

A WARM WELCOME TO ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

8:30 AND 11:00 A.M.

SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

INTRODUCTION

James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

PRELUDE “Blessed Assurance” 8:30 Service Keveren **JEAN PONTIOUS**
“Come, Now Is the Time to Worship” 11:00 Service Doerksen **PRAISE AND WORSHIP BAND**

Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

C **Amen.**

P Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God, our provider,

C **help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

P Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "Open Your Ears of Faithful People" Vss. 1 & 2 WOV # 715



1 O - pen your ears, O faith-ful peo - ple, o - pen your ears and hear God's word.
2 They who have ears to hear the mes - sage, they who have ears, now let them hear;



O - pen your hearts, O roy - al priest-hood, God has come to you.
they who would learn the way of wis - dom, let them hear God's word.

Refrain



God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!

Hal-le-lu-jah!



God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!



God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

C And also with you.



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.



☐ Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al-might- y God and Fa- ther, we



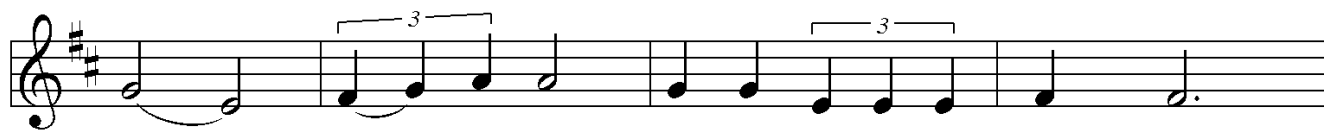
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



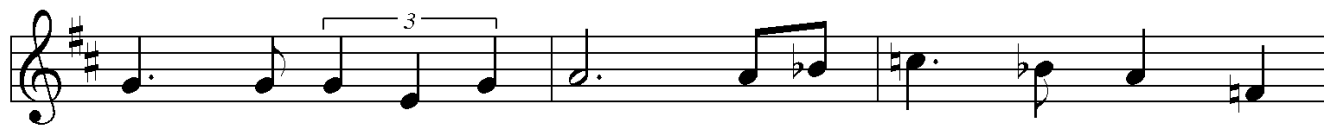
glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.



☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re- ceive our prayer.



C Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.



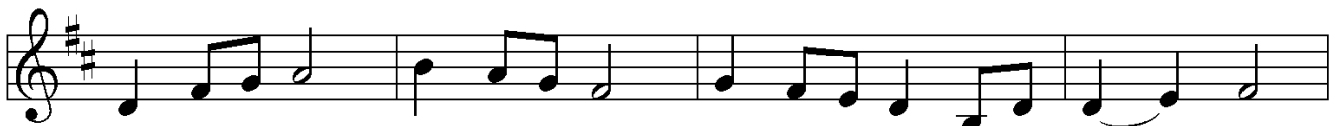
I
II For you a- lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir- it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa- ther, A - men.



C Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth,



and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray together the prayer of the day.

C **Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. Amen.**

Sit

WE HEAR THE WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a

These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,

with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,

and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,

and the thirsty ground springs of water.

After the reading:

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 146

I will praise the LORD as long as I live. (Ps. 146:2)

A Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

**C I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

A Put not your trust in rulers,
in mortals in whom there is no help.

**C When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish.**

A Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

**C who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**

A who gives justice to those who are oppressed,
and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.

**C The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the
righteous.**

A The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and
widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

**C The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND READING: James 2:1-17

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. ¹¹For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

After the reading:

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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

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

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

GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” And when she went home, she found the child lying on the bed and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went by way of Sidon toward the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then 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. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one, but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

After the reading:

A The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR AARON LAYNE

SPECIAL MUSIC

“HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING?”

8:30 SERVICE

HAYES

JEAN PONTIOUS

“WE’VE GOT THE SPIRIT”

11:00 SERVICE

CHOPLIN

ADULT CHOIR

APOSTLES’ CREED

A *Christians, what do we believe?*

C **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 catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- A Trusting God at work in and among us, we raise our hearts and voices in prayer for the needs of the world.
- A For your work in the church, we give thanks. Plant and tend relationships among faith communities, both ecumenical and interfaith, that in faithful listening, speech, and action, our hands work to bear fruit for the sake of all in need. God of grace, we pray,
- C hear us when we call.**
- A For your work in creation, we give thanks. Sustain peoples and places affected by climate change, ecological devastation and natural disasters. Prosper the work of creation-care ministries locally and globally, that with our minds and hearts opened, our hands work to lovingly care for the earth. God of life, we pray,
- C hear us when we call.**
- A For your work among the nations, we give thanks. Direct leaders in paths of honest service, that both their words and actions are carried out on behalf of those whom they serve. God of righteousness, we pray,
- C hear us when we call.**
- A For your work in places of need, we give thanks. Sustain all who are wearied by unemployment or lack of adequate food or housing, that we advocate for relief and just policy. Bring healing to all who are sick through the skillful hands and compassionate hearts of physicians, nurses, therapists and caregivers. (*We pray especially for....*) God of restoration, we pray,
- C hear us when we call.**
- A For your work in our neighborhoods, towns and cities, we give thanks. Guide our common life together so that children, youth and adults of all ages flourish. Teach us to listen attentively to our neighbors, that any new endeavors consider those who may be left out or underserved. God of wisdom, we pray,
- C hear us when we call.**

A For your work in this worshiping community, we give thanks. Bless the service project(s) of this day and throughout the year. Foster deeper connections among those who serve and a spirit of accompaniment as we work alongside those in our community. Strengthen our faith, that we trust God moving in and among us. God of love, we pray,

C hear us when we call.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A For your work among those who came before us, we give thanks. We remember those who have died and are held forever in your loving hands (*especially*). Hold us in your presence now and always. God of heaven and earth,

C hear us when we call.

