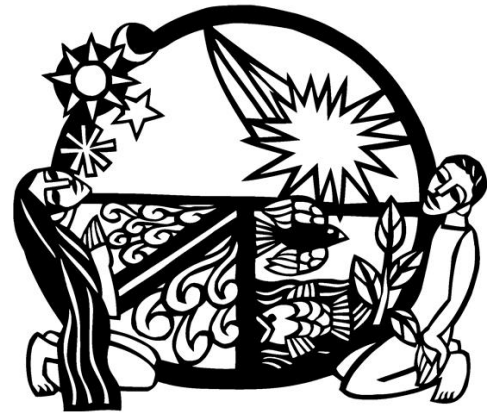




September 20, 2026

Feast of Creation

+ GATHERING +

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

LITANY OF PRAISE FOR CREATION

Glory to you, O God: you speak a word of power, and so you create the world.
We praise you, O God: **We praise you, O God.**

For the Spirit hovering to bring forth life, for the earth ordered from chaos, and for light and dark, we bless you, O God: **We bless you, O God.**

For the cosmos beyond our earth, for the sky above our heads, and for the cycle of evening and morning, we exalt you, O God: **We exalt you, O God.**

For the seas, the lakes, and the rivers, for the land with its mountains and plains, and for the trees, the plants, and their fruits, we magnify you, O God: **We magnify you, O God.**

For the sun to rule the day, for the moon to brighten the night, and for the shining stars, we extol you, O God: **We extol you, O God.**

For the fish in the sea, for the birds of the air, and for the monsters in the deep, we glorify you, O God: **We glorify you, O God.**

For wild animals and creatures of all kinds, for cattle and all livestock, and for everything that creeps on the earth, we adore you, O God: **We adore you, O God.**

For humankind made in your image, for setting us on your good earth, and for providing us food to eat, we worship you, O God: **We worship you, O God.**

Bless us, your creatures. Accept our praise, and make us worthy of your marvelous creation. We praise you, O God: **We praise you, O God.**

Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to you, our God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Blessed Be the God of Israel (ELW 250)



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

GREETING

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.**

KYRIE

Cantor: We pray for peace, O Lord, make plowshares of our swords: hear us when we cry to you.

Assembly

Lord, have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, Lord, have
mer-cy on us: hear us when we cry to you.

Cantor: Christ, make us grow in grace until we see your face: hear us when we cry to you.

Assembly

Christ, have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, Christ, have
mer-cy on us: hear us when we cry to you.

Cantor: Defend your church, O Lord, and root it in your word: hear us when we cry to you.

Assembly

Lord, have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, Lord, have
mer-cy on us: hear our cry. A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 A - bove the hills the an - gel hosts
 2 In heav'n, on earth reigns God Most High,
 3 Sing jus - tice, mer - cy, joy, and peace, sing
 4 We wor - ship you, our thanks we bring,
 5 To Je - sus Christ, God's Son, our Lord,



glo - ry! Glo - ry! Glo - ry! God's love is come to
 Yet ten - der - ly God
 God's own good will grants
 We bow be - fore you
 The Lamb of God, e -



seek the lost.
 hears our cry.
 sin's re - lease. Give glo - ry to God in the high - est!
 as we sing.
 ter - nal Word.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, in whom we live and move and have our being, in Christ you created the worlds, and your Spirit breathes life into the universe. We praise you for your wondrous creation. Bless us and all your handiwork with your infinite light, and direct our lives to the care of this good earth, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

+ WORD +

READING // Genesis 12:1-9

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai

and his brother's son Lot and all the possessions that they had gathered and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran, and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east, and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



1 O God, whose word well-plant - ed yields fruit a hun-dred - fold,
 2 O God of seed and har - vest, of sun and soil and rain,
 3 O God, your fi - nal har - vest of his - t'ry's an - cient field



we praise your grac - es grant - ed to those who sowed of old,
 at - tend the word we sow, lest its plant - ing be in vain.
 will test with truth the proud - est that hu - man work can yield.



who by their wit - ness scat - tered good seed up - on the soil
 Send show - ers of your Spir - it, bright sun - shine of your grace,
 Op - pres - sion's blight will van - ish, fair free - dom's fruits in - crease;



where oth - ers, reap - ing, gath - ered the har - vest of their toil.
 that mul - ti - tudes who hear it your gos - pel may em - brace.
 and love and joy will flour - ish to clothe the earth with peace.

