invited to sing the canticle, together with the choir, in the celebrated setting by J. S. Bach.





SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

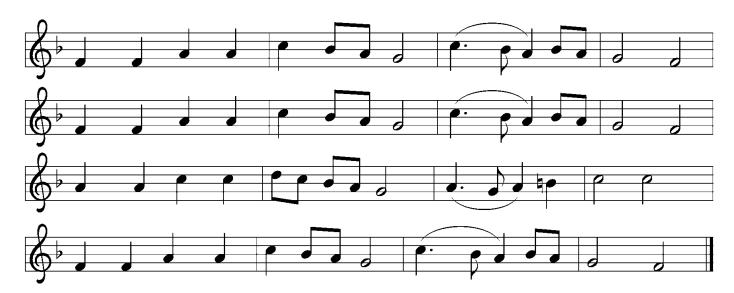
BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed \oplus bless, keep, and sustain you, now and to the end of the age. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Praise the Lord, Whose Glories Show [Psalm 150] LLANFAIR
Words by Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847), alt.



- 1. Praise the Lord, whose glories show, alleluia, Saints within God's courts below, alleluia, Angels round the throne above, alleluia, All that see and share God's love: alleluia.
- 2. Earth to heaven and heaven to earth, alleluia, Tell God's wonders, sing in mirth, alleluia, Age to age, and shore to shore, alleluia.

 Praise our God for evermore, alleluia.
- **3.** Praise the Lord of mercy, praise; alleluia, Praise for providence and grace, alleluia, All that God for us has done, alleluia, Thus accomplish'd through the Son, alleluia.
- 4. Strings and voices, hands and hearts, alleluia, In the concert bear your parts, alleluia: All that breathe, your Lord adore, alleluia, Praise our God for evermore, alleluia!

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister sends the assembly into mission.

Go in peace. Share the harvest. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

from *Organ Concerto*, Opus 4, # 5 in F IV. Presto Music of George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

* * *

All are invited downstairs for a reception acknowledging 35 years of service by our music director Dr. Mager.

* * *

Organ music is by Bach and Handel, whose work and Christian witness we commemorate today. All but the prelude are played in transcription, although the **communion meditation** is a transcription by Bach himself. In an age when published music was rare and costly to produce, music by various composers was routinely hand-copied and shared in manuscript. Indeed, Bach, an avid enthusiast for the music of Vivaldi, transcribed for organ several orchestral concertos by the Italian master, works which have become standards of the organist's repertoire.

The "Presto" by Handel is a rollicking gigue, taken from one of his own organ concerti. Handel composed these concerti not for church but for the theatre, to be played as intermission music for his operas and oratorios, and performed by the composer himself. In today's transcription, the part of the orchestra is featured on the louder *Great* manual of the organ, while the solo organ part is heard on the lighter *Swell* manual.

As for the well-known **prelude**, it is a typical organ work of the late Baroque, but with Bach's special idiomatic stamp, in its highly structured polyphonic exposition and development. This "Little" Fugue is so-called, to distinguish it from another, longer G minor fugue by Bach. This particular work also features one of the Master's most tuneful and balanced fugue subjects.

Our choral music also features selections by Bach and Handel, as well as their illustrious predecessor, Heinrich Schütz.

Acknowledgments: Service liturgy and music reprinted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW), Copyright © 2006 Augsburg Fortress, and from Sundays and Seasons, Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #37725.

Cover art: Hubert and Jan Van Eyck, details from the Ghent Altarpiece, Adoration of the Lamb, 1432.

We pray for **Deb Grupe** as she recovers from surgery.

We pray for Susan Perney, who is recovering from surgery.

We pray for David Harms (brother of Dan Harms), who is recovering after a stroke.

We pray for **Richard Glaenzer**, who is at home in longterm hospice care. We ask God's comfort and peace for Rich and Jeanette, and their family.

We pray for **Charlene Reimann** in her time of need.

We pray for **Tom Dewey**, who is recovering from surgery.

We pray for Stephen Phelps, who is recovering for successful heart surgery.

We pray for Ellen Schroeder as she is undergoing treatment for cancer.

We pray for Richard Jones, help in seeking renewed living arrangements and employment.

We pray for **Steve Bristol** (father of Christian, Heather and Zachary), who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's. We pray for comfort, strength and support for him and his family.

We pray for God's peace, health and strength for **Donna Rhodes**, who is on dialysis. Donna is a friend of the Bristol family. Her son Nick is a close friend of Christian Bristol.

We pray for **Jack Williamson** (father of **Jennifer Williamson**), who has dementia. May he and his family find support in learning to find joy in the new.

We pray for God's comfort and peace for **Rudolph Mueller**, who is now under hospice care.

We pray for **Brittany** (niece of **Ann and Bob Mottl**) for her continued healing as she begins radiation treatments that will be followed by five months of chemotherapy.

We pray for God's comfort and strength to be with **Mary Baker Findley** (sister of **Vicki Baker Lottes**) with stage 4 cancer and her husband **David Findley** whose Alzheimer's is progressing rapidly.

We pray for Julie Murthy (cousin of Emily Pelcak) as she starts her battle with cancer.

We pray for strength and wisdom for Nick Peppes (colleague of Gail Heyne Hafer), who is facing personal challenges.

