

An abstract painting with vibrant, expressive brushstrokes in shades of yellow, orange, red, blue, and green. A large, white, irregular shape is positioned in the center, resembling a torn piece of paper or a window. The text 'Be opened' is written in a white, cursive font across the white shape. Below the main text, the words 'Be opened' are repeated in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

*Be opened*

MARK 7:34

Be opened



+ The 15th Sunday After Pentecost +

**September 5, 2021**

**Labor Day Weekend**

**AS WE GATHER**

In today’s Readings, James encourages us toward good works of service and love, and Jesus does the good work of healing by restoring a man’s hearing and speech. Our faith in Jesus is marked by our reflection of His love and service. While we are not able to do all the things Jesus can do, we are called to reflect His faithful work as we serve in our vocations by loving our neighbors.

**REGARDING COMMUNION** *When we gather at the Lord’s Table, the cup of blessing we receive is a sharing in the blood of Christ; the bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ. We who are many are one bread and body in Christ (I Cor. 10:16-17). As a people baptized into the life of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to us in this holy meal to renew us individually and together in our life of faith and following him. **Since Christian denominations have differing understandings of Holy Communion, if you are not a member of a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation and have not communed here before, we ask that you speak with the pastor or elder prior to communing with us the first time. Those not communing are invited to cross their arms over their chests and approach the pastor for a blessing during the distribution. Also, if certain factors prohibit you from partaking of regular wine, non-alcoholic wine is available in the center circle of the tray. If you would like to begin sharing this sacred meal with us on a regular basis, please ask the pastor for a time of faith instruction and formation.***

**Liturgical Color:**

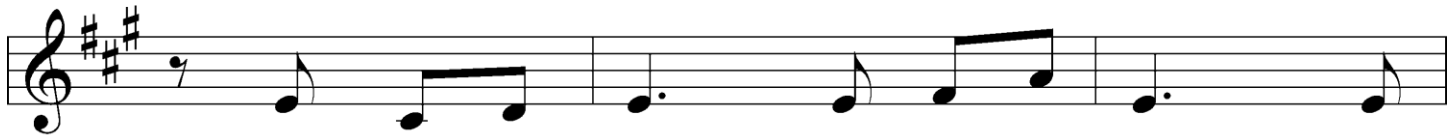
***Green is the color of life and growth in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.***

**Prelude** ..... Jerrode Marsh

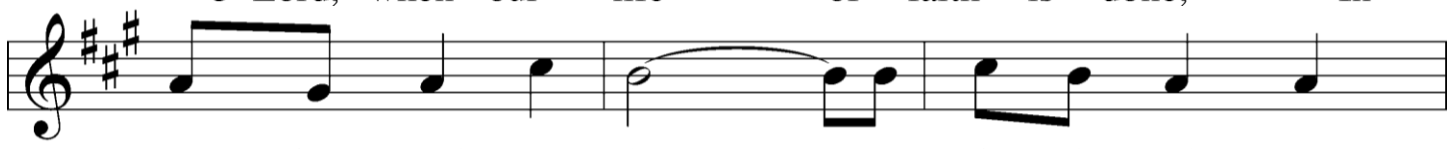
*“Allein zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ”, “Preludio und Ricercar”*

**Welcome**

# Invocation Hymn..... "We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight" #720



1 We walk by faith and not by sight, No  
2 We may not touch His hands and side, Nor  
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; And  
4 For You, O res - ur - rect - ed Lord, Are  
5 Lord, when our life of faith is done, In



gra - cious words we hear From Him who spoke as  
fol - low where He trod; But in His prom - ise  
may our faith a - bound To call on You when  
found in means di - vine: Be - neath the wa - ter  
realms of clear - er light We may be - hold You



none e'er spoke, But we be - lieve Him near.  
we re - joice And cry "My Lord and God!"  
You are near And seek where You are found.  
and the Word, Be - neath the bread and wine.  
as You are, With full and end - less sight.

