

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

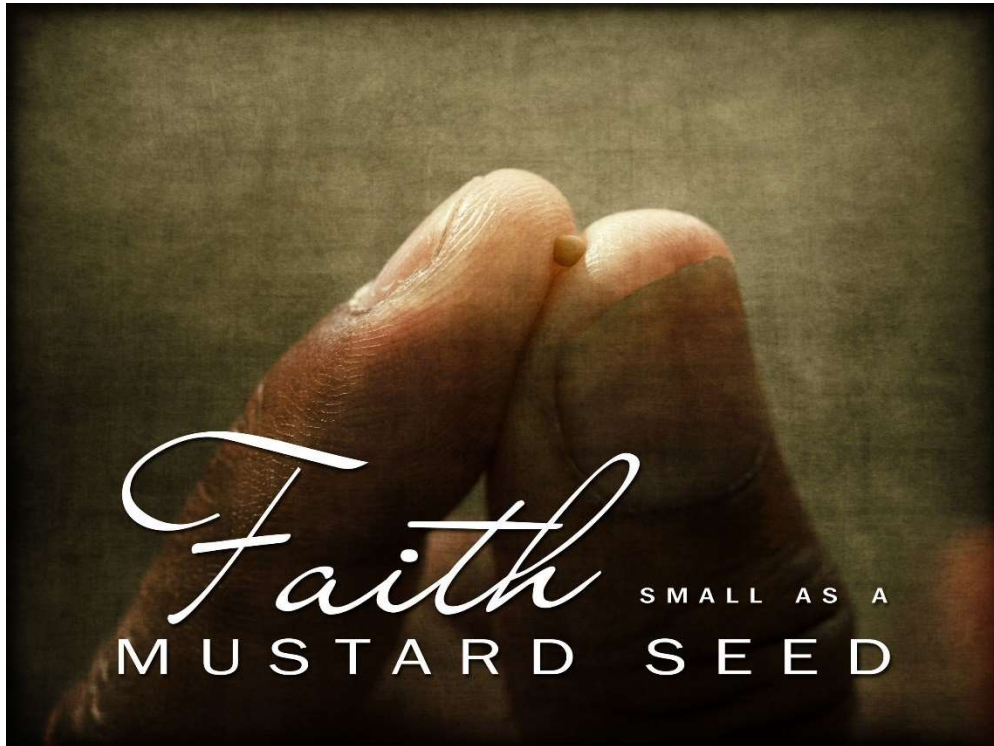
P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500

durhamlutheran.org

Rev. James Heckman, Bridge Pastor

July 30, 2023

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost



Introduction to Worship

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

You can find the live stream at the following locations:

www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

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Prelude: Holy is the Lord Arr. Carol Tornquist

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness (Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. (*Silence for reflection*)
Merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive 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.

P: Hear the good news!

God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to love as God loves.

C: Amen.



Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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Apostolic Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie

1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.

We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

Prayer of the Day

L: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

L: 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.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading - 1 Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

L: A reading from the first book of Kings, the third chapter.

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, 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 today. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: THANKS BE TO GOD.



PSALM: Psalm 86:11-17

When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding. (Ps. 119:130)

L: ¹²⁹Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.

C: ¹³⁰**When your word is opened it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.**

L: ¹³¹I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.

C: ¹³²**Turn to me and be gracious to me, as you always do to those who love your name.**

L: ¹³³Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.

C: ¹³⁴**Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments.**

L: ¹³⁵Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.

C: ¹³⁶**My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your teaching.**

Second Reading: Romans 8: 26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

A reading from Romans, the eighth chapter:

²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, 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 within a large family. 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 are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

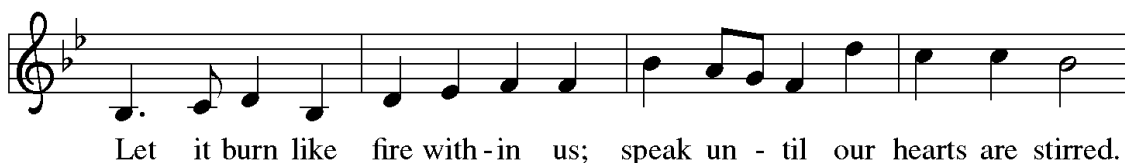
“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced 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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: THANKS BE TO GOD.

