# **Full Service Bulletin**



# HOLY COMMUNION SEPTEMEBER 3, 2023 FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

#### WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." (Psalm 122:1)

### PRELUDE AND PREPARATION

During the prelude, prepare your heart for worship: read the introduction, peruse the bulletin, find the scripture readings in the pew Bible, and focus your thoughts on the Lord. You may pray: Almighty God, You provide the true bread from heaven, Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Prepare us to receive His body and blood, that abiding in Him, and He in us, we may be filled with the power of His endless life. Amen.

#### **CHILDREN**

We welcome children of all ages. The Children's Library is available if a child needs a break during the service.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering, yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

#### WELCOME AND MEDITATION

#### GATHERING HYMN (Please rise.)

"Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun" (LBW # 269)



Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711 Music: MORNING HYMN, François H. Barthélémon, 1741-1808

#### **INVOCATION** ( = All may make the sign of the cross.)

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. C: AMEN.

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

- P: 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. **C: AMEN.**
- P: 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. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Please kneel. Silence is kept for reflection and personal confession.)

- P: Most merciful God, C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. AMEN.
- P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: AMEN.

### C: GREETING (Please rise.)

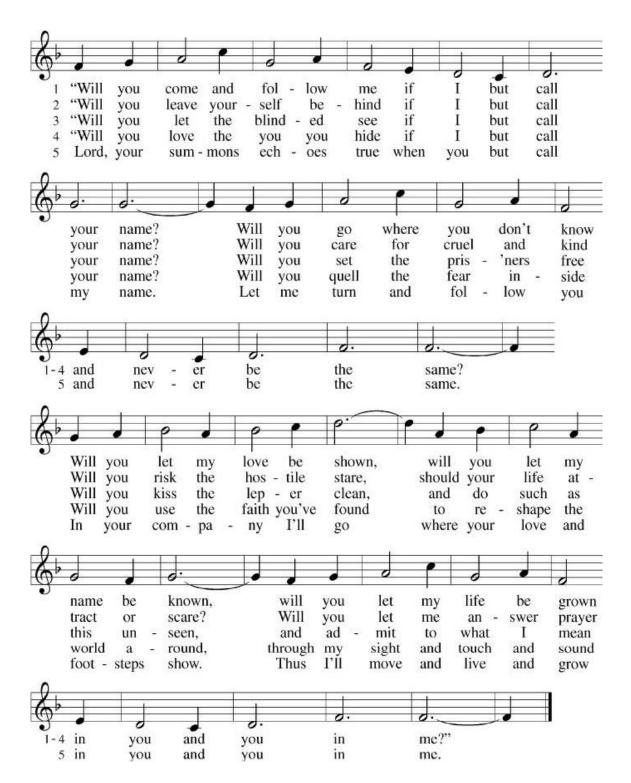
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

#### WE PRAISE GOD'S NAME

With one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. "Let all the peoples praise him." (Romans 15:6,11)

**HYMN OF PRAISE** "Will You Come and Follow Me?" (ELW # 798 - favorite - John Bell)



#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

L: Let us pray together: C: O God, we thank You for Your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by His example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow Your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. AMEN

### **RESPONSIVE READING...**Psalm 26:1-8

(congregation reads **indented**)

Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have led a blameless life;

### I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.

Test me, O LORD, and try me,

### examine my heart and my mind;

for Your love is ever before me.

#### and I walk continually in Your truth.

I do not sit with deceitful men,

### nor do I consort with hypocrites;

I abhor the assembly of evildoers

#### and refuse to sit with the wicked.

I wash my hands in innocence,

#### and go about Your altar, O LORD,

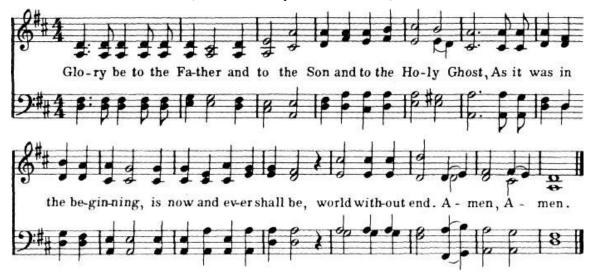
proclaiming aloud Your praise

#### and telling of all Your wonderful deeds.

I love the house where You live, O LORD,

the place where Your glory dwells.

### GLORIA PATRI (Music: Henry W. Greatorex)



### WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

For everything was written to teach us, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (Romans 15:4)

FIRST READING ....Jeremiah 15:15-21.....Pew Bible p. 1198

P: Word of God, Word of Life. C: Thanks be to God.