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## Divine Service, Setting Two Confession and Absolution

*The sign of the cross † may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

### Confession and Absolution.....page 167

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole

heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Service of the Word

### Entrance Hymn ..... "Praise and Thanksgiving" #789



1 Praise and thanks - giv - ing, Fa - ther, we of - fer For all things  
 2 Bless, Lord, the la - bor We bring to serve You That with our  
 3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing Food for Your chil - dren, By Your wise



liv - ing, Cre - at - ed good: Har - vest of sown fields, Fruits of the  
 neigh - bor We may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, We would work  
 guid - ing Teach us to share One with an - oth - er, So that, re -



or - chard, Hay from the mown fields, Blos - som and wood.  
 with You, Har - vest - ing, mill - ing For dai - ly bread.  
 joic - ing With us, all oth - ers May know Your care.

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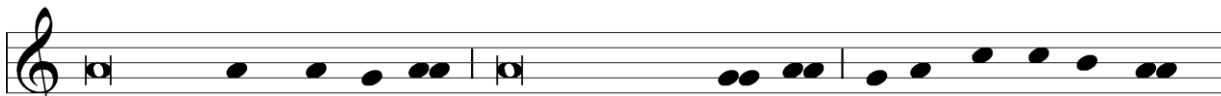
### Kyrie.....pages 168-169



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



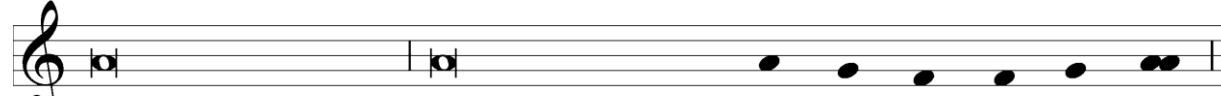
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



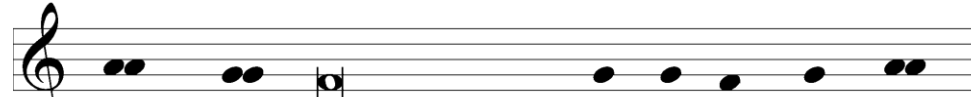
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



**C** A - men.

**Hymn of Praise** ..... *"This Is the Feast" page 171*



**A** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.  
Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and  
hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le -  
lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of  
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:  
Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.  
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,  
for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

**Collect of the Day** ..... *(spoken in unison)*

O Lord, let Your merciful ears be open to the prayers of Your humble servants and grant that what they ask may be in accord with Your gracious will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Sit*

**Old Testament** ..... **Isaiah 35:4-7**

Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
    "Be strong; fear not!  
Behold, your God  
    will come with vengeance,  
with the recompense of God.  
    He will come and save you."  
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
    and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
    and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.  
For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
    and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool,  
    and the thirsty ground springs of water."

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Gradual** ..... *(spoken in unison)*

Fear the Lord, you his saints,  
    for those who fear him lack nothing!  
Many are the afflictions of the righteous,

but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

**Epistle..... James 2:1-10, 14-18**

My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. . . .

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Stand**

**Alleluia and Verse .....page 173**



**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.



# Holy Gospel ..... Mark 7:24-37

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the seventh chapter.



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

From there [Jesus] arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And he entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden. But immediately a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. And he said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." And he said to her, "For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter." And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



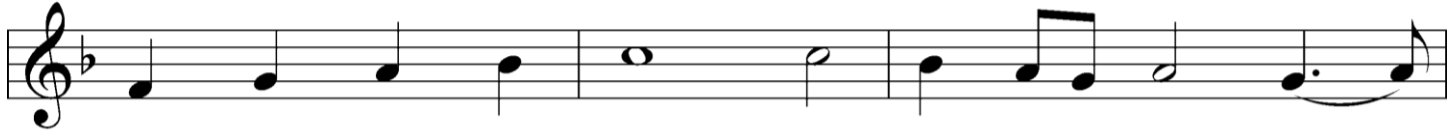
**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Sit*

**Hymn of the Day..... "O Son of God, in Galilee" #841**



1 O Son of God, in Gal - i - lee You  
2 O lis - ten to the si - lent prayer Of  
3 The speech - less tongue, the life - less ear You  
4 Mean - while to them the lis - t'ning ear Of  
5 Then in Your prom - ised hap - py land Each



made the deaf to hear, The mute to speak, the  
Your af - flict - ed ones. O bid them cast on  
can re - store, O Lord; Your "Eph - pha - tha," O  
stead - fast faith im - part, And let Your Word bring  
loss will prove a gain; All mys - t'ries we shall



blind to see; O bless - ed Lord, be near.  
You their care; Your grace to them make known.  
Sav - ior dear, Can in - stant help af - ford.  
light and cheer To ev - 'ry trou - bled heart.  
un - der - stand, For You will make them plain.

