



September 1, 2024

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
The First Sunday of the Season of Creation

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 for 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

SEASON OF CREATION

September 1 to October 6



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

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 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost** +

Lectionary 22

The First Sunday of the Season of Creation

Setting Four

September 1, 2024

10 AM

*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.

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation – September 1

A Prayer

Triune God, Creator of all,

We praise you for your goodness, visible in all the diversity that you have created, making us a cosmic family living in a common home. Through the Earth you created, we experience love and nourishment, home and protection.

We confess that we do not relate to the Earth as a Mothering gift from you, our Creator. Our selfishness, greed, neglect, and abuse have caused the climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, human suffering as well as the suffering of all our fellow creatures. We confess that we have failed to listen to the groans of the Earth, the groans of all creatures, and the groans of the Spirit of hope and justice that lives within us.

May your Creator Spirit help us in our weakness, so that we may know the redeeming power of Christ and the hope found in him. May the groans of the Spirit birth in us a willingness to serve you faithfully, so that we may hear and heal Creation, to hope and act together with her, so that the firstfruits of hope may blossom.

Loving and Creator God, we pray that you will make us sensitive to these groans and enable us to have the same compassion as that of Jesus, the redeeming Lord. Grant us a fresh vision of our relationship with Earth, and with one another, as creatures that are made in your image.

In the name of the one who came to proclaim the good news to all Creation, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us “the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.” Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We, having been washed in the word when we were born in the font, return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Le Tambourin

(“The Drummer Boy”)

from *Pièces de Clavecin* [in E minor, 1724]

Music of Jean-Philippe Rameau (1683-1764)

This charming gavotte, with its rhythmic drone, is a sketch of a drummer. Rameau was a close contemporary of Johann Sebastian Bach, but unlike the German master, with his densely textured polyphony, Rameau composed in the progressive, so-called “Galant” style, with emphasis on melody and ornamentation.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands for confession and forgiveness.

Presiding minister Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ☩ Jesus who bears the cross,
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

Presiding minister Let us confess our sins against God, our neighbors, and all Creation,
saying “God, have mercy.”

We have forgotten who we are. We have alienated ourselves from the unfolding of the cosmos.
We have become estranged from the movements of the earth.
We have turned our backs on the cycles of life.
God, have mercy. **God, have mercy.**

We have forgotten who we are. We have sought only our own security.
We have exploited simply for our own ends. We have distorted our knowledge.
We have abused our power.
God, have mercy. **God, have mercy.**

We have forgotten who we are. Now the land is barren.
And the waters are poisoned. And the air is polluted.
God, have mercy. **God, have mercy.**

We have forgotten who we are. Now the forests are dying.
And the creatures are disappearing. And humans are despairing.
God, have mercy. **God, have mercy.**

We have forgotten who we are. We ask forgiveness. We ask for the gift of remembering.
We ask for the strength to change. Help us to remember who we are.
God, have mercy. **God, have mercy.**

The presiding minister speaks words of forgiveness.

GATHERING HYMN *Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways*

ELW # 772

EVAN

1. All 2 and 3. All, **in harmony.** 4. All

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.

THE CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - migh-t-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

Lord of all love and glory, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Creation; increase in all true unity; nourish the world with all goodness; and bring forth the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ, the Wisdom of Creation.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

God's law: a sign of a great nation

The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and neither to add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's children.

A reading from Deuteronomy.

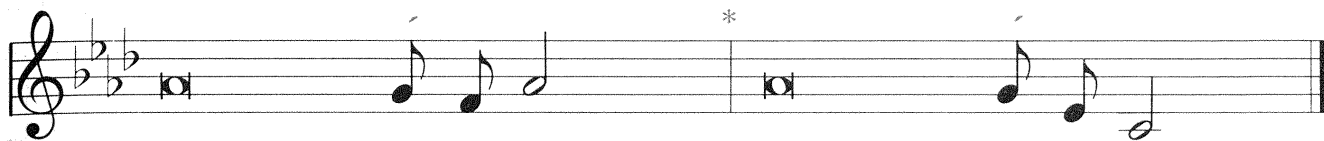
So, now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

You must observe them and perform them, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" For what other great nation has a deity so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call out? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



Cantor LORD, who may dwell / in your tabernacle?
who may abide upon your / holy hill?

