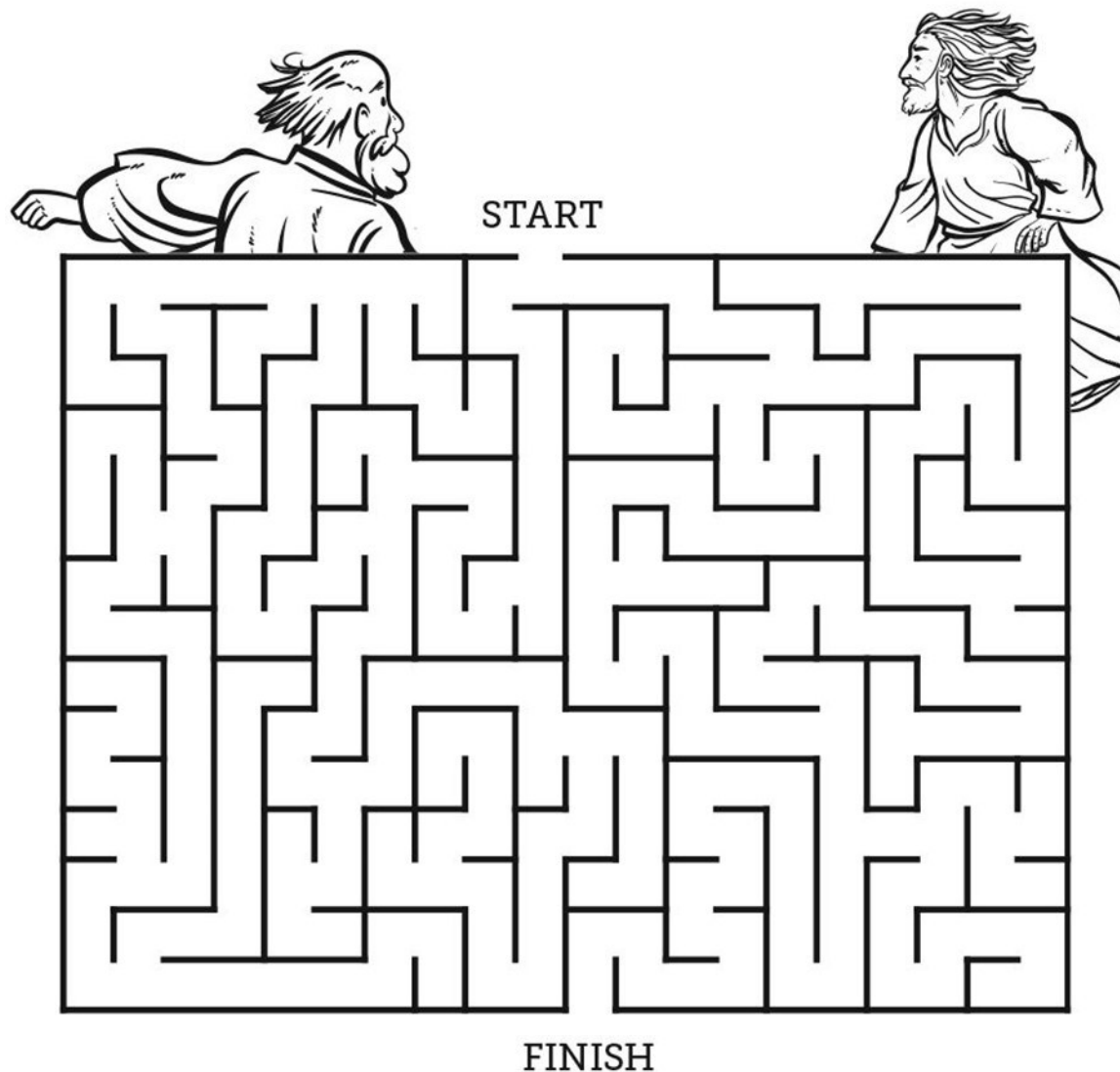


JESUS WALKS ON WATER

Lead Peter across the water to Jesus.



