

Full Service Bulletin



HOLY COMMUNION JULY 19, 2026 EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST VBS CELEBRATION

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, look up the Scripture readings and pray: Direct and control us, O Lord, always and everywhere with heavenly light; that we may both discern with clear vision and share with worthy effect the Mystery which You have willed us to partake; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.*

CHILDREN *of all ages are welcome! The Children's Library is available if a child needs a break during the service.*

LISTENING DEVICES *for the hearing impaired are available at the sound board (in the back of the sanctuary).*

INTRODUCTION *It is an age-old question: why does God allow evil to coexist with good in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both need to grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day when all creation will be set free from the bondage and suffering that evil has caused. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.*

PRELUDE “Majestic” (VBS cd track # 2 - Chris Sligh)

WELCOME AND MEDITATION

GATHERING HYMN (Please rise.)

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” (Maj # 30 - favorite)

Robert Robinson

NETTLETON

John Wyeth

1 Come, Thou Fount of ev - ery bless - ing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; Hith - er by Thy help I'm come.
3 O to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con - strained to be!

1 Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, Call for songs of loud - est praise.
2 And I hope, by Thy good pleas - ure, Safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
3 Let Thy good - ness, like a fet - ter, Bind my wan - d'ring heart to Thee:

1 Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, Sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove;
2 Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, Wan - dering from the fold of God.
3 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love:

1 Praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, Mount of Thy re - deem - ing love.
2 He, to res - cue me from dan - ger, In - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.
3 Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts a - bove.

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

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ‡ one God, the Source of life, the Word of salvation, the Spirit of mercy.

C: AMEN.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Let us confess our sins to God, Who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

(Please kneel. Silence is kept for reflection.)

P: God of compassion, **C: We confess that we have neglected Your commandments and have sinned against You in our thoughts, in our words and in our deeds. Forgive our sins, Merciful God, those known and unknown, things done and left undone. Make our hearts burn with love for You and those in need, so that our lives may witness to Your never-failing love. AMEN.**

P: Brothers and sisters, buried with ‡ Christ by baptism into His death, your sins are forgiven. The death Christ died, He died to sin, once for all; but the life He lives, He lives to God. So you also, by the power of the Holy Spirit, are dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

C: AMEN.

GREETING *(Please rise.)*

P: Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad. The God who created the world and fills it with life 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 “Glory to God” (WOV p 29) →



Refrain

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



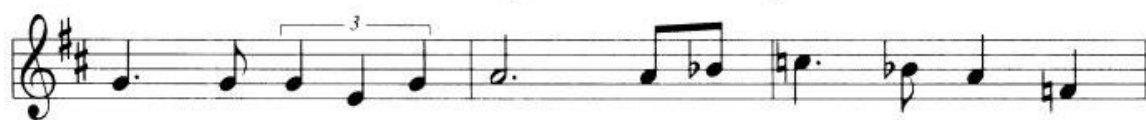
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. *Refrain*



II 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. *Refrain*



III 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.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

L: Let us pray together: C: Faithful God, most merciful
**Judge, You care for Your children with firmness and
compassion. By Your Spirit nurture us who live in Your
kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of Your Son,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. AMEN.**

RESPONSIVE READING...Psalm 86:11-17

(congregation reads indented)

Teach me Your way, O LORD,
and I will walk in Your truth;
give me an undivided heart,
that I may fear Your name.
I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart;
I will glorify Your name forever.
For great is Your love toward me;
You have delivered me from the depths of the grave.
The arrogant are attacking me, O God;
a band of ruthless men seeks my life—
men without regard for You.
But You, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God,
slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.
Turn to me and have mercy on me;
grant Your strength to Your servant
and save the son of Your maidservant.
Give me a sign of Your goodness,
that my enemies may see it and be put to shame,
for You, O LORD,
have helped me and comforted me.

(Please sit. VBS participants come forward.)

