

Come to Believe  Come to Belong

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 12, 2026

PRELUDE

Rob Aaron

“Come to believe, Come to belong, Come to receive, the promise of God”

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify Your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Therefore, let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

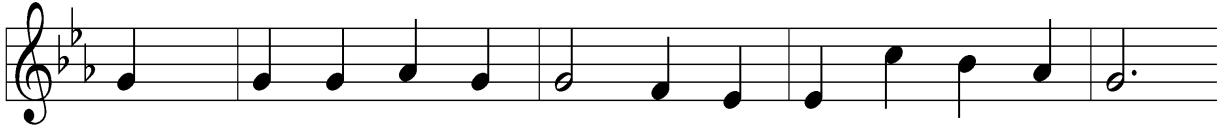
(Silence for self-reflection)

Most merciful God, . . . We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.*

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare unto you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen*

GATHERING SONG

"The Church's One Foundation"



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth;
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
her char - ter of sal - va - tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
One ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
O bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

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 ELEISON *(Lord, have mercy)*

Leader
In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. For your

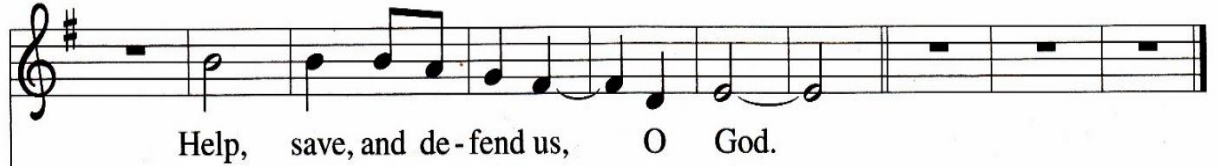
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

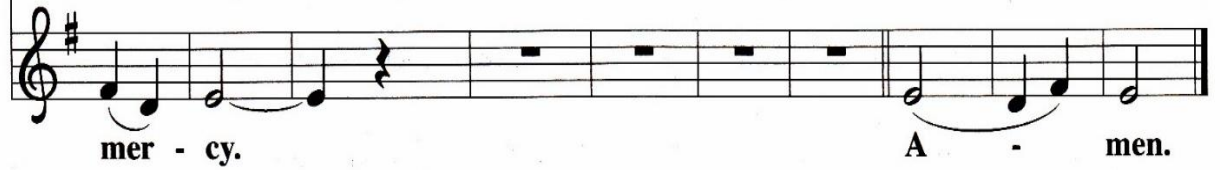


word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have



Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.

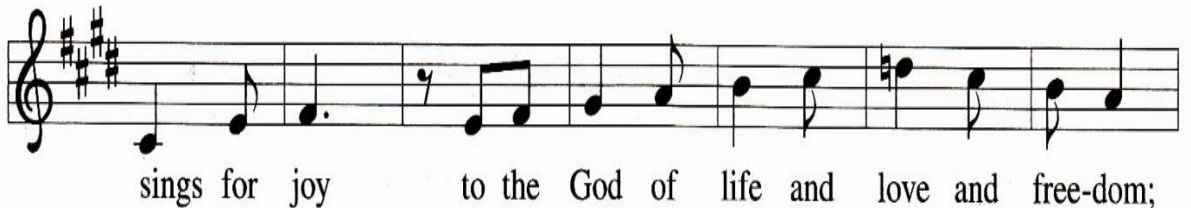


mer - cy. A - men.