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**Sermon..... "Open & Honest"**

*Stand*

**Nicene Creed.....page 174**

**I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven**

and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary

and was made man;

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures

and ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,

who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,

and I look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Prayer of the Church .....page 175

**P** Lord, in Your mercy

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** . . . now and forever,

**C** Amen.

## Offering

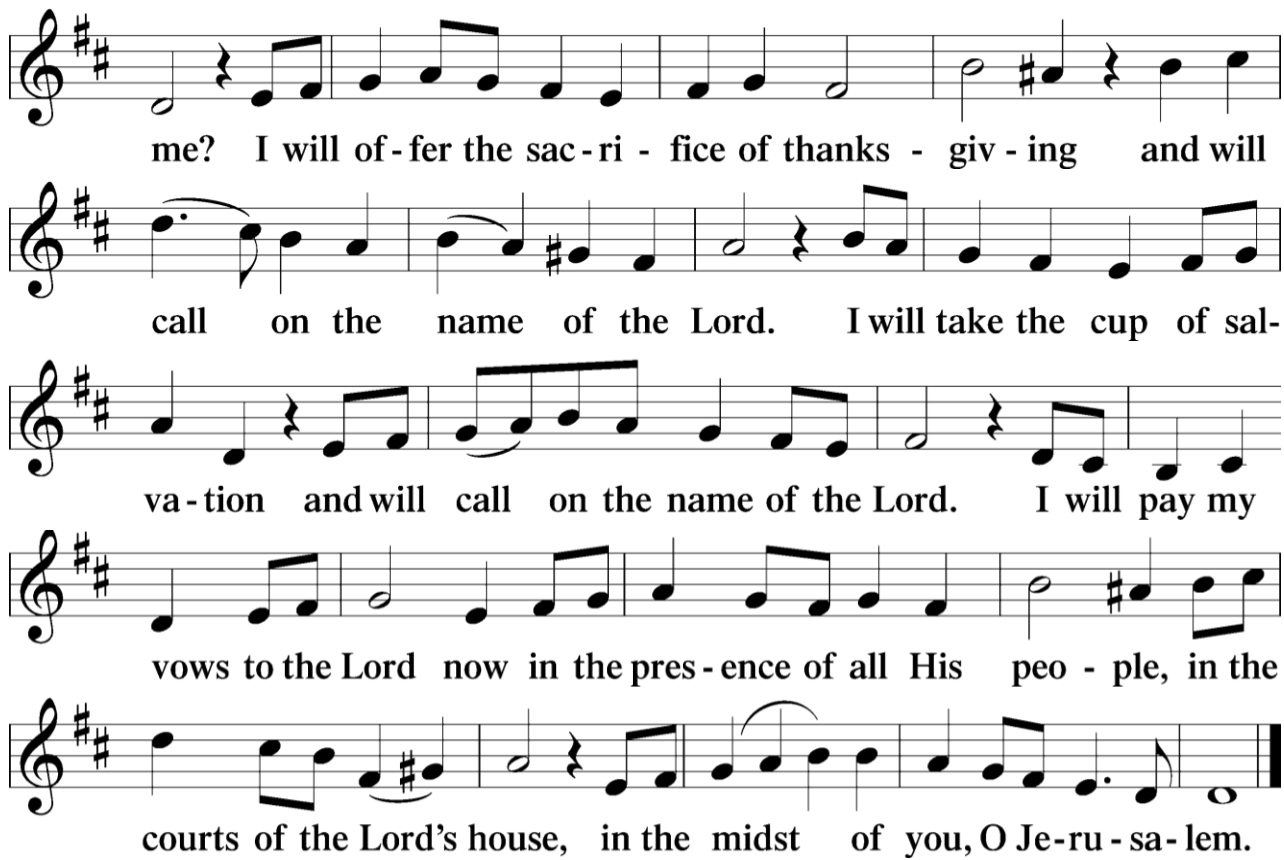
*Offering plates are not being passed during the service; worshipers may place their offerings into the plate located at the west entrance.*

*“Through him (Jesus) then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” (Hebrews 13:15-16)*

## Offertory ..... page 176




**C** What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of-fer the sac-ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will  
 call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-  
 va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
 vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo - ple, in the  
 courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru - sa-lem.