Gospel Acclamation (Please stand if you are able)



The Gospel – Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

P: The Gospel according to Matthew. **C: Glory to you, O Lord**

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; 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; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he 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 caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out 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 furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

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

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you. O Christ.**

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)



Hymn of the Day: ELW 705

God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969
 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873-1932

The Apostle's Creed:

P: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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

P: Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

P: Almighty God, we pray for the church and all servants of the gospel. Equip rostered and lay ministers to proclaim that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Form confirmands and catechumens into disciples. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Gracious God, we pray for the well-being of creation. Safeguard the environment, clean polluted rivers and lakes, preserve the mighty tree and the tiny mustard seed, and send advocates for sustainable practices. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Compassionate God, we pray for the nations. Instill in all who govern the ability to discern between good and evil, free those who are oppressed, and protect those facing danger. Promote peace across the world and in our towns and neighborhoods. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Merciful God, we pray for all in any need. Protect those fleeing from war, shelter any who are in poverty, clothe the naked, soothe all who grieve, and heal the sick (especially these we name aloud or in our hearts.). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Holy God, we pray for this congregation, both those gathered today and those absent from our assembly. Grant safety to travelers and refreshment and safety for children attending summer camps or community programs. Give direction to any experiencing life transitions. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: Eternal God, we give thanks for your saints who now rest from their labors. Inspire us by their witness to treasure the gospel, and continually nourish us with your grace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

PEACE

P: Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

Choir Anthem: *He Keeps Me Singing* (CS 221) -vs. 1, 2, 4.

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in the key of D major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, using mostly quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the staves.

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;

praise him a - bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

P: Let us pray... God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

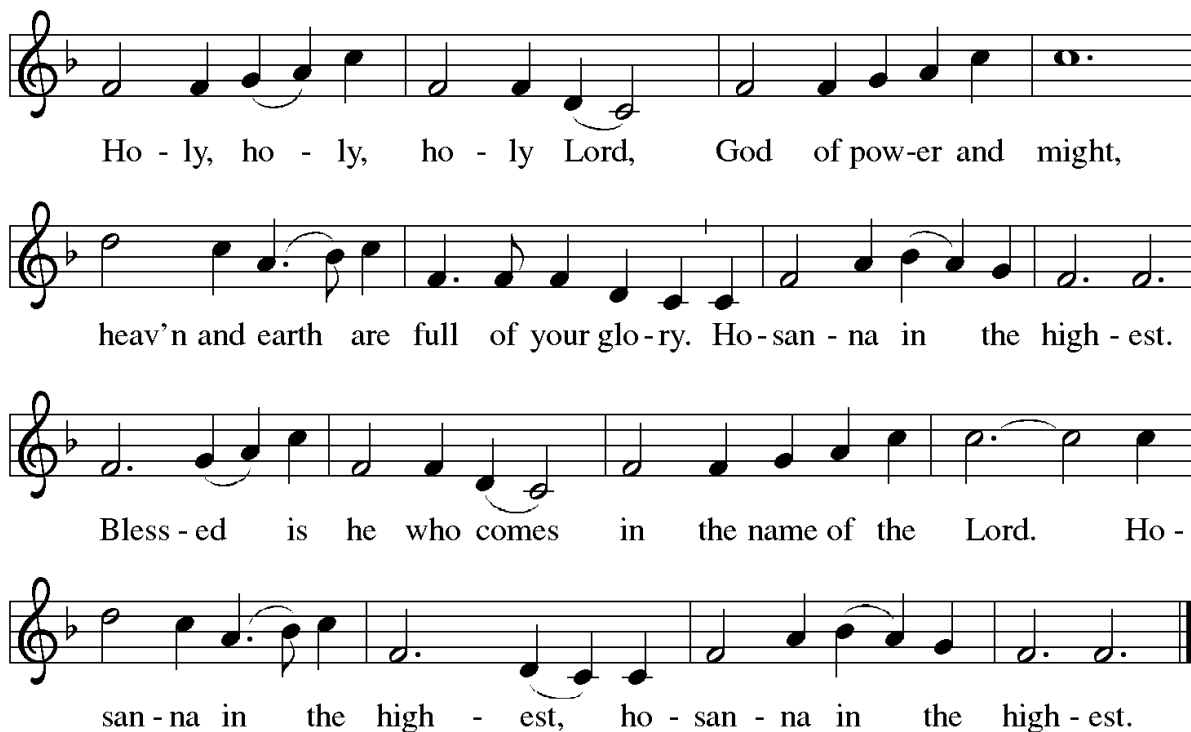
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