Assembly **Those who lead a blameless life and do / what is right,
who speak the truth / from their heart.**

Cantor There is no guile upon their tongue;
they do no evil / to their friend;
they do not heap contempt up- / on their neighbor.

Assembly **In their sight the wicked / are rejected,
but they honor those who / fear the LORD.**

Cantor They have sworn to / do no wrong
and do not take / back their word.

Assembly **They do not give their money in / hope of gain,
nor do they take a bribe a- / gainst the innocent.**

All **Those who / do these things
shall never be / overthrown.**

SECOND READING

James 1:17–27

Be doers of the word, not hearers only.

The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here, Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.

A reading from James.

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of the divine purpose God gave birth to us by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of God's creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved ones: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger, for human anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those that look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

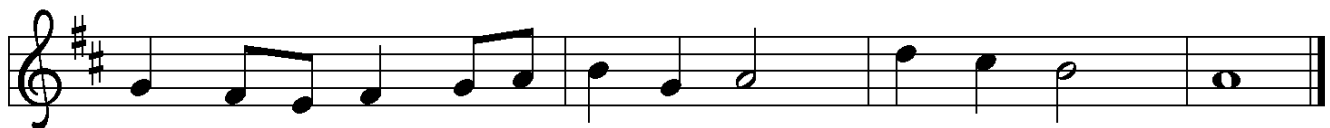
Silence for preparation precedes the gospel acclamation.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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



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

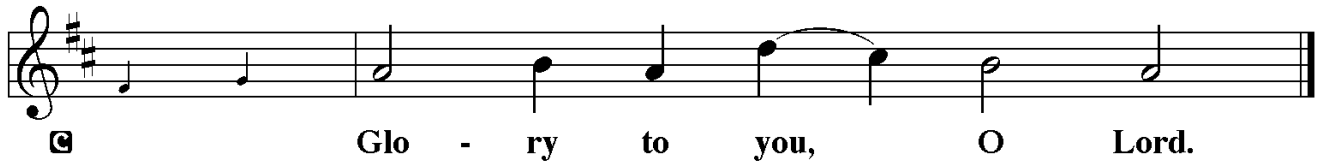
HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Authentic religion

Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

The ☩ holy gospel according to Mark, the seventh chapter.



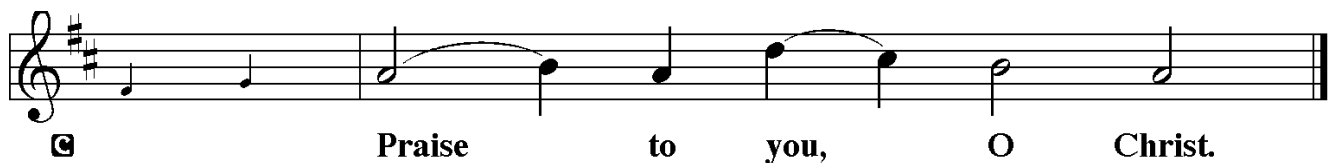
Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jewish people, do not eat unless they wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders, and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash, and there are also many other traditions that they observe: the washing of cups and pots and bronze kettles and beds.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked Jesus, “Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders but eat with defiled hands?”

He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’ You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

Then Jesus called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

“For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, debauchery, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

The gospel of the Lord.



The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Pastor Scott Benolkin

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

The assembly stands for the Hymn of the Day to proclaim the word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY *O, God, My Faithful God*
WAS FRAG ICH NACH DER WELT

ELW # 806

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

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

APOSTLES' CREED

United in Christ, let us confess the faith we hold in common.

**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 INTERCESSION

The assisting minister invites the assembly into prayer.

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church,
God's good creation, and all who are in need.

After each petition:

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Jef, Mark, Katrina, Joe, Bill, JoAnn, Bill, Daniel, Angie, Faith, Theo, Wayne, Will, Tom, Lori, Sue, Charlene, Richard, Steve, Jack, Rudolph, Brittany, Mary, David, Julie, Nick, Meredith, Joe, Michael, Marcie, and Anne-Marie.
We give thanks for the life of Linda.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers:

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God,
in the name of your beloved child, 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *Please see the schedule and written announcements on the last inside pages.*

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING *An offering is gathered, and the table is set.*

VOLUNTARY *Rondeau*
from *Pièces de Clavecin* [in E minor, 1724]
Music of Jean-Philippe Rameau

Rameau's style combines graceful tunefulness with a Gallican predilection for ornamentation, elegance and asymmetry. These were features of the so-called "Rococo" style that were manifest in music, art, and particularly, architecture. Later French composers, such as Debussy and Ravel, took inspiration from Rameau's music.

