

The 7th Sunday after Pentecost

July 27, 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 *Children of the Heavenly Father* *Traditional Swedish Melody*

***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,

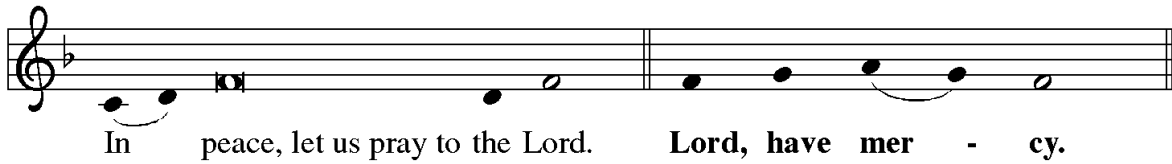
C: you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive 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.**

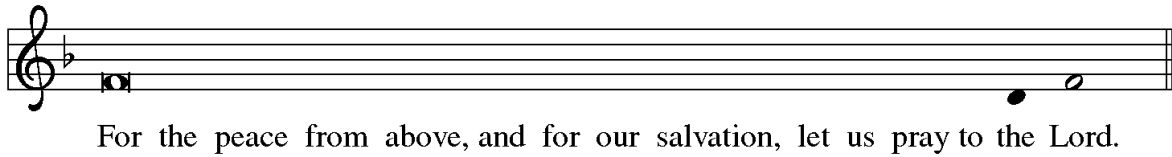
***OPENING HYMN** *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying* *ELW # 752*

***GREETING**

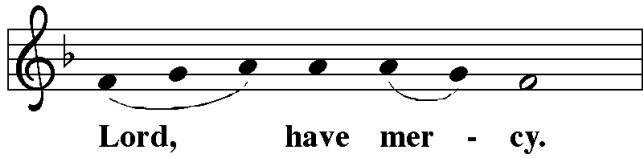
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**



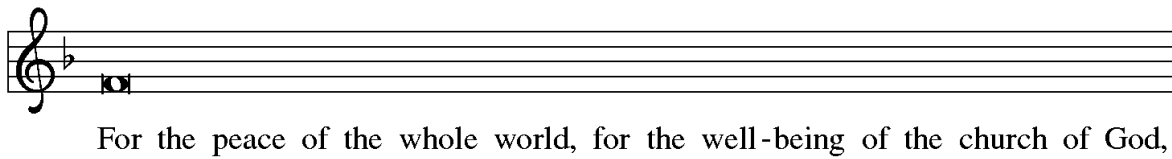
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



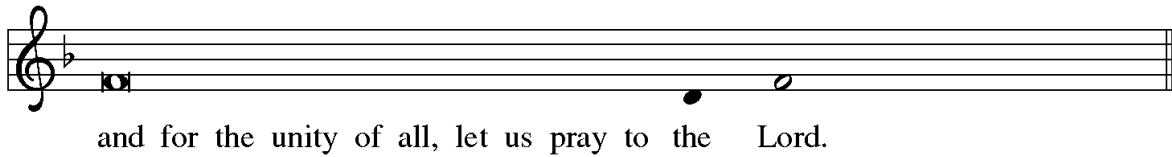
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



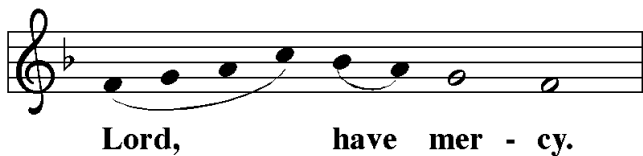
Lord, have mer - cy.



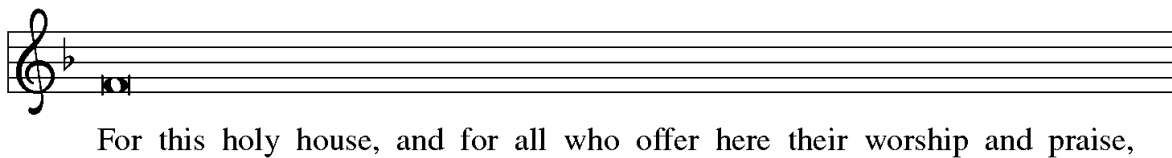
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



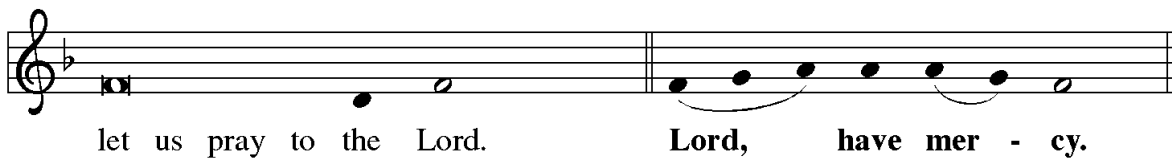
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



