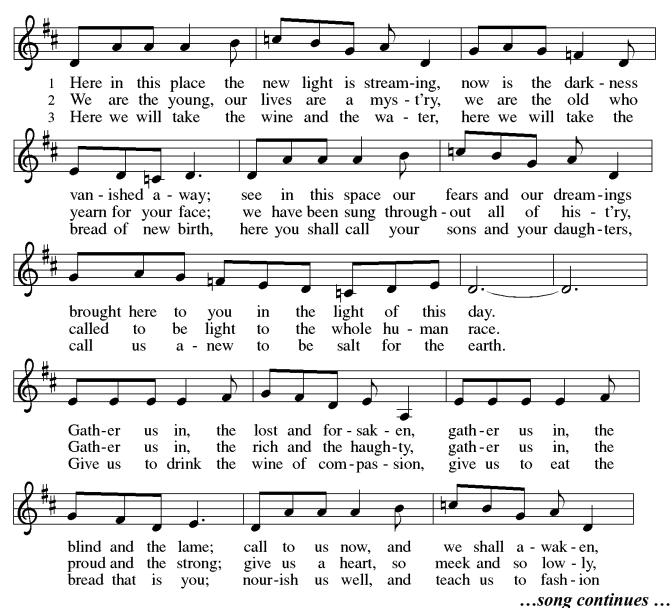
### REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Serving Absecon - Galloway Township Rev. Heidi Link – Pastor Brian Conover - Music Director

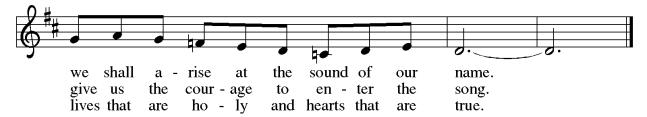
### Sunday, August 31st, 2025 THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / 9:30 AM

### \* OPENING SONG

# Gather Us In



<sup>\* -</sup> Congregation Stands (If for any reason you are unable to stand during the service, please remain seated.)



Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen
Text and music © 1982 GIA Publications Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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### \* GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Let us pray: O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen** 

### \* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of H Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **Amen.** 

#### FIRST READING: Proverbs 25:6-7a

<sup>6</sup>Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great,

<sup>7</sup> for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

What your eyes have seen

### **RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 112**

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD and have great delight in God's commandments!

...Psalm continues ...

- <sup>2</sup> Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.
- <sup>3</sup> Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever.
- <sup>4</sup> Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.
- <sup>5</sup> It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.
- <sup>6</sup> For they will never be shaken;

the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

- <sup>7</sup> They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.
- <sup>8</sup> Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies.
- <sup>9</sup> They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.
- <sup>10</sup> The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish.

### SECOND READING: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

13 Let mutual affection continue. <sup>2</sup> Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. <sup>3</sup> Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. <sup>4</sup> Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. <sup>5</sup> Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." <sup>6</sup> So we can say with confidence,

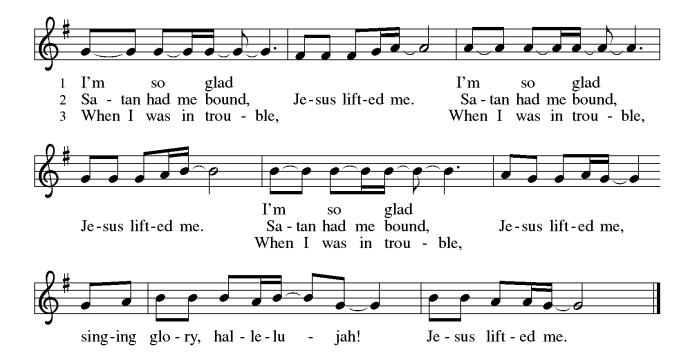
"The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?"

