



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 21, 2025

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

THANK YOU for joining us in God's house today! We cordially ask that our guests sign one of the guestbooks located at either the front or back entryways, or fill out a "Let's Get Acquainted" card located in the hymnal pew rack and place it in the collection plate.

THANK OFFERING: Members of Trinity give their offering as an expression of love and thankfulness to the Lord and to help support the Lord's work in our community and around the world. Visitors need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.

RESTROOMS are located at the back of the upper level (the annex), and in the basement (down the back stairs of the sanctuary or annex). Handicap access is available, please ask an usher for assistance.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION:

In His Word, God makes it clear that the Lord's Supper is to be shared by people of a common proclamation of faith (1 Corinthians 11:26; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17). Without judging anyone's hearts, we invite those who share in our confession by their membership in our congregation or another congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) and who are properly prepared (1 Corinthians 11:27-29) to receive the Sacrament. Page 156 in the front of Christian Worship provides a guide for preparation.

Trinity Lutheran Church follows the historic Christian practice of *close communion*. We ask that only members of Trinity or one of our sister congregations partake of the sacrament.

Guests, we would love to have you join us in communion fellowship in the future, and for that to be possible, we ask that you meet the pastor so that we may speak with you on how that would be possible. We thank you for respecting the way we celebrate the Lord's Supper in our congregations.



Year C (2025) – Season after Pentecost (Series 2)

WOUNDS THAT HEAL

SERIES EXPLANATION

Not all wounds are bad. A skilled surgeon takes a deadly sharp scalpel and cuts through flesh and muscle. The result of that wound: not harm, but healing. In the same way, we often say that words cut us to the heart. Words can wound. Sometimes, however, those painful words provide the very healing we need.

“Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem” (Luke 13:22). Jesus knows that when he gets to Jerusalem, he is going to die. So, with a sense of extreme urgency, Jesus shares truths we need to hear, even though it hurts to hear them. In this series, we might not like everything that Jesus says. Yet, to ignore what Jesus teaches is to court eternal death. Hard as it may be, let us listen and take all that Jesus says to heart. For while Jesus speaks words that wound us, his intent is to heal our very soul.

Our worship follows this pattern.

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

God’s Word Divides
The Door Is Very Narrow
Those Who Exalt Themselves Will Be Humbled
Count the Cost
The Found are Left; the Lost are Found
No One Can Serve Two Masters
What Helps In Life Fails in Death
Increased Faith Increases Duty

850 It Is Well with My Soul

CW 850



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
3 My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought— my
4 And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll— what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross, and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll; the trump shall re - sound, and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
help - less es - tate and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
bear it no more: praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so, it is well with my soul.

Refrain



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888, alt.

Tune: Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876

Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand if you are able

INVOCATION

M: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

LORD, HAVE MERCY

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



C: Christ, have mer - cy.

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



C: A - men.

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise

C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in
all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,
you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;
you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and
ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,
but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,
how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.
O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,
you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, you have told us not to be anxious about what we need for this life. Move our hearts to seek you and your kingdom, that all good things may be given to us as well; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

The Word

First Reading

Ecclesiastes 5:10–20

¹⁰Anyone who loves money is never satisfied with money, and anyone who loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is vanishing vapor.

¹¹When goods increase, so do those who eat them. What profit, then, does the owner get, except to see these things with his eyes?

¹²The worker's sleep is sweet, whether he eats little or much, but a rich person's abundant possessions allow him no sleep.

¹³I have seen a sickening evil under the sun—wealth hoarded by its owner to his own harm, ¹⁴or wealth that is lost in a bad investment. Or a man fathers a son, but he has nothing left in his hand to give him. ¹⁵As he came out from his mother's womb, so he will go again, naked as he came. From his hard work he can pick up nothing that he can carry away in his hand. ¹⁶This too is a sickening evil: Just as he came, so he will go. So what does he gain, he who works for the wind? ¹⁷Besides this, during all his days he eats in darkness, with great frustration, sickness, and anger.