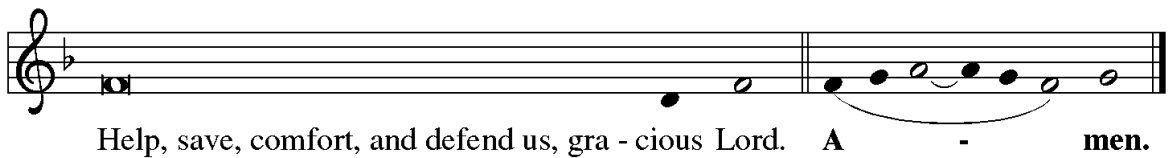
Lord, have mer - cy.



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 and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

FIRST READING: Genesis 18:20-32

²⁰ Then the Lord said, “How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹ I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know.”

²² So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. ²³ Then Abraham came near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” ²⁶ And the Lord said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake.” ²⁷ Abraham answered, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸ Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.” ²⁹ Again he spoke to him, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” ³⁰ Then he said, “Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.” ³¹ He said, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” ³² Then he said, “Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.”

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

PSALM 138 (*read responsively*)

¹ I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.

² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;**

for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.

³ When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.

⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord,
when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

⁵ They will sing of the ways of the Lord,
that great is the glory of the Lord.

⁶ **The Lord is high, yet cares for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty from afar.**

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

⁸ **You will make good your purpose for me;**

O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

SECOND READING: Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]

⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸ Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹² when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it. [

¹⁶ Therefore, do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food or drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or Sabbaths. ¹⁷ These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the body belongs to Christ. ¹⁸ Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, initiatory visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, ¹⁹ and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with a growth that is from God.]

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

S142a

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 11:1-13

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ [Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”² So he said to them, “When you pray, say:

Father, may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.”

⁵ And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’ ⁷ And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹ “So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? ¹³ If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

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

HOMILY

Pastor Traci

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *Our Father, God in Heaven Above*

ELW # 746

***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: Loving God, create in your church a desire for union with you in prayer. Raise up leaders to teach Christ's devotion to prayer and model Christ's way of prayer, until all people experience prayerful intimacy with you. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: Reveal to humanity the sacredness of all creation. With the breath of your Spirit, realign the balances of nature. Grant persistence in prayer and action for the sake of the earth, our common home. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: Teach rulers of the earth to sing of your ways, caring for the lowly and having no preference for the powerful. Direct the heart of every person to seek your will on earth as in heaven. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: To all whose prayers are cries for help, give your good gifts, and satisfy their deepest needs. Gather them to your constant, loving presence, that they may rest in the confidence of life with you. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: Center the ministries of this assembly on prayer and service. Guide our relationships in the wider community, being ready to assist those who seek help. Strengthen feeding, clothing, and housing ministries and community partnerships. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: We give thanks for all who have gone before us. May we trust your steadfast love and continue in hope until we are united with all your saints. 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

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

ELW # 751

***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**

This Is My Father's World
Requested by Linda Smith

ELW # 824

***DISMISSAL**

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

***POSTLUDE**

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens Emma Lou Diemer, Composer

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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 our grandson Vincent Reimer from Rick and Cindy Snyder.

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 Orzeck
Our Sexton – Phil Claar
Our Assisting Minister – Steve Oswalt
Our Lectors – Amanda & Ben Decker
Our Usher – Steve Oswalt
Our Altar Guild – Tina Harclerode
Our Audio/Video Tech – Jay Hoenstine
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, Mary Farabaugh, Marilyn Horton, Kristen Malloy, Becca Ross, 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, Jeff Hoenstine, Lacey Ripka.

Those Serving in our Armed Forces: Bradley Buchart, Melody Estep, Colin Guyer, Nathan Smith (Germany).

This Week at St. Matthew:

814-793-2413: Office Hours

Pastor Traci – Tues. 10:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m.

Jen (Summer Hours) – Mon. and Wed. 8:00-10:30 a.m.

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

This Week Events

Today – *7th Sunday after Pentecost*

Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday – Employee Meeting 9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall
Knotty Ladies 12:30-3:00 p.m., Quilting Room
Talk-O Tuesday 6:00 p.m., La Fiesta, Airport

Sunday – *8th Sunday after Pentecost*

Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

*Come enjoy fun, food, and fellowship
at*
Lutheran Day
at the
Altoona Curve



Sunday, August 24

Buffet begins at 5pm

Game begins at 6 pm

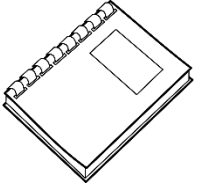
Tickets - \$15/each

Price includes all-you-can-eat buffet one hour before the game
at the first base picnic area at PNG Field and a Terrace level (200-level)
game ticket. *Please note: Children 2 and under are free.*

*Join us as the Altoona Curve celebrates Faith of all kinds with a night
full of unity, fellowship, and community spirit during Faith Night.
Fireworks following the game! Kids 14 and under run the bases!*

*Give orders and money to Jen in St. Matthew's office by Friday, August 8th so we
can all get seats together.