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. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. 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'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer (said by Pastor)

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

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: All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

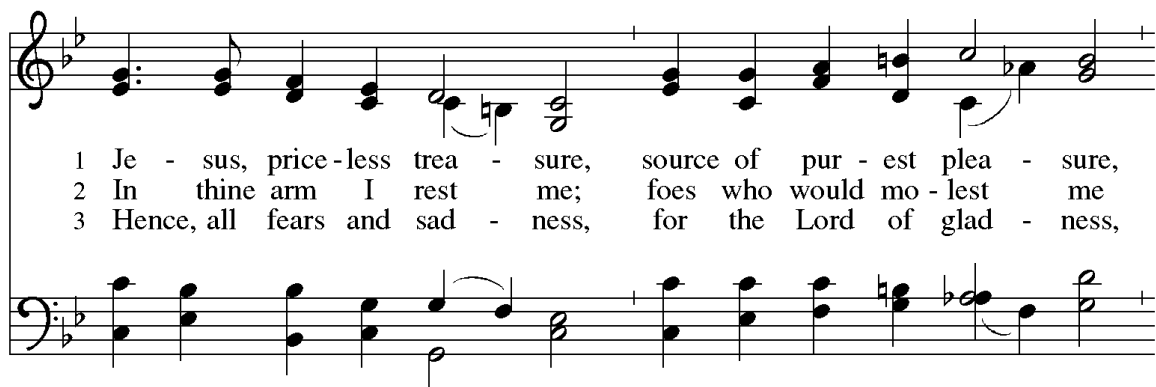


you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

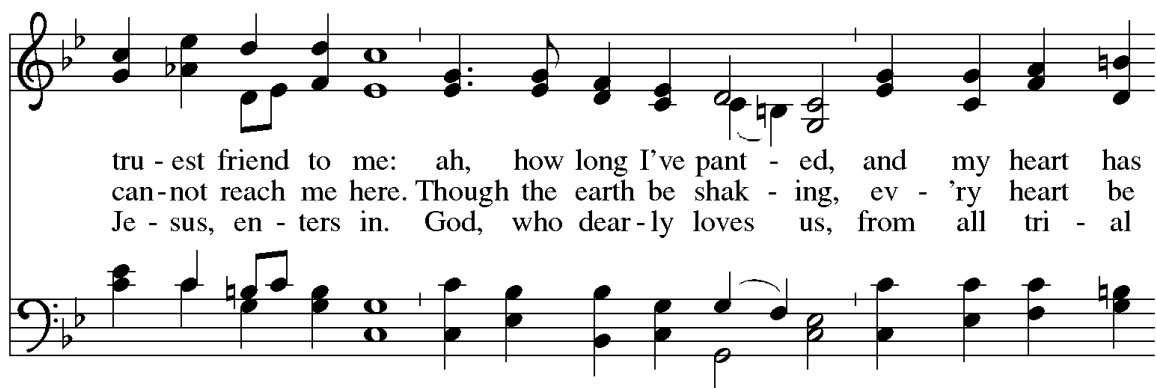
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow ushers)



Jesus, Priceless Treasure



1 Je - sus, price-less trea - sure, source of pur - est plea - sure,
2 In thine arm I rest me; foes who would mo - lest me
3 Hence, all fears and sad - ness, for the Lord of glad - ness,



tru - est friend to me: ah, how long I've pant - ed, and my heart has
can-not reach me here. Though the earth be shak - ing, ev - 'ry heart be
Je - sus, en - ters in. God, who dear-ly loves us, from all tri - al



faint - ed, thirst - ing, Lord, for thee! Thine I am, O spot - less Lamb;
quak - ing, Je - sus calms my fear. Light-nings flash and thun - ders crash;
saves us, gives sweet peace with-in. I have borne this world - ly scorn;



no - thing in this world can hide thee, naught I ask be-side thee.
yet, though sin and hell as - sail me, Je - sus will not fail me.
still in thee lies pur - est plea - sure: Je - sus, price-less trea - sure!

