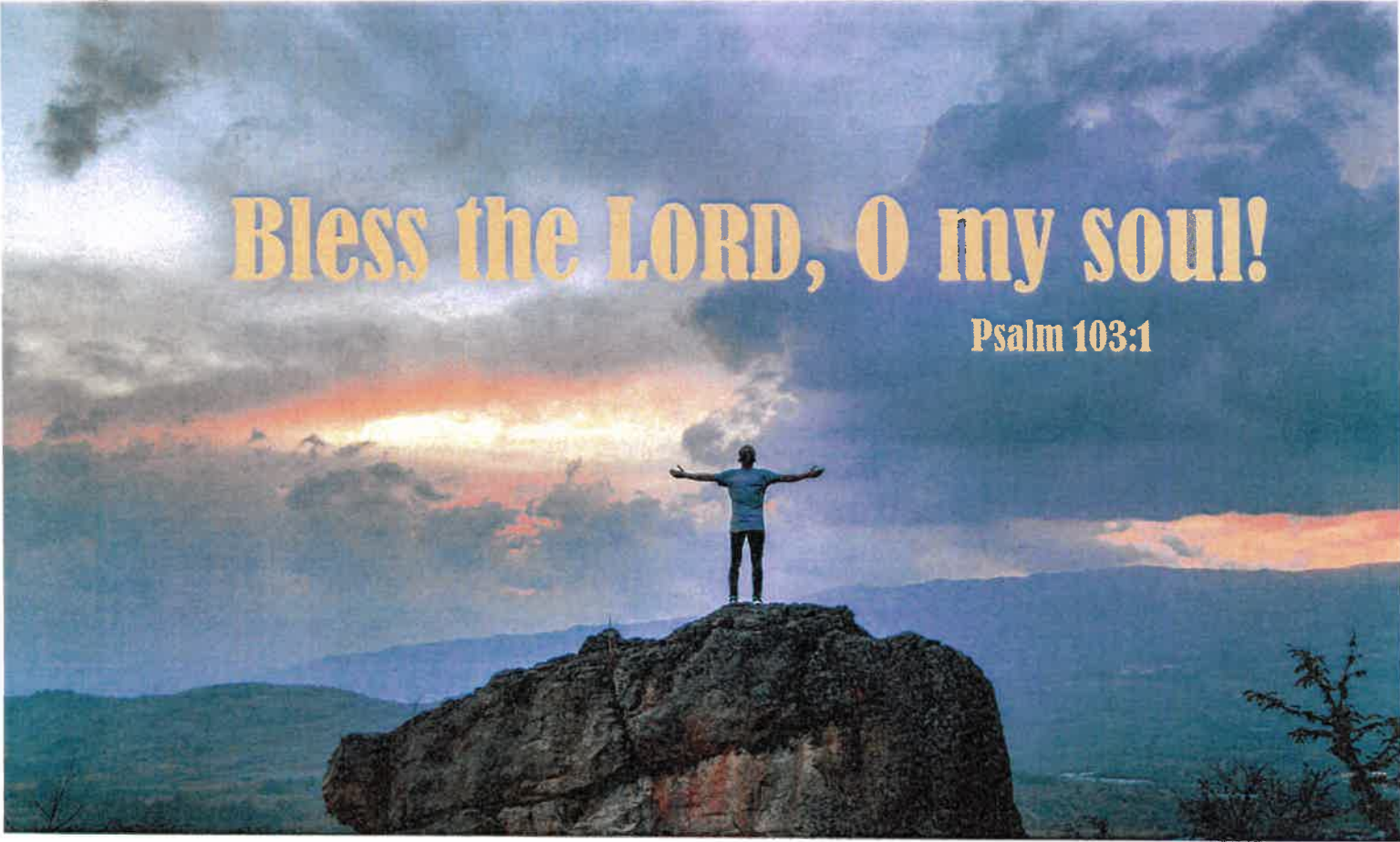


A photograph of a person standing on a large, dark rock in the foreground, with their arms outstretched towards a dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The background shows rolling hills and a body of water.

Bless the LORD, O my soul!

Psalm 103:1

**Sixteenth Sunday
after Pentecost
September 13, 2026**

**Faith Lutheran Church
311 Judges Rd. 2B Wilmington, NC 28405
www.flcwnc.org**

Welcome to our Visitors!