<sup>7</sup>Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

<sup>15</sup> Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. <sup>16</sup> Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

### \* HYMN OF PRAISE

# I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me



### \* THE WORD OF GOD: Luke 14:1, 7-14

A reading from the Gospel of St. Luke:

14 On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

7 When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. 8 "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, 9 and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. 10 But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. 11 For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

12 He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. 13 But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. 14 And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

### HYMN OF THE DAY AND DISCUSSION

### **CONGREGATIONAL SONG**

# As We Gather at Your Table



- 1 As we gath-er at your ta-ble, as we lis-ten to your word,
- 2 Turn our wor-ship in to wit-ness in the sac ra ment of life;
- 3 Gra-cious Spir-it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred. send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife. where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa-cred sto-ry till we claim it as our own; Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave; There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho-ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known. may we still be-hold your im-age in the world you died to save. as we join with saints and an-gels to re-peat the sound-ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: IN BABILONE, Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse Boerenlities en Contradansen, 1710

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#### \* APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

### \* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near. *A brief silence*.

For the leaders of the church, we pray. Inspire deacons, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and Christian education directors with a passion for speaking the word of God. Equip all the baptized to share your word of grace. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

For the well-being of creation, we pray. Sustain farm workers and all who labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and pastures, and provide for the cattle and creatures who rely on the land for their sustenance. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

For the leaders of towns, cities, provinces, states, and nations (*leaders may be named*), we pray. Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for all. On this Labor/Labour Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. Hear us, O God.

### Your mercy is great.

For the lowly and those who are ignored, we pray. Provide for the needs of vulnerable communities, those who are unemployed, burdened by debt, or struggle to make ends meet. Accompany all who need reassurance of your loving presence (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

For the hospitality ministries of this congregation, we pray. Give ushers and greeters a spirit of welcome for visitors, and bless the work of those who feed and nourish us (*specific ministries may be named*). Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

For all the saints who from their labors rest, we give thanks. With them, we offer our sacrifice of praise to you, O God, the same yesterday and today and forever. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

### Amen.

### \* SHARING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

### **OFFERING / SPECIAL MUSIC**



### \* OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray: Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.** 

### \* WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. Amen.

### \* THE 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

### \* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The kingdom of God is set before you. Come, eat and rejoice.

We come.

### DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

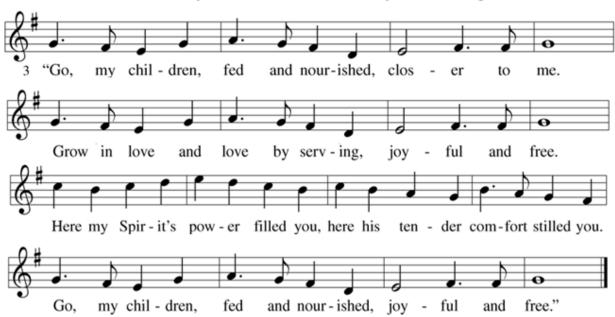
(BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS who believe that the risen Christ is present in the Eucharist to forgive sin and renew life are invited to either come to the altar area for communion as directed or share at your pew. If you come forward, you will receive the elements. If you choose to receive at your seat, please remain there, kneel as you are able, and receive the elements using the communion packets available from the ushers. If there are other special needs, please speak to an usher.)

### \* POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.** 

### \* POST COMMUNION SONG

# Go, My Children, with My Blessing



### \* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray: Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **Amen.** 

### \* BLESSING

And now a blessing: The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit + bless you and give you peace. **Amen.** 

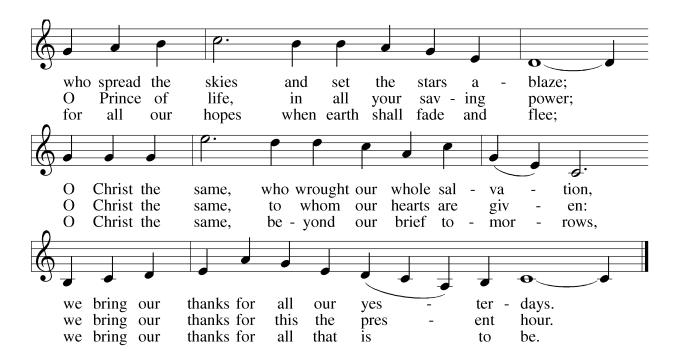
#### \* CELEBRATIONS!!!

### \* CLOSING SONG

# O Christ the Same



9



Text: Timothy Dudley–Smith, b. 1926 Music: LONDONDERRY AIR, Irish tune

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### \* SENDING

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

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