

# *The 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

**August 10, 2025**

9:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary



*We ask that all present sign our Friendship Sheet. After you add your name to the sheet, please pass it toward the center aisle. Then return it to the outside aisle so that you become familiar with our family in Christ. These sheets help our pastor and congregation with our ministry. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to join us here at St. Matthew to worship and serve Christ together!*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRELUDE**

#### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

*P:* Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

*P:* Merciful God,

**C: you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.**

*P:* You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of ✠ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **C: Amen.**

#### **\*OPENING HYMN**

*Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*

*ELW # 789*

#### **\*GREETING**

*P:* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

Assisting minister

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,

we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*P: 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. **C: Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-6**

<sup>1</sup> After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” <sup>4</sup> But the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” <sup>5</sup> He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” <sup>6</sup> And he believed the Lord, and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

*L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.*

## **PSALM 33:12-22 (read responsively)**

<sup>12</sup> Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord!

Happy the people chosen to be God’s heritage!

<sup>13</sup> **The Lord looks down from heaven,  
and sees all humankind.**

<sup>14</sup> God sits firmly enthroned and watches  
all who dwell on the earth.

<sup>15</sup> **God fashions all their hearts  
and observes all their deeds.**

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

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

<sup>18</sup> Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O Lord,  
upon those who wait for your steadfast love,

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

<sup>20</sup> Our innermost being waits for you, O Lord,  
our helper and our shield.

<sup>21</sup> **Surely, our heart rejoices in you,**

**for in your holy name we put our trust.**

<sup>22</sup> Let your lovingkindness, O Lord, be upon us,  
even as we place our hope in you.

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

<sup>1</sup> Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup> Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup> By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup> Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

<sup>13</sup> All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, <sup>14</sup> for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

*L:* The word of the Lord. *C:* **Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*SI42a*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**\*Gospel:** Luke 12:32-40

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>32</sup> “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>35</sup> “Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup> be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup> Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup> If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

<sup>39</sup> “But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup> You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

*P:* The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**HOMILY**

*Pastor Traci*

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Soon and Very Soon*

*ELW # 439*

*Requested by Gabby Decker*

**\*APOSTLES’ CREED**

*P:* Let us confess our faith through the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.\* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 THE CHURCH

A: In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

A: Keep the heart of your church set firmly in you so that, with lamps lit and attentive to Christ's call at any time or place, your people are ready to respond with faithful action for the sake of the world. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: Worlds were prepared by your word. Speak healing and protection upon the earth, especially where life and habitats are threatened. Guide the work of astronomers and all who teach us about the stars and galaxies. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: You know the actions and deeds of the nations. Turn humanity away from instruments of war and violence. Fashion the hearts of world leaders to work for peace. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: Let your lovingkindness be on those in need. Assure all who are afraid or experiencing great uncertainty that your promises are sure. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: Calm the fears of migrants and refugees who set out, not knowing where they go. Provide shelter, sustenance, protection from harm, and welcome. Bless the work of Global Refuge and other means of support and advocacy. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: We celebrate the ancestors in the faith who built their lives on your promises and died having seen them only from a distance. Sustain us in our hope of things not seen. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

P: Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ. **C: Amen.**

## \*THE PEACE

P: The peace of the LORD be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Please share the peace with those around you using a greeting that is comfortable for both you and them.*

## \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

*An offering plate is located near the entrance to the nave;  
we offer thanks for the abundance God has first shown us:*

*A: Let us pray ...* Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**C: Amen.**

**\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

ELW # S144a

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 our thanks and praise.

**\*PROPER PREFACE**

*P:* It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
 And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**\*SANCTUS**

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

ELW # S144b

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
 san-na. 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.