GOSPEL // Matthew 28:19-20

The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said,] “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

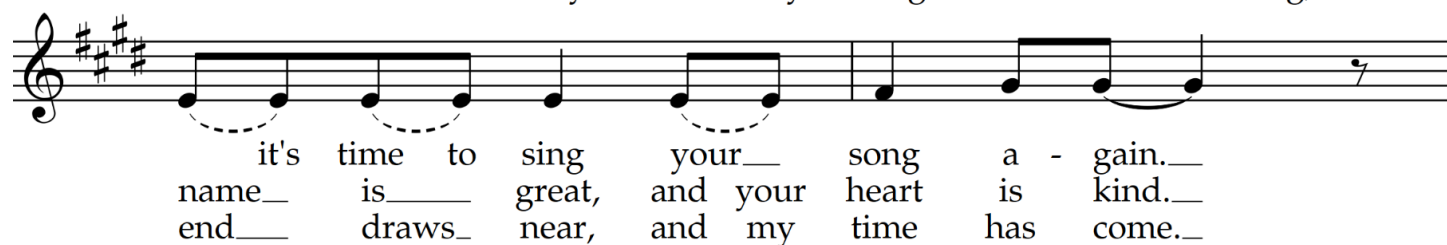
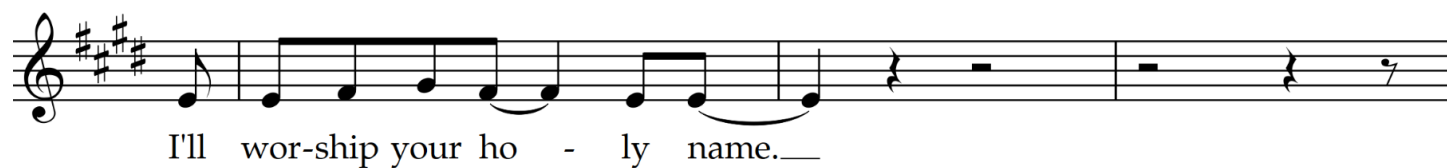
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON (10:45 AM)

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

10,000 Reasons





What - ev - er may pass, — and what - ev - er lies be - fore me, —
For all — your good-ness I will keep on — sing - ing —
still, — my soul will sing your praise un - end - ing —



let me be sing - ing when the eve-ning comes.
ten thou-sand rea-sons for my heart to find.
ten thou-sand years and then for - ev - er more!



Bless the Lord, O my soul, O — my soul;



wor-ship His ho - ly name. — Sing like nev-er be-fore, O my soul;



I'll wor - ship your ho - ly name. —



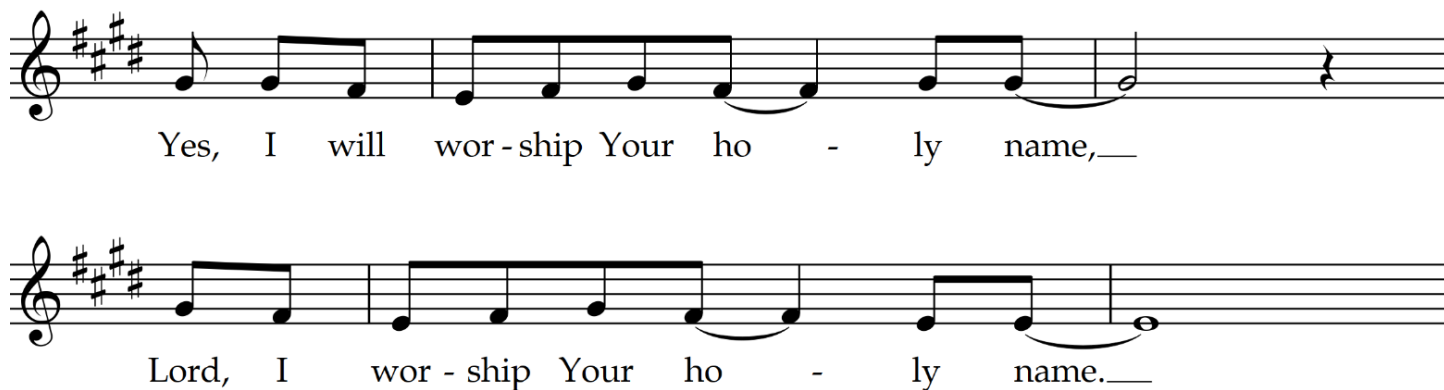
Yes, I will wor-ship your ho - ly name, —



Lord, I wor-ship Your ho - ly name. —



Sing like nev-er be-fore, O my soul; I wor-ship Your ho - ly name, —



APOSTLES' CREED

**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.**

CHANCEL CHOIR (10:45 AM)

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER, CARL SCHALK

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We join with Christians far and near to worship God the Creator, praying for the earth and for all in need.