We pray for God's strength to be with **Evonne Simmons** as she lives with chronic illness.

We give thanks for the recovery of **Ronald Thompson** (stepbrother of **Kristin Soifer**) from the injury he sustained in a fall, and pray for him as he continues to face chronic illness.

We pray for healing and hope to be with **Meredith Sallee** (sister of **Katy Koontz**) during her treatment for cancer.

We pray for **Joe Whelan** (stepson to **Tim Gutknecht**), who is dealing with a genetic condition.

We pray for Michael Moentmann, who lives with chronic illness.

We continue our prayers for **Marcie Dowell** as she lives with a heart condition. May God's peace comfort her during this time.

We pray for **Anne-Marie Bogdan** (sister of Nathan Schroeder) as she lives with long-standing health conditions. May God's comfort and strength be with her and her family.

Announcements

Our New Pastor: The Rev. Scott Benolkin

Pr. Scott will start on August 22, and his first Sunday presiding and preaching will be August 27. Please keep the Benolkin family—Pr. Scott, Monica, and Claire—in your prayers as they work through all the details of their transition.

Bethel Picnic

The summer picnic will be Sunday, August 27, from 5 pm to 8 pm, at Memorial Park in Brentwood.

SCHEDULE

Sun	7/30 10 AM	The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost Holy Communion Thanksgiving for Music Pastor BJ Arnold, celebrant and preacher
	11:20 AM	Reception for Dr. Mager acknowledging 35 years of service at Bethel
Sun	8/6	The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost Lectionary 18
	10 AM	Holy Communion Acknowledgment of the Transition Team Pastor Roy Ledbetter, celebrant
		Pastor Martin Miller, preacher
Sun	8/13 10 AM	The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost Lectionary 19 Holy Communion Acknowledgment of presiders and preachers
	TO AM	Holy Communion Acknowledgment of presiders and preachers Pastor Roy Ledbetter, celebrant and preacher
	12 noon – 2 PM	Second Sunday Summer Surprise: "Fire" Lunch, programming, hands-on art for all ages; at the Walkers' home
Sun	8/20	The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost Lectionary 20
3011	10 AM	Holy Communion Acknowledgment of the Call Committee Pastor Barry Hong, celebrant Cathy Lessmann, preacher
Sun	8/27	The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost Lectionary 21
	10 AM	Holy Communion Welcome to our new pastor Pastor Scott Benolkin, celebrant and preacher
	5 PM	Picnic at Memorial Park, 8600 Strassner Dr, Brentwood

Have Something for the Bethel Connection, Bulletin, Website, Narthex Information Board, or Facebook? Email it to submissions@bethelstl.org by 9 a.m. Monday morning.

SERVING TODAY

Celebrant and Preacher

Assisting Minister Steward

Acolyte Lectors

Communion Assistant

Musicians

Altar Guild

Ushers

Audio-Visual Engineers

Teller

The Rev. BJ Arnold

KJ Monahan Silas Johnson Kennan Miller Marie Walker Sue Flesch

Keith Womer

Bethel Chancel Choir

Stephen Mager, Organist and Music Director

Ann Homann Bob Mottl Carroll Dick Ken Brown Sherman Lee

Brittany Upchurch Stephen Phelps



7001 Forsyth Boulevard, Saint Louis, MO 63105 Office Hours Mon-Fri 10 AM - 2 PM (314) 863-3112



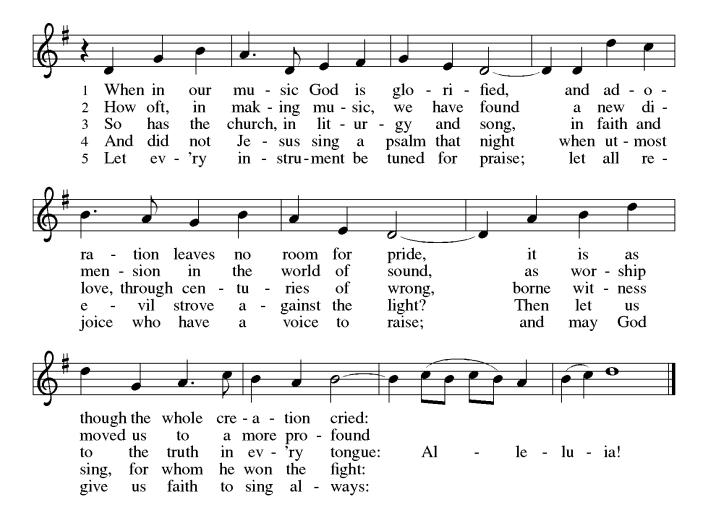
To make an offering electronically, scan the QR code or go to bethelstl.org/give

Stephen Mager, DM, Organist and Music Director The Rev. Tina Reyes (she/her/ella), Campus Pastor, LuMin St. Louis Deb Grupe, Director of Child, Youth, and Family Ministry Eric Townsley, Custodian, custodian@bethelstl.org Anna Burkemper, Church Administrator, office@bethelstl.org

Have a prayer request? Email it to prayers@bethelstl.org anytime.

Note that the information you send to this address will get shared with a number of people who will be praying for you as well as the Sunday Holy Communion bulletin.

When in Our Music God Is Glorified



Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000 Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924 Text © 1972 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

God of Grace and God of Glory



Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969

Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873-1932