**SECOND READING** ....Romans 12:9-21......Pg. 1764

P: Word of God, Word of Life. C: Thanks be to God.

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Please rise.)

"Alleluia, Lord, to Whom Shall We Go" (ELW p151)



P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 16th Chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

**GOSPEL** ....Matthew 16:21-28......Pg. 1524

**SERMON** (*Please sit.*) The Rev. Rodney Lilley

#### WE RESPOND IN FAITH

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing. (Romans 15:13)

# HYMN OF THE DAY (Please rise.)

"The Way" (Text: Brenton Prigge, Tune: HANOVER, ELW # 842)

- 1. Now this is the way
  to follow the Lord:
  let's give life away
  and all we have stored,
  keep nothing of self
  and surrender it all;
  why trade our salvation
  for this little world?
- 2. O Lord, we will go
  we will pay the price
  for others to know
  your love-sacrifice.
  This share in your suff'ring
  can never compare
  to all you are offering.
  Our cross we will bear.

- 3. Let us live at peace, and share the delight of those who rejoice; and where there is night, we will mourn together, and share joyful hope: Christ binds us forever and love is the rope.
- 4. What wise sage can delve this mystery profound? When we lose ourselves for others we're found! Surrender our lives and we no longer die! We'll follow in Christ's love and lift the cross high!

### **NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, Who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. AMEN.

#### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (Please kneel.)

(Response: L: Lord, in Your mercy, C: hear our prayer.)

#### **OFFERING**

We no longer pass the plate, but your offerings are needed more than ever. The plate is located at the back of the center aisle. Please place your offering and your Communication Card there as you come in or go out. Thank You!

#### WE COMMUNE WITH CHRIST

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. (1 Corinthians 11:26)

#### PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. In great love You sent to us Jesus, Your Son, Who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, Who preached good news to the poor, and Who, on the cross, opened His arms to all.

In the night in which He was betrayed, 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 in remembrance of Me.

Again, 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 sin. Do this for the remembrance of Me.

Remembering, therefore, His death, resurrection, and ascension, we await His coming in glory. Pour out Your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all Your people in the body of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord

### THE LORD'S PRAYER (sung)

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. AMEN.

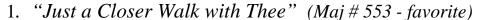
#### **COMMUNION** (Please be seated)

P: Come to the table and taste of God's goodness and mercy. All who are baptized and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior may partake. Please fill out a communication card and put it in the offering plate. We have returned to kneeling for communion by "tables." People who want to minimize contact and maintain greater physical distance can take a pre-filled glass and stand a foot back from the altar rail. For a gluten-free rice wafer (blue-green) say "Rice." Grape juice (white) is in pre-filled glasses. Those not ready to receive communion may come for a blessing.

### LAMB OF GOD (WOV p39)



# **COMMUNION HYMNS** (sung while others are receiving.)

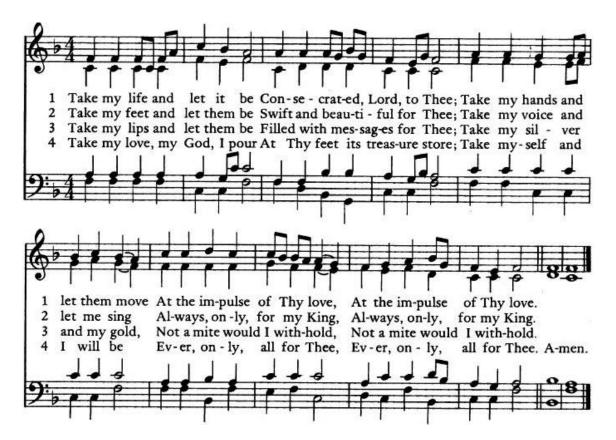




# WE ARE SENT INTO GOD'S WORLD

Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD! (Isaiah 2:5)

CANTICLE "Take My Life and Let It Be" (Maj # 380 - favorite - Text: Frances R. Havergal; Tune: Henri A. César Malan)



(Please rise. Communion visitors comes forward during last verse.)

#### SENDING OF COMMUNION

L: Let us pray together: C: Almighty God, You provide the true bread from heaven, Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Be with those we now send to share this gift with our sick and homebound members. Grant that we who have received the sacrament of His body and blood may abide in Him, and He in us, that we may be filled with the power of His endless life, now and forever. AMEN.

