

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
600 Shepard Ave. Hamden, CT 06514

HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday, September 20, 2026



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

The Rev. Joshua N. Sullivan, Pastor
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www.christgoodshepherdlutheran.org

*(The congregation is invited to join in all that is printed in **bold**.)*

GATHERING

the Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

JOYS AND CONCERNS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

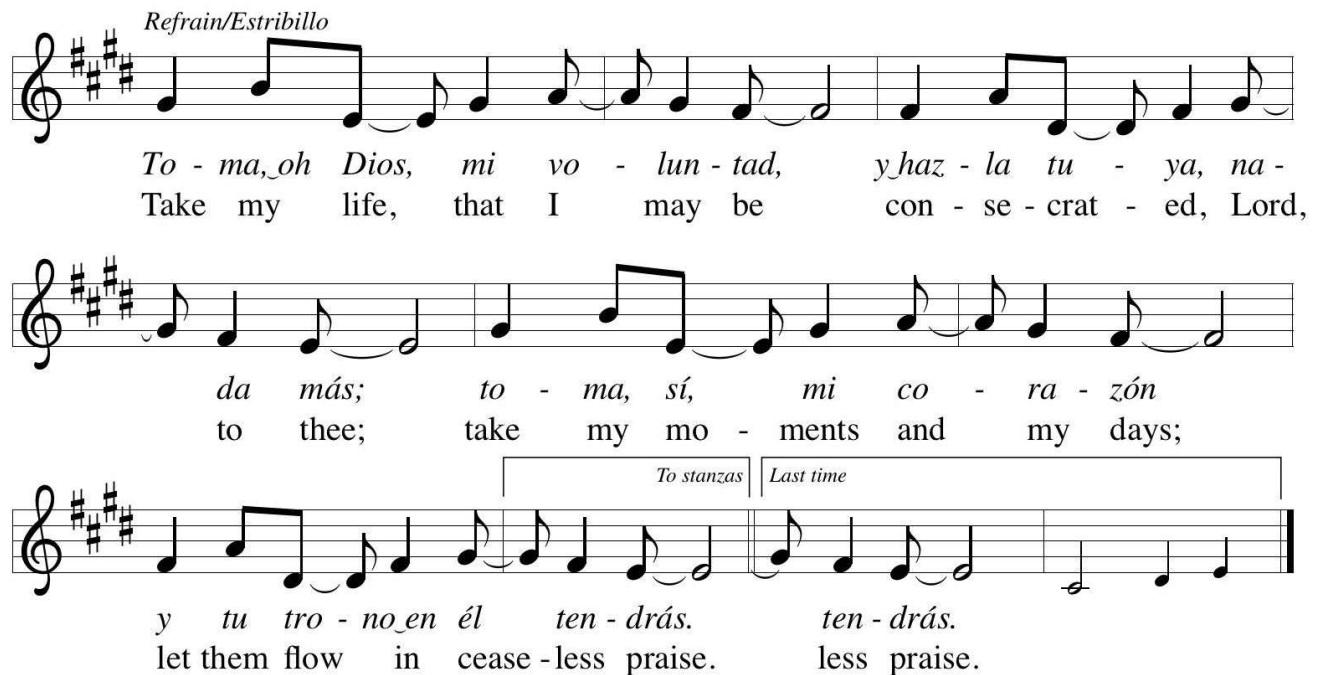
Compassionate God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
We struggle to embody your goodness
in creation, in the world and in our relationships.
Have mercy on us and turn us back to you.
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN: ELW 583 Take My Life That I May Be**

Refrain/Estribillo

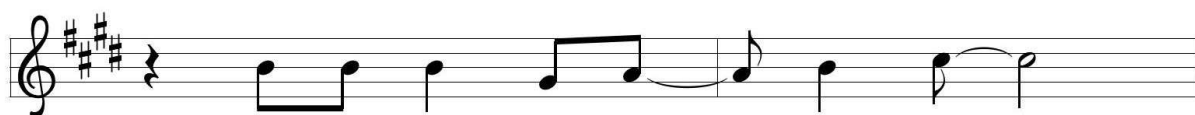


To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -
 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,

da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón
 to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;

To stanzas *Last time*

y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.
 let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.



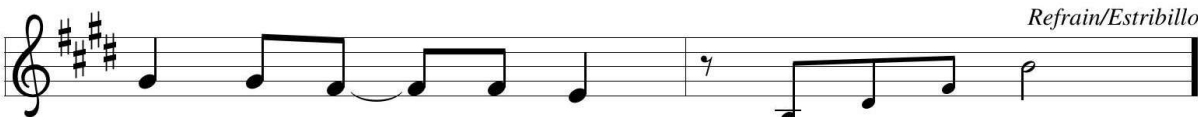
1 *Que mi vi - da en - te - ra es - té*
 1 Take my hands and let them move
 2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,
 3 Take my voice and let me sing
 4 Take my will and make it thine;



con - sa - gra - da a ti, Se - ñor;
 at the im - pulse of thy love;
 not a mite would I with - hold;
 al - ways, on - ly for my King;
 it shall be no lon - ger mine;



que a mis ma - nos pue - da guiar el im -
 take my feet and let them be swift and
 take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry
 take my lips and let them be filled with
 take my heart, it is thine own; it shall



Refrain/Estribillo

pul - so de tu a - mor.
 beau - ti - ful for thee.
 pow'r as thou shalt choose.
 mes - sag - es from thee.
 be thy roy - al throne.