Refrain



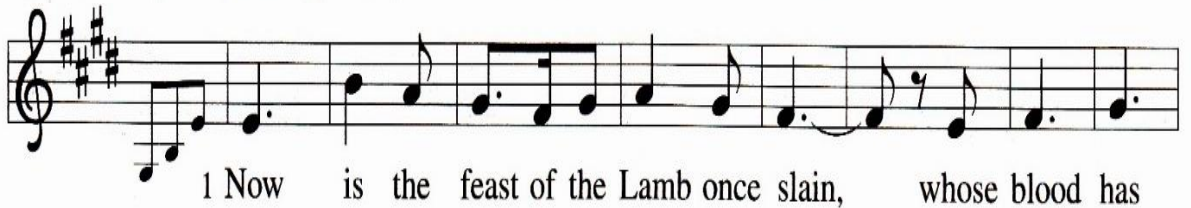
Now the feast and cel - e - bra-tion, all of cre - a - tion



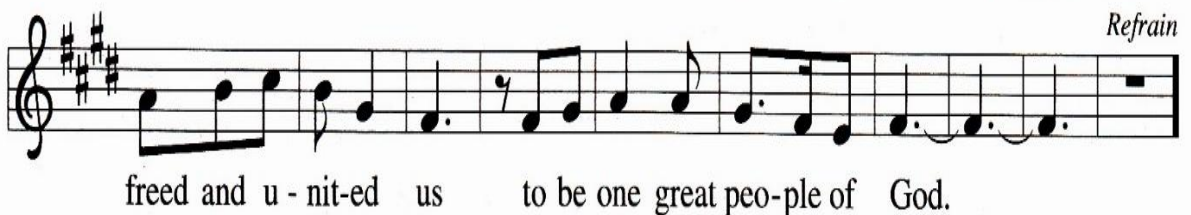
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo-ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

Refrain

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and
Refrain
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of
Refrain
God; to make all things new.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray together...**Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and

shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹²“For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 65:9-13

⁹ You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it;
the river of God is full of water;

you provide their grain, for so you have prepared it.

¹⁰ You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges,
softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

¹¹ You crown the year with your bounty;
your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.

¹² The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
the hills gird themselves with joy,

¹³ the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,
the valleys deck themselves with grain,
they shout and sing together for joy.

SECOND READING

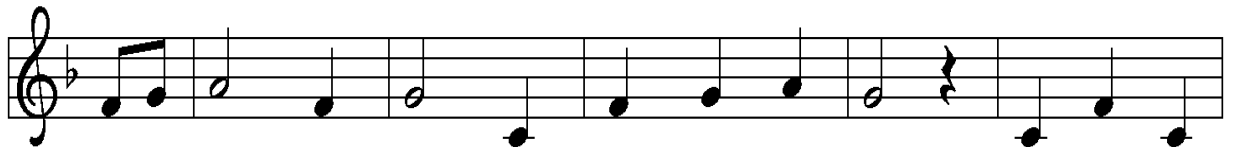
Romans 8:1-11

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their

minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

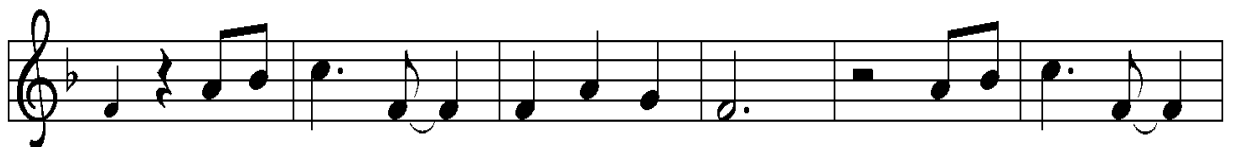
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord!

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹He who has ears, let him hear.”

¹⁸“Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

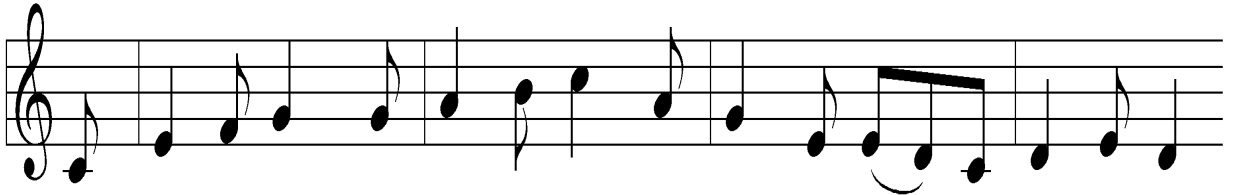
The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ!