A Receive these and all our prayers, gracious God. We pray in the name of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

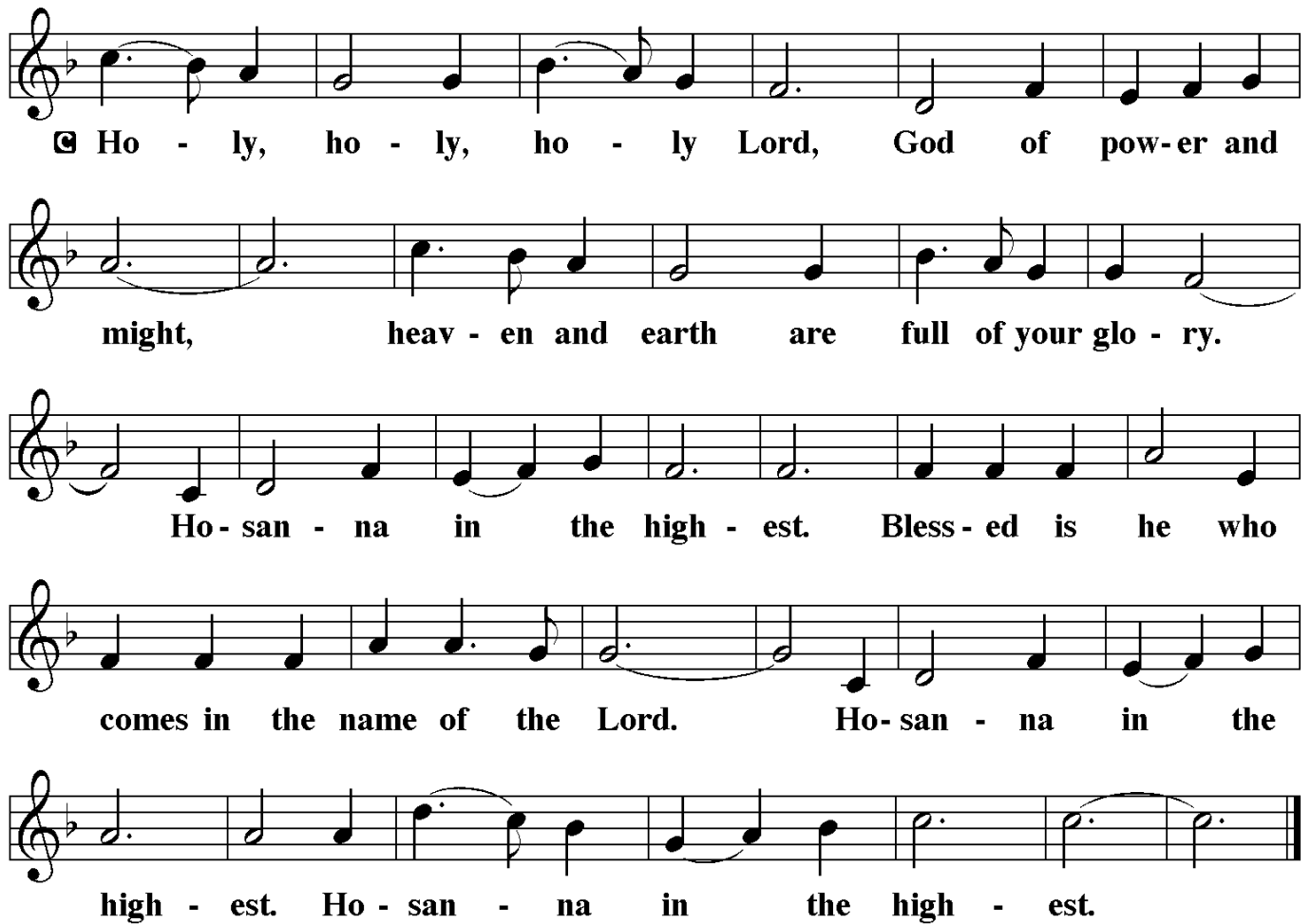
P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
 might, heav - en 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

- P Honor, praise, glory and thanksgiving to you, God, our loving Creator.
- P In the beginning you reached your hands into the earth and formed humanity in your own image. You breathed into us your own breath of love and gave us hearts and hands and voices to live your loving purpose in the world.
- P Seeing the lonely creature of earth, you created a partner that we would know the joy of community. Throughout the history of your people, you never abandoned us, but brought us into community with one another and with you, and guided us through your prophets. With endless patience and love, you called to us time and again to return to life with you.