2 *Que mis pies tan sólo en pos*
de lo santo puedan ir,
y que a ti, Señor, mi voz,
se complazca en bendecir. Estribillo

3 *Que mis labios al hablar*
hablen sólo de tu amor;
que mis bienes dedicar
yo los quiera a ti, Señor. Estribillo

4 *Que mi tiempo todo esté*
consagrado a tu loor;
que mi mente y su poder
sean usados en tu honor. Estribillo

***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.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray,

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual loving kindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10 - 4:11

A Reading from Jonah

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. ⁶ The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the

sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?"

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 145:1-8 (*read responsively by verse*)

¹ I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.

² **Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

³ Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.

⁴ **One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.**

⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.

⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.**

⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸ **The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love**

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

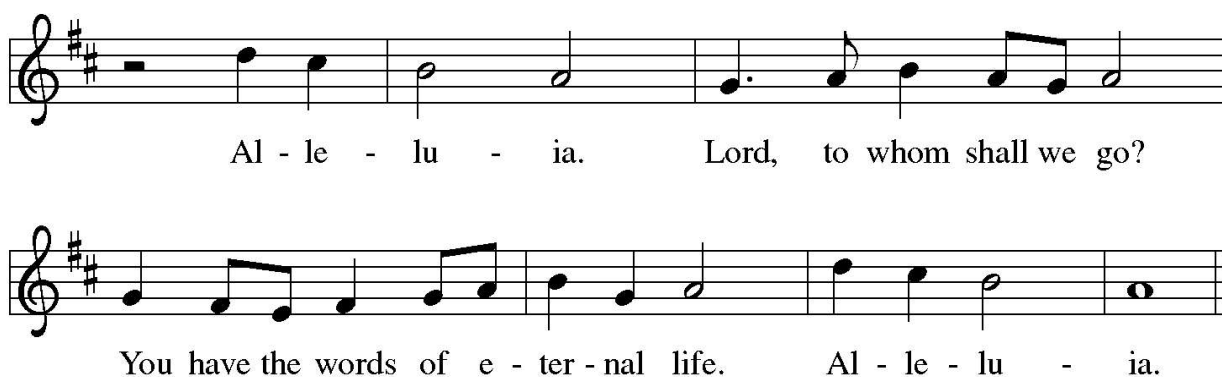
A Reading from Philippians

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**



***GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius?’ ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION REPRISE**

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon

***HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 606 Our Father, We Have Wandered**



1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
 2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
 3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



in fool-ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
 be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.
 com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,



But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,
 In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,
 grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.



as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.
 in glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
 Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929–2006

Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612

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*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 INTERCESSION**

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

For our shepherds in the church, that for them Christ may be magnified in all things, as they give to God their fruitful labor for the benefit of the faithful. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For scientists and researchers studying our climate, that all God's creation may inspire us to give thanks for the Lord's great goodness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

That God, who is concerned with all lands, great and small, may direct the minds of world leaders to decisions for life, justice, mercy, and as a result, peace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For those who like Jonah must give voice to God's call of repentance, and who like Ninevah hear and heed, that all may turn to the Lord for forgiveness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

That we may not begrudge God's generous mercy with those who repent or are latecomers to the vineyard, but rather rejoice together with them that we all have found such love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For all who need our prayers in a time of sickness, unemployment, hardship, or bereavement, that our gracious and merciful Lord may show them compassion and give them strength. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For Jonathan and Skylar whose marriage reflects God's love for creation and Christ's love for the Church, that God would abundantly bless them as they begin a new and joyful chapter in their lives together. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For our faithful ones who have departed this life who are with Christ in the kingdom of love and joy that is heaven, that we may continue to be inspired by their witness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

(Please share appropriate gestures of peace to those who are near to you.)

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC:



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***OFFERING HYMN: ELW 682 To God Our Thanks We Give**

Re - a - mo le - bo - ga, re - a - mo le - bo - ga,
To God our thanks we give, to God our thanks we give,

re - a - mo le - bo - ga mo - di - mo wa ro - na.
to God our thanks we give, our thanks to God we give.

Text: Botswanan traditional, as taught by Daisy Nshakazongwe; tr. I-to Loh, b. 1936
Music: REAMO LEBOGA, Botswanan traditional, as taught by Daisy Nshakazongwe
Text and music © 1986 World Council of Churches and the Asian Institute for Liturgy and Music

***OFFERING PRAYER**

God of creation,
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always.
Amen.

