

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

**Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / 9:00 AM**  
**SCHOLARSHIP SUNDAY**

**\* OPENING SONG**

**What a Friend We Have in Jesus**



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?  
3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge—take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—  
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?  
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820–1886  
Music: CONVERSE, Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918

\* - 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, eternal goodness, immeasurable love, you place your gifts before us; we eat and are satisfied. Fill us and this world in all its need with the life that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

**\* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our provider,

**help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 29:10-15**

<sup>10</sup>For thus says the LORD: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. <sup>11</sup>For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. <sup>12</sup>Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. <sup>13</sup>When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, <sup>14</sup>I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile. <sup>15</sup>Because you have said, "The LORD has raised up prophets for us in Babylon."

**RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 78:23-29**

<sup>23</sup>So God commanded the clouds above  
and opened the doors of heaven,

<sup>24</sup>**raining down manna upon them to eat  
and giving them grain from heaven.**

<sup>25</sup>So mortals ate the bread of angels;  
God provided for them food enough.

<sup>26</sup>**The LORD caused the east wind to blow in the heavens  
and powerfully led out the south wind,**

<sup>27</sup>raining down flesh upon them like dust  
 and flying birds like the sand of the seas,  
<sup>28</sup>**letting them fall in the midst of the camp  
 and round about the dwellings.**  
<sup>29</sup>So the people ate and were well filled,  
 for God gave them what they craved.

**SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 9:10-15**

<sup>10</sup>He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup>You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; <sup>12</sup>for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. <sup>13</sup>Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, <sup>14</sup>while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. <sup>15</sup>Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

**\* SONG 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: Matthew 5:14-16**

A reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew:

<sup>14</sup>"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup>No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

**SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS**

**CONGREGATIONAL 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  
 Text and music © 1953 S. K. Hine, assigned to Manna Music, Inc., 35255 Brooten Road,  
 Pacific City OR 97135 (ASCAP). Renewed 1981. All rights reserved.

**\* 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**

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

O Wise One, your wisdom has been present in this world since its beginning. Pour out your wisdom into the hearts of the whole church, especially the newly baptized, lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Holy God of all creation, you are the source of all life. Where the sun blazes hard and strong, bring a gentle breeze. In the places experiencing the cold of winter, bring your warmth. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, help government leaders of this world unite for peace and justice. Humble all who hold authority, that power is directed toward a more just society. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Bread of life from heaven, you feed us. Fill all who hunger with needed nutrition and open our hearts to eliminate hunger in this world. May we see a day when all are fed. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O Wisdom of truth, help us to understand your will for the church. Be with congregations experiencing transition, redevelopment, and the exciting yet frightening path of newness. May your wisdom be found at every step. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Redeeming God, we give you thanks for the lives and witness of your saints now departed (*especially*). Bring your beloved into eternal glory, opening wide the gates to the heavenly banquet. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping. **Amen.**

### \* SHARING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### OFFERING / SPECIAL MUSIC

#### \* 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: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. **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**

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

**We come.**

**DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

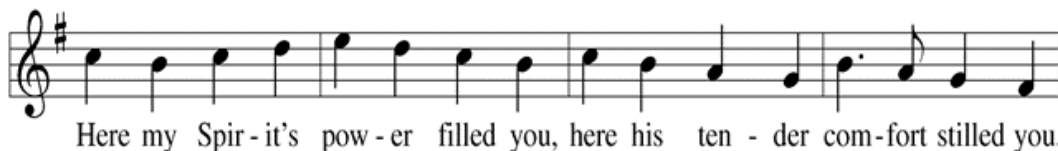
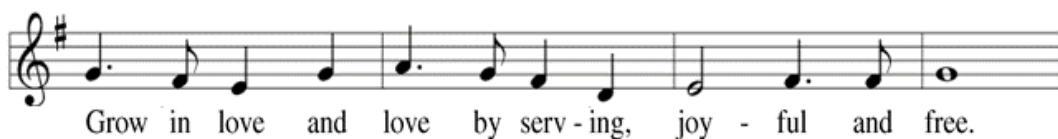
*(BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS who believe that the risen Christ is present in the Eucharist to forgive sin and renew life are invited to either come to the altar area for communion as directed or share at your pew. If you come forward, you will receive the elements. If you choose to receive at your seat, please 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**

**Go, My Children, with My Blessing**



**\* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray: Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

**\* BLESSING**

And now a blessing: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, **✠** be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

**\* CELEBRATIONS!!!**

**\* CLOSING SONG**

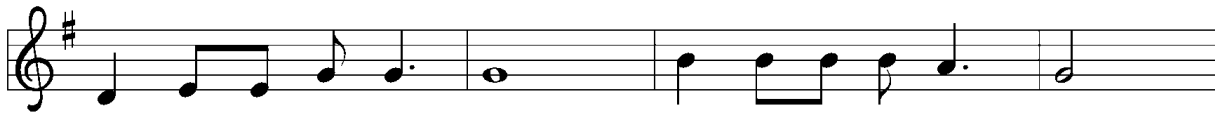
**This Little Light of Mine**



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual

**\* SENDING**

Alleluia! Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS003599.  
New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.