

Come to Believe  Come to Belong

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 26, 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.

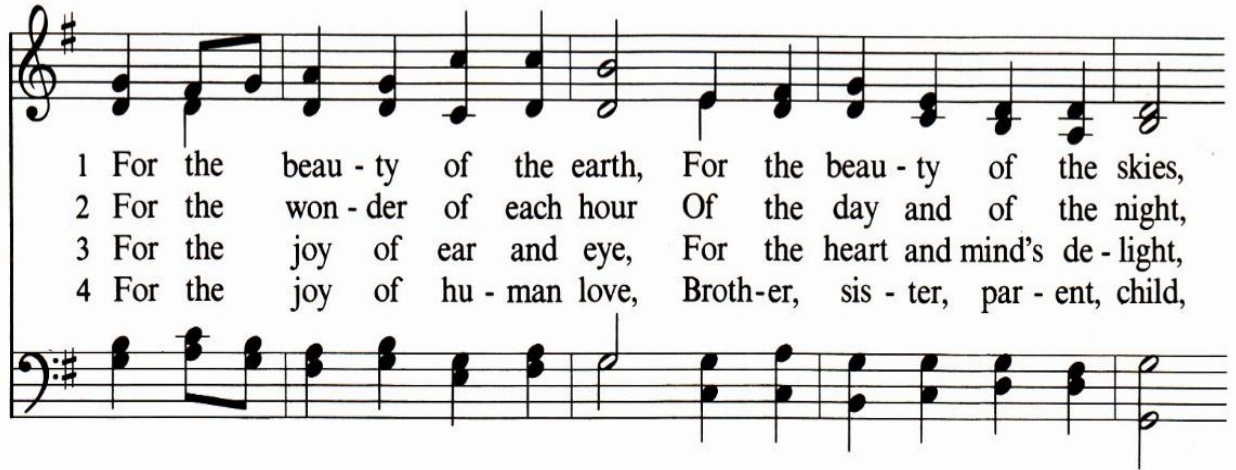
(Silence for self-reflection)

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.*

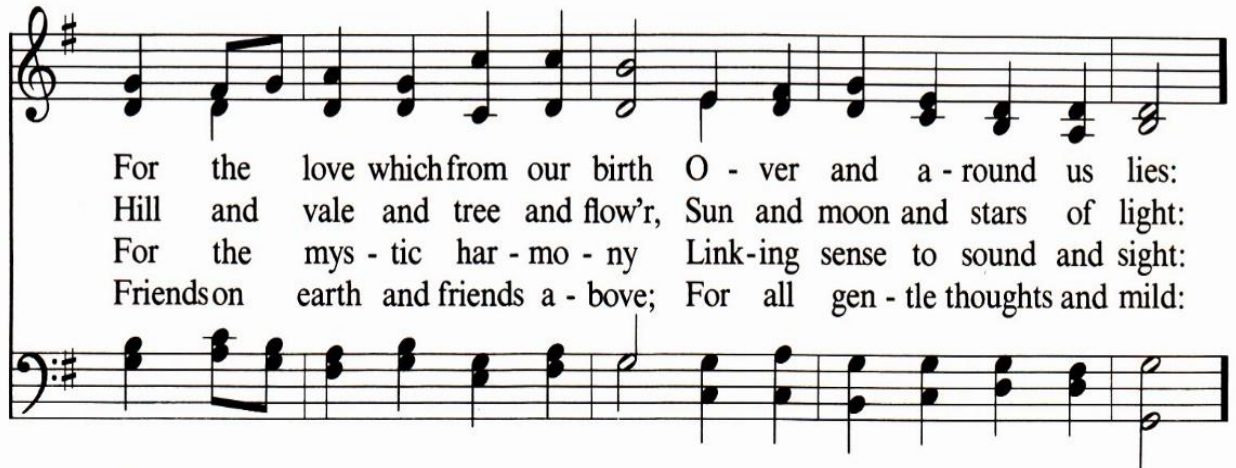
In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare unto you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the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

GATHERING SONG

"For the Beauty of the Earth"



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, For the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour Of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, Broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,



For the love which from our birth O - ver and a - round us lies:
Hill and vale and tree and flow'r, Sun and moon and stars of light:
For the mys - tic har - mo - ny Link - ing sense to sound and sight:
Friends on earth and friends a - bove; For all gen - tle thoughts and mild:



Refrain
Christ, our Lord, to you we raise This our sac - ri - fice of praise.