VBS SONG “You Know Me” (VBS cd # 4 - Chris Sligh)

**When I lift up my hands, God, you are with me.
When I bow down to pray, I know that you see me.
Where could I run, Where could I hide from you?
Before the morning sun, You know everything I’ll do.**

Chorus: **You know me, And I’m singing.
You know me, Yeah, you know
My ups and my downs, My ins and my outs,
My turnarounds, My faith and doubts.
You know me and love me still.
You know me and love me.**

(Repeat from beginning)

**In the dark you see me. In the quiet you hear me.
When I think I’m alone. You are near me.**

(Chorus)

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)

VBS RECAP Ruthann Kistler

VBS SONG “God Is” (VBS cd track # 1 - Sam Mizell)

**Oh, oh, oh, oh oh. Oh, oh, oh, oh oh.
Can you imagine a love that will never end?
God is!
Can you imagine a King who calls you a friend?
God is!**

Chorus: **God is the Creator and powerful King.
God knows the biggest and smallest of things.
He loves you more than the moon and stars.
He’s everywhere you are.**

God is! Oh, oh, oh, oh oh. (He's everywhere you are.)
God is! Oh, oh, oh, oh oh.

**If you wonder if his arms are really open,
If you wonder if there really is a heaven,
If you wonder if you can really know him,
He gave his Son so you can live**

(Chorus 2x)

God is! Oh, oh, oh, oh oh.
God is! Oh, oh, oh, oh oh. (He's the Creator and King.)
God is! Oh, oh, oh, oh oh.
God is! Oh, oh, oh, oh oh.

FIRST LESSON.....Isaiah 44:6-8.....p. 1128

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

SECOND LESSON.....Romans 8:12-25.....p. 1757

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(Please rise.)*

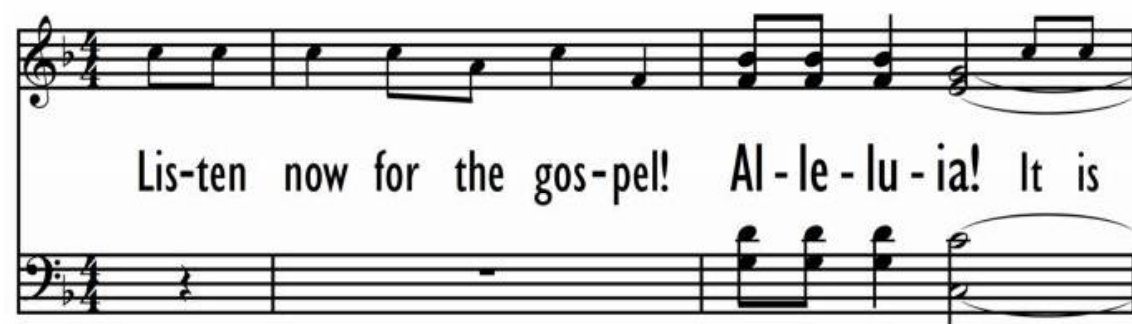
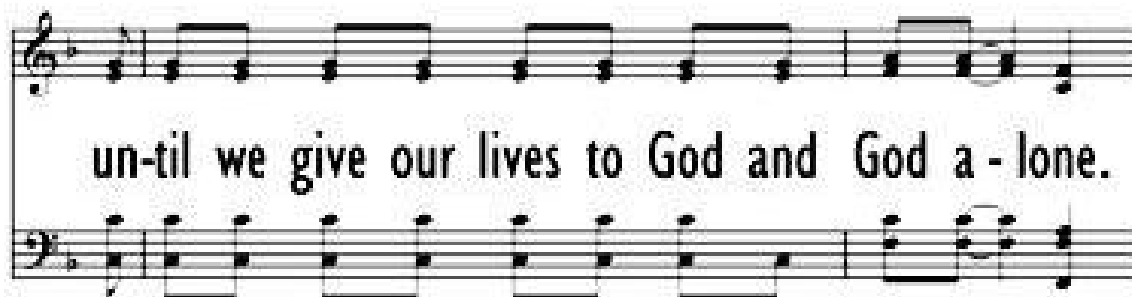
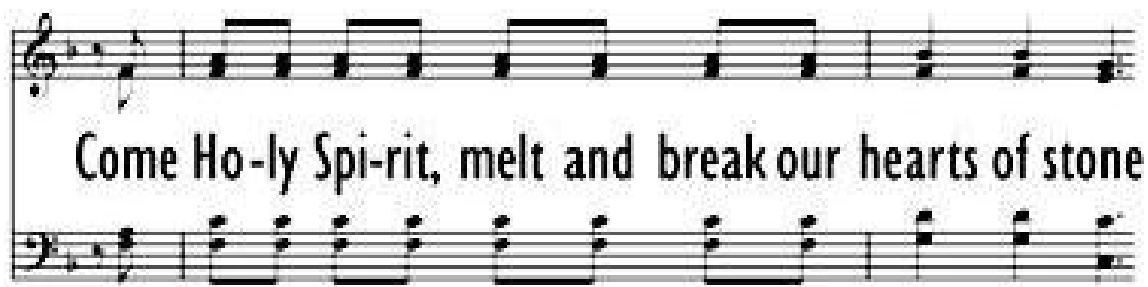
"Listen Now for the Gospel" (John Bell)