## Service of the Sacrament

**Communion Liturgy** .....pages 177-178



**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And al-so with you.  
**P** Lift up your hearts.  
**C** We lift them to the Lord.  
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**Sanctus**.....*page 178*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of



pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your



glo - ry. 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.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**.....*page 178*

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth . . .

To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**Lord's Prayer**.....*page 179*

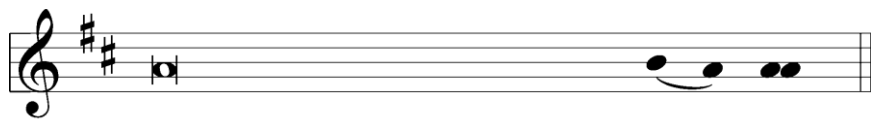
**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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 Words of Our Lord..... page 179

Pax Domini .....page 180



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



**C** A - men.

Agnus Dei.....page 180



**C** 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, grant us peace.

*Sit (until motioned to rise & proceed forward if going for Communion or a blessing).*

Communion Hymns .....Instrumental

(“Trio, Op. 49 Nr. 1”)

*"Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord" #637*



1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord,  
2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,  
3 Come for - ward then with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,



And drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured;  
To all be - liev - ers life e - ter - nal yields;  
And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.



Of - fered was He for great - est and for least,  
With heav'n - ly bread He makes the hun - gry whole,  
O Lord, our hearts with grate - ful thanks en - dow



Him - self the vic - tim and Him - self the priest.  
Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.  
As in this feast of love You bless us now.

Text and tune: Public domain

*"Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face" #631*



1 Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;  
2 Here would I feed up - on the bread of God,  
3 This is the hour of ban - quet and of song;  
4 I have no help but Thine; nor do I need



Here would I touch and han - dle things un - seen;  
Here drink with Thee the roy - al wine of heav'n;  
This is the heav'n - ly ta - ble spread for me;  
An - oth - er arm but Thine to lean up - on.

Here grasp with firm - er hand the e - ter - nal grace,  
 Here would I lay a - side each earth - ly load,  
 Here let me feast and, feast - ing, still pro - long  
 It is e - nough, my Lord, e - nough in - deed;

And all my wea - ri - ness up - on Thee lean.  
 Here taste a - fresh the calm of sin for - giv'n.  
 The brief bright hour of fel - low - ship with Thee.  
 My strength is in Thy might, Thy might a - lone.

5 Mine is the sin, but Thine the righteousness;  
 Mine is the guilt, but Thine the cleansing blood;  
 Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace:  
 Thy blood, Thy righteousness, O Lord my God.

6 Too soon we rise; the vessels disappear;  
 The feast, though not the love, is past and gone;  
 The bread and wine remove, but Thou art here;  
 Nearer than ever; still my shield and sun.

7 Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,  
 Yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,  
 Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,  
 The Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.

Text and tune: Public domain

**Post Communion Canticle**..... *page 181*

☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev - 'ry-one what  
 He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -



joyce and proud - ly bear His name. He re - calls 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.

