#### REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

### Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / 9:00 AM

### \* CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure. **Amen.** 

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

Merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Righteous God,

we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ. **Amen.** 

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

#### \* OPENING SONG

# All Are Welcome



Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen
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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: God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen** 

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8** (for text of reading, see back of bulletin)

#### **RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 67**

<sup>1</sup>May God be merciful to us and bless us; may the light of God's face shine upon us.

<sup>2</sup>Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.

<sup>3</sup>Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

<sup>4</sup>Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,

for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.

<sup>5</sup>Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

<sup>6</sup>The earth has brought forth its increase;

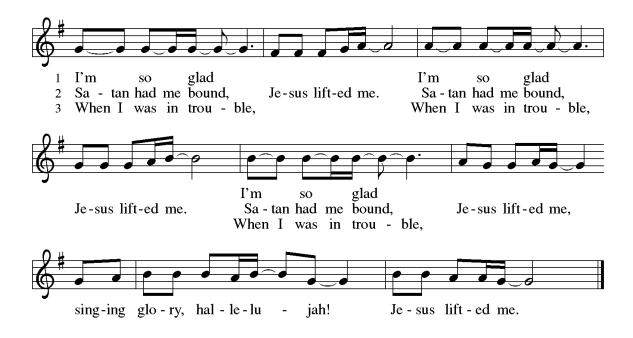
God, our own God, has blessed us.

<sup>7</sup>May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

**SECOND READING: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32** (for text of reading, see back of bulletin)

#### \* HYMN OF PRAISE

# I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me



### \* THE WORD OF GOD: Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

A reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew:

(for text of reading, see back of bulletin)

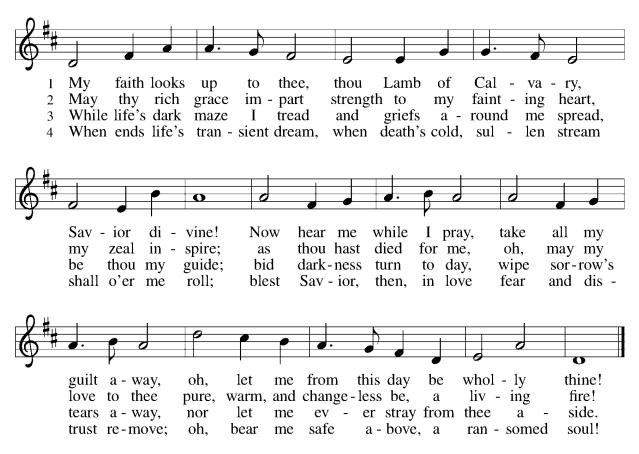
Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

#### **SERMON**

#### CONGREGATIONAL SONG

# My Faith Looks Up to Thee



Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887

Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

#### \* 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

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

A brief silence.

O God, your Spirit gathers the church. Shepherd those who are newly baptized and newly ordained in the proclamation of the gospel, breathe life into ecumenical and interreligious endeavors, and support missionaries throughout the globe. Hear us, O God.

### Your mercy is great.

You created the earth and all its inhabitants and declared it good. Clean polluted skies, seas, and soil, provide nourishment to plants and animals, and make us aware of our impact on the environment. Hear us, O God.

### Your mercy is great.

You call leaders to bridge differences and practice generosity. Inspire all in authority to protect people in harm's way, deliver those in bondage, support fair elections, provide care for military personnel and veterans, and show mercy to those for whom they have responsibility. Hear us, O God.

### Your mercy is great.

You provide for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Embrace people who have been rejected because of difference, heal trauma caused by racism or prejudice, shield any who are persecuted, console the dying, and heal the sick (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

O God, you journey with us in all of life's transitions. Guide those preparing for baptism, marriage, and retirement. Guide our church council and committees in their visioning and ministry (*especially name/s of specific ministries*). Safeguard those who travel. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give you thanks for those who now rest from their labors (*especially Bernard of Clairvaux*, *whom the church commemorates today*). Motivate us by their lives of dedication to the gospel, until that day when we join with them in our eternal home. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

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.

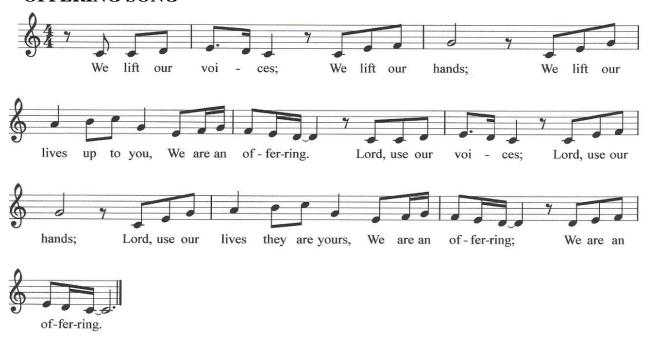
### \* SHARING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

#### **OFFERING/SPECIAL MUSIC**

#### \* OFFERING SONG



### \* OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray: God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** 

#### \* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

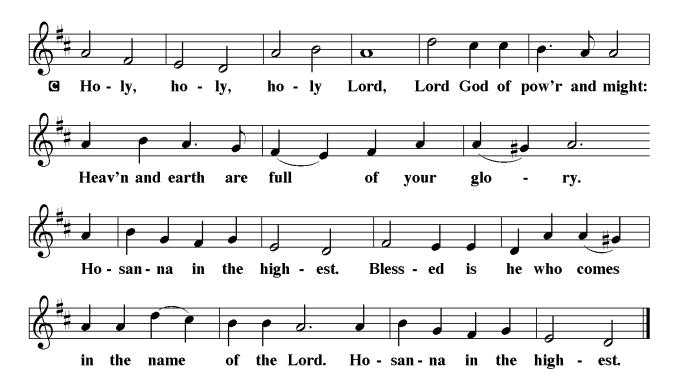
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary...(Here the minister continues with the preface appropriate to the day or season, concluding:) we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



### \* WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### \* 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

Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

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 HYMN



#### \* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray: Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. **Amen.** 

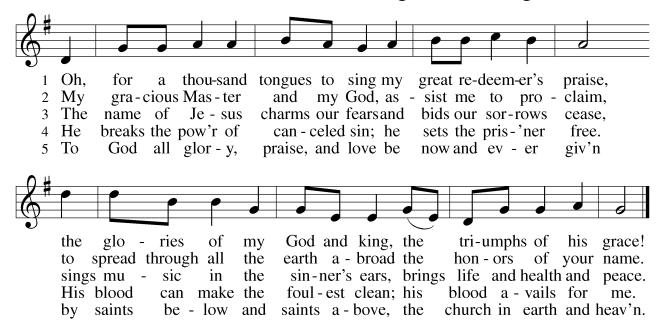
#### \* BLESSING

And now a blessing: The God of all, who raised + Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. **Amen.** 

#### **CELEBRATIONS!!!**

#### \* CLOSING SONG

# Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt. Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829

#### \* SENDING

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

### Thanks be to God.

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