¹⁸So then, here is what I have seen to be good: It is beautiful to eat, to drink, and to look for good in all a person's hard work which he has done under the sun, during the few days of his life that God has given him, for that is his reward. ¹⁹Likewise, for everyone to whom God has given wealth and riches, if God has also given him ability to eat from it, to enjoy his reward, and to rejoice in the results of his hard work—this is a gift of God, ²⁰for the man seldom reflects on the days of his life, since God keeps him busy with the joy in his heart.

The Word of the Lord.

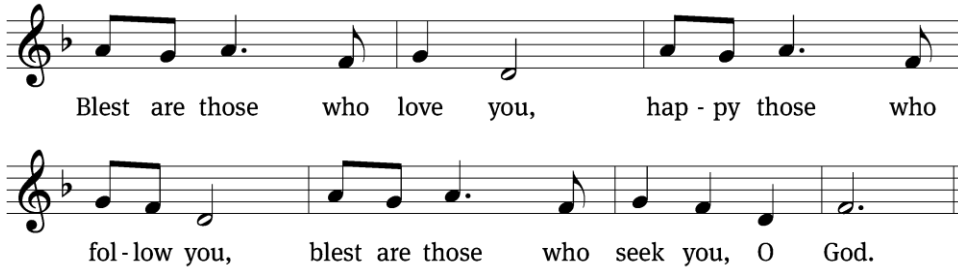
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

128C Blest Are Those Who Love You

Psalms 128C

Refrain



Tone



Blessed are all who / fear the Lord,
who walk in obedi- / ence to him.
You will eat the fruit of your / labor;
blessings and prosperity / will be yours.
Your wife will be like a fruitful vine with- / in your house;
your children will be like olive shoots around your / table. *Refrain*

Yes, this will be the / blessing
for the man who / fears the LORD.
May the LORD bless you from / Zion;
may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days / of your life.
May you live to see your children's / children—
peace be on / Israel.
**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

Text: Marty Haugen

Tune: Marty Haugen

Text and tune: © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc. (refrain). Used by permission: OneLicense no. 727703

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Second Reading

1 Timothy 6:6–10,17–19

⁶But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷For we brought nothing into the world, and we certainly cannot take anything out. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be satisfied.

⁹Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge them into complete destruction and utter ruin. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evils. By striving for money, some have wandered away from the faith and have pierced themselves with many pains.

¹⁷Instruct those who are rich in this present age not to be arrogant or to put their hope in the uncertainty of riches, but rather in God, who richly supplies us with all things for our enjoyment. ¹⁸Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹In this way they are storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

The Word of the Lord.

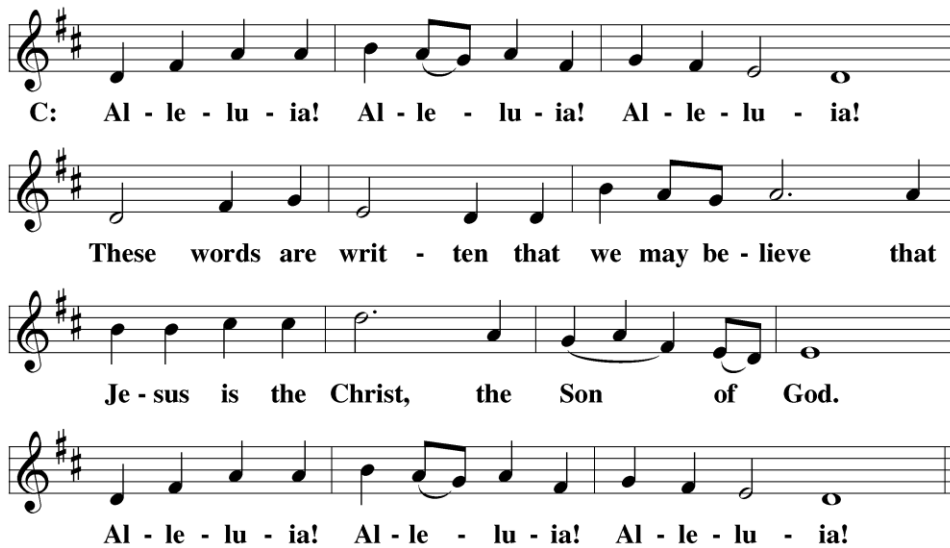
Thanks be to God.