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ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

319 South 5th Street, Albion, Nebraska 68620

www.zionalbion.org + office @zionalbion.org 402-395-2043

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9am-4pm; Fri: Office Closed

August 9, 2026 ✚ Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.

✚ GATHERING ✚

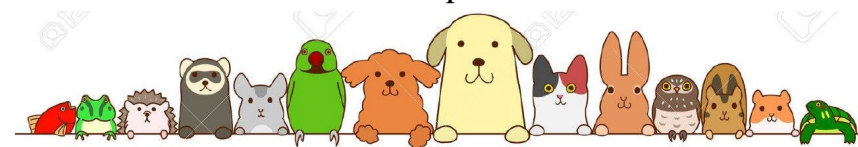
Prelude

(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)

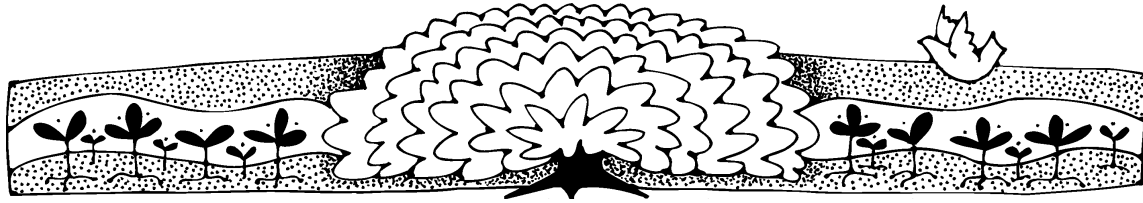
Welcome

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church in Albion! We offer a warm welcome to all who are worshipping in person or by way of Facebook Live. We hope that you encounter a word of God's grace and love in this worship service.

Holy Communion will be celebrated today. At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Christ are welcome to share in the Lord's meal. Holy Communion will be distributed in person or by pre-packaged elements. If you are uncomfortable coming forward, please pick up the communion elements as you enter worship. We will partake of the sacrament as directed by the pastor within the worship service. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with an usher. Gluten Free wafers are available on request.



The Blessing of the Pets



The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Confession and Forgiveness

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

When we claim to be without sin,
we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**But if we would confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just,
will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Today we hear our Lord's invitation to come to him,
even when the way seems difficult.

(Silence for meditation and self-examination.)

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.
We doubt your word and look for other signs.
We seek to exalt ourselves and trust in our own achievements.
We sink in despair.
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.**

Even in our greatest need, Almighty God reaches out a hand to help us.
He has given his Son to die for us
and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins.

As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ,
and by his authority, I therefore declare to you
the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Jesus Walks on the Water

During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. Matthew 14:25 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
H	V	S	L	F	P	X	Z	A	I	N	W	C	R	D	U	Q	J	M	Y	O	K	G	T	E	B

- 26-21-9-24 _____
- 12-10-11-15 _____
- 12-9-24-25-14 _____
- 5-9-10-24-1 _____
- 9-5-14-9-10-15 _____
- 3-10-11-22 _____
- 12-9-2-25-3 _____
- 5-25-9-14 _____
- 12-9-4-22-10-11-23 _____
- 4-9-22-25 _____

BOAT	WIND	SINK	WATER	FAITH
LAKE	WALKING	FEAR	AFRAID	WAVES

Jesus Walks on the Water

During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. Matthew 14:25 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 14:22-33 (NIV)



G E V E N I N G R P B C Y P O
S S C P Q N T S D U R O O A W
C I V D O U B T K O X A A M C
U D N W A L K I N G F F Y T E
O N E K G A X B Y A U Y S U O
S J D U K L A W C F Q N I T M
D L V H O Q L B O G A M Y P H
D Z O E I C O J U W Q N B L Z
D J Y F M M N O R V A J W N W
T K V W L I E A A D X T O Q A
I A W I N D M F G P V R E F V
F P S A V E U R E W S B A R E
V L A K E D Y A S P K Y Y S S
C Y O X H E Z I T U Z U A I K
R H A N D A N D Q Y N H W X H