O God of mystery, mercy, and might, for the church we pray: that churches around the globe collaborate in care for the earth, and that all the baptized nurture a zeal for the well-being of creation. Hear us, O God, source of life: **Your mercy is great.**

For the earth we pray: that this bounteous creation receive continued divine blessing, that the air be wholesome, that the waters be plenteous and clean, that the land be treasured, and that animals be protected. Grant that what on earth has been despoiled will be healed. Hear us, O God, source of life: **Your mercy is great.**

For the nations we pray: that farmers, herders, foragers, fishers, and grocers provide the food humans need, that legislators strive in all things for the common good, and that science and technology lead us toward more responsible ways to live. Hear us, O God, source of life: **Your mercy is great.**

For our country we pray: that national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges be safeguarded, that all natural resources benefit everyone, and that our children learn respect for nature. Hear us, O God, source of life: **Your mercy is great.**

For those in need we pray: that humankind be sheltered from pandemic and from extreme weather, and that all who are sick or suffering receive medical attention and communal support. Give heed to those whose names we call out to you aloud or silently within our hearts. Hear us, O God, source of life: **Your mercy is great.**

We praise you for all believers who have lived and died in communion with the earth. Grant that in your good time we join with all your creatures in your presence forever. Hear us, O God, source of life: **Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and your whole creation, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING



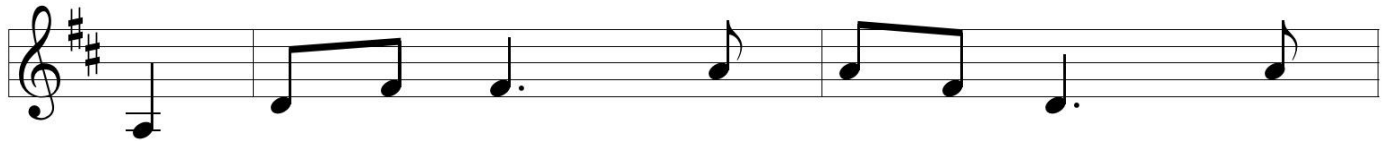
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LADIES' ENSEMBLE (10:45 AM)

ON EAGLE'S WINGS, ARR. SCHRADER

OFFERTORY HYMN

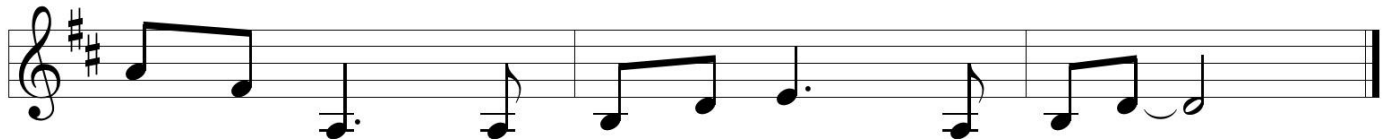
Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring



1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to
2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They
3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we



place up - on your ta - ble. We do not wor - ship
grew in your good plea - sure. What once was com - mon,
lift in prayer be - fore you. Lord, by your grace now



as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
dai - ly food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. O God, **maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

+ MEAL +

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.**

THANKSGIVING

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.

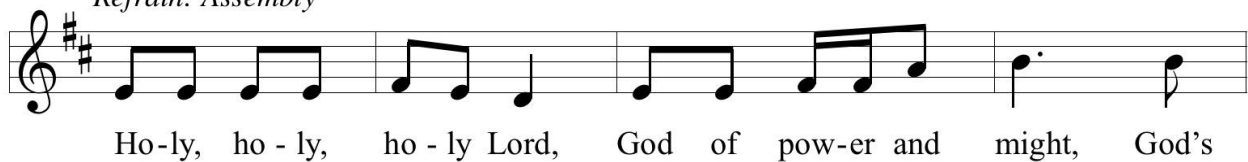
Through your Son, you taught us that true riches are to be found
in loving you rather than earthly treasure.

For your glory, and to give us the fullness of life and salvation,
Christ emptied himself upon the cross
and was raised in power to sit at your right hand.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join in adoring song.