Welcome in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are glad you are here. It is our sincere prayer that God would refresh you by His Holy Word and Sacrament and that you would take with you His peace and joy. If you would care to give us your contact information, we would like to get to know you better and keep in touch. If you have questions or are interested in membership, please speak to anyone here.

Holy Communion

We come to the table at the invitation of the Lord, receiving the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of our sins. Christians who share this faith and wish to join us at the table are welcome. Young children may be brought forward for a blessing.

Mission Statement

“...that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

1 Peter 2:9

+++++

Ministers: Members of Faith Lutheran Church

Pastor: Paul Ebert

Director of Parish Music: Debra Ebert

Mailing Address:

Faith Lutheran Church

1319 Military Cutoff Suite CC/200

Wilmington, NC 28405

Website: www.flcwnc.org

Phone: 910-399-7813

Email: office@flcwnc.org

Today's liturgy and /or hymns are reprinted from Lutheran Service Book, 2006, License #1-199; Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 2010; Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978; Psalter for Worship, 1998; Worship and Praise, 1999; Breaking Bread, 2022; Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-7730266; CCLI #11599406. All rights reserved. Front cover picture from Sola Publishing.

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sept. 13, 2026

Chicago Folk Service

*indicates to please stand

Bold-congregation responses

PRELUDE “We Have a Saviour” *Music by Reuben Morgan and Ben Glover*
Arr. by John Cumberland

***CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

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.

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have turned from You and given ourselves into the power of sin. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In Your compassion forgive our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to You, and uphold us by Your Spirit, so that we may live and serve You in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God our Father does care about us. In His mercy, He has given His Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of the church of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, +Son and Holy Spirit. May Almighty God strengthen and preserve you unto life everlasting.

Amen.

*ENTRANCE HYMN Prayer of St. Francis

VERSES 1, 2, 4

C

1. } Make me a chan-nel of your peace. _____ Where there is ha-tred,
 2. } Make me a chan-nel of your peace. _____ Where there's de-spair in
 4. } Make me a chan-nel of your peace. _____ It is in par-don-

G7

1. let me bring your love. _____ Where there is in - ju - ry, your par-don,
 2. life, let me bring hope. _____ Where there is dark-ness _____ on - ly
 4. ing that we are par-doned, _____ In giv - ing of our - selves that we re -

[G7] **1** **C** **D.C. to Verse 2**

1. Lord, _____ And where there's doubt, true faith in you. _____
 2. light, _____ And where there's sad - ness
 4. ceive, _____ And in dy - ing that we're

2 **C** **to Verse 3** **Final** **C** **Fine**

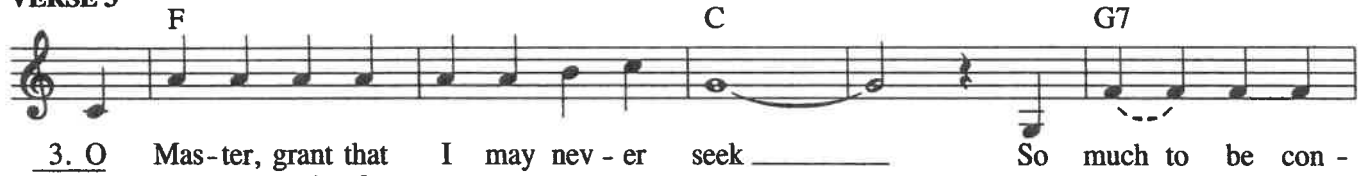
2. ev - er _____ joy. _____ 4. born to e - ter - nal life. _____

Text: Based on the prayer traditionally ascr. to St. Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226; Sebastian Temple, 1928-1997.
 Music: Sebastian Temple.
 Text and music © 1967, 2003, OCP. All rights reserved. Dedicated to Mrs. Frances Tracy.

***ENTRANCE HYMN Prayer of St. Francis (Cont.)**

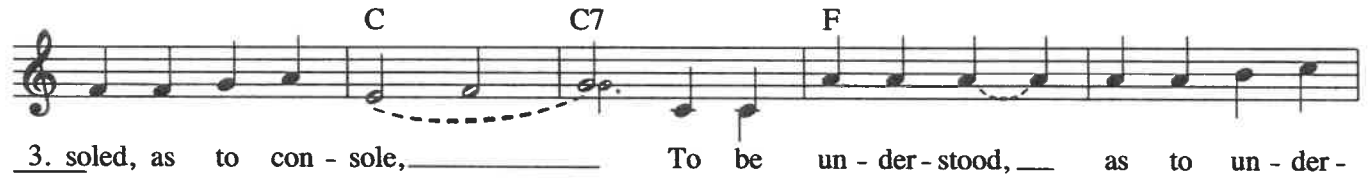
VERSE 3

F C G7



3. O Mas-ter, grant that I may nev - er seek _____ So much to be con -

C C7 F



3. soled, as to con - sole, _____ To be un - der - stood, _____ as to un - der -

C D7 G G7 *D.C. to Verse 4*



3. stand, _____ To be loved, as to love, with all my soul. _____

***WELCOME**

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.