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: JESU, MEINE FREUDE, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662; arr. hymnal version
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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Prayer after Communion

P: We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table.
Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Announcements

BLESSING

P: The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed ✠ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

C: Amen.



Sent Forth by God's Blessing

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

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

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

the fruits of this ser-vice in all who be-lieve.
em-brac-ing God's chil-dren, the whole hu-man race.

The seed of Christ's 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.

Your grace shall in-cite us, your love shall u-nite us
Then may all the liv-ing with praise and thanks-giv-ing

to work for your king-dom and an-swer your call.
give hon-or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune

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DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BAPTISMS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY

	BIRTHDAYS	ANNIVERSARIES	BAPTISMS
July			
30	Corinne Ashmore, Mary Erceg		
31	Adam Phillipps		
August			
3	Peter Streletz		
5			Rita Mesko

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Sunday, July 30	9:30 AM After Worship	Worship - Pr. Jim Heckman Lemonade on the Lawn.
Wednesday, August 2	10:00 AM-1:00 PM	Office hours
Thursday, August 3	12:00PM-3:00PM 12:30 - 1:30 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Sunday, August 6	9:30 AM After Worship	Worship - Pr. Jim Heckman Lemonade on the Lawn.
Wednesday, August 9	10:00 AM-1:00 PM	Office hours
Thursday, August 10	12:00PM-3:00PM 12:30 - 1:30 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew
Sunday, August 13	9:30 AM After Worship	Worship - Pr. Jim Heckman Lemonade on the Lawn.
Monday, August 14	7:00 PM	Church Council meeting
Wednesday, August 16	10:00 AM-1:00 PM	Office hours
Thursday, August 17	12:00PM-3:00PM 12:30 - 1:30 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew
Friday, August 21	7:00 - 8:00 PM	Webinar: "Stewardship When Economics are Uncertain" https://ministrylink.org/events/webinar-Stewardship-when-economics-are-uncertain



July Outreach - Our Outreach envelopes for July and August have been designated for local Food banks. You can sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex to donate a food basket. You can either buy the supplies or Helen Dungan can shop for you.



For Healing of those in our Congregation:

Barbara Altemus; Michael Altemus; Joanne & David Antoni; Brian Ashmore; Helen Dungan; Frank Erceg; Kenneth Hager; George Kreitz; Frank Mammana; Paul McGinn; Cheryl Mesko; Barbara Naska; Ben Naska Sr.; Wes Simmons; Ed Xander; Joanne and Bobby Ziegenfuss.

For Healing of Friends and Family:

Lynn Bailey; Ron & Kathy Ballek; Michael Barats; Anthony Beck; Jason Bigley; Kelly Bordelon; Sherri Breithoff; Emma Brown; Melissa Carafa; Deb Carmichael; Stephanie Courtney; Nancy Davis; Rev. Dennis Durasoff; Nancy Edelen; Diane Ellington; Chris Fear; Cindy Gilligan; Fred Foerster; Gerry Foran; Debbie Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Josephine Gimelson & family; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Ashton Hales; Julie Heckman; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Bev Maddux; Chelsea Marley; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Sue Odor; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Jean Pratt; Connie Rugen; Linda Saunders; Paul Sauter; Debbie Schultz; David Sebring; Alex Sempt; Shawn Stadt; Pat Stangil; Kay Stokes; Donna Storm; Russ Trauger; Henry Wong and Scotty Yurconis.

For those who are Homebound:

Cleo & Ken Eck; Norma Fox; Betty Kreitz; Phyllis Lanshe; Jayne Miller; Silas Rodenbach; Lani Schlegel and Hal Taylor.

For families and friends grieving the loss of:

Stan Aagaard; Ollie Butler; Miriam Deal; Joann Gary; Susan Gonzales; Cecelia Kukuchka; Lani Schlegel; Don Seipt; Marilyn Seipt; Ann Valent; Erma Velehradsky

If you want to add someone to the prayer list or correct or update it, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at:

PrayerChain@durhamlutheran.org

Helping in Worship

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist /Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Greeter(s)	Linda & Dave Sauter
Altar	Linda Sauter & Becky Praster
Acolyte	TBD
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Lemonade on the Lawn	Miriam & Ken Anderson
Council Counting Team	Mark Harwick & Ken Anderson
Administration & Technology	Ken Anderson
Custodian	Dianna Streletz