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 9:00am until 11:00am, 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

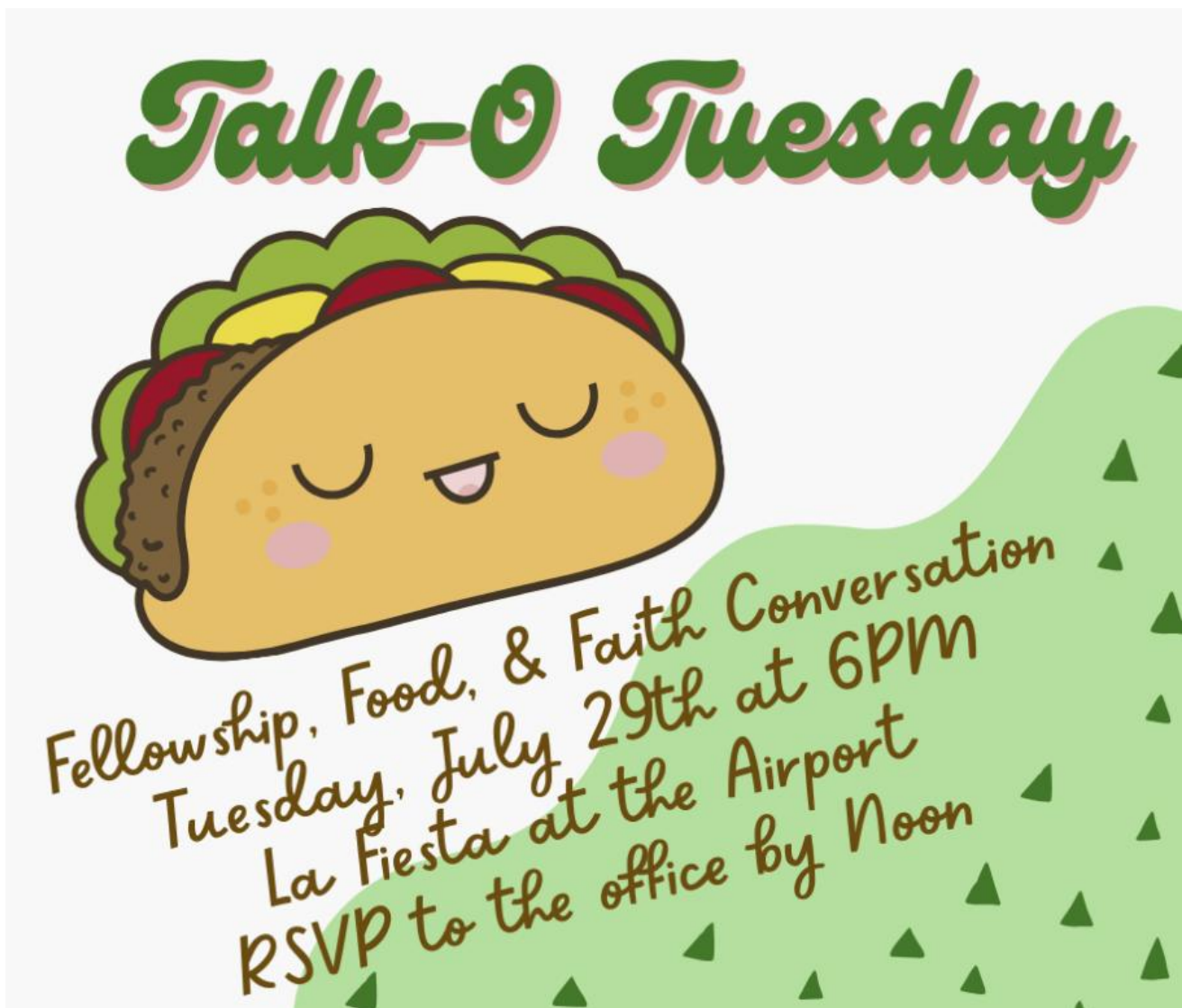


Sign up for the print magazine

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.





FAVORITE HYMNS

The Worship & Music Committee is taking requests. Drop a pink slip (available from the Ushers) in the offering plate with the name of the hymn you most want to sing & we'll add it to an upcoming Sunday worship service.





Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;

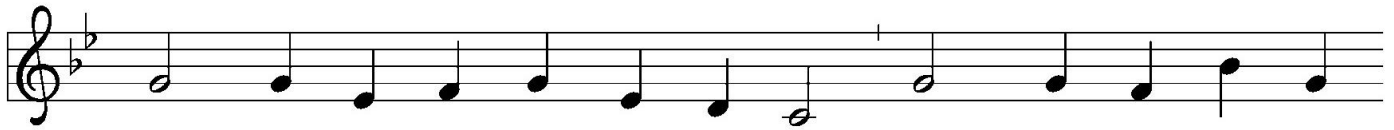


Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943

Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema

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1 Our Fa - ther, God in heav'n a - bove, we pray, u - nit - ed
 2 Give us to - day our dai - ly bread; let ev - 'ry - one be
 3 In time of tri - al, res - cue us. Let your word give suc -
 4 A - men. Yes, yes, it shall be so! Build up our faith and



in your love: Your name be hal - lowed. Help us, Lord,
 clothed and fed. For - give our sins, as we for - give
 cess to us when, on our left and on our right,
 make it grow; be - set by doubt, help us be - lieve



in faith - ful - ness to keep your word. Your king - dom come; your
 when oth - ers hurt us as we live. Help us to dwell in
 temp - ta - tions chal - lenge us to fight. De - liv - er us from
 what here we ask we shall re - ceive. So, by your prom - ise,



will be done on earth as there be - fore your throne.
 har - mo - ny and serve each oth - er will - ing - ly.
 e - vil's pow'r and com - fort us in life's last hour.
 in your name, with loud A - men your Yes we claim!

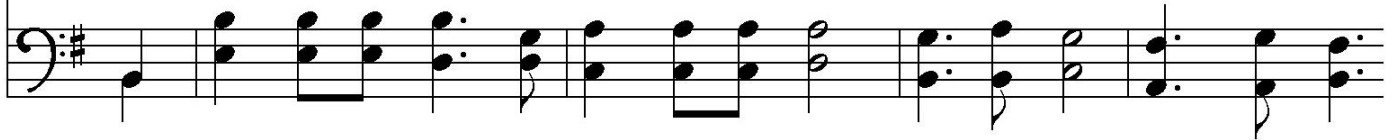
COMMUNION HYMN

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

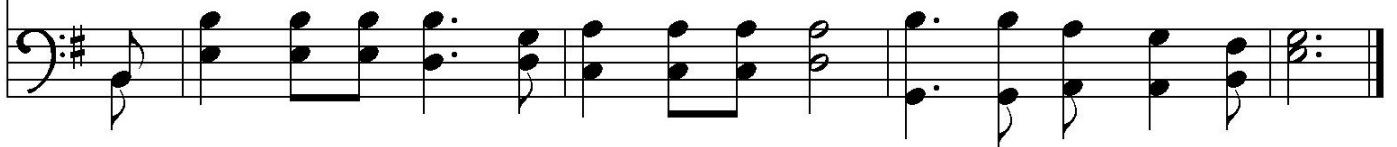
ELW # 751



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.
 OR *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.*



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.



Text: Psalm 102:1-2; Taizé Community, adapt.

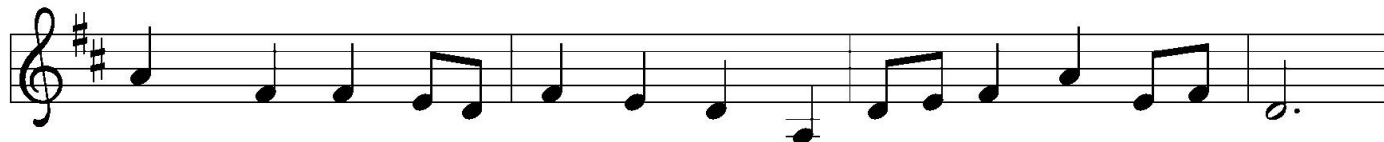
Music: HEAR MY PRAYER, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

Text and music © 1982, 1991 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.

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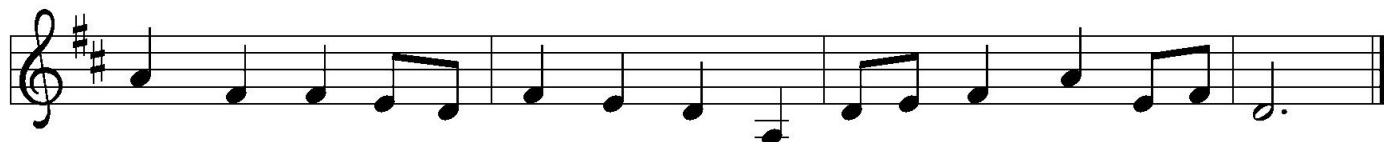
1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all
2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car - ols raise; the
3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for - get that,



na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er's praise.
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the
This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The



rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.
rus - tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry-where.
Lord is king, let heav - en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858–1901

Music: TERRA PATRIS, Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852–1930, adapt.