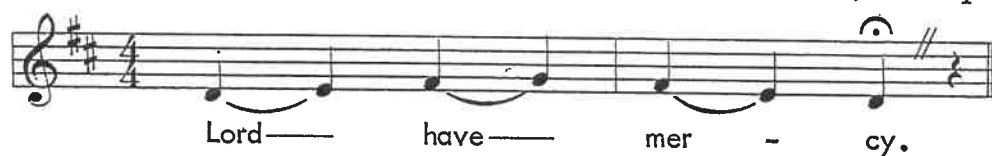
SERVICE OF THE WORD

***KYRIE – “DEACONS PRAYER”**

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace that is from above and for our resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the people of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



For this holy place and for those who in faith, devotion, and fear of God offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Help save, strengthen and defend us, O God by your grace.



*GLORIA IN EXCELSIS – “SONG OF PRAISE”

Glo-ry be to God on high, praise to you most

Ho - ly! O Lord God, Heav'n - ly King

God the Fa - ther Al - might - y! O Lord God,

Lamb of God, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther:

Christ who takes a - way our sin, have mer - cy up-

on us. For you on - ly Lord, O Christ,

with the Ho - ly Spir - it, are most high

in the glo - ry of — God the Fa - ther.

Glo - ry be to God on high! A - men.

The musical score is written on ten staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff features a key signature change to two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a time signature change to 2/2. The fourth staff continues the melody. The fifth staff features a time signature change to 4/4. The sixth staff continues the melody. The seventh staff continues the melody. The eighth staff continues the melody. The ninth staff continues the melody. The tenth staff concludes the piece with a double bar line.

*“GREETING” AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.



Let us pray...

O Lord, help your people to avoid the infection of the evil one, and with pure hearts to follow you, our only Lord. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

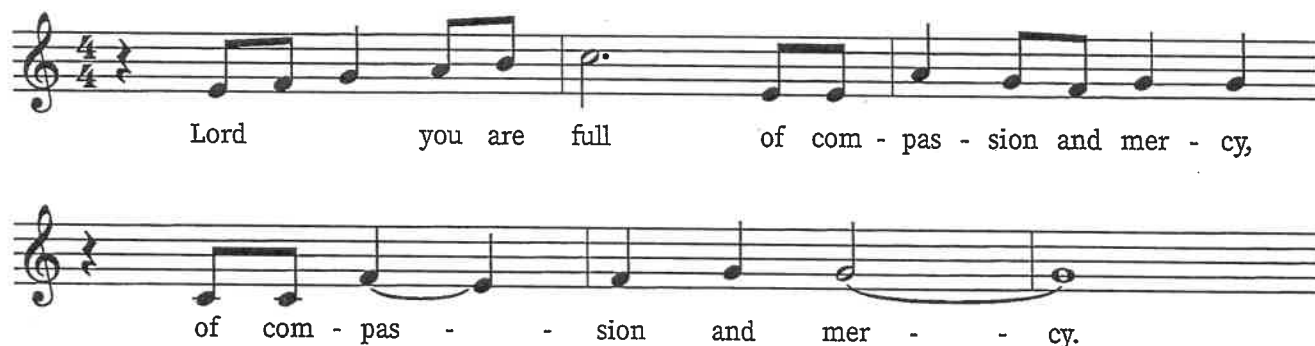
The First Reading is from Genesis, the 50th chapter.

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 103:1-12



- ¹Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
- ²Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits.
- ³He forgives all your sins
and heals all your infirmities;
- ⁴He redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with mercy and lovingkindness; **Refrain:**
- ⁵He satisfies you with good things,
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- ⁶The Lord executes righteousness
and judgment for all who are oppressed.
- ⁷He made his ways known to Moses
and his works to the children of Israel.
- ⁸The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness. **Refrain:**
- ⁹He will not always accuse us,
nor will he keep his anger forever.
- ¹⁰He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- ¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- ¹²As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our sins from us. **Refrain:**

SECOND READING

The Second Reading is from Romans, the 14th chapter.