**Post Communion Collect**..... page 183

**P** Let us pray. . . . who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

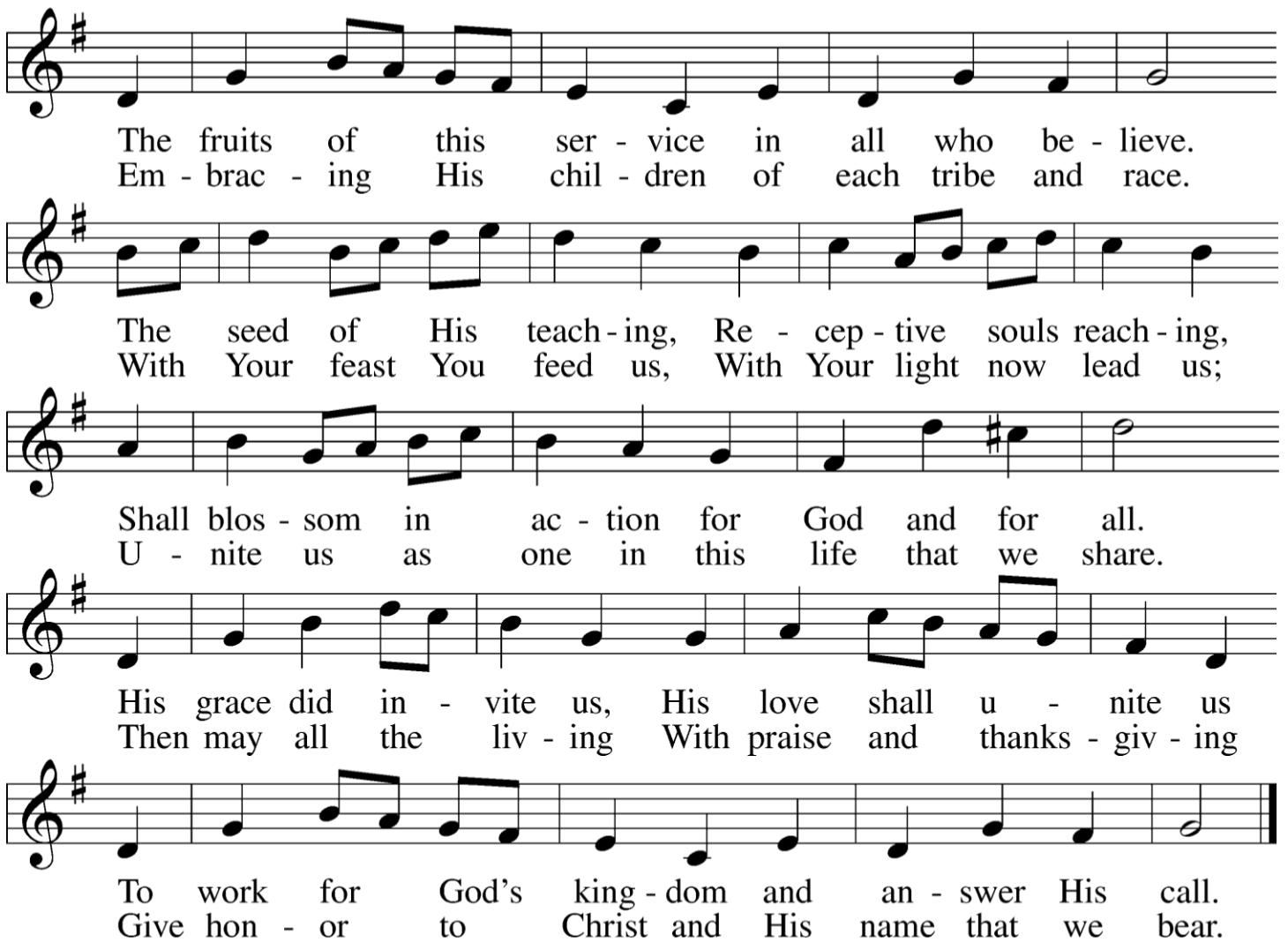
**Benediction**..... page 183

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
 The Lord make His face shine on you  
 and be gracious to you.  
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** A - men.

**Sending Hymn**..... "Sent Forth by God's Blessing" #643

1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, Our true faith con - fess - ing,  
 2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing To God ev - er - liv - ing,  
 The peo - ple of God from His dwell - ing take leave.  
 The tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face.  
 The Sup - per is end - ed. O now be ex - tend - ed  
 Our faith ev - er shar - ing, In love ev - er car - ing,



The fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.  
Em - brac - ing His chil - dren of each tribe and race.

The seed of His teach - ing, Re - cep - tive souls reach - ing,  
With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;

Shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.  
U - nite us as one in this life that we share.

His grace did in - vite us, His love shall u - nite us  
Then may all the liv - ing With praise and thanks - giv - ing

To work for God's king - dom and an - swer His call.  
Give hon - or to Christ and His name that we bear.

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## Dismissal ..... (Bethlehem's Mission)

- Grow in Christ,
- Live in Love and Share the Faith!