Lis-ten now for the gos-pel! Al - le - lu - ia! It is

The first line of musical notation is in 4/4 time, featuring a treble and bass staff. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the lyrics are placed below the notes. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).

God's word that chang-es us! Al - le - lu - ia!

The second line of musical notation continues the melody from the first line, also in 4/4 time with a treble and bass staff. The key signature remains one flat.



P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th Chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

GOSPELMatthew 13:24-43.....p. 1518

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

(Please be seated. See space for sermon notes in Announcements insert.)

SERMON “The Harvest Hope of Complete Redemption”

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.)*

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" (Maj # 89 - favorite)

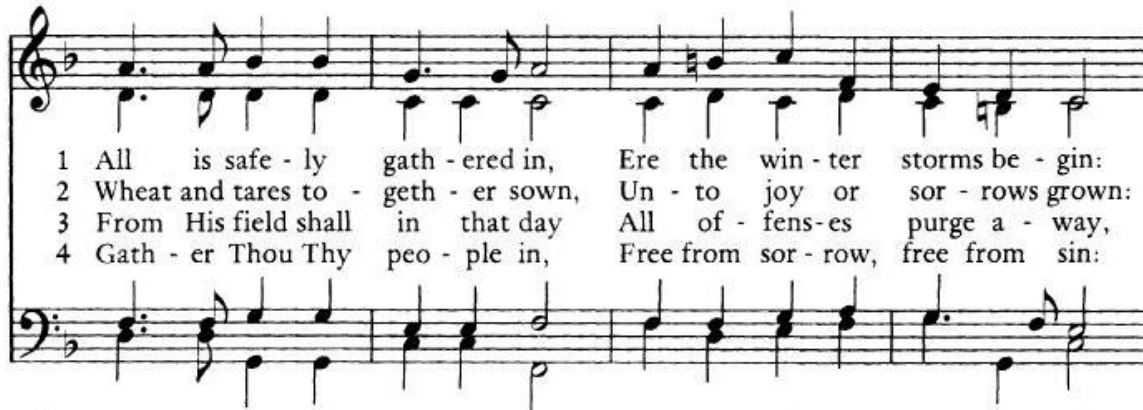
Henry Alford

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

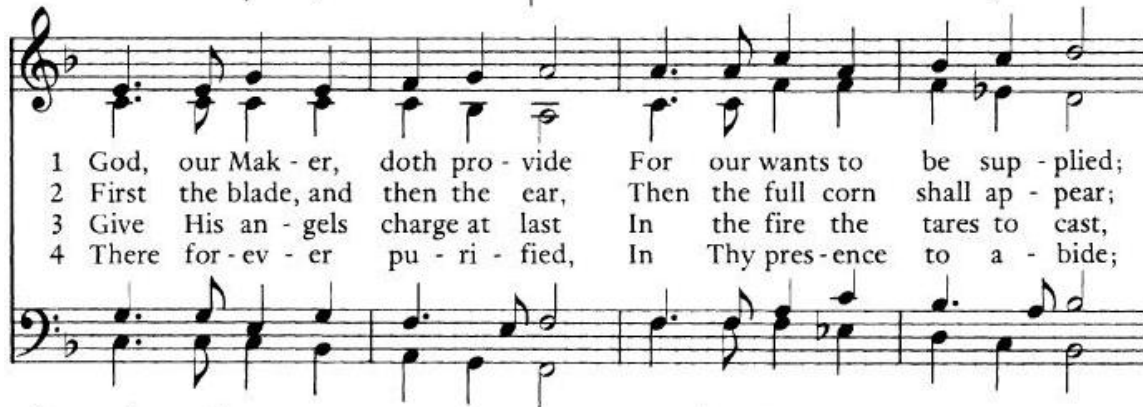
George J. Elvey



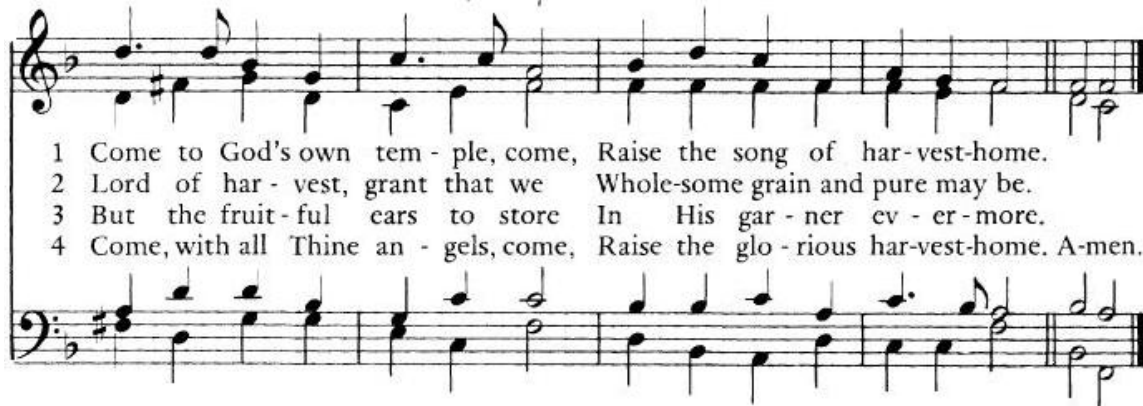
1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come, Raise the song of har - vest-home;
2 All the world is God's own field, Fruit un - to His praise to yield;
3 For the Lord our God shall come And shall take His har - vest-home;
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick-ly come To Thy fi - nal har - vest-home;



1 All is safe - ly gath - ered in, Ere the win - ter storms be - gin:
2 Wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, Un - to joy or sor - rows grown:
3 From His field shall in that day All of - fens-es purge a - way,
4 Gath - er Thou Thy peo - ple in, Free from sor - row, free from sin:



1 God, our Mak - er, doth pro - vide For our wants to be sup - plied;
2 First the blade, and then the ear, Then the full corn shall ap - pear;
3 Give His an - gels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast,