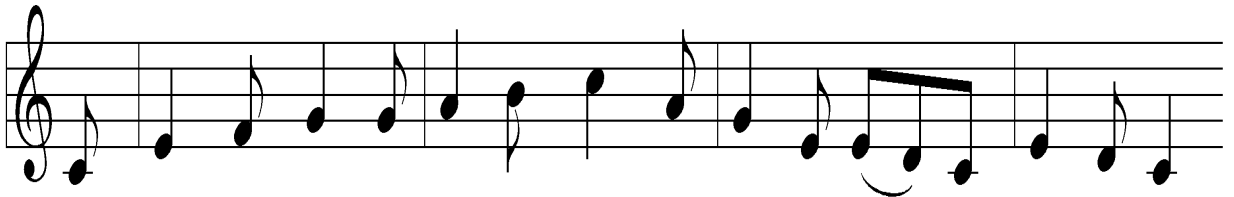
SERMON

Pastor Gary Heltsley

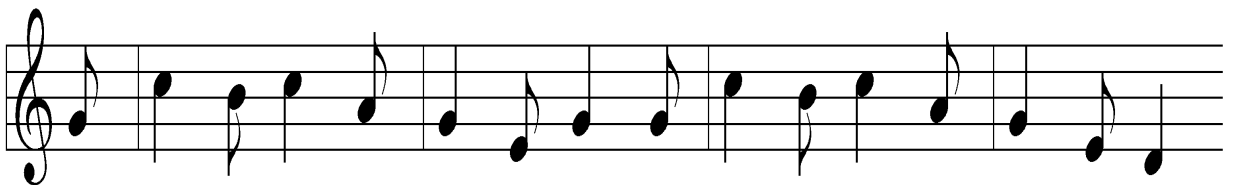
HYMN OF THE DAY *“Sweet Hour of Prayer”*



1 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, that calls me from a world of care,
2 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, thy wings shall my pe - ti - tion bear
3 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, may I thy con - so - la - tion share,



and bids me at my Fa-ther's throne make all my wants and wish-es known.
to him whose truth and faith-ful - ness en - gage the wait - ing soul to bless;
till from Mount Pis - gah's loft - y height I view my home and take my flight.



In sea - sons of dis - tress and grief my soul has of - ten found re - lief.
and since he bids me seek his face, be - lieve his word and trust his grace,
With joy I'll has - ten to the place where God my Sav - ior shows his face,



and oft es-caped the tempt-er's snare by thy re - turn, sweet hour of prayer.
I'll cast on him my ev - 'ry care, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.
and glad - ly take my sta - tion there, thy prom - ise gained, sweet hour of prayer.

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P) Let us lift our hearts, hands, and voices in prayer to God on behalf of all people.

A brief silence is kept.

Heavenly Father, thank you for the simple images of seeds and soil. Thank you for using what we're familiar with to convey deep truths. Thank you that we don't need a Ph.D. to bear rich fruit. Let us always give you glory, and nourish people who are hungry for your healing and love.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Deal mercifully with this congregation. Make everything we say and do be faithful and fruitful. Uproot the deep-rooted weeds and remove the stubborn stones of sin from the fields of our lives. Break

down the hard-trodden paths of worldly customs. Make your Word grow richly in us, so that many are fed by it.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Thank you for favorable weather and fruitful earth; for the fields and orchards, flocks and herds, streams and seas, which nourish us all. Bless farmers and ranchers, fishermen and shepherds and gardeners. Help us to be generous stewards of your bounty, sharing with all who are in need.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