### AFFIRMATION OF VOCATIONS (Please sit.)

P: Dear Christian friends: Baptized into the priesthood of Christ, we are called by the Holy Spirit to offer ourselves to the God of all creation in thanksgiving for what He has done and continues to do for us. It is our privilege to affirm those who are endeavoring to carry out their vocation as Christians in the world.

Those who are employed or looking for employment are invited to stand in place to receive the Lord's blessing as Christians in the workplace.

P: Having determined to live out your faith through your work, in the place of your employment, will you endeavor to pattern your life and service after our Lord Jesus?

R: Yes, with the help of God.

P: Will you, to the best of your ability, daily pray and seek the assistance of God's Spirit to help you to be faithful to serve in the market place according to God's will for you in Christ's name?

R: I will, and I ask the Holy Spirit to help me be faithful.

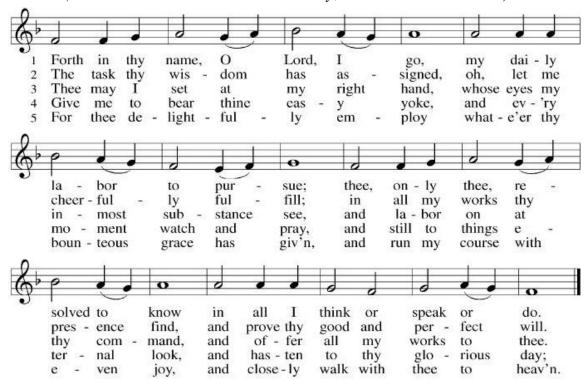
P: May you serve the Lamb well and bring glory to His name!

R: AMEN.

### BLESSING (Please rise.)

P: God almighty, God most merciful, God ever present, bless us, keep us, and grant us peace. **C: AMEN.** 

**SENDING HYMN** "Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go" (LBW # 505 - Text: Charles Wesley; Tune: Lowell Mason)



### PASSING THE PEACE

L: As we leave to serve the Risen Lord in the power of His Spirit, let us share with one another some of the blessings of peace we have received. The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

### **POSTLUDE**

### FELLOWSHIP AND REFRESHMENTS

Everyone is invited to remain for fellowship and refreshments. Snacks, coffee and hot water are available in the Gathering Place. You can brew your own coffee/tea using the Keurig® in the Parlor.

### SEPTEMBER 3, 2023 FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

#### SERVANTS OF THE LORD THIS WEEK

GREETER: 8:30-Sally Stein/ 10:45-Sharon Branigan SOUND: 8:30-Chris Chmela / 10:45-Ken Yoxheimer

LIVE STREAM: 8:30-Jan Stryker

PROJECTOR: 8:30-Karen Brown / 10:45-VOLUNTEER NEEDED

SONG LEADER: 8:30-Bella Zyskowski

LITURGIST: 8:30-Patty Stein / 10:45-Lyn Stryker LECTOR: 8:30-Penny Miller / 10:45-Lyn Stryker GUEST PREACHER: The Rev. Rodney Lilley USHER: 8:30-Jan Stryker / 10:45-Sharon Branigan COMMUNION: 8:30-Patty Stein / 10:45-Lyn Strkyer

COMMUNION VISITORS: Sharon Branigan, Pastor David

ALTAR GUILD: Darlene Treisner, Diane Hahn

COUNTERS: Jan Stryker, Karen Brown

GRASSCUTTERS: Rich Stein, Jonathan Miller HOSPITALITY: Holy Cross Social Ministry

PHONETREE: Jonathan Mosebach

PRAYERS: Mike Zyskowski

PRAYER CARE: call Sharon Branigan (610) 691-8809

#### ALTAR FLOWERS & BULLETINS ARE SPONSORED BY:

Holy Cross to the glory of God

# **Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church**

2700 Jacksonville Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017 Office (610) 867-6231 † Holycrossoffice@rcn.com Preschool (610) 867-9735 † Holycrosspastor@rcn.com www.holycrossbethlehem.com

#### **CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. David L. Brown, *Pastor* † Ruthann Kistler, *Christian Ed. Dir.*Nancy Cook, *Music Director* † Jonathan Mosebach, *Office Secretary*Jim Steiner, *Sexton* † Karen Steiner, *Pre-school*Lisa Wechsler, *Treasurer* † Glade Schroeter, *Webmaster* 

#### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship - 8:30 & 10:45 AM † Sunday School - 9:45 AM (Holy Communion 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays & Major Feasts)