Please stand if you are able

VERSE OF THE DAY

Matthew 6:33

Alleluia. Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Alleluia.



Gospel

Luke 16:1–13

¹Jesus also said to his disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager who was accused of wasting his possessions. ²The rich man called him in and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you can no longer be manager.’

³“The manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, since my master is taking away the management position from me? I am not strong enough to dig. I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I know what I will do, so that when I am removed from my position as manager, people will receive me into their houses.’

⁵“He called each one of his master’s debtors to him. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶He said, ‘Six hundred gallons of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and write three hundred.’ ⁷Then he said to another, ‘How much do you owe?’ And he said, ‘Six hundred bushels of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and write four hundred and eighty.’

⁸“The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the children of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the children of the light are. ⁹I tell you, make friends for yourselves with unrighteous mammon, so that when it runs out, they will welcome you into the eternal dwellings. ¹⁰The person who is faithful with very little is also faithful with much. And the person who is unrighteous with very little is also unrighteous with much. ¹¹So if you have not been faithful with unrighteous mammon, who will entrust you with what is really valuable? ¹²If you have not been faithful with what belongs

to someone else, who will give you something to be your own? ¹³No servant can serve two masters. Indeed, either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and mammon.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

807 All Depends on Our Possessing

CW 807



1 All de - pends on our pos - sess - ing God's a - bun - dant
 2 He who to this day has fed me and to man - y
 3 Man - y spend their lives in fret - ting o - ver tri - fles
 4 When with sor - row I am strick - en, hope a - new my



grace and bless - ing, though all earth - ly wealth de - part.
 joys has led me is and ev - er shall be mine.
 and in get - ting things that have no sol - id ground.
 heart will quick - en; all my long - ing shall be stilled.



They who trust with faith un - shak - en in their God are
 He who ev - er gent - ly schools me, he who dai - ly
 I shall strive to win a trea - sure that will bring me
 To his lov - ing - kind - ness ten - der soul and bod - y



not for - sak - en and will keep a daunt - less heart.
 guides and rules me, will re - main my help di - vine.
 last - ing plea - sure and that now is sel - dom found.
 I sur - ren - der, for on God a - lone I build.

(continued)

5 Well he knows what best to grant me;
all the longing hopes that haunt me,
joy and sorrow, have their day.
I shall doubt his wisdom never;
as God wills, so be it ever;
I commit to him my way.

6 If my days on earth he lengthen,
he my weary soul will strengthen;
all my trust in him I place.
Earthly wealth is not abiding,
like a stream away is gliding;
safe I anchor in his grace.

Text: Andächtige Haus-Kirche, Nürnberg, 1676; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Tune: Johann Löhner, 1645–1705; adapt. Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758
Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

Luke 16:1–13

“You Cannot Serve Both God and Money”

Please stand if you are able

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

Please be seated as we prepare the altar for Holy Communion

Please stand for prayer

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Trinity Lutheran Church follows the historic Christian practice of *close communion*. We ask that only members of Trinity or one of our sister congregations partake of the sacrament.

Guests, we would love to have you join us in communion fellowship in the future, and for that to be possible, we ask that you meet the pastor so that we may speak with you on how that would be possible. We thank you for respecting the way we celebrate the Lord's Supper in our congregations.

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Praise be to the Go and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children to strengthen us when we are weak. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



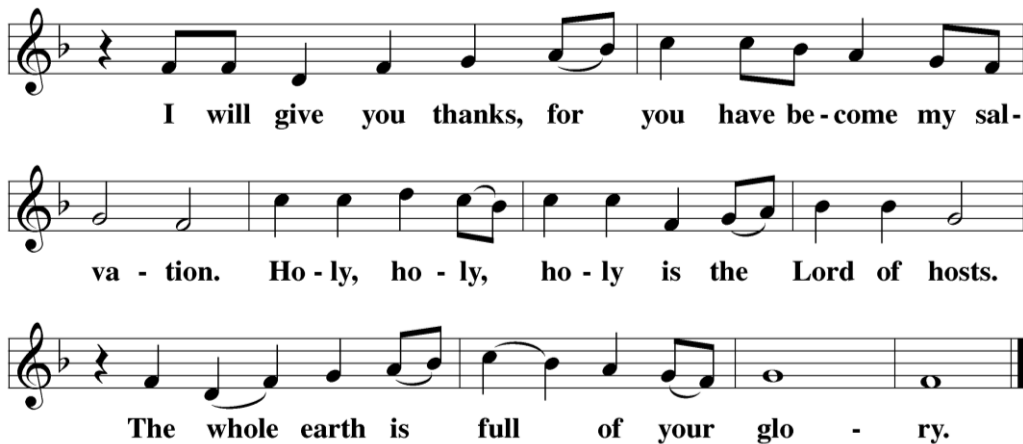
C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be-come my sal-
va-tion. Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of your glo-ry.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my ✙ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my ✙ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C: A - men.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; grant us your peace. A - men.