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. ⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." ¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Al-le-lu-le, Alleluia" (vs 4 & 5)

Refrain

Sing praise to the Lord, — all the earth!

Al - le - lu - le, Al - le - lu - ia! *fine*

Play mu - sic to praise his name!

Al - le - lu - le, Al - le - lu - ia! (VERSE)

4. To Christ our heavenly king
Give thanks for everything.

5. He came to show us how
To live in the here and now.

*** GOSPEL**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Peter came up and said to {Jesus}, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants.

²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pr. Paul “Who’s Counting?”

HYMN OF THE DAY Loving and Forgiving

REFRAIN:

(a tempo)

Lov-ing and for - giv - ing are you, O Lord; slow to an - ger,

rich in kind-ness, lov-ing and for - giv - ing are you.

1 2-5 to Verses

Final

rit. *Fine* Melody

VERSESES:

Harmony

1. All my be - ing,
2. God for-gives us
3. Good and gra - cious
4. As heav - en soars a -

1. bless the Lord, 2. all our sins, 3. is the Lord, 4. bove the earth, so great the love of God for us. As far as east is

1. bless the Lord, 2. fi - nal death. God fills us with good - ness of God. 3. not our sins; for - giv - ing and good - ness and love. 4. from the west, the Lord takes our sins from us.

rit.

AS FAR AS
.....→
east
IS FROM
west
←.....

SO FAR HAS HE REMOVED
OUR TRANSGRESSIONS FROM US.

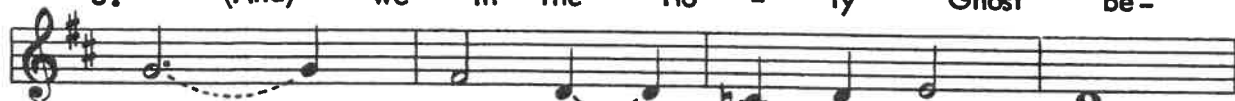
Psalms 103:12



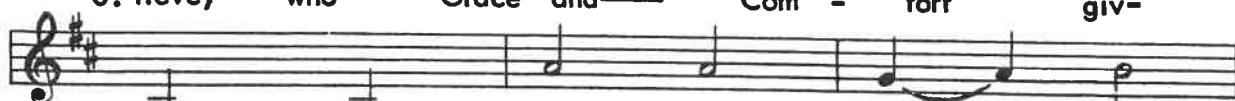
*APOSTLES CREED – “CREED”



1. We all be - lieve— in one true
 2. (And) we be - lieve— in Je - sus
 3. (And) we in the Ho - ly Ghost be -



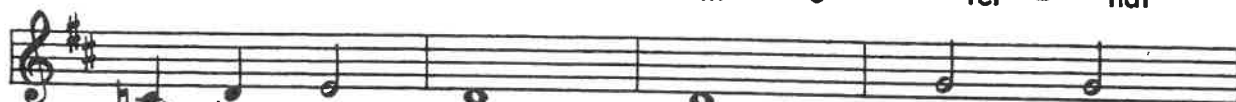
1. God — Mak - er of Earth — and Heav-
 2. Christ, his Son our — Lord — and Sav-
 3. lieve, who Grace and — Com - fort giv-



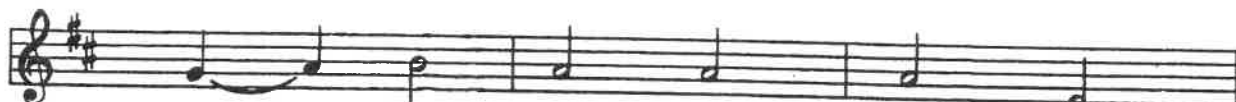
1. en, the Fa - ther who — to
 2. ior, the who and with the Fa - ther
 3. eth, and with the Fa - ther



1. us in love, hath the name of
 2. e - qual might, — hath pow'r of
 3. and the Son in e - ter - nal



1. chil - dren giv - en, He in
 2. glo - ry for - ev - er. Born of
 3. glo - ry liv - eth. Who all



1. soul — and bod - y feeds us.
 2. Mar - y Vir - gin Moth - er
 3. Chris - tian broth - ers e - ven