5 For yourself, best gift divine
To the world so freely giv'n;

Agent of God's grand design,
Peace on earth and joy in heav'n: *Refrain*

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



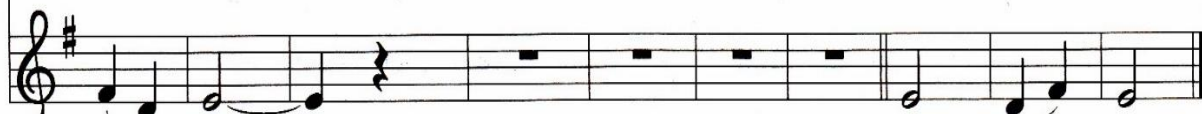
word, let us pray to the Lord.



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



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



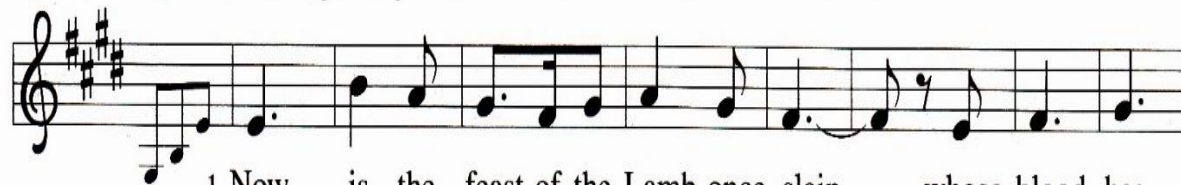
Now the feast and cel - e - bra-tion, all of cre - a - tion



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.

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...**Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. *Amen.***

SPECIAL MUSIC

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING

1 Kings 3:5-12

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this

day. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 119:129-136

¹²⁹ Your testimonies are wonderful;

therefore my soul keeps them.

¹³⁰ The unfolding of your words gives light;

it imparts understanding to the simple.

¹³¹ I open my mouth and pant,

because I long for your commandments.

¹³² Turn to me and be gracious to me,

as is your way with those who love your name.

¹³³ Keep steady my steps according to your promise,

and let no iniquity get dominion over me.

¹³⁴ Redeem me from man's oppression,

that I may keep your precepts.

¹³⁵ Make your face shine upon your servant,

and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶ My eyes shed streams of tears,

because people do not keep your law.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:26-39

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 13:31-32, 44-52

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

Glory to You, O Lord!

³¹He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. ³²It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸When it was full, men

drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ!

SERMON

Pastor Gary Heltsley



SERMON NOTES

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Trust and Obey"



1. When we walk with the Lord In the light of His Word
2. Not a bur - den we bear, Not a sor - row we share,
3. But we nev - er can prove The de - lights of His love
4. Then in fel - low - ship sweet We will sit at His feet



What a glo - ry He sheds on our way! Let us do His good will;
But our toil He doth rich - ly re - pay; Not a grief or a loss,
Un - til all on the al - tar we lay; For the fa - vor He shows
Or we'll walk by His side in the way; What He says we will do,



He a - bides with us still, And with all who will trust and o - bey.
Not a frown or a cross, But is blest if we trust and o - bey.
And the joy He be - stows Are for them who will trust and o - bey.
Where He sends we will go; Nev - er fear, on - ly trust and o - bey.



Trust and o - bey, for there's no oth - er way To be



hap - py in Je - sus, But to trust and o - bey.

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.

Dear Father, thank you for giving to your people the gift of your holy Word in the Scriptures. Thank you for your dear Son Jesus, the Pearl of great price. Thank you for making us your beloved people!

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

Keep this congregation in your care, knowing that nothing can separate us from your love for us in Christ Jesus. By the gracious power of your Spirit, draw many to faith in Jesus, so they may never be separated from your love. Use our words and deeds to share that love with those around us who need it most.

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

Bless your people the Jews. You chose them not because they were great but because you loved them. From them you brought forth your dear Son Jesus. Keep them in your protective and loving embrace. Bring them and us into the fulness of joy you have prepared for all who love you.

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

We pray for justice, harmony, and safety to flourish in this land. We pray for wrongdoers to be held accountable for their deeds, and to repent of them. We pray for wise words, not inflamed rhetoric, from our leaders. We pray for constructive decisions from those entrusted with authority. We pray, that in all circumstances, your will be done. Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

We pray for the sick, injured, dying and bereaved, and for everyone who struggles with the tribulations of this life. Especially those we name out loud or silently in our hearts (*allow time for silent and spoken prayers*). Help us to show them that, though the world seems against them, *you* are for them, and you love them.