The musical score is written on five staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature 'C'. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the staves, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Please be seated

717 What Is the World to Me

CW 717

1 What is the world to me with all its vaunt-ed plea - sure
2 The world seeks af - ter wealth and all that mon - ey of - fers,
3 The world is like a cloud and like a va - por fleet - ing,
4 What is the world to me! My Je - sus is my trea - sure,

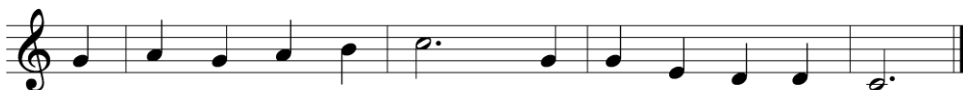
The musical score is written on a single staff with a treble clef. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are aligned with the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.



when you and you a - lone, Lord Je - sus, are my trea - sure!
 yet nev - er is con - tent though gold should fill its cof - fers.
 a shad - ow that de - clines, swift to its end re - treat - ing.
 my life, my health, my wealth, my friend, my love, my plea - sure,



You on - ly, dear - est Lord, my soul's de - light shall be;
 I have a high - er good, con - tent with it I'll be;
 My Je - sus shall re - main, though all things fade and flee,
 my joy, my crown, my all, my bliss e - ter - nal - ly.



you are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!
 my Je - sus is my wealth. What is the world to me!
 my ev - er - last - ing rock. What is the world to me!
 Once more then I de - clare: What is the world to me!

Text: Georg M. Pfefferkorn, 1645–1732, abr.; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701

Text and tune: Public domain

749 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

CW 749



1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and
 2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of
 3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through pow'rs your



end - less store: na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom,
 Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom,
 grace con - ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred,

(continued)



cost - ly cross, grave's shat - tered door— gift - ed by you, we turn
rac - es joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly
and to spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in



to you, of - f'ring up our - selves in praise; thank - ful
la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone; born with
shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing,



songs shall rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
tal - ents, make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
teach - ing, and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915–2006

Tune: The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844

Text: © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 727703

Tune: Public domain

Please stand if you are able



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud - ly bear his name.



He re - news his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BENEDICTION

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



Please be seated

752 Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings

CW 752



1 Gra - cious God, you send great bless - ings new each
2 By your Word you formed cre - a - tion filled with
3 In his earth - ly life, our Sav - ior knew the
4 Heav'n - ly Fa - ther, may our car - ing bear the



morn - ing all our days. For your mer - cies
crea - tures large and small; as we tend that
care of faith - ful friends; may our deeds of
im - print of your grace; with the Son and



nev - er end - ing, for your love we of - fer praise.
end - less trea - sure may our care en - cir - cle all.
ded - i - ca - tion of - fer love that nev - er ends.
Ho - ly Spir - it, praise be yours in ev - 'ry place!

Refrain



Lord, we pray that we, your peo - ple who your



gifts un - num - bered claim, through the shar - ing



of your bless - ings may bring glo - ry to your name.

Text: Gregory J. Wismar, b. 1946

Tune: Columbian Harmony, Cincinnati, 1825; ed. William Moore

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Officiant..... Pastor Isaac Pappenfuss
Organist..... Marcia Marion Ackling
Instrumentalist..... Malory Marion
Deacons..... Duane Mason and Jeff Neuburger
Ushers Henry Schneider and Ron Zahn
Altar Guild Marcia Marion Ackling and Malory Marion
Videographer Ann Latowski

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