## **\*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*P:* Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread ' so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

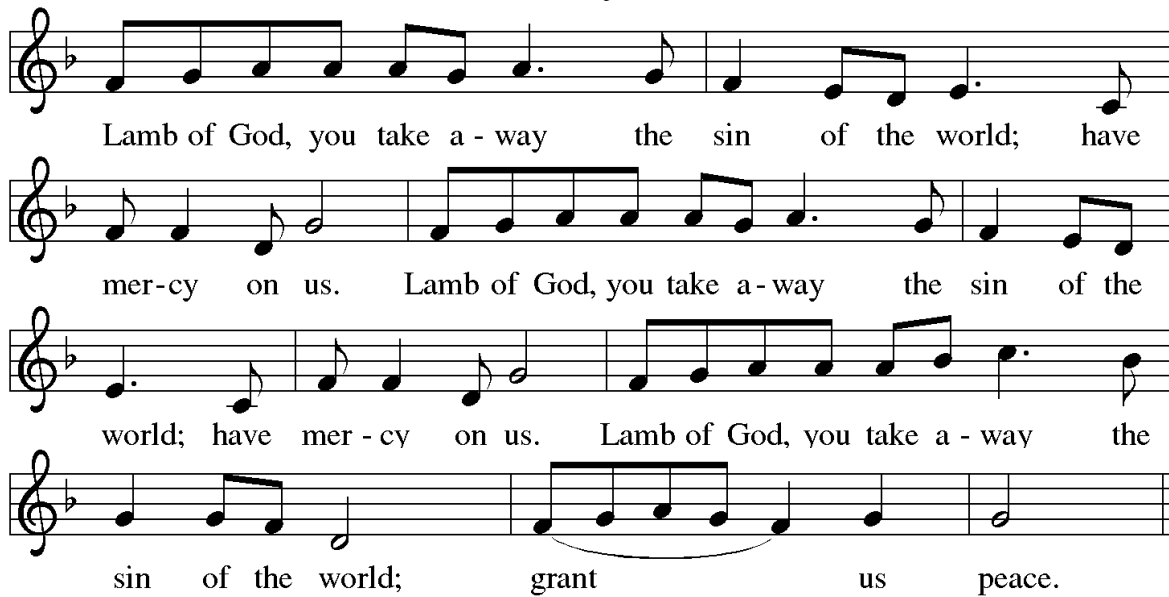
## **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

*P:* Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**\*THE AGNUS DEI***Lamb of God*

ELW # S146



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

**\*INVITATION**

*P:* The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice. **C: Thanks be to God**

**COMMUNION HYMN***Have No Fear, Little Flock*

ELW # 764

**\*BLESSING**

*P:* May the body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*A: Let us pray...* Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **C: Amen.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

*P:* The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ✠ bless you and give you peace. **C: Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG***There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

ELW # 588

**\*DISMISSAL**

*P:* Go in peace. Live by the Spirit. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*POSTLUDE**

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Also, please be advised that our parking lot has surveillance cameras and that our worship service is video recorded and/or live-streamed on social media.

**Today's Altar Flowers** are placed to the Glory of God in memory of Sachiko Lamborn given by the Mike Lamborn family.

**Serving God and Us**

Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew  
Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott  
Our Organists – Mary Nelson, DeAnna Cree  
Our Missionary Family – Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings  
Our Administrative Assistant – Jen Ripka  
Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck  
Our Sexton – Phil Claar  
Our Assisting Minister – Stacy Kuster  
Our Lector – Elaine Smith  
Our Usher – Randy McGraw  
Our Altar Guild – Laura Orczeck  
Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster  
Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

**Third Quarter Ventures in Faith to “*OEW and Missionaries*”**

**Prayers are needed for our homebound:** Mary Jane Allision, Fred Brandenburg, Linda Claar, Mary Creps, Gerry Girolami, Betty Helsel, Allen Heltzel, Ann & Larry Irvin, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger, Jean Stonerook, Pat & Robert Winston.