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 assembly stands. 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.

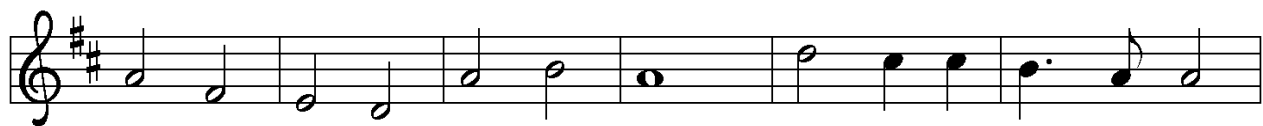
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The presiding minister continues:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (SANCTUS)



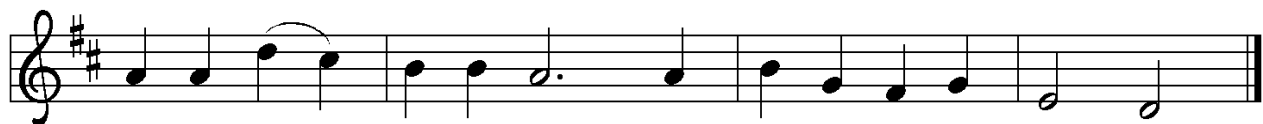
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore. You formed the earth from chaos; you encircled the globe with air; you created fire for warmth and light; you nourish the lands with water. You molded us in your image, and with mercy higher than the mountains, with grace deeper than the seas, you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own. That also we, estranged and dying, might be adopted to live in your Spirit, you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

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.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

With this bread and cup we remember your Son, the first-born of your new creation. We remember his life lived for others, and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth.

We await his coming, when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom, all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate, send upon us and this meal your ☩ Holy Spirit, whose breath revives us for life, whose fire rouses us to love. Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food. Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit, that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Holy and benevolent God, receive our praise and petitions, as Jesus received the cry of the needy, and fill us with your blessing, until, needy no longer and bound to you in love, we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb: through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TAUGHT

*paraphrase of Matthew 6:9-13
from A New Zealand Prayer Book, 1989*

As the Wisdom before Creation teaches us, we pray.

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.
Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION AND BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

Creator God, you fed us from the beginning. Happy are all, called to the Supper of Creation.
You are welcome at Christ's table.

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)



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION MEDITATION

Sarabandes I and II in A minor
from *Premier Livre de Pièces de Clavecin* [1706]
Music of Jean-Philippe Rameau

COMMUNION HYMN

I Received the Living God
LIVING GOD

ELW # 477

The assembly stands for the postcommunion.

POSTCOMMUNION

Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus
WERDE MUNTER MEIN GEMÜTE

ELW # 501

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One, you feed us with bread from heaven and the gifts of mother earth. In this communion, you have drawn us into your embrace, and you call us to friendship with one another. You have given us the gift of reconciliation. May we who have tasted that gift from you offer ourselves in peace and humility to one another. And may you always walk among us as friend.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me
PILOT

ELW # 755

Like the Navy Hymn, *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* [ELW # 756], which we sang a couple of months ago, this hymn addresses our Christian story in terms of the seagoing life. The words are by Edward Hopper, a Presbyterian minister who pastored a church for sailors on Long Island. Admittedly an old-fashioned hymn, its colorful, sentimental harmonic language is not unlike that of composer Louis Vierne, whose music we heard last Sunday. But its noble, fervent melody has a striving character, an apt metaphor for life itself.

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister sends the assembly into mission.