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

Most Holy Father, we remember before you our beloved dead. Teach us to treasure your Son. Whatever trials we endure in this life, grant the blessed outcome promised to all who love you. In your great mercy, bring us into your Kingdom. There, with all the redeemed, may we rejoice in your love and delight in you 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:

 *Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest*

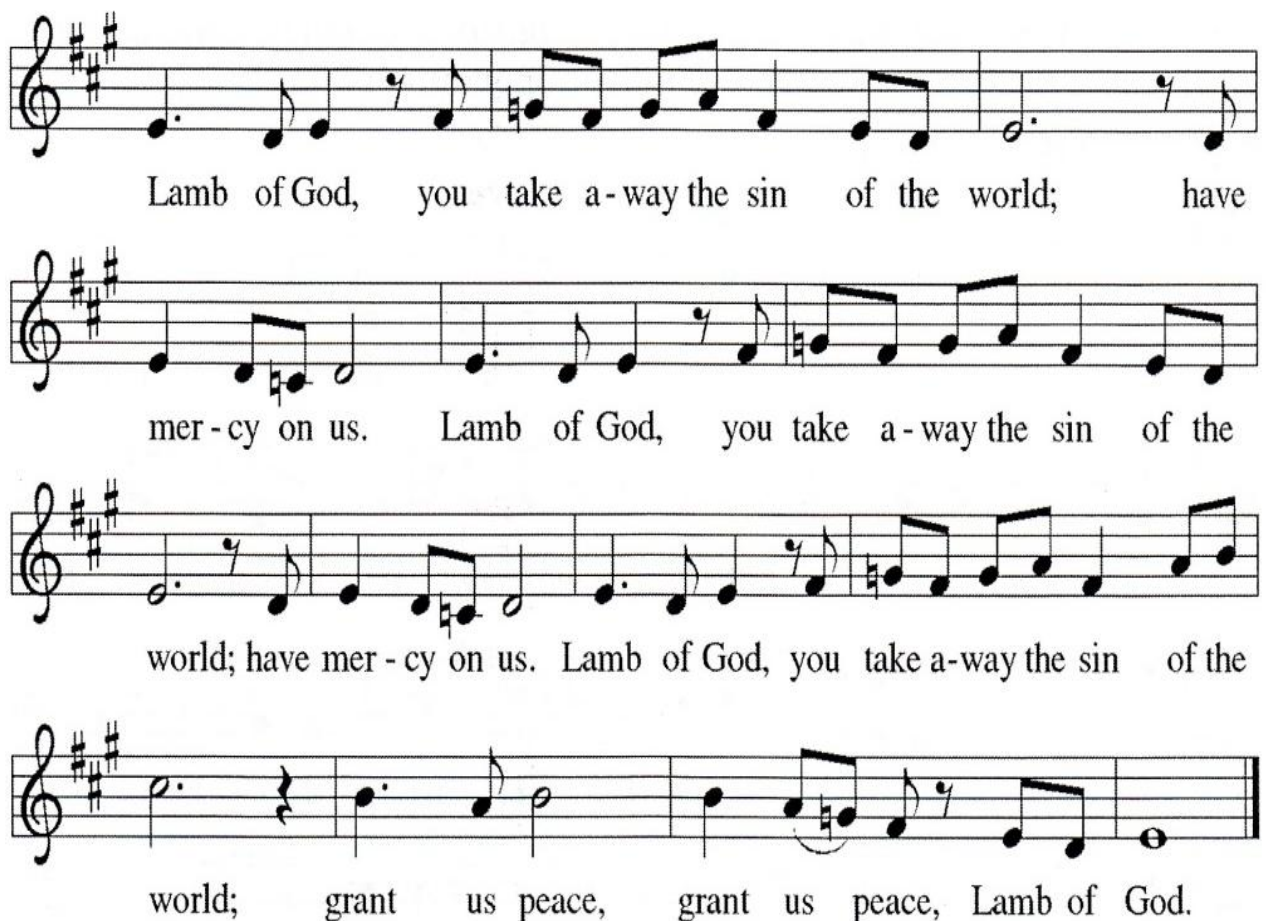
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

 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"



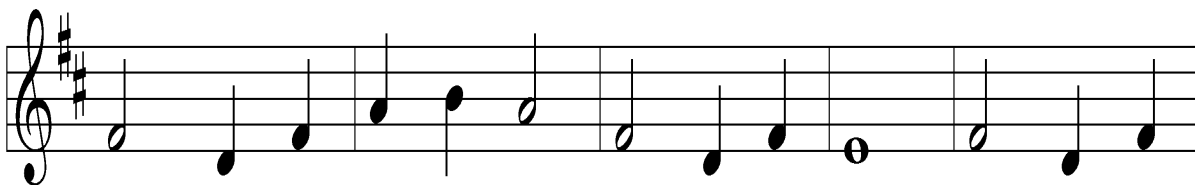
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

For the bread of God is He who comes down out
of heaven and gives life to the world.