*So we can give special attention to those with pressing needs, names were removed at the end of the month. Please let the office know if a name should be added to the prayer list for an extended period of time.*

**Prayer Concerns:** Baby Campbell, Greta Buchart, Doug Bush, Terry Creek, Julie Dick, Joe Fagnani, Mary Farabaugh, Marilyn Horton, Kristen Malloy, John Russell, Dan Sinal, Joshua Sollenberger, Kaleb Sollenberger, and for our **Missionaries: Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings.**

**Away at School:** Max Baker, Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Jay Hoenstine, Jeff Hoenstine, Camden Kuster, Lacey Ripka.

**Those Serving in our Armed Forces:** Bradley Buchart, Melody Estep, Colin Guyer.

## **This Week at St. Matthew:**

### **814-793-2413: Office Hours**

Pastor Traci – Tues. 2:00-6:00 p.m.

Jen (Summer Hours) – Mon. and Wed. 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Tues., Thurs., and Fri. 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

## **This Week Events**

- Today –** *9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*  
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.  
Evangelism Committee meeting immediately following worship
- Tuesday –** Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., Window Room/Zoom
- Sunday –** *10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*  
Backpack Blessing  
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

### **Blessing of Backpacks and Those Who Carry Them Sunday, August 17th during the 9:30 a.m. Worship Service**

Calling all backpacks, briefcases, lunchboxes and those who carry them to join us Sunday, August 17th for a special blessing as we begin the new school year.

### **2025 Parish Directory / 2023 and 2024 Annual Report**

Copies of the 2025 Parish Directory / 2023 and 2024 Annual Report are now available at the Usher Station. There is a copy of the Parish Directory at the Usher Station with a red pen attached to mark any needed corrections/additions/deletions that you find. Thank you for your assistance in keeping the Directory current. If you need a copy of the Parish Directory/Annual Report mailed or delivered to you, please contact the church office.



## Martinsburg Food Pantry



Volunteers from the Martinsburg Mennonite Church will be helping to distribute food on the first and third Thursdays, August 7 and August 21 from 9:00 am until 11:00 am, along with the regular helpers.

If anyone harvests more vegetables or fruit than can be used, we will welcome it on the dates the pantry is open. We thank Camden for the green beans from his "Eagle Scout Garden"!

**Food most needed for August:** Juice, Pasta or Rice Sides, Fruit, Cereal, Peanut Butter

Our thanks to Camden for his donation of green beans and cucumbers from his Eagle Scout Garden in July!

**Many thanks for all your donations!**  
*Linda Smith*



## School Supplies for Food Pantry (K-5)

The Food Pantry is providing school supplies, again, for school children in August. The following items are needed, and you can place them in the school box in the narthex. Thank You!

- Crayola Crayons (24 colors)
- 12 pack of #12 pencils & large erasers
- Crayola washable markers (10)
- Crayola colored pencils (24 color set)
- Highlighters (yellow, pink & green)
- Elmer's large glue sticks (.77 oz.)
- 8 ½ X 11 spiral notebooks (3 hole punched)
- Elmer's washable glue (4 oz. bottle)



## Sign up for the print magazine

**We heard you—and listened.** We have found a way to bring back the magazine's print publication in a quarterly fashion. Each issue (spring, summer, winter and fall) will feature the stories you know and love, along with updates on the church and your ELCA community.

You can sign up today on the sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board or call the church office to let us know you would like to subscribe to the magazine.

The first expected issue to be mailed is Summer 2025. We will keep you updated.