Go in peace. Love and serve God's Creation.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Le Trophée
from *Quatrième Livre de Pièces de Clavecin* [1730]
François Couperin, le Grand (1668-1733)

* * *

Today's instrumental music: Last Sunday we heard organ music by the early twentieth century French composer, Louis Vierne. This morning's keyboard selections are by Vierne's illustrious predecessors, **Jean-Philippe Rameau** (1683-1764); and **François Couperin**, called "le Grand" (1668-1733). These composers of the 17th-18th centuries represent a lively French Baroque tradition, incidentally, well known to J. S. Bach, who incorporated the French characteristics into his own, singular style. Our postlude selection by Couperin, originally intended for the harpsichord, is played here in a transcription by the eminent American organist, E. Power Biggs (1906-1977).

STUDENTS: CAMPUS MINISTRY

Are you a university student looking for a home cooked meal? A faith community that seeks to grow in faith? A place to just be? LuMin St. Louis invites you to Dinner & Jesus every Sunday night. Dinner begins at 6 PM. Worship (the Jesus part) at 7:30 PM. All are welcome. No experience necessary.

LuMin St Louis Campus House. 7019 Forsyth Blvd. (Next to Bethel)

lcmstl.org. Pastor Tina: 314-626-3202

IN OUR PRAYER CONTINUALLY

We give thanks for the life of **Linda Meylach** (friend of Roy Ledbetter and Tom Dewey).

We pray for healing for **Jef** (son-in-law of the Kluender family) after surgery.

We pray for **Mark** (nephew of the Kluender family) who will have surgery and chemo.

We pray for **Katrina Wong** (friend of the Kennedy family) who has been diagnosed with cancer.

We pray for **Joe Collman** (friend of Roy Ledbetter and Tom Dewey). Who is in hospice care.

We pray for **Bill Vaughan**, who is recovering from a broken neck.

We pray for **JoAnn Foote** (mother of Cindy Gross) as she heals from a bad fall.

We pray for **Bill Nierman** (uncle of Matt Kuhlmann), who is coping with chronic health issues.

We pray for **Daniel Cierpiot**, (friend of Dr. Mager) who had major surgery for a brain tumor.

We pray for **Angie Brlas** (cousin of Sylvia Titgemeyer), who is experiencing complications. May God give her and her daughter, **Faith**, strength.

We pray for **Theo Heuer** (cousin of Sylvia Titgemeyer) as he is in hospice care.

We pray for **Wayne Grupe** (brother of Mike Grupe), who is diagnosed with both Alzheimer's and Lewy Body Dementia.

We pray for God's guidance and peace for the **Grenda family** during a difficult time for their son **Will**. Heidi and Dave Grenda are dear friends and former members of Bethel.

We ask for continued prayers for **Tom Dewey** as he starts immunotherapy treatments for a recurring health condition.

We pray for **Lori Cornell**, who has been diagnosed with cancer.

We pray for **Sue Boettcher** as she recovers from a recent hospitalization.

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

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 **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 **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

Bethel Choir Information

Bethel's Chancel Choir invites interested singers to participate in the worship of the congregation. The choir sings for worship each Sunday. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7 PM and Sundays before services at 8:45 AM. Midweek rehearsals will resume following Labor Day. We welcome new members. To learn more, see Dr. Stephen Mager, Music Director, or send an email to scmager@yahoo.com.

Caring for Our Neighbors

We continue to collect food for Good Ground Pantry during the summer, along with cleaning supplies (easy-to-carry sizes) for God's Helping Hand. See the poster on the bulletin board for items needed, or grab a bag with a list attached.

Bethel Picnic – September 8

All are invited to Bethel's Summer Picnic beginning at 5 PM on Sunday, September 8, at Memorial Park in Brentwood (8600 Strassner Dr. near Hanley Industrial court). Hot dogs, brats, and drinks/cups provided; please bring a side dish or dessert to share AND your own plates and utensils, and lawn chairs if you wish. There is a playground for kids, lots of shade, and plenty of space for lawn games. We hope to see you there!

Bible Study

It's a new year to dive into God's Word together! The Tuesday morning Bible study starts September 10. And we're launching a new Bible study with an organizing meeting Tuesday, September 17 at 1pm at church. Please talk with Pastor Scott for more details.

Bethel's Breadbreakers! Plan to join for Fall 2024! Sign Up Now!!!