EVENING	HAND	DOUBT	WAVES
COURAGE	AFRAID	SAVE	SINK
LAKE	WALKING	BOAT	WIND
PRAY	COME	WATER	ALONE

Opening Hymn

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

#632



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.
Music: William Croft, 1678-1727
Public Domain

Opening Litany

Even with people yelling, whistles blowing, feet stomping, doors slamming, bells ringing, dishes clattering, music blaring and babies crying, God still speaks to us.

May we hear the still, small voice of the Lord over the many sounds of life.

Over the sounds of battle, the sounds of war, the sounds of violence on every side,
may we hear the still, small voice of the Lord: “Peace, peace, to those far and near.”

Over the sounds of fear, the sounds of fright, the sounds of terror on every side,
may we hear the still, small voice of the Lord: “Do Not be afraid, for I am with you.”

Over the sounds of uncertainty, the sounds of doubt,
the sounds of mistrust all around,
may we hear the still, small voice of the Lord:
“Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and I will make your paths straight.”

Over the sounds of pain and illness,
sadness and disease on every front,
may we hear the still, small voice of the Lord:
“As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you.”

Over all the sounds of life, may the voice of the Lord resound.
May we always hear him leading, commanding,
guiding and guarding his people until the end of time.

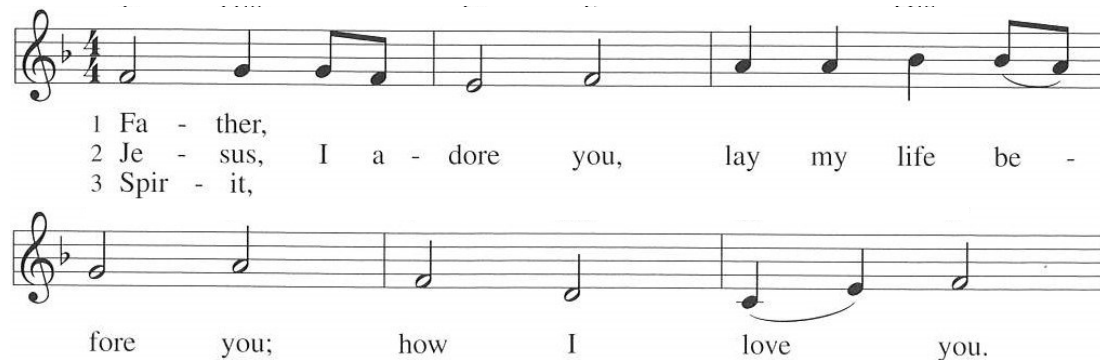
Apostolic Greeting

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.

Hymn of Praise

Father, I Adore You

W&P #37



1 Fa - ther,
2 Je - sus, I a - dore you, lay my life be -
3 Spir - it,
fore you; how I love you.

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milestone
MINISTRY

Benediction

God all mighty, God most merciful,
bless us, keep us, and grant us peace.
In the name of the Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

My Life Flows On in Endless Song

#763



- 1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
- 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring - ing.
- 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
- 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899
Music: Robert Lowry, alt.
Public Domain

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Jesus, our Prince of Peace, showed us through word and deed the kingly way to serve one another.

We pray that the faith of these children increases each day so that they may grow closer to you as they share your love and care with others.

May these backpack tags and keychains remind them that they are sons and daughters of our Heavenly King, **and that you have something very special in mind for their lives.**

We ask that you bless these backpacks and those who carry them **so that these young people are ever mindful of your loving presence.**

Blessing of Educators

(All educators are invited to stand.)

Teachers, paraeducators, administrators, and support staff, both your work and your rest are in God.

Will you endeavor to pattern your life on the Lord Jesus Christ, in gratitude to God and in service to others, at morning and evening, at work and at play, all the days of your life?

