

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

Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / 9:00 AM

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Are you weary from the stresses of this week?

**P: Weariness and stress have been our constant companions.**

L: Let the love of God wash over you, relieving your stress and weariness.

**P: We praise God for such abundant compassion to us.**

L: Let the word of God enter your hearts and spirits, giving you hope.

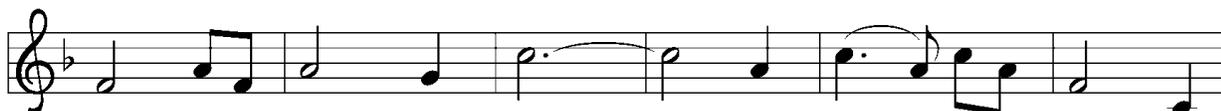
**P: May our lives reflect God's abundant love and peace. AMEN.**

\* OPENING SONG

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and



now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5  
Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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

**\* 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 & 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**

**FIRST READING: Proverbs 25:6-7** (*see back of bulletin for text*)

**MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING**

**Refrain: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!** (*Repeat*)

**Oh, how right it is to give thanks to Him, our creator and our king;**

**We sing out our praise to the holy one; We rejoice, we rejoice in our God!**

(*Repeat Refrain*)

## RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 112

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

<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 (see back of bulletin for text)

### \* HYMN OF PRAISE

#### Beautiful Savior



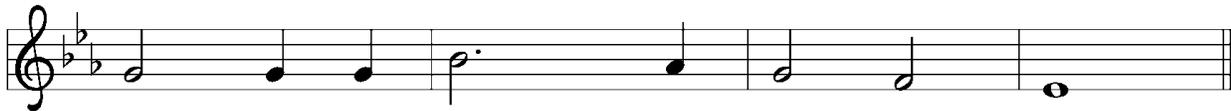
1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,  
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,



Son of God and Son of Man!  
robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,  
Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
 he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904  
 Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

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

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**

**The Church's One Foundation**



1 The church's one foundation is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;  
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,  
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.  
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:  
 by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,  
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;  
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,  
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.  
and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.  
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900  
Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

### \* 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.*

For the church and its leaders, we pray. Uphold all deacons, pastors, and bishops who serve and teach your people (*national, synodical, and local leaders may be named*).

Awaken in your church a spirit of invitation that reaches ever outward. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

For the well-being of creation and its inhabitants, we pray. Stir in us reverent awe for the beauty of the natural world, for oceans and lakes, rivers and streams, forests and deserts (*local places may be named*). Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

For the nations and peoples of the world, we pray. Sustain the efforts of those who pursue justice and equity for all. Defend and accompany all immigrants and refugees and all who are persecuted for their ethnic origin or religious beliefs. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

For all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, we pray. Be present with those who live in isolation or fear, especially those who are incarcerated or detained. Comfort all who are sick or grieving (*especially*). Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

For this congregation and its ministries, we pray. Prepare children, teachers, and youth ministry directors for a new year of learning. Embolden our witness to invite others to the table. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

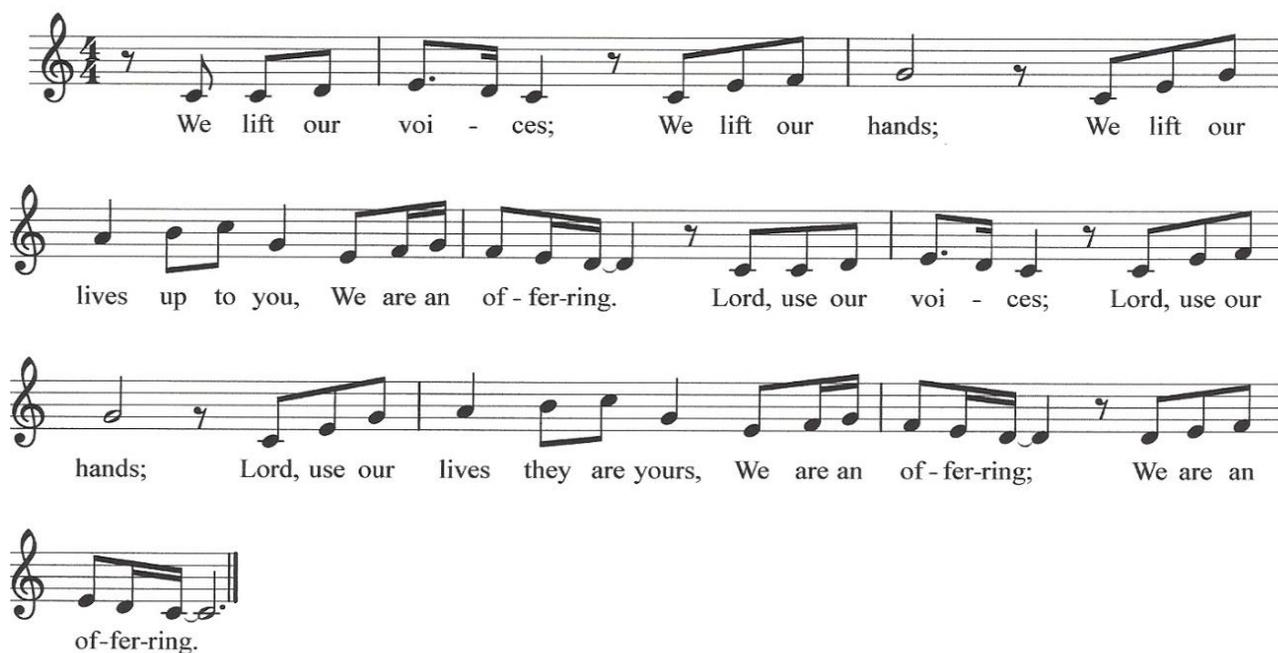
For all the saints who confessed God's name (*especially Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, and Moses the Black*), we give thanks. May we cling to the promise of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

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

**Amen.**

## OFFERING

### \* OFFERING SONG



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.**

### \* 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."

## \* 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**

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing



1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.  
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,



let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.  
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.  
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.



Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.  
Ev - er faith - ful, ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.  
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt.  
Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian, 18th cent.

\* **SENDING**

Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

**Thanks be to God.**

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