## Postlude ..... Jerrode Marsh (*"Toccata in e minor"*)

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### Next week's readings:

**OT: Isaiah 50:4-10; Epistle: James 3:1-12; Gospel: Mark 9:14-29**

**Attendance: Last Saturday: 13**

**Total Offering: \$1,001.00**

**Home Use: \$901.00**

**Attendance Last Sunday: 59**

**Missions: \$0.00**

**Non-Offering: \$100.00**

## Serving us today:

Elders.....Willie Crespo and Jeremy VanWey  
Musicians .....Jerrode Marsh  
Altar Committee.....Cindy Schnell (Chair), Diana Hoemann, Judy Schache  
Samantha Schnell, Stephanie Schumaker, Lauryn Schumaker  
Flower Committee ..... Karen Haase (Chair), Lana Vanderburgh

## This Week's Schedule

|             |            |   |
|-------------|------------|---|
| Monday-6    |            | <i>Labor Day - Church Office Closed</i>   |
|             | 10:00 a.m. | Moms and Tots   |
|             | 6:30 p.m.  | Scouts  |
| Tuesday-7   |            | <i>Pastor's Vacation (7<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>)</i>   |
|             | 12:00 p.m. | Braille in Concordia  |
| Wednesday-8 | 9:30 a.m.  | Exercise Class<br>NO BIBLE STUDY TODAY  |
| Thursday-9  | 1:00 p.m.  | Games and Card Group  |
|             | 7:00 p.m.  | Zoom Bible Class-"Forgiveness"  |
| Friday-10   | 9:30 a.m.  | Exercise Group  |
|             | 6:30 p.m.  | Cub Scouts Activity   |
| Saturday-11 | 5:30 p.m.  | Worship   |
| Sunday-12   | 8:00 a.m.  | The Lutheran Hour broadcast on 96.9   |
|             | 9:00 a.m.  | Radio Broadcast 98.5 (can also be heard at<br><a href="http://www.blchurch.com">www.blchurch.com</a> , under the Sermons tab) |
|             | 9:15 a.m.  | Sunday School, Adult Bible Class  |
|             | 10:30 a.m. | Worship   |
|             | 11:30 a.m. | Elders' Meeting   |

## Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar this weekend have been provided by **Larry and Karen Haase** in honor of their anniversary this past month and for Larry's birthday this past week. May the Lord bless them with many more years to come!

## Absence

**Pastor Joel will be on vacation from September 7th to the 16th.** Pastor Ricky Bertels will be filling in for him during the weekend services. If you need assistance during his absence, please call Jeremy VanWey or your Elder.

## Prayers

**For Sustenance, Healing, and Provision**—We remember those who are dealing with illness, are homebound or in nursing homes, undergoing and recovering from

surgery, as well as going through hospitalization and rehabilitation: Don Aprill (Cindy Schnell's Dad), Paula Brewer, Michelle Brown, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Denise (Penny Humphrey's sister), Marion & Leona Droege, Renae Ernesti (Charlene McCarter's niece), Wilma Gertz, Ralph Hein, Maxine Jaeger, Mary Johnson, Pr. Jesse & Creed Kueker (the pastor of Trinity— Clinton & his young son as they recover from kidney transplant surgeries), Marty Lehn, Marvin Logan (Nicole Clemons' father), Lynn Lowe, Kathy Marshall, Evan Martin, Vivian Meyer (young daughter of Kaye Fair's close friend), Johnny Nichol, Jim Rudy, Lori Sloan, and Danielle Thomas.

**For Pregnant Mothers (and Fathers)** Corinne & Jeremy Allison, and Kara & JeVon Savage as they get closer to their due dates next month. May the Lord grant good health and joyful expectation!

**For Military Members**—We remember all service and support personnel who are deployed and stationed away from us and their families: Andy Burden, Ty Carter, Gabe Crespo, Chance Hillsman.

**Prayer Requests & Spiritual Care**—If you would like to make a prayer request, contact Pr. Joel or email the church office. Also, if you're feeling the strain and needing to talk and be encouraged in the living of life from day to day, don't hesitate to call or text Pr. Joel or contact your elder or the church office. We rely upon the Holy Spirit and his gifts in Christ during every time of uncertainty, and can never be thankful enough for the gift of each other!