Long, long ago in Jerusalem, as the scriptures do record,
Isaiah to the Temple came to see the Holy Lord. *Refrain*

Refrain: Assembly



High on a throne sat the mighty Lord, robes flowing through the hall,
while six-winged angels flew above, Isaiah heard them call. *Refrain*

Oh, what a sight it was to see and oh, what a sound to hear!

The temple doorposts shook and quaked, and smoke was in the air. *Refrain*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, to earth you came to
2 O Lamb of God, the on - ly Son, to

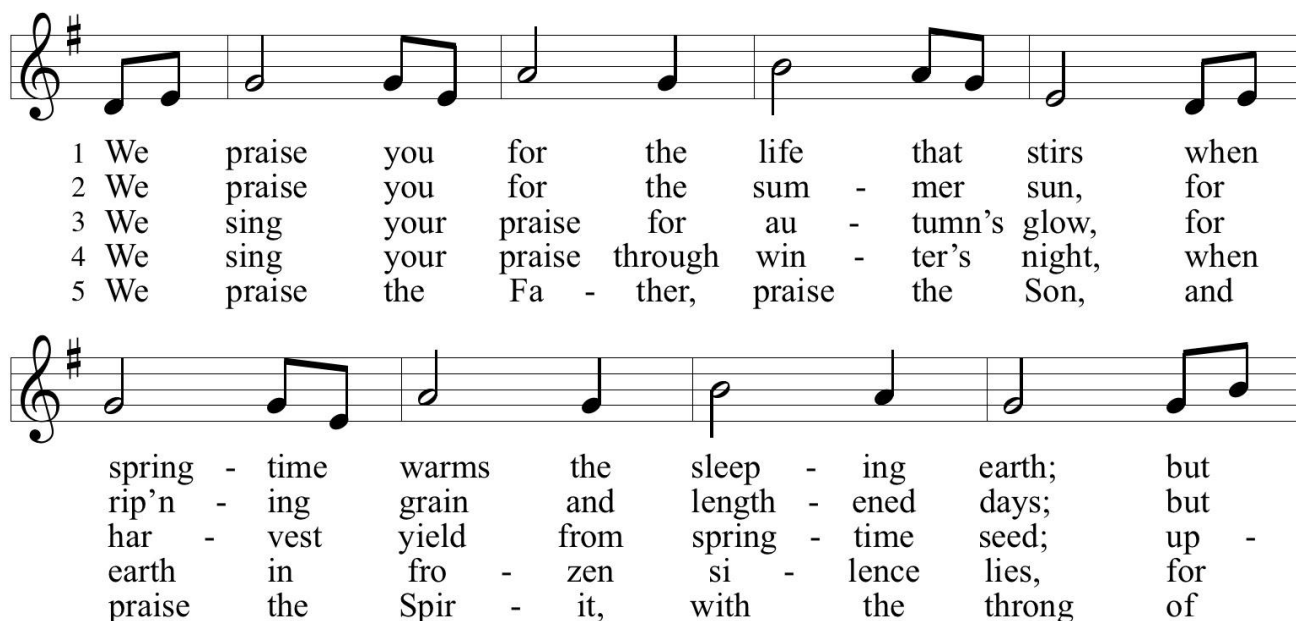
save us all from grief and shame. Shorn of your life, up -
us show mer - cy, Ho - ly One. You save the world from

on the tree you hung in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
all its sin. Lord, give to us your peace. A - men.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN

We Praise You for the Life That Stirrs



1 We praise you for the life that stirrs when
2 We praise you for the sum - mer sun, for
3 We sing your praise for au - tumn's glow, for
4 We sing your praise through win - ter's night, when
5 We praise the Fa - ther, praise the Son, and

spring - time warms the sleep - ing earth; but
rip'n - ing grain and length - ened days; but
har - vest yield from spring - time seed; but
earth in fro - zen si - lence lies, for
praise the Spir - it, with the throng of



most, we praise the grace that lures our
 most, we praise you for the Son whose
 on our hearts your grace be - stow till
 prom - ise of re - turn - ing light, for
 saints and an - gels, joined as one in



slum - b'ring souls to love and mirth.
 light brings heal - ing in his rays.
 faith bears fruit in lov - ing deed.
 life in Christ that nev - er dies.
 grate - ful, ev - er - last - ing song.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