We pray for this nation, beset by troubles and strife, yet still our beloved country. Reform its laws, purify its speech, instruct its leaders, and soften every heart to see each other as your beloved children, created in your image and redeemed at great cost by your dear Son.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Help us to walk alongside others who struggle with doubt, grief, or despair. Help us speak words that are clear, faithful, truthful, and loving. Help us to enrich their faith in you. Help all of us to bear much fruit, to your glory.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Bring healing and hope to everyone who is afflicted by sorrow, suffering and sin, especially those we name out loud or silently in our hearts (*allow time for silent and spoken prayers*). Lead them out of their darkness into the brightness of your saving love.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Thank you, dear Father, for all who have died trusting in you. Give us nourishment for our bodies, hope for our hearts, and your Spirit to abide with us along life's way. Crown our years with blessing. By

the merits of your dear Son, gather us safely to yourself, where with all whom you have redeemed, we may sing with joy forever.
Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

P) Hear our prayers, dear Father, for the sake of your beloved Son, and answer them with what is best for us and what will give you glory. *Amen.*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING



OFFERTORY *Doxology*
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. A-men

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together...**Loving God, we give you thanks for the generous gifts you have first given us. May that which we offer to you, come joyfully from our hearts and be pleasing in your sight. Amen.**

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 Him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right...and join their unending hymn:

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION



THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Sung)*

*Our Father, which 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 debts, as we
 forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us
 from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
 forever. Amen*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION – We believe and teach that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine/juice, which are his body and blood. All who trust in Christ are welcome at the Lord's Table (*the red liquid is wine; the white liquid is grape juice*).



“Lamb of God”

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

Have mercy on us.

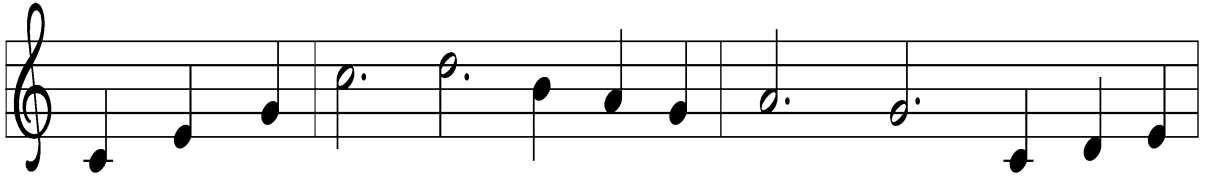
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

Grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

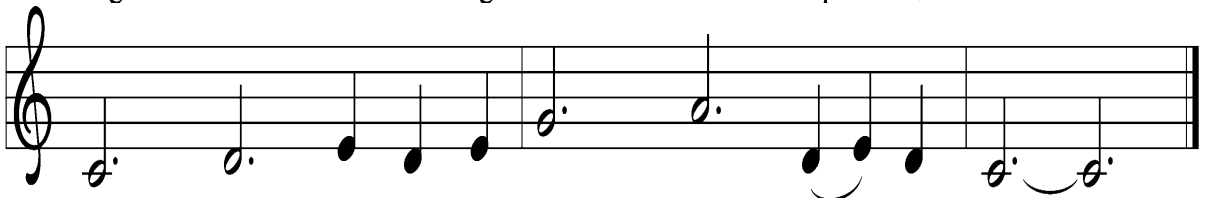
“Baptized in Water”