1. All we need — his hand pro-
 2. by the work - ing of the
 3. keeps in u - ni - ty of

*APOSTLE'S CREED (continued)



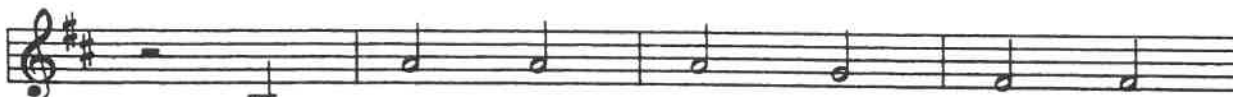
1. vides us, through all snares — and
 2. Spir - it, he be - came — our
 3. Spir - it, sins are tru - ly for-



1. per - ils leads us — sees no
 2. el - der broth - er, that Heav'n we
 3. giv - en through the — Blest Re-



1. harm — be - tides us.
 2. might — in - her - it.
 3. deem - er's mer - it.



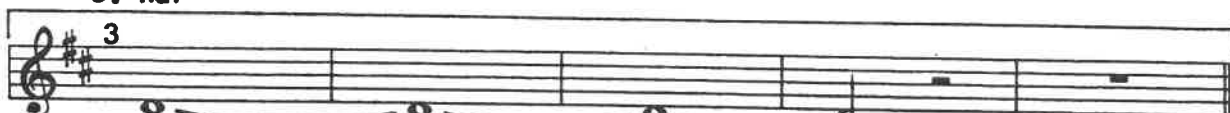
1. He cares for us by day and
 2. Was cru - ci - fied by sin - ful
 3. All flesh shall rise a - gain and



1. night, all things are gov - erned by —
 2. men, and raised by God to life —
 3. we shall live with God e - ter —



1. His — might. — And
 2. a - gain. — And
 3. nal —



3. ly. —

*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Lord, in your mercy...

Hear our prayer.

*PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always!

And also with you.

(Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.)

OFFERTORY "Grace Greater Than Our Sins" *Piano Solo*

Tune: MOODY by Daniel B. Towner

Arr. Tracey Craig McKibben

*"CREATE IN ME"

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O,

God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. —

Cast me not a - way from your pres-ence and

take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. — Re-

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up-

hold me with your spir - it free. — Cre-

ate in me a clean heart, O — God, and re-

new a right spir - it with - in me. —

The musical score is written for a piano solo in 3/4 time, featuring a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. The lyrics are written below the staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The score concludes with a double bar line.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

*Let us pray,

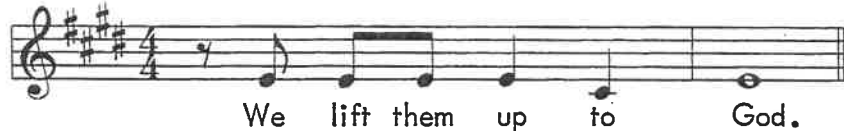
Gracious Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us; ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Receive them for the sake of Him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***“THANKSGIVING”**

The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.



Give thanks to the Lord.



It is truly right and proper at all times and places to give our thanks to you, Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, ever living God. Therefore, with angels and archangels and all the company of heav'n, we laud and magnify your glorious name evermore praising You and saying:

*SANCTUS

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of
Hosts. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Glo - ry be to you, O Lord most high.
Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. —
Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. — Ho-
san - nah in the high - est! —

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed; took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

*LORD'S PRAYER



1. Our Fa - ther who art in Heav -
2. (On) Earth as it is in Heav -
3. And for - give us our tres -
4. Lead us — not in - to temp -
5. (For) thine is the king - dom and the
6. (A-) men, A - men, it shall be



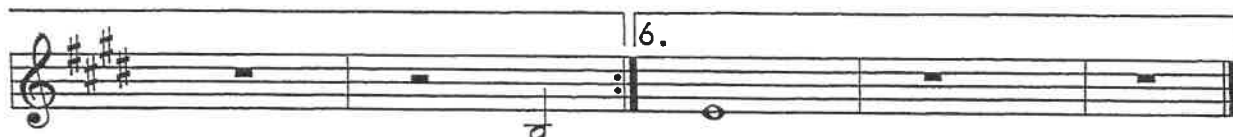
1. en, —
 2. en, —
 3. pass - es,
 4. ta - tion,
 5. pow - er,
 6. so, —
- 1-6. Hal - low - ed be Thy Name.