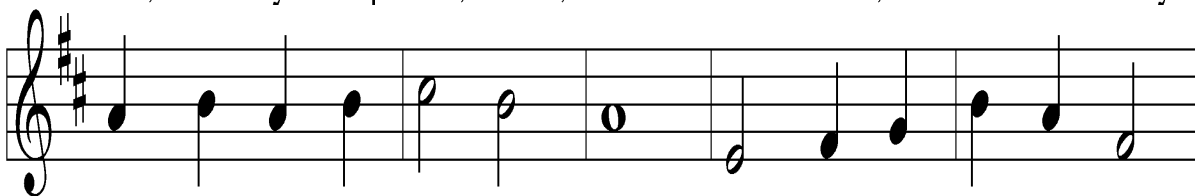
John 6:33



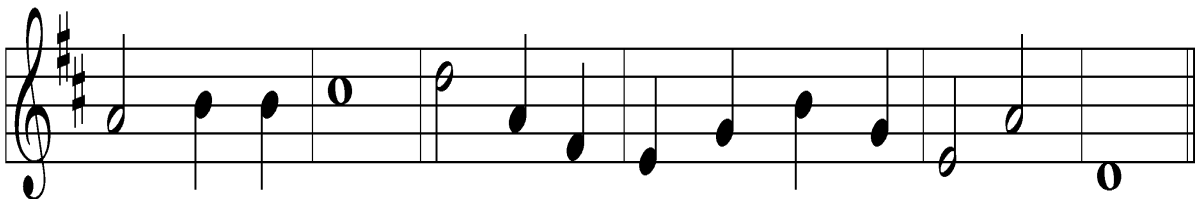
"Break Now the Bread of Life"



- 1 Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, as once you
- 2 Bless your own truth, dear Lord, to me, to me, as when you
- 3 You are the bread of life, O Lord, to me, your ho - ly
- 4 Oh, send your Spir - it, Lord, now un - to me, that he may

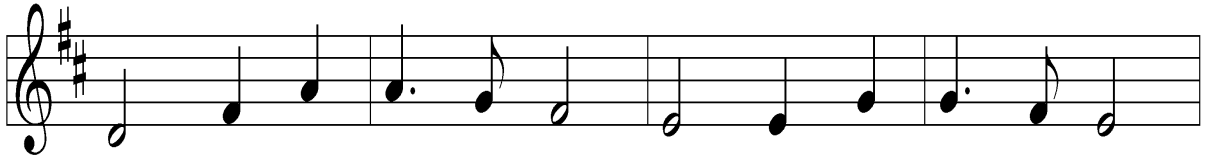


broke the loaves be - side the sea. Be - yond the sa - cred page
blest the bread by Gal - i - lee. Then shall all bond-age cease,
word the truth that res - cues me. Give me to eat and live
touch my eyes and make me see. Show me the truth con-cealed

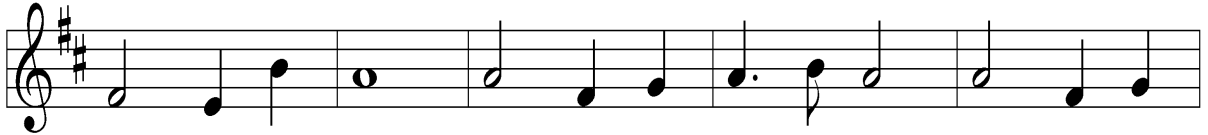


I seek you, Lord; my spir - it waits for you, O liv - ing Word.
all fet - ters fall; and I shall find my peace, my All - in - All!
with you a - bove; teach me to love your truth, for you are love.
with - in your word, and in your book re - vealed I see my Lord.