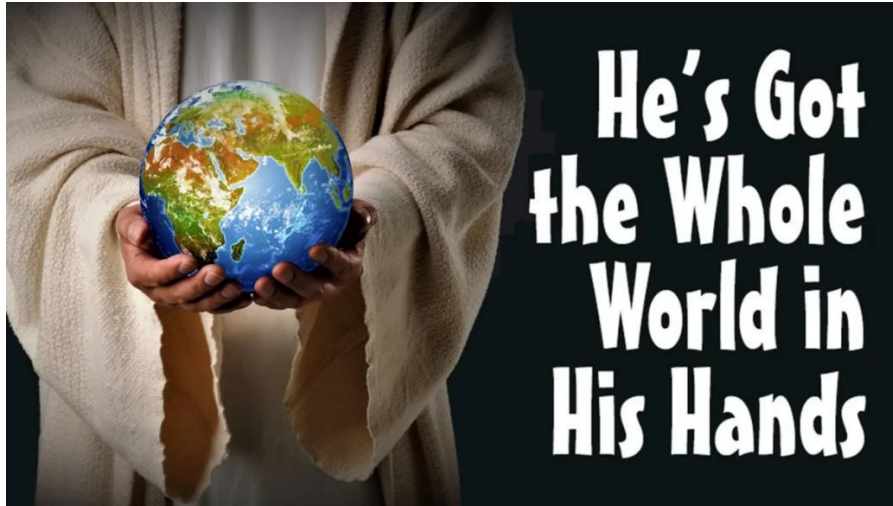
1 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the
2 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the
3 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the



blood of Christ our king: heirs of sal - va - tion, trust-ing his
tomb with Christ our king: one with his ris - ing, freed and for -
sign of Christ our king: born of the Spir - it, we are God's



prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.



“He’s Got the Whole World”

¹ He’s go the whole world in His Hands.
He’s got the whole world in His Hands.
He’s got the whole world in His hands.
He’s got the whole world in in His hands.

² He’s got the wind and the rain in His hands.
He’s got the wind and the rain in His hands.
He's got the wind and the rain in His hands.
He’s got the whole world in in His hands.

³ He’s got the little tiny baby in His hands.
He’s got the little tiny baby in His hands.
He’s got the little tiny baby in His hands.
He’s got the whole world in His hands.

⁴ He’s got ev’rybody here in His hands.
He’s got ev’rybody here in His hands.
He’s got ev'rybody here in His hands.
He’s got the whole world in His hands.

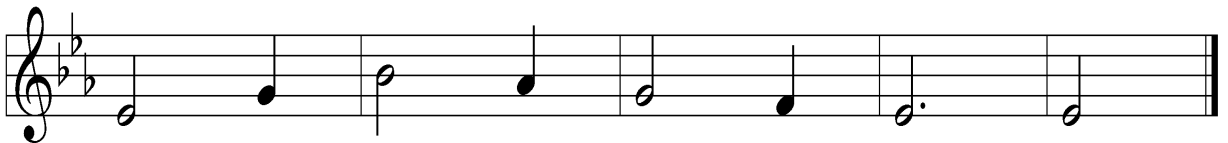
"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if I am
soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant pas - tures
love he sought me, and on his shoul - der gent - ly
Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my com - fort



his and he is mine for - ev - er.
grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

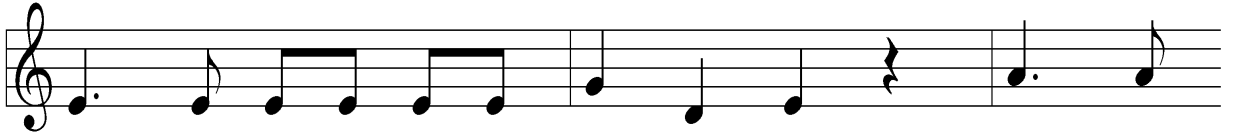
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you, and keep you in His grace. *Amen.*

Let us pray together... **We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you, and in fervent love toward one another, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen***