4 There for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, In Thy pres - ence to a - bide;



1 Come to God's own tem - ple, come, Raise the song of har-vest-home.
2 Lord of har - vest, grant that we Whole-some grain and pure may be.
3 But the fruit-ful ears to store In His gar - ner ev - er-more.
4 Come, with all Thine an - gels, come, Raise the glo - rious har-vest-home. A-men.

SMALL CATECHISM READING

L: Let us confess our faith by reading a portion of Luther's Small Catechism, *Part III. The Lord's Prayer*:

L: What is The Sixth Petition?

C: "And lead us not into temptation," (*Matthew 6:13*)

L: What does this mean?

C: God, indeed, tempts no one, but we pray in this request that God will protect us and save us, so that the devil, the world and our bodily desires will neither deceive us nor seduce us into unbelief, despair or other great and shameful sins, and so that we will win and be victorious in the end, even if they attack us.

L: What is The Seventh Petition?

C: "But deliver us from evil." (*Matthew 6:13*)

L: What does this mean?

C: We pray in this request, as a summary, that our Father in Heaven will save us from every kind of evil that threatens body, soul, property and honor. We pray that when at last our final hour has come, He will grant us a blessed death, and graciously take us from this valley of tears to Himself in heaven.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (*Please kneel as you are able.*)

(*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 RECEIVE THE COVENANT MEAL

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)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*Please rise.*)

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 offer thanks and praise to You, O Lord, Holy Father, through Christ our Lord; 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 the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn: “Alleluia” (Michael W. Smith)

Al - le - lu - ia. Ho - ly, ho - ly

are You, Lord God Al - might y. Wor thy is the Lamb, wor thy is the Lamb.

You are ho - ly, ho - ly are You, Lord God Al - might - y.

