

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

Sunday, August 7th, 2022
THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / 9:00 AM

*** CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

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

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage 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 have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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**

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

* OPENING SONG

Let Us Go Now to the Banquet

Vamos todos al banquete

Refrain / Estribillo



Va - mos to - dos al ban - que - te, a la
Let us go now to the ban - quet, to the



me - sa de la crea - ción; ca - da cual con su ta - bu -
feast of the u - ni - verse. The ta - ble's set and a place is



re - te tie - ne un pues - to y u - na mi - sión.
wait - ing; come, ev - 'ry - one, with your gifts to share.

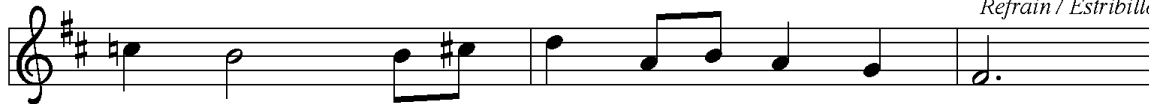


1 Hoy me le - van - to muy tem - pra - no; ya me es -
1 I will rise in the ear - ly morn - ing; the com -
2 God in - vites all the poor and hun - gry to the
3 May we build such a place a - mong us where all



pe - ra la co - mu - ni - dad; voy su - bien - do a - le - gre la
mu - ni - ty's wait - ing for me. With a spring in my step I'm
ban - quet of jus - tice and good where the har - vest will not be
peo - ple are e - qual in love. God has called us to work to -

Refrain / Estribillo



cues - ta, voy en bus - ca de tu a - mis - tad.
walk - ing with my friends and my fam - i - ly.
hoard - ed so that no one will lack for food.
geth - er and to share ev - 'ry - thing we have.

*** 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: Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-6

(see back of bulletin for text)

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 33:12-22

¹²Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD!

Happy the people chosen to be God's heritage!

¹³**The LORD looks down from heaven,
and sees all humankind.**

¹⁴God sits firmly enthroned and watches
all who dwell on the earth.

¹⁵**God fashions all their hearts
and observes all their deeds.**

¹⁶A king is not saved by the size of the army,
nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.

¹⁷**The horse gives vain hope for victory;
despite its great strength it cannot save.**

¹⁸Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O LORD,
upon those who wait for your steadfast love,

¹⁹**to deliver their lives from death,
and to keep them alive in time of famine.**

²⁰Our innermost being waits for you, O LORD,
our helper and our shield.

²¹**Surely, our heart rejoices in you,
for in your holy name we put our trust.**

²²Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us,
even as we place our hope in you.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

(see back of bulletin for text)

*** HYMN OF PRAISE**

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me



1 I'm so glad I'm so glad
2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me. Sa - tan had me bound,
3 When I was in trou - ble, When I was in trou - ble,



Je - sus lift - ed me. I'm so glad
Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me,
When I was in trou - ble,



sing - ing glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed me.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: JESUS LIFTED ME, African American spiritual

*** THE WORD OF GOD: Luke 12:32-40**

A reading from the Gospel of Luke:

(see back of bulletin for text)

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Blessed Assurance



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di - vine!
- 2 Per - fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per - fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal - va - tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.
an - gels de-scend-ing bring from a - bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look - ing a - bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long:



this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

* 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

Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

A brief silence.

Let your lovingkindness be upon your church. Fill all who proclaim the gospel with your Spirit. Equip your flock to speak your word of promise and hope in the midst of fear and uncertainty. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Let your lovingkindness be upon your creation. Dwell among us and sustain our earthly home. In places of famine, provide nourishment. In places of plenty, fashion us to be good stewards of your bounty. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Let your lovingkindness be upon your world. Be our helper and our shield in places torn by strife and violence (*especially*). Raise up courageous leaders to govern with compassion and justice. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Let your lovingkindness be upon your children. Look upon all who wait for your steadfast love. Console those who grieve and embrace those who cry out to you (*especially*). Help us to trust your promise and not be afraid. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Let your lovingkindness be upon this community. Fashion our hearts to strive for the way of peace. Strengthen the outreach ministries of this congregation (*specific ministries may be named*) and all who care for those in need. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With thanksgiving we remember all who have died in faith and now rest in you. As they placed their hope in you, so strengthen us to trust in your promise of new life. Merciful God,