### Worship Services

**Sunday Services are at 10:30 a.m.** You can also watch it live on Facebook and YouTube, or go to it directly from the webpage at [blchurch.com](http://blchurch.com).

**Saturday Services are at 5:30 p.m.** and will be indoors.

### Sunday School and Christian Education

**Sunday School Kickoff will be on September 12th at 9:15 a.m.** We will have donuts, drinks and other goodies to celebrate resuming that time of faith formation together! We are grateful to our church members who have volunteered their time and talents to teach both in the past and the upcoming year. **Next weekend we will also be recognizing the teachers and Education leaders for this year: Rebecca Holland, Jack Easterwood, Rich Vanderburgh and Bryon Freeman, Ellen Pederson and Penny Humphrey.**

**Youth Catechesis** (ongoing faith formation in preparation for Confirmation) will be starting on **Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.** If your child is in 7th/8th grades and you haven't been contacted by Pastor Joel yet, let him know.

## Faith Discussion and Bible Study

**Pastor's Rooted in the Faith Sessions** (which focus on the basics of the Christian faith through the Lutheran lens—especially for those wanting to learn more and possibly pursue church membership) meets next on **Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in the conference room and via Zoom**. Let Pr. Joel know if you'd still like to make these sessions.

**"Reading Romans" Study on Sunday Mornings!** We're working through the remaining two chapters of this important biblical letter, and you're more than welcome to join us in the conference room **from 9:15-10:10 a.m.** as we cover a lot of good ground yet together! *Sunday, September 12, Pastor Ricky Bertels will be leading the bible study on our Old Testament and Epistle lessons for the weekend.*

**Zoom Bible Study—"Forgiveness-Making Peace with the Past"** is taking place on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to join us, please contact the office so we can get you the study materials.

**Wednesday Bible Study will not be held on September 8 or September 15 due to Pr. Joel being on vacation.**

**Saturday Bible Study** (on the Gospel of Matthew) will resume on **September 18** following the evening service—**6:45 to 7:30 p.m.**—in the conference room. Please join us as we explore the life and ministry of Jesus.

**Reforesting Faith: What Trees Teach Us About the Nature of God and His Love for Us**—a recent book by medical doctor and conservationist Matthew Sleeth—will be the topic of our Faith Night sessions on the **first Wednesday of each month** from September through December (**5:30-6:45 p.m.** in the fellowship hall). Bring your own dinner and join the discussion. Everyone is welcome!

## Opportunities to Serve

**ShowMe Christian Youth Home**, which was our mission focus this past month will be having an **Open House on Saturday, September 11 from 10am-3pm**. If you would like to attend, please let the church office know as we could plan to go as a group.

**Food Center—September is Hunger Action Month.** The Food Center is always in need of restocking. Please remember the following items as you shop and donate this month and throughout the year: canned vegetables and beans, Hamburger Helper mixes, toilet paper, deodorant and coffee. For the unsheltered: tuna or chicken in pouches, meat ravioli (pop tops), soft Nutri-Grain bars, Gatorade type drinks, water, chap stick, small body lotions and sunblock.

**Front Sign Changer/s Needed**—The couple who've done that faithfully for the past several years won't be continuing, so how about giving it a try! Congregational youth did it a number of years ago and really enjoyed it. Talk to Pastor Joel and he'll get you started (since he does it from time to time as needed).

**Candle Caretaker**—we are looking for someone to come in once a week to take care of our candles on the altar. This takes no special skills and you can come in at your convenience. Please contact the office if you are interested.

**Bethlehem's Vegetable Garden** was converted to raised beds this year and is growing well amid the summer heat and rains. We're glad to have a neighboring family helping out with everything and growing a box of their own, plus, it will get its final overhaul as an Eagle Scout project. Also, the garden cart is at the north entrance so that whoever passes by can help themselves to whatever's been recently harvested.

### Fellowship

**Mary Martha Guild will be meeting on Monday, September 13 at 7:00 p.m.** in the fellowship hall. Karen Haase and Judy Schache will be presenting a program on mission work.

**Exercise Class** is being held at **9:30 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays** in the Fellowship Hall. This class is low impact exercise open to anyone, men or women. For more information, contact Judy Smith.

**The Games and Card Group** meets on **Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone, men and women are welcome to come and play board games or cards. Bring a game and a friend. If you have any questions, please contact Melvin Theroff.