1. Thy — King - dom come, — Thy will be —
2. Give us this day our dai - ly
3. As we for - give those who tres - pass a -
4. But de - liv - er us from
5. And the glo - ry for - ev - er and
6. A - men, A - men, it shall be —



1. done, —
 2. bread, —
 3. gainst us,
 4. e - vil,
 5. ev - er,
 6. so. —
- 1-6. Hal - low - ed be Thy Name.



2. On
 - 3.
 - 4.
 5. For
 6. A -
6. Name.

When we eat this bread, we share the body of Christ.
When we drink this cup, we share the blood of Christ.

***AGNUS DEI – “LAMB OF GOD**

Christ, O Lamb of God, who takes a - way the
sin of the world,— have mer - cy on us.
Christ, O Lamb of God,
who takes a - way the sin of the world, have mer-cy on
us.
Christ, O Lamb of
God, who takes a - way the sin of the world,—
give us your peace.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ given for you.

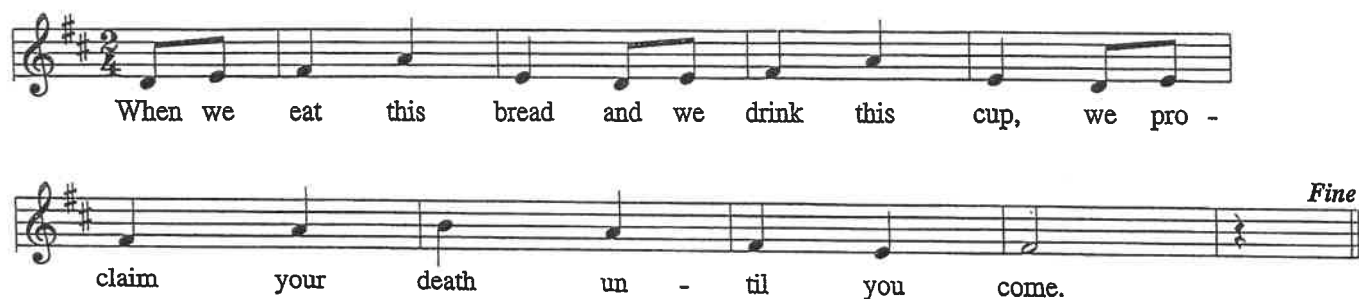
Amen.

The blood of Christ shed for you.

Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN When We Eat This Bread

REFRAIN



Where two or three are gathered together in my name,
Where two or three are gathered together, there am I.
How blessed are they who are called to the banquet of the Lord.

Come, you blessed of my Father, come to me.
Enter into God's holy kingdom full of joy.
How blessed are they who are called to the banquet of the Lord.

*The Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep us in His Grace.

Amen



*NUNC DIMITTIS – “SIMEON’S SONG”

Lord, now send your ser - vants forth in

peace ac - cord - ing to your word. —

Here we have seen your sav - ing

work done in the sight of all [man -

kind; to those in dark - ness a

prom - ise bright, — to be - liev - ers a liv - ing

hope. — Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, —

and to the Son, —

and to the Ho - ly Ghost; — as it was in

the be - gin - ing, — is now and ev - er

shall be, — world with - out end.

A - men.

*“BLESSING”

The Lord be with you.



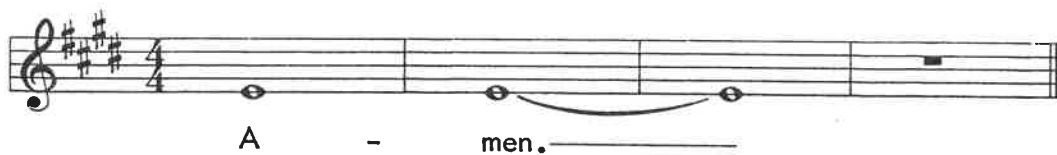
Bless we the Lord.