Response: ***I will, and I ask God to help me.***

Let us pray. *(A brief silence is kept.)*

God of wisdom, your Son came among us as a teacher.

Send your blessing on all who are engaged in the work of education –

We pray for all teachers, paraeducators, administrators, and school support staff:

give them clearness of vision and freshness of thought, and enable them to train the hearts and minds of their students

so that they may grow in wisdom

and be prepared to face the challenges of life;

and strengthen all of us in our Christian vocation

of witness to the world and of service to others;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*

O God our defender,

storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid.

Rescue your people from despair,

deliver your sons and daughters from fear,

and preserve us in the faith of your Son,

Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Jr. High Milestone

As you grow and mature, you have already noticed changes taking place in your physical appearance.

When you look in a mirror there may be some things you like and some things you don't like. It's important to keep in mind that the face you see in that mirror is a reflection of the real you, but also a reflection of the God who created you.

Genesis 1:27 reminds us that

“God created humankind in his image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.”



St. Paul also reminds us in 2nd Corinthians 3:18 that

“all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.”

Today we present you with a mirror for your locker to remind you that the person you see in that mirror is one of God's lovely and beloved children.

Each day you look in that mirror,

you are being transformed into God's image.

No one is perfect, but God is still at work in you bringing out the best of what He created.

Distribute mirror to each youth.

Let us pray. *(A brief silence is kept.)*
Loving Creator,
bless these mirrors and those who look into them.
As these young people see themselves,
help them to see in their own faces a reflection of your love.
Help them to love you with all their heart
and to love themselves in the same way.
In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

✠ **WORD** ✠

First Reading

1 Kings 19:9-18

On Mount Horeb, where God had appeared to Moses with typical signs of God's presence — earthquake, wind, and fire — Elijah now experienced God in "sheer silence." God assured Elijah that he is not the only faithful believer. Seven thousand Israelites are still loyal. God instructed Elijah to anoint two men as kings and to anoint Elisha as his own successor.

A reading from First Kings.

⁹At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

¹¹He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹²and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

¹⁴He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." ¹⁵Then the LORD said to him, "Go,

**Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.**

✠ **SENDING** ✠

Announcements

Backpack Blessing

Lord, as you bring us to the start of a new school year
we bring these backpacks and their owners to your altar.

Just as you beckoned the children
to come into your divine and loving presence,
**We ask you to hold these children close in your arms
and keep them in your loving protection
throughout the coming school year.**

Good teacher, through vivid stories and straightforward lessons,
you revealed God's kingdom to people eager to hear the Good News.
**Open the eyes, ears and minds of these children
to grow in knowledge and wisdom this school year.
Help them to be attentive and active learners.**

God of wisdom, mighty King, we pray that these children may
grow in knowledge through the lessons they learn in each classroom.
**Fill their minds with knowledge. Broaden their imaginations.
Let them witness your creative genius
in all they see and do this year.**

Through your Son, Jesus,
we are made inheritors of your kingly blessings.
**Be with these children in their classes each day,
and be with them in the hallways,
cafeteria and playground,
so that they may be a blessing wherever they go.**



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.

Agnus Dei **Lamb of God** *Family 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.

Distribution

If you are joining us from home or are taking communion from your seat:
The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.
The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and preserve you unto eternal life. **Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*
Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.

return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive,
you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶Also you shall anoint Jehu
son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of
Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷Whoever escapes
from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the
sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸Yet I will leave seven thousand in
Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that
has not kissed him.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 85:8-13

Let us read Psalm 85 responsively.

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to you.

**⁹Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

**¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹²The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

**¹³Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

Second Reading

Romans 10:5-15

A right relationship with God is not something we achieve by heroic efforts. It is a gift received in the proclamation whose content is Jesus Christ. This proclaimed word creates our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence Christian proclamation is an indispensable component of God's saving actions.

A reading from Romans.

⁵Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law,
that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶But the
righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart,

‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷“or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say?