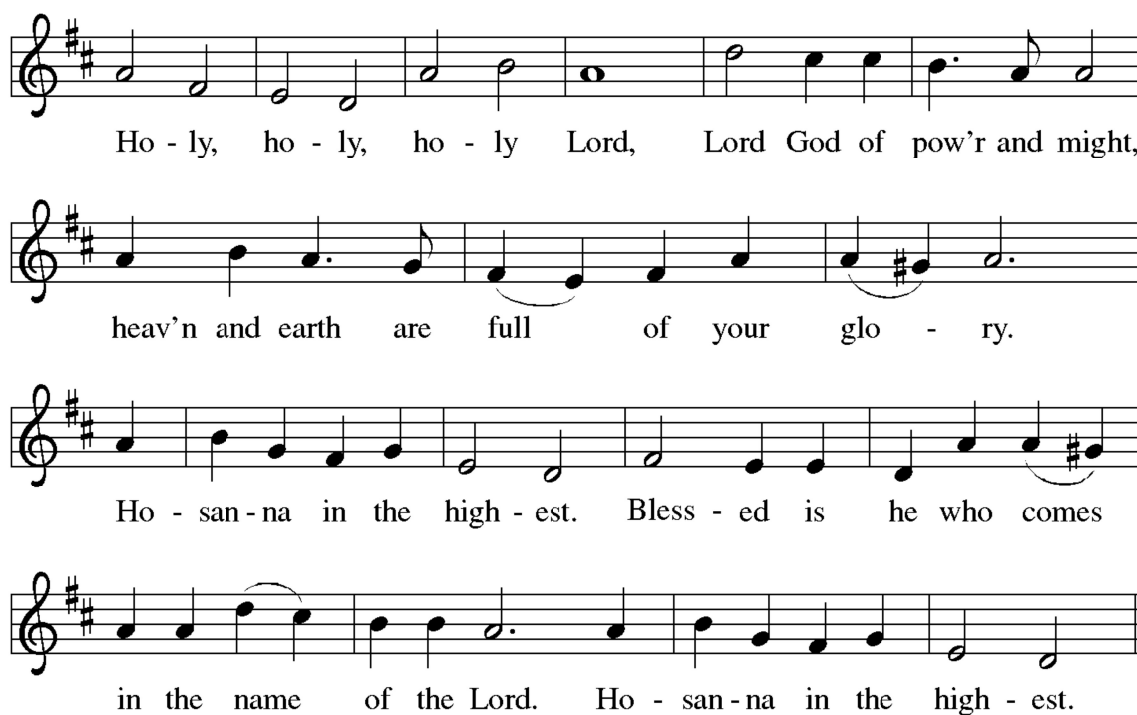
***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

***DIALOGUE:**

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.

***PREFACE:**

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 all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was handed over
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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**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.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come.

COMMUNION

In this meal we celebrate and experience that nothing separates us from God's love, which has been made flesh in Jesus Christ, and will be made flesh again in bread and wine here today. Receiving this meal is trusting that you are forgiven; you are loved; you belong. You are not required to be a member of this church to receive this gift! Simply follow the instructions of the ushers as they invite you forward by pew via the center aisle. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request, simply say, "gluten-free" as you approach. Wine is served from a common cup. For those who wish, both wine and grape juice are also available in small individual cups in a communion tray. White grape juice (to distinguish it from the wine) can be found in the inner circle of this tray. Please place your empty cup in the small basket by the wall side of the front pew. And then return to your seats via the lectern-side aisle with a prayer of thanksgiving in your hearts!

COMMUNION HYMN: ELW 465 As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
 gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
 all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
 2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres-ence of your love.
 all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Sustaining God,
 with this bread and cup,
 you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
 By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
 Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
 following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.
Amen.

SENDING

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

*ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BLESSING**

The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace
⌞ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***SENDING HYMN: ELW 695 As Saints of Old**



1 As saints of old their first-fruits brought of or - chard, flock, and field
2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la - bor, love, and give;
3 In grat - i - tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to - day



to God, the giv - er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,
to make our life an of - fer - ing to God, that all may live.
to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.



so we to - day first - fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,
The church of Christ is call - ing us to make the dream come true:
O God, who gave your - self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son,



of farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.
a world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.
teach us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

Text: Frank von Christerson, 1900–1996, alt.

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

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*DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Assisting Ministers:

Assistant Minister: Ruth Lye

Lector: Ken Watson

Ushers: Durbin and Ursula Hunter

Sacristan: Ellen Frost

Facebook streaming: Cathy Cahn

Director of Music: Caroline Henry

Coffee hour Host: Jonathan and Skylar Goodrich

CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD BULLETIN

- Adult Class today at 9am
- Articles for the October Messenger Newsletter are now due
- Children's Sunday School Begins today from 9:50am -10:30am in the lounge
- Congregational Meeting September 27th after worship

Assisting Ministers for 09-27-26:

Assistant Minister: Evan Felicetti

Lector: Catherine Woade

Ushers: Phil Napolitano and Ken Watson

Sacristan: Sarah DeLong and Jackie Menefee

Facebook streaming: Jonathan Goodrich

Director of Music: Caroline Henry

Coffee hour Host: Cyndi Hansard