- P In the fulfillment of all things, you came to us in Jesus, born into a human family, raised in a hometown, who gathered around himself a community formed by your love, and yearned to gather all people under the loving wings of a mother hen. Sitting at dinner with friends and knowing one among them would break the bonds of love, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying: Take and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.
- P In the same way after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me.
- P Trusting in his promise to be among us whenever we gather in his name, we proclaim the mystery of faith:
- C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
- P Gathered as your people, meeting in Jesus' name, and preparing ourselves to feast upon Jesus' very body and blood, we plead with all creation:
- C Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P Send your Spirit upon this meal, the body and blood of Jesus, that we overflow with your selfless love. Turn us to face our neighbors, that by us and through us your love may be known in the world. Again, we beg:
- C Come, Holy Spirit.**
- P All honor and praise and glory to you, God of creative, dirty hands, God of holy, wounded hands, God who strengthens and guides our hands, now and forever.
- C Amen.**

A 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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your 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.

DISTRIBUTION

Invitation to the Lord's Table – Believing in the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, this family of faith practices Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcomed to Communion when they are worshipping with us.

HOLY COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

As the ministers give the bread and cup to each communicant, they say these words:

The body of Christ, given for you. *The communicant may say: **Amen***

The blood of Christ, shed for you. *The communicant may say: **Amen***

This communion bread is free from: Gluten, Dairy, Nuts, Egg and Yeast.

Grape juice is available by request at the chancel rail.

After receiving the elements, you may return to your seats.

Please place your empty communion cup in the baskets provided on the first row of chairs.

P And now may the body of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and His most holy and precious blood, strengthen you and preserve you and keep you to true faith unto life everlasting. May we depart in peace and may the Lord be with you.

C **Amen**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A Let us pray. Holy Jesus, in this meal you have fed and nourished us to work in your beloved world. Send us now, filled with yourself and strengthened by your Spirit to live your love for others.

C **Amen.**

WE ARE SENT OUT TO SERVE

BLESSING

P God who sets forth the law of love, Jesus who fulfills the law for you, and the Spirit through whom you are called to love, + bless you this day, that you may be God's hands and heart and voice at work in the world.

C **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Blessed Assurance”

Vss. 1 & 3

WOV #699



1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



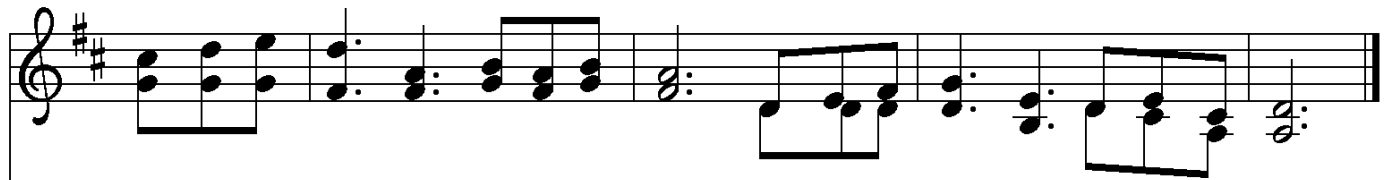
Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
 watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.



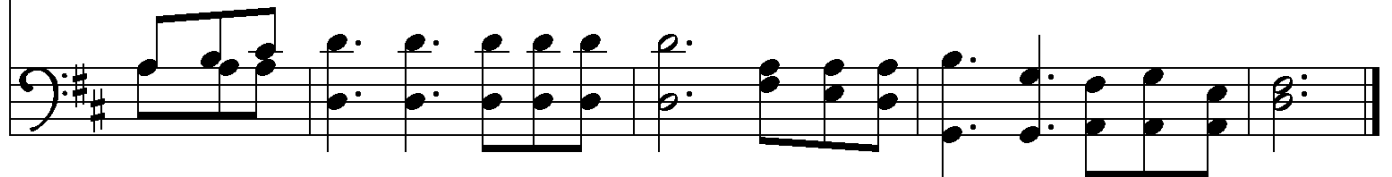
Refrain



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.



DISMISSAL

- A Go in peace. Worship God, Follow Jesus, Serve Others, and Make Disciples.
- C Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – September 8

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
ASSISTING MINISTER	BRENT WELCH	CRAIG FORSYTH
PASTOR	THE REV. AARON LAYNE	

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God in celebration of Jean Pontious' birthday from the Layne Family; and in loving memory of Lynda Robinson, mother of Stacy Bolzenius.



Please check the 2024 Altar Flower Chart located above the usher stand to order flowers in honor of someone special or celebrating special occasions. Price is \$22.00 per vase.

OUR ACTIVITIES AND HAPPENINGS

PRAYER BUDDY/OWL ICE CREAM PARTY – SEPTEMBER 18 AT 6:30 PM
YOUTH – CAMPFIRE COOKOUT AT THE LAYNES – SEPTEMBER 29 AT 12:30 PM
BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS - OCTOBER 6 AT 4:00 PM