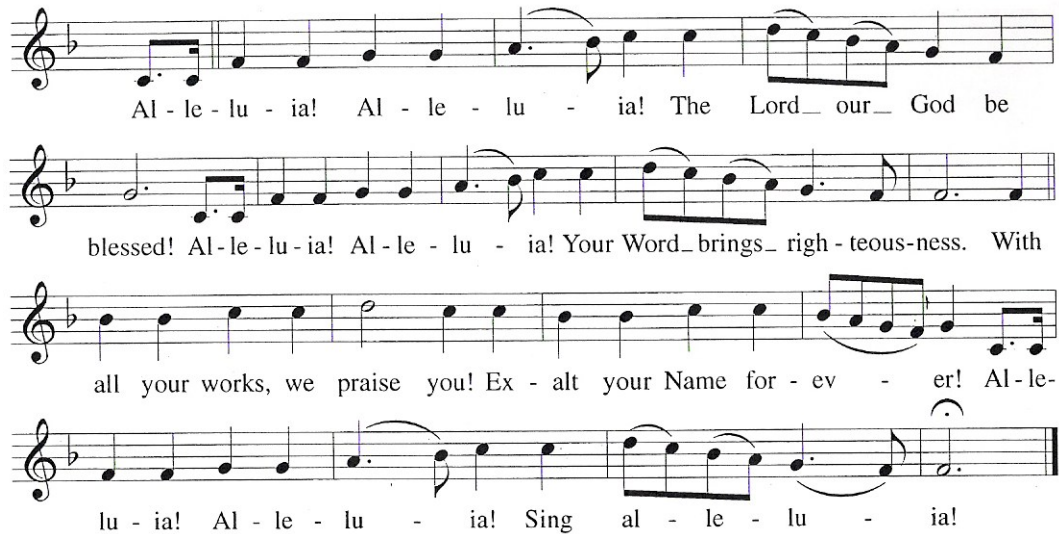
“The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

¹⁴But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia Verse

Family of God



“Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Everlasting God,

you promise us the righteousness that comes from faith,
and you assure us
that everyone who calls upon your name will be saved.

Be close to all who struggle to believe,
make yourself known to any who have never heard,
empower those who are called to proclaim,
and bless the ones you have sent.

Visit those who are hungry:
be among them as the bread of life.

Comfort any who are thirsty:
restore them with your fountain of living water.

Strengthen all who are at sea in the trials and travails of life:
come to them across the waters and make your home with them.

We pray in union with Christ in the power of your Holy Spirit,
who helps us in our weakness,
and intercedes with sighs too deep for words,
Father of all, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray together as Jesus taught us...

**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;**

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy

Family of God

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, our God of pow'r and might, — Sing
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Heav'n and earth are full of your maj - es -
ty! Ho - san - na in — the high - est! Blest is he who
comes in the Name of the Lord! Sing loud, — Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na in the
high - est! Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!

Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

We thank and praise you, Lord God,
because in Jesus you come to us, call us to you,
lift us up when we fear and fail and fall,
and stay with us through the storm.

Come among us now through the power of your Spirit,
that we may be transformed into your likeness,
and that these gifts of bread and wine may become for us
the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ;
who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks;
broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup.
Again, he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

Holy Gospel

Matthew 14:22-33

Matthew's gospel typically portrays Jesus' disciples as people of “little faith,” who fail despite their best intentions. In this story, Matthew shows how Jesus comes to the disciples when they are in trouble and sustains them in their time of fear and doubt.