Wor thy is the Lamb, wor thy is the Lamb. A - men.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(sung) (please be seated after "Amen")*

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.

*(The congregation may bow in reverence and wonder
at the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist.)*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION *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. For a gluten-free rice wafer say "Rice." Grape juice is in the pre-filled glasses. Those not ready to receive communion may come for a blessing.*

LAMB OF GOD *(WOV p39)*

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.

COMMUNION HYMNS *(sung until all have received.)*

1. "As the Grains of Wheat" (ELW # 465 - Marty Haugen) →

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
 gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
 all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
 2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres-ence of your love.
 all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

2. "O Holy Spirit, Root of Life" (WOV # 688)

1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, root of life, cre - a - tor,
 2 E - ter - nal Vig - or, Sav - ing One, you free us
 3 O ho - ly Wis - dom, soar - ing pow'r, en - com - pass

cleans - er of all things: a - noint our wounds, a -
 by your liv - ing Word, be - com - ing flesh to
 us with wings un - furled, and car - ry us, en -

wak - en us with lus - trous move - ment of your wings.
 wear our pain, and all cre - a - tion is re - stored.
 cir - cling all a - bove, be - low, and through the world.

Text: Jean Janzen, b. 1933, based on Hildegard of Bingen, 1078–1179

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, 15th cent., adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

(11:00 - Communion visitors comes forward during last verse.)

WE ARE SENT INTO GOD'S WORLD

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

SENDING OF COMMUNION (11:00) *(Please rise.)*

L: Let us pray together: **C:** **O God of tender compassion,**
as You healed the sick and welcomed the stranger, bless
those who leave this assembly to share the gifts of this
table with our sisters and brothers who are sick or
homebound. May they be sustained by the love and
prayers of this community, and by the Bread of life that
satisfies all hunger, Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

BLESSING

P: God gives rest to all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens.
Almighty and merciful God, the Father, the $\dagger$ Son, and the Holy
Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you, this day and forevermore.

C: **AMEN.**

SENDING HYMN

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness” (Maj # 519 - favorite) →

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 *“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms” (VBS cd track # 9)*

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.*

ALTAR FLOWERS & BULLETINS ARE SPONSORED BY:

Holy Cross, to the Glory of God

1 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
 2 Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
 3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear

shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
 stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright

pas-sions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for-ev-er wilt be.
 man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
 hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

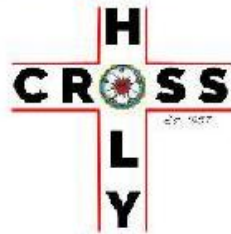
Refrain
 Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by
 morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy
 hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

JULY 19, 2026
EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SERVANTS OF THE LORD TODAY

GREETER: 8:30-Sharon Wagner | 11:00-Irene Graham
SOUND: 8:30-Josh Miller | 11:00-Ken Yoxheimer
LIVESTREAM: 8:30-Jan Stryker
SONG LEADER: 8:30-Karen Brown | 11:00-Nancy Cook
LITURGIST/COMMUNION: 8:30-Seth Miller | 11:00-Lyn Stryker
LECTOR: 8:30-Alyce Stein | 11:00-Kathy Ballek
CHILDREN'S CHAT: Ruthann Kistler
USHER: 8:30-Jan Stryker | 11:00-Irene Graham
ALTAR GUILD: Jan Stryker & Carol Royer
COUNTERS: Jan Stryker & Karen Brown
SEXTON: **Volunteers needed**
PHONETREE: Stephen Zeiner
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Mike Zyskowski
PRAYER CARE: call Pat Gilbert (610) 867-7759

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church



a congregation of the
NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH



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Holycrosspastor@rcn.com † Preschool (610) 867-9735
www.holycrossbethlehem.com

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. David L. Brown, *Pastor* † Ruthann Kistler, *Christian Ed. Dir.*
Nancy Cook, *Organist* † Karen Brown, *Secretary*
Volunteers Needed, Sexton † Karen Steiner, *Pre-school*
Lisa Wechsler, *Bookkeeper* † Stephen Zeiner, *Webmaster*

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship - 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM † Sunday School - 9:45 AM
(Holy Communion 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays & Major Feasts)

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