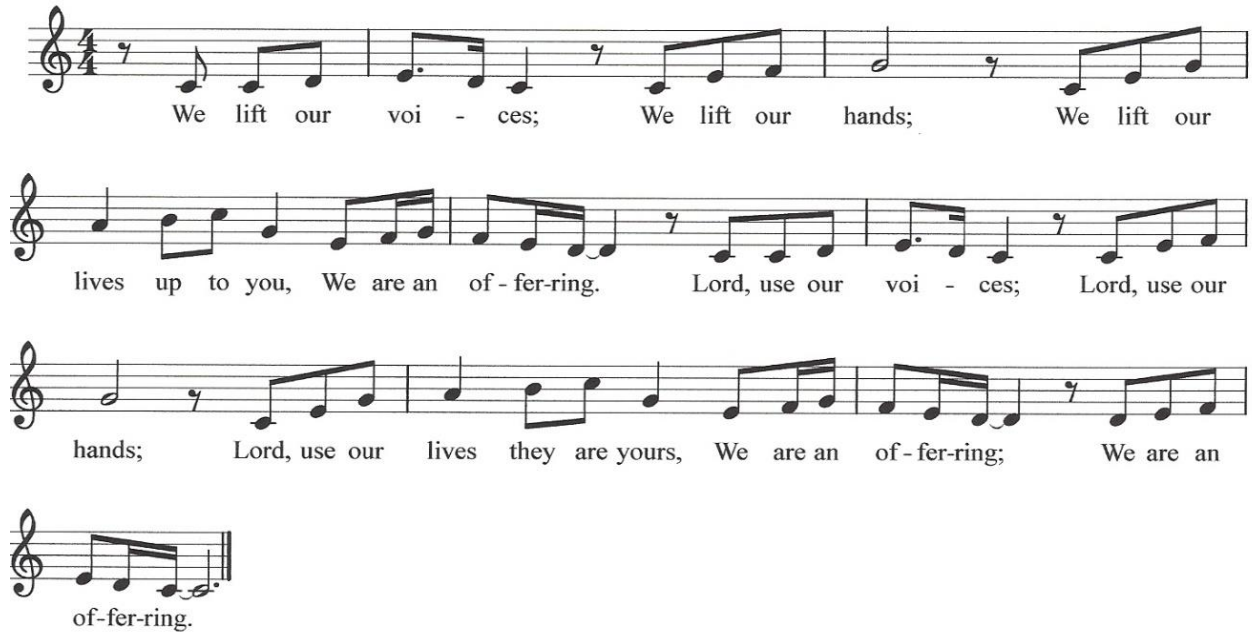
receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.

Amen.

OFFERING / SPECIAL MUSIC

*** OFFERING SONG - "WE ARE AN OFFERING"**



We lift our voi - ces; We lift our hands; We lift our
lives up to you, We are an of - fer-ring. Lord, use our voi - ces; Lord, use our
hands; Lord, use our lives they are yours, We are an of - fer-ring; We are an
of-fer-ring.

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray: God of abundance: you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all,
in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

*** THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

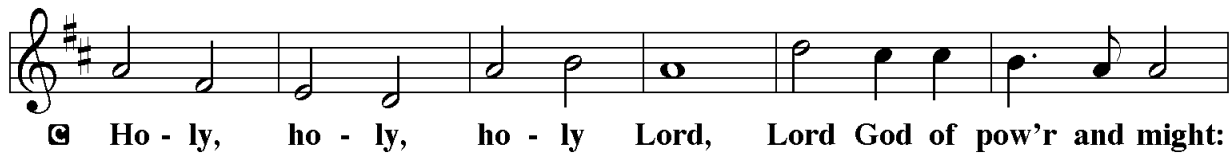
Lift up your hearts.

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:



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.

* 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

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet.

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 bread and a pre-filled cup of wine. 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**

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here his ten - der com-fort stilled you.
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free."

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. The third staff features a different melodic line, possibly for a second voice or instrument, with lyrics underneath. The fourth staff concludes the piece with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

*** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray: Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

*** BLESSING**

And now a blessing: The God of peace, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always. **Amen.**

*** CLOSING SONG**

How Great Thou Art



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der con - sid - er
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might - y
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; when I look down from loft - y moun - tain
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur - den glad - ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
gran - deur and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
bear - ing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;
ra - tion and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, how great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989
Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine
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*** SENDING**

Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

Thanks be to God.