The Holy Gospel according St. Matthew, the 14th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²²Immediately [Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee], while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

²⁸Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Time Sermon



Hymn of the Day *When Peace Like a River* #785



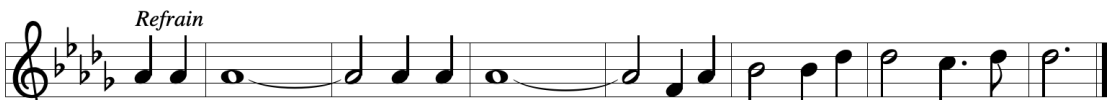
1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

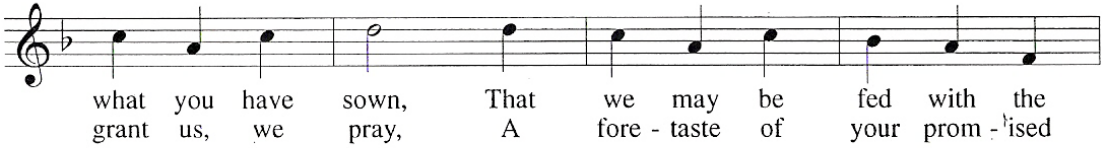
Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888
Music: Philip P. Bliss, 1838-1876
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Apostles' Creed

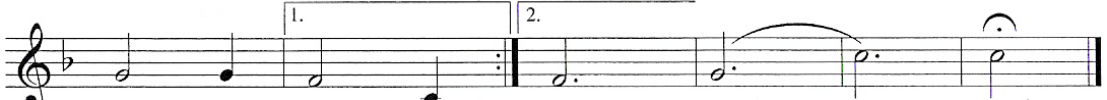
Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith...

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell.**



what you have sown, That we may be fed with the
grant us, we pray, A fore - taste of your prom - ised



bread of life. 2. Now come. A - men.

✝ MEAL ✝

Great Thanksgiving

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 our thanks and praise.



Proper Preface

It is right to lift our hearts to you, Almighty God,
for your Spirit brooded over the waters
before the foundation of the world,
your pillar of fire led your people to freedom
through the waters of the Red Sea,
and your Son Jesus came to his disciples
across the stormy waves of Galilee.

In his agonizing death we see how far we stray from you,
and in his resurrection we see how you draw us close
despite our betrayals and failures.

We long for the day when all the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea,
with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven,
singing the hymn of your unending praise.

P For all who struggle amid the storms of life,
that they find peace and hope in your loving presence.
Comfort any who are lonely and grieving and all who suffer,
especially...
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A For this congregation and its ministries,
that they reflect your love and life amid a turbulent world.
Guide council members, elders, and other church leaders
with your still, calm voice.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P Here other intercessions may be offered either aloud or in silence.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A We give thanks for the faithful who have gone before us.
Guide us in our earthly journey,
that we may one day join them in your eternal kingdom.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised.
All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

✠ OFFERING ✠

Offering Response

Family of God

1. Your vine - yards, O Lord, may and they
(2.) gath - er the hopes and the

bear fruit for you. Please fill our cup full of your
dreams of all here; U - nite them in pray'r with these

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;
where there is discord, union;

where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy;
grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

and it is in dying
that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Prayers for our Animals

Let us pray for all your creatures-great and small.
For all dogs and cats . . . in your wisdom Lord,
we thank you for making all dogs and cats.

For all the birds of the air . . . in your wisdom Lord,
we thank you for making all birds.

For all guinea pigs, rabbits , and skunks. . . in your wisdom Lord,
we thank you for making all guinea pigs, rabbits, and skunks.

For all gerbils, hamsters, and mice . . . in your wisdom Lord,
we thank you for making all gerbils, hamsters, and mice.

For all snakes, turtles, lizards, and other reptiles. . .
in your wisdom Lord,
we thank you for making all reptiles.