The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

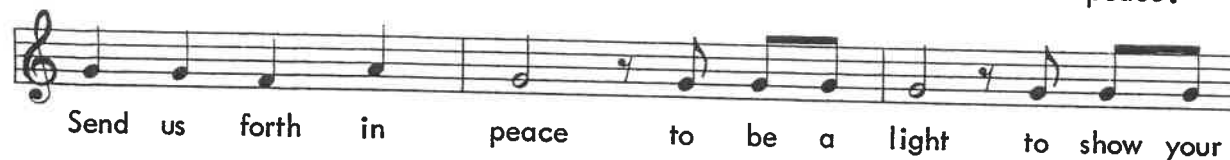
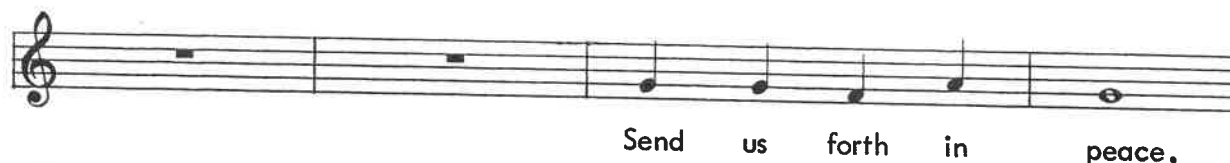
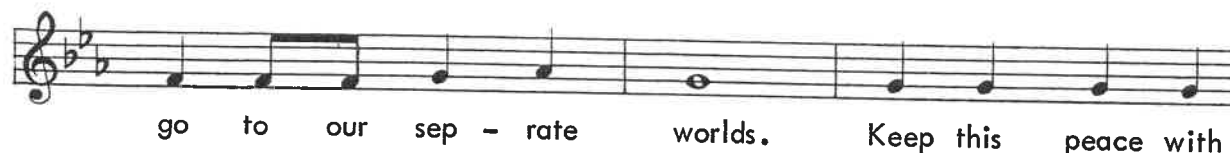
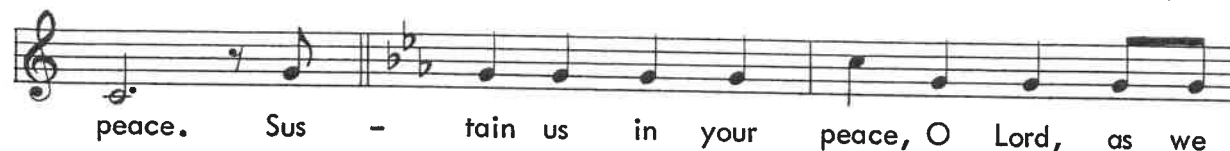
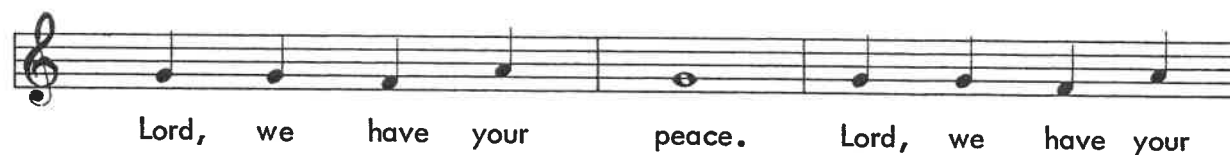
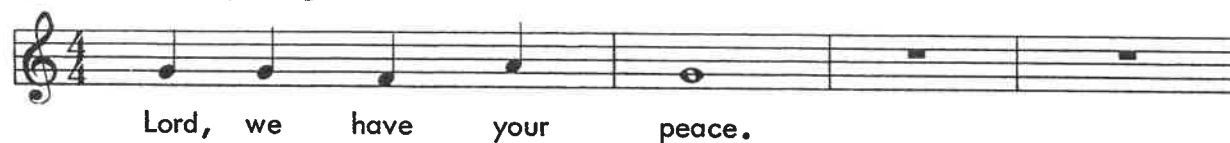
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.



Blessings

***“SEND US FORTH IN PEACE”**

Lord we have your peace.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Chicago Folk Service by Art Gorman, Neil A. Kjos Music Co. Publisher Park Ridge, IL 60068

+++++

Serving the Family of Faith

This Week: 9/13 CFS

Reader: Bill Palmer

Communion: Jerry Bramley

Fellowship: Connie Palmer

Usher: Ken Schiess

Worship Leader: Ray Porter

Guitarist: Lisa Hornick, Pr. Paul

Bass Guitarist: John Loeschen

Next Week: 9/20

Reader: Ken Schiess

Communion: Gina Schiess

Fellowship: Charlene Arone

Usher: Frank Gray

Birthdays: 9/16 Wed. Ray Porter

Reminders: 9/13 Start of Bible Study after Fellowship

10/18 Faith's picnic at Trinity Landing.

Please put it on your calendar!

Given to the glory of God: \$1,300.00