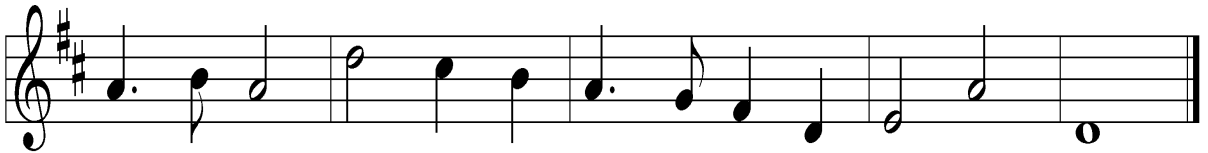
"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"



- 1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
- 2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
- 3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
- 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor-row's
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
trust re-move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

"He Has Made Me Glad" (2 times)

**I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart
I will enter His courts with praise
I will say this is the day that the Lord has made
I will rejoice for He has made me glad**

**He has made me glad
Oh, He has made me glad
I will rejoice for He has made me glad
He has made me glad
Oh, He has made me glad
I will rejoice for He has made me glad**

"This is the Day" (2 times)

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the
Lord has made; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be
glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the
Lord has made; we will re-joyce and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

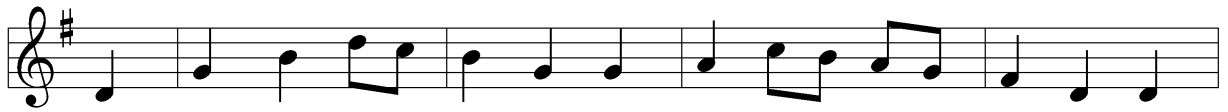
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you, and keep you in His grace. *Amen.*

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

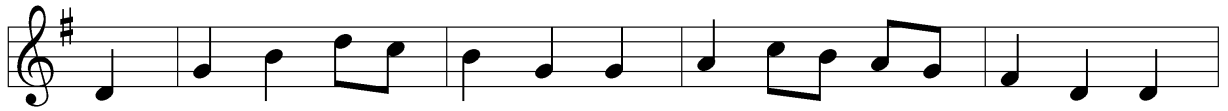
"Sent Forth by God's Blessing"



1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, our true faith con - fess - ing, the
2 With praise and thanks-giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing, the



peo - ple of God from his dwell - ing take leave.
tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face.



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed the
Our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em -



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



The seed of his teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach-ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



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



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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Rob Aaron - piano ~ Pr. Gary Heltsley – presiding

TODAY'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Greeters: Shelley Marion & Sue Nichols

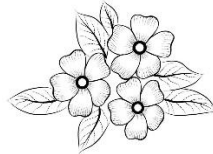
Ushers: Howard & Jan Thoemke

Reader: Sandi Fleury

Sacristans: Joleen Wheaton & Janet Wright

Communion Assistants: Sandy Flett & Mary Severeid

Barista: Michael Wright **Close Up:** Dave Severeid



Altar Flowers: Duane Olive
(In memory of Walli Olive)

Last Week's Attendance: 108 **Last Week's Offering:** \$3,885.00

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!

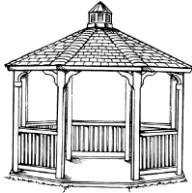
Fellowship Time Today – Finger Sandwiches and Chips

Next Sunday, Aug. 2nd - Birthday Cake provided by NBLCC

Dementia Support Group will meet on **Wed., July 29th 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 3 of “*The Chosen*” on **Wed., July 29th 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., Aug. 1st at 8:00 am** as we continue our study of the book of Exodus.



Save the date – Three weeks from today, on **Sunday, August 16th** we will gather for our annual “***North Bay on the Bay Sunday***” at the Gazebo at the Port of Allyn for a church service followed by a potluck. The Church will provide pulled pork sandwiches, water and coffee. You can bring your favorite side, salad, or dessert, keeping in mind we will be serving on paper plates. If you are available to help set up and serve the food, please contact Rosemary Wheaton. If you can help with set up and break down contact Pastor Gary.

New Pastor’s Bible Study - On **Thursday, August 20th at 4:00 pm**, we will be starting a new Bible Study each Thursday evening led by Pastor Gary. We will begin with Luke’s Gospel. *Everyone is invited to attend.* Please contact the office if you have any questions.

Pastor Gary will not be in the office this week (but you can call the office if you need to reach him). **Office Hours** this week are 9:00 am to 1:00 pm – Monday through Friday.

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

READINGS FOR AUGUST 2, 2026

Isaiah 55:1-5 39 ~ Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21 ~ Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

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