+ SENDING +

BLESSING

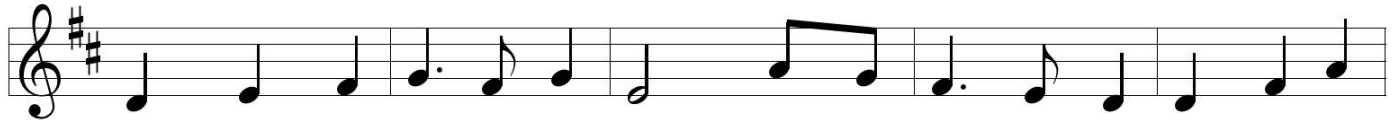
The blessing of God,
 who provides for us,
 feeds us,
 and journeys with us,
 ☩ be upon you
 now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

O Lord of the Blossom



1 O Lord of the blos-som, O God of the seed, O gra-cious pro -
2 O Lord of the har - vest, O God of the feast, where sor - rows are



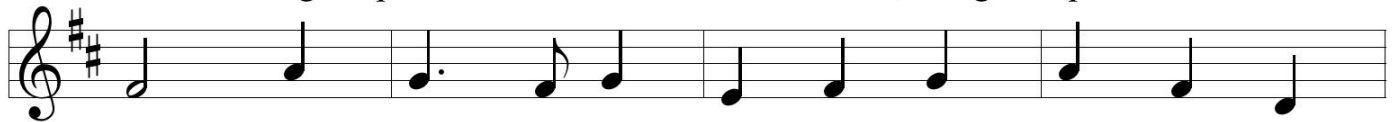
vi - der for all hu-man need, you have nour-ished our faith at your
van-quished and joys are in - creased, where the tree of life grows in your



ta - ble of grace, and nur - tured new life in the light of your
or-chards a - bove, we'll join in the cho-rus in praise of your



face. O Lord of the grain - field, O God of the
love. Sing praise to the Fa - ther, sing praise to the



vine, you've fed us your pres - ence in bread and in
Son, sing praise to the Spir - it. Praise God, Three in



wine. In com - mun - ion you've blest to us ar - bor and
One! You have made us one peo - ple you've fed by the



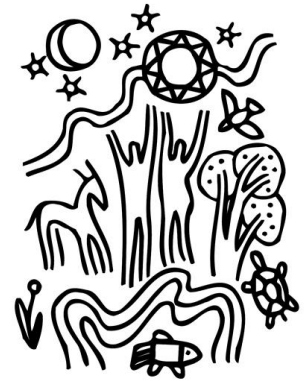
plow, and shown us the gos - pel, your word for us now.
hand, O Lord of the heav-ens, O God of the land.

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God. We will!**

POSTLUDE

PASTOR:	Alex Martini
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES:	Karl Segletes
WORSHIP BAND:	Paul Bowers, <i>keyboard</i> ; Craig Nelson, <i>drums</i> ; Cindy Ward & Susan Hensel, <i>cello</i> ; Matt Peffer, <i>trombone</i> ; David Hamilton, Susan Hensel, Dory Kessler, & Stacey Niedzwiecki, <i>vocals</i>
LITURGIST:	8:00: Stacey Niedzwiecki 10:45: Pam Ringhoffer
LECTOR:	8:00: Laurie Hoover 10:45: Carol Forbes
USHERS (10:45):	Bob & Dottie Shultz
TECH TEAM (10:45):	Priss Bashore & Kathy Zagoric



Mission Central - Help us collect items that Mission Central needs for their different programs. The three most needed items are these school supplies: pencils, children's scissors, and notebooks. There is a box in the church for you to drop off your donations. If you have questions, please contact Cheryl Fratus.

Prayer Bead Ministry is Today - What if something as simple as a string of beads could help you slow down, pray, and draw closer to God? **Today from 9:15–10:15 AM**, Mary Ann Prior will introduce us to her wonderful Prayer Bead Ministry. Come learn about it, participate, and perhaps discover a new devotional practice for yourself. This gathering is for everyone, whether or not you have attended adult "Sunday School" before. Feel free to bring a friend! (Youth Sunday School will be meeting in the Sunday School room from 9:30 - 10:30 AM)

ELCW - Join the ELCW at Cafe 100 (at Messiah Lifeways) at **9:30 AM** on **September 23** for a presentation by William Murray. He is an archivist for Mechanicsburg School District.

Chili Cook-Off - Mark your calendars! The Fellowship Committee will be hosting our 2nd Annual **Chili Cook-Off** after the 9:30 service and congregational meeting on **November 8th**. Sign-up sheets are in the hallway. We are limiting the number of entries to 8 this year, due to limited space and electrical outlets. If you want to challenge our reigning champion, Gloria Moyer, with your best chili...sign up early! We also need people to bring side dishes and desserts. You can sign up for those in the hallway as well. The committee will be providing beverages.