Have you always enjoyed being a part of Bethel's Breadbreakers? Or are you new to Bethel and want to try it out? Either way, sign up NOW for Bethel's Fall Breadbreakers! Breadbreakers groups are a great way to get to know your fellow members! It's an enjoyable way to learn more about each other – and create ties that bind – over a potluck meal. Groups are formed to provide a mix of new and more established members. We'll divide into groups of 8 or 10, and plan to meet two or three times during September, October, and November. If you are interested in joining a Breadbreakers group, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex or contact Sue Flesch via email at susancflesch@gmail.com **no later than September 2!** Groups will be assigned immediately thereafter. Thank you!

Tenants Wanted

For many years Bethel's church building was also home to A Growing Place, a Montessori preschool. This summer, the preschool closed. Now that space is open for new tenants or other opportunities. Please share the news with anyone who might be interested, share your ideas with Pastor Scott or another member of the council, and let us know if you feel called to work with a team to address this challenge.

SCHEDULE

bethelstl.org/events

SUN	9/1		The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost	<i>Lectionary 22</i>
		10 AM	Holy Communion	<i>Season of Creation: Week 1</i>
SUN	9/8		The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost	<i>Lectionary 23</i>
		8:45 AM	Faith Formation Hour	
		10 AM	Holy Communion	<i>Season of Creation: Week 2</i>
				<i>Installation of Faith Formation leaders</i>
		5 PM	Bethel Picnic at Memorial Park, 8600 Strassner Dr., Brentwood	
SUN	9/15		The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost	<i>Lectionary 24</i>
		8:45 AM	Faith Formation Hour	
		10 AM	Holy Communion	<i>Season of Creation: Week 3</i>
SUN	9/22		The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost	<i>Lectionary 25</i>
		8:45 AM	Faith Formation Hour	
		10 AM	Holy Communion	<i>Season of Creation: Week 4</i>
SUN	9/29		Festival of St. Michael and All Angels	
		8:45 AM	Faith Formation Hour	
		10 AM	Holy Communion	<i>Season of Creation: Week 5</i>

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

September 8, 2024 – Lectionary 23

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Second Sunday of the Season of Creation

James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophoenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

Isaiah 35:4-7a	Like streams in the desert, God comes with healing
Psalms 146	I will praise the LORD as long as I live
James 2:1-17	Faith without works is dead
Mark 7:24-37	Christ healing a little girl and a deaf man

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

SERVING TODAY

Celebrant & Preacher	Pastor Scott Benolkin
Assisting Minister	KJ Monahan
Lectors and Communion Assistants	Keith Womer Evelyn Meyer Jessica White
Musicians	Stephen Mager, organist and music director Members of Bethel Chancel Choir
Ushers	Sue Flesch Wayne Flesch
Audio-Visual Engineers	Eric Webster Sherman Lee
Teller	Cora Musial



7001 Forsyth Boulevard, Saint Louis, MO 63105

Office Hours Mon-Fri 10 AM - 2 PM

Office: (314) 863-3112

Pastoral Emergencies: (614) 446-9693

LuMin Pastor: (314) 636-3202

The Rev. Scott K. Benolkin (he/him), Pastor, pastor.scott@bethelstl.org

Stephen Mager, DM, Organist and Music Director

The Rev. Tina Reyes (she/her/ella), Campus Pastor, LuMin St. Louis, pastor.luminstl@gmail.com

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.

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways



- 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
- 2 Or - der my foot-steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;
- 3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
- 4 Make me to walk in your com-mands, 'tis a de-light - ful road;

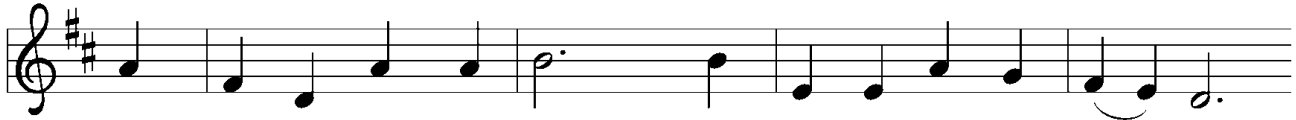


Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

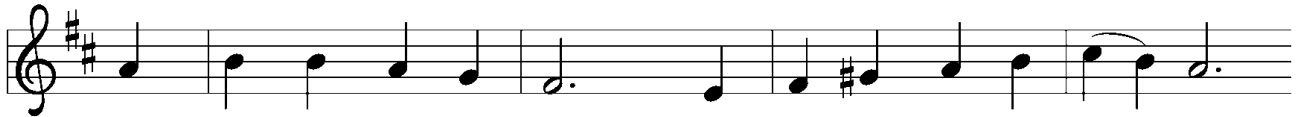
Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