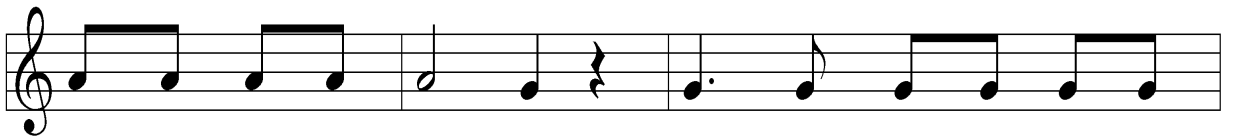
BLESSING

SENDING SONG

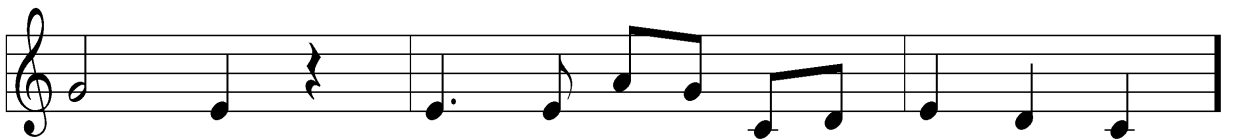
“God Be with You Till We Meet Again”



1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; by his
2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; 'neath his
3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's
4 God be with you till we meet a - gain; keep love's



coun - sels guide, up - hold you, with his sheep se - cure - ly
wings se - cure - ly hide you, dai - ly man - na still pro -
per - ils thick con - found you, put his arms un - fail - ing
ban - ner float - ing o'er you, smite death's threat-'ning wave be -

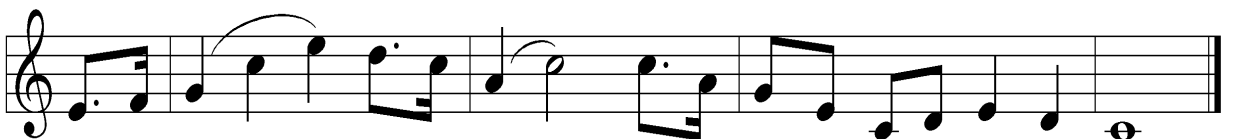


fold you;
vide you;
round you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.
fore you;

Refrain



Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Je - sus' feet;



till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

Rob Aaron – piano ~ Pr. Gary Heltsley – presiding

TODAY'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Greeters: Craig & Cheri Martin

Ushers: Brian & Sue Phinney

Reader: Joyce River

Sacristans: Arlene Burton & Joleen Wheaton

Communion Assistants: Bonnie O'Hanlon & Rosemary Wheaton

Barista: Michael Wright **Close Up:** Rosemary Wheaton



Altar Flowers: Cathy Moen

Last Week's Attendance: 87 **Last Week's Offering:** \$5,945.74

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good morning and welcome to ***NORTH BAY LUTHERAN COMMUNITY CHURCH!*** We hope you find inspiration and fellowship in our worship service. If you are a visitor, please feel free to fill out an attendance card located in the slot in front of you and drop it in the offering plate. We also invite you to stay for fellowship following our service.

We are glad that you're here!

Fellowship Time Today – Baked Potato Bar

Next Sunday, July 19th - Ice Cream Sundaes (ice cream provided by NBLCC; please bring your favorite ice cream sundae topping).

Dementia Support Group will meet on **Wed., July 15th at 10:00 am.** For more information, please contact Patty Rogers or call the church office.

Movie Night - You are invited to join Pastor Gary to view Season Two, Episode 1 of “*The Chosen*” on **Wed., July 15th at 6:00 pm.** We will gather in the Fellowship Hall to watch this episode and then have an informal discussion and time to share our thoughts. *All are welcome!*

Men’s Bible Study will meet on **Sat., July 18th at 8:00 am** as we continue our study of the book of Exodus.

Quarterly Giving Statements - If you would like to receive a quarterly giving statement which shows your donations to the church from 4/1/26 to 6/30/26, please contact the office. Statements will be prepared and available within two weeks.

Pastor Gary will be in the office Tues. through Thurs. from 9:30 am until noon.

Office Hours this week are 9:00 am to 1:00 pm – Tuesday through Friday.

Prayers – Please email or call the church with your prayer requests, or if you need pastoral care.

READINGS FOR JULY 19, 2026

Isaiah 44:6-8 ~ Psalm 86:11-17 ~ Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43



SERMON NOTES



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