## Community Mending Ministry at St. Matthew

 *Favorite clothing in need of repair?*   
*Give it another chance!*

Bring laundered clothes that need mending  
to work on yourself or get help from our sewers.  
Materials, machines, & expertise provided.  
*And we'll have snacks!*

**Wednesday, August 20th**  
**2PM to 4PM**

St. Matthew Lutheran Martinsburg Fellowship Hall  
115 E Penn Street (Maple Street Parking Lot)



1 Sav-ior like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.  
 2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;  
 3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;  
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your fold pre-pare.  
 keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.  
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
 bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847  
 Music: BRADBURY, William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868



1 Soon and ver - y soon  
2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
3 No more dy - in' there,  
4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
no more dy - in' there,  
soon and ver - y soon

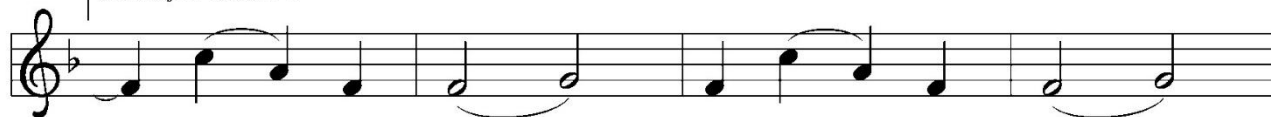


soon and ver - y soon  
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.  
no more dy - in' there,  
soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Coda after stanza 4



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -

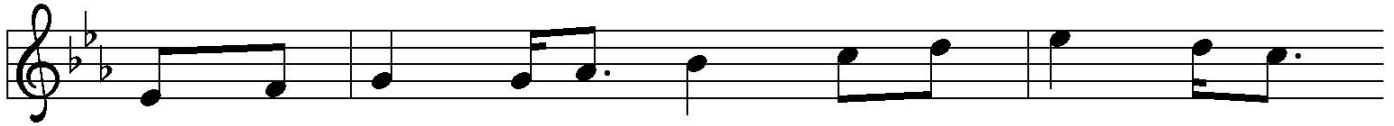


jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

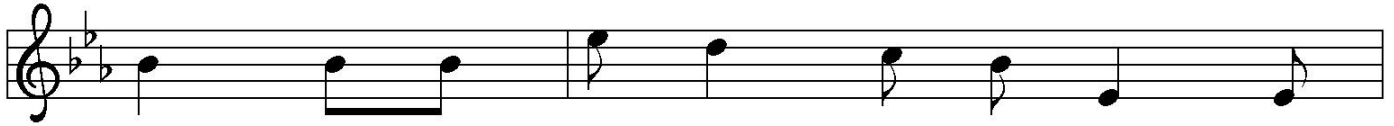
COMMUNION HYMN

*Have No Fear, Little Flock*

ELW # 764



1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; have no fear, lit - tle  
 2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; have good cheer, lit - tle  
 3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; praise the Lord high a -  
 4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; thank - ful hearts raise to

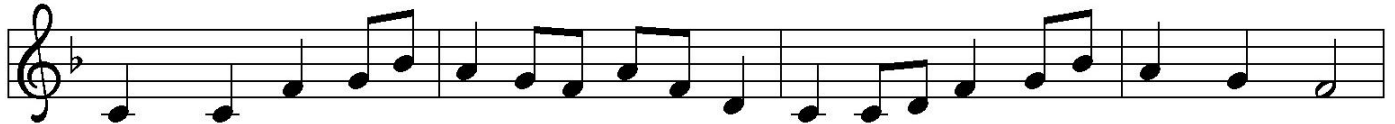


flock, for the Fa - ther has cho - sen to  
 flock, for the Fa - ther will keep you in  
 bove, for he stoops down to heal you, up -  
 God, for he stays close be - side you, in



give you the king - dom; have no fear, lit - tle flock!  
 his love for - ev - er; have good cheer, lit - tle flock!  
 lift and re - store you; praise the Lord high a - bove!  
 all things works with you; thank - ful hearts raise to God!

Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jillson, b. 1931, sts. 2-4  
 Music: LITTLE FLOCK, Heinz Werner Zimmermann, b. 1930  
 Text and music © 1973 Concordia Publishing House.



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness of the sea;  
2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;  
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;  
4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.  
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.  
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.  
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.  
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;  
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;  
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.  
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.  
and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.  
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.