O God, My Faithful God



1 O God, my faith - ful God, true foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,
2 Give me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing
3 Keep me from say - ing words that lat - er need re - call - ing;
4 When dan - gers gath - er round, oh, keep me calm and fear - less;



with - out whom noth - ing is, all per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:
what - ev - er you com - mand, my call - ing here ful - fill - ing—
guard me, lest i - dle speech may from my lips be fall - ing;
help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheer - less;



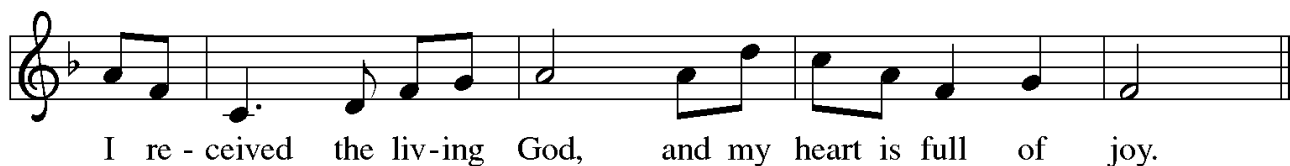
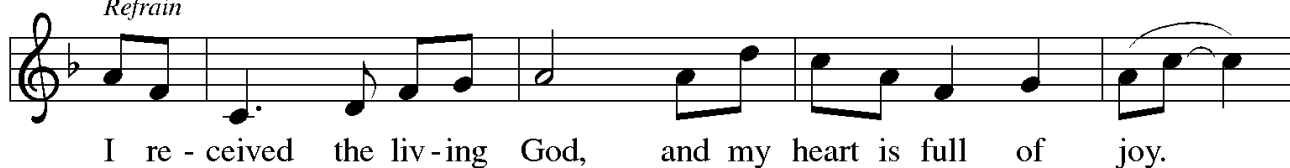
give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in
to do it when I ought, with all my might—and bless
but when, with - in my place, I must and ought to speak,
help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,



a con - science free from blame, a soul un - stained by sin.
what - ev - er I have wrought, for you must give suc - cess.
then to my words give grace, lest I of - fend the weak.
and, by your Spir - it's might, to live at peace with all.

I Received the Living God

Refrain



- 1 Je - sus said: I am the bread, knead - ed long to give you life;
- 2 Je - sus said: I am the way, and my Fa - ther longs for you;
- 3 Je - sus said: I am the truth; come and fol - low close to me.
- 4 Je - sus said: I am the life, far from whom no thing can grow,



so I come to bring you home to be one with us a - new.
You will know me in your heart, and my word shall make you free.
but re - ceive this liv - ing bread, and my Spir - it you shall know.

Text: Anonymous
Music: LIVING GOD, Anonymous

Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me



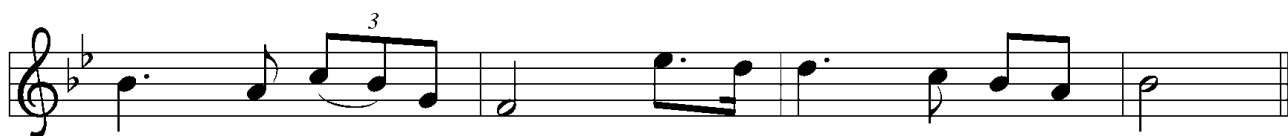
1 Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me o - ver
 2 As a moth - er stills her child, thou canst
 3 When at last I near the shore, and the



life's tem - pes - tuous sea; un - known waves be - fore me
 hush the o - cean wild; bois - t'rous waves o - bey thy
 fear - ful break - ers roar twixt me and the peace - ful



roll, hid - ing rock and treach - 'rous shoal; chart and
 will when thou say'st to them: "Be still." Won - drous
 rest, then, while lean - ing on thy breast, may I



com - pass come from thee. Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me.
 sov - 'reign of the sea, Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me.
 hear thee say to me: "Fear not, I will pi - lot thee."

Text: Edward Hopper, 1818–1888

Music: PILOT, John Edgar Gould, 1822–1875