**The Quilting Group** meets on the **second and fourth Tuesday** of the month from **9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.** (September through May). Anyone is welcome to help with this project. No special sewing skills needed. Bring your own lunch. If you have any questions, please contact Georgia Luker.

### Miscellaneous

**The Kauffman Center Presents**—*"The Great Divorce"*, by C.S. Lewis on Saturday, September 11 at 4:00 p.m. This play is about C.S. Lewis' mesmerizing fantasy about heaven, hell and the choice between them. For more information or to purchase tickets go to [tickets.kauffmancenter.org](https://tickets.kauffmancenter.org).

**Country Kitchen Cards are available!** You can get 10 buy-one, get-one meal **FREE** coupons for just **\$10.00**. All proceeds go towards helping the youth group. See a youth member, or you can stop by the office and purchase one.

## Offerings

You can mail your offerings to Bethlehem and have pastor put it in the offering plate with a prayer of trust for you, or you can give through the online offering called "Simply Giving". You may also place your offering in the plate in the Narthex.

## Elders

**Willie Crespo** (last name begins A-H) 660-679-8121, [willie.crespo@fairwaymc.com](mailto:willie.crespo@fairwaymc.com)

**Jack Easterwood** (last name begins I-Ma) 660-678-2045, [easter.egg2380@gmail.com](mailto:easter.egg2380@gmail.com)

**Caleb Thomas** (last name begins Mc-R) 660-441-2010, [calebthomas50@gmail.com](mailto:calebthomas50@gmail.com)

**Jeremy VanWey** (last name begins S-Z) 606-909-4765, [jeremy.vanwey@gmail.com](mailto:jeremy.vanwey@gmail.com)

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Saint Paul Servants of the Saints



# RUMMAGE



|                         |                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| PREVIEW SALE FEE \$5.00 | WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 | 6:00 PM-8:00 PM |
|                         | THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16  | 6:00 AM-7:00 PM |
|                         | FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17    | 8:00 AM-7:00 PM |
|                         | SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18  | 8:00 AM-12 NOON |

## \$5.00 BAG SALE SATURDAY!

|              |                     |          |
|--------------|---------------------|----------|
| CLOTHING     | CHILDREN'S CLOTHING | TOOLS    |
| SHOES/PURSES | KITCHENWARE         | ANTIQUES |
| TOYS         | HOME DECOR          | BOOKS    |

### Questions?

Call or text:

Rita (660) 441-7924

Rachael (816) 674-6363



Check us out on Facebook! Join our group SERVANTS OF THE SAINTS RUMMAGE SALE for updates.

**WEIS GYM ANNEX**

**SPLHS CAMPUS**

**205 S. MAIN STREET**

**CONCORDIA, MO**

Please park behind the gym  
and use the north door.

## Contact Information

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 607 N. Maguire, Warrensburg, MO 64093**

### **Our Mission**

· Grow in Christ · Live in Love · Share the Faith

### **Our Vision**

To be a community of believers, disciples, and servants while we deepen our personal faith and reach others for Christ.



#### **Rev. Joel R. Kurz**

Tuesday & Thursday: 8am–5pm, Wednesday & Friday: 10am–5pm

Otherwise by appointment

Office: 660-747-6742

Cell Phone: 660-441-5710

Email: [pastor@blchurch.com](mailto:pastor@blchurch.com)

Website: [www.blchurch.com](http://www.blchurch.com)      Facebook: [blcwarrensburg](https://www.facebook.com/blcwarrensburg)

#### **Office Manager:**

Cindy Smith

Monday–Friday: 8am–5pm

660-747-6742

[officemanager@blchurch.com](mailto:officemanager@blchurch.com)

#### **Congregational Life Facilitator:**

Rebecca Stewart

Tue & Thurs: 8am–4pm

[clf@blchurch.com](mailto:clf@blchurch.com)

#### **Bookkeeper:**

Teresa Hillsman

Tuesday: 3pm–6pm

Thursday by appointment

[financial@blchurch.com](mailto:financial@blchurch.com)

Please note that Bethlehem Lutheran Church has a closed-circuit video system. This allows for the viewing of the service on screens in the building and helps to enhance our security. Please see a trustee or an elder if you have any questions.