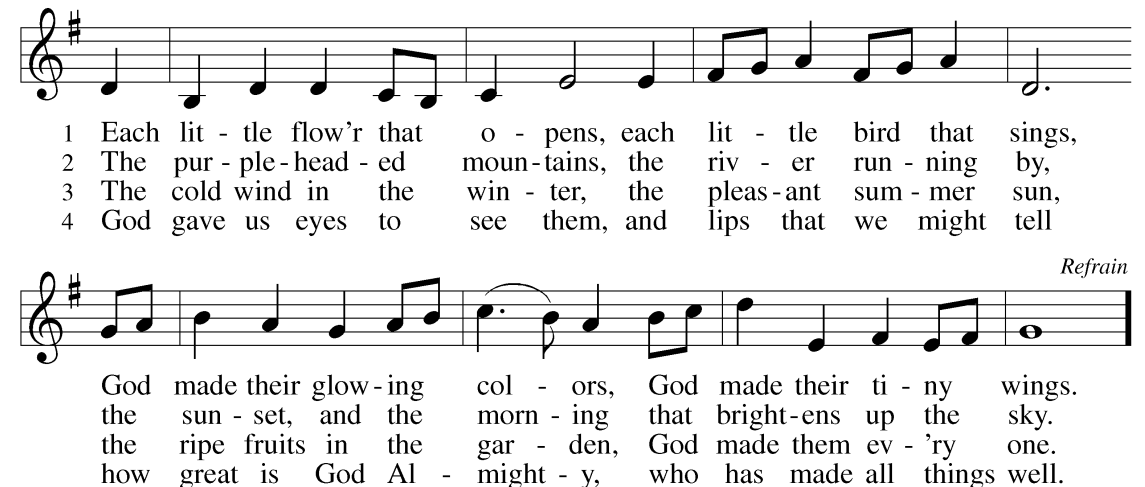
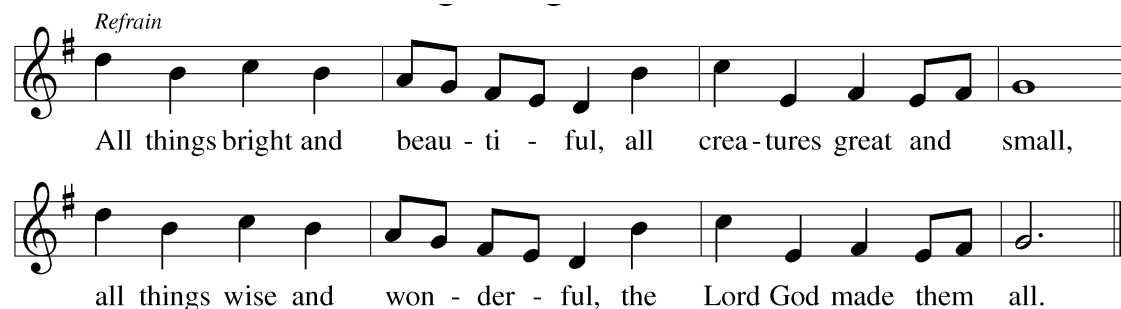
For all the fish of the sea and aquariums . . . in your wisdom Lord,
we thank you for making all fish.

For all the living creatures upon your earth . . . in your wisdom Lord,
we thank you for making all animals.
We pray for all the animals in the name of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Blessing Prayer

Wonderful Creator,
you fashioned a world of amazing animals of all varieties.
From every kind of danger, from Noah's time until now,
you saved your creatures and cared for them with gentleness.
Continue to look with favor upon all your creatures,
and especially these animals for whom we love and care.
Help us to be kind to all your creatures, great and small.
Bless these loved ones, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Blessing Hymn *All Things Bright & Beautiful* #767 WOV *(All animals are invited to come forward for a blessing during the hymn.)*



Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818-1895, alt.
Music: Royal Oak, English tune, 17th cent. Adapt. Martin Shaw, 1875-1958
Public Domain

Prayers of the People

P With bold trust in God's unfailing provision,
we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

A We pray for the servants of your gospel in every place,
that your word may be heard.

Where your voice is scorned and your people persecuted,
strengthen the church in its faithful witness.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P For this world you have created, that all life may flourish.
Preserve biodiversity in all its variety
and help ecosystems to survive the extremes of a changing climate.
Move our hearts with compassion to join in this work.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A For leaders of towns, states, nations, and organizations, and all who
are in positions of authority, that they lead with justice and integrity.
Teach us to respond with Christlike mercy
to all who are afraid or in danger.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**