

**REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Serving Absecon - Galloway Township**  
**Rev. Heidi Link – Pastor**  
**Brian Conover - Music Director**

**Sunday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / 9:00 AM**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: Come! Listen to the word of the Lord!

**C: Help us to receive God’s word and direction for our lives.**

*(Soloist sings “Your Words of Life”)*

P: Proclaim the goodness of God’s love!

**C: Let our voices and our actions be filled with love.**

P: Come, now is the time to worship.

**C: Open our eyes, our hearts and our spirits this day, Lord. AMEN.**

*(Soloist sings “Your Words of Life”)*

text © ministrymatters.com  
music © 2011 Sovereign Grace Music

**\* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our provider,

**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.**

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.

**Amen.**

\* - Congregation Stands (If for any reason you are unable to stand during the service, please remain seated.)

**\* OPENING SONG**

**Just a Closer Walk with Thee**



Just a clos-er walk with thee, grant it, Je-sus, is my plea;



dai - ly walk-ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.



- 1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
- 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
- 3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;



I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.  
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.  
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.

Text: North American traditional  
Music: CLOSER WALK, North American traditional

**\* GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

Let us pray: O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Amos 7:7-15**

*(for text of reading, see back of bulletin)*

**RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 85:8-13**

<sup>8</sup>I 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.

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

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

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

<sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,  
and our land will yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup>**Righteousness shall go before the LORD  
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

**SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14**

*(for text of reading, see back of bulletin)*

**\* HYMN OF PRAISE**

**I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me**



1 I'm so glad I'm so glad  
2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me. Sa - tan had me bound,  
3 When I was in trou - ble, When I was in trou - ble,



Je - sus lift - ed me. I'm so glad  
Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me,  
When I was in trou - ble,



sing - ing glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed me.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: JESUS LIFTED ME, African American spiritual

**\* THE WORD OF GOD: Mark 6:14-29**

A reading from the Gospel of St. Mark:

*(for text of reading, see back of bulletin)*

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG**

**Praise and Thanksgiving**



1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things  
2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our  
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's  
4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -



liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the  
neigh - bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work  
guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -  
fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will



or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.  
with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.  
joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.  
hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt.

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune

Text © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

**\* APOSTLE'S CREED**

**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**

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

*A brief silence.*

Holy parent, you welcome your people into one family and gather all things to yourself. Bestow your grace upon your beloved church, lavish your wisdom upon us, and redeem us from our faults, that by our witness all might praise your glory. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Awesome Creator, you steadfastly tend to the smallest of seeds and the mightiest of sycamore trees. Spring up green growth from the earth, nourish the growth of fruit, grain, and other crops, and bless the work of farmers and laborers. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the oppressed, turn the ears of those who are in power to the voices of prophets in our own day. Protect those who speak difficult truths when it is risky to do so. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of strength, you are near to those who endure difficulty. Comfort all who are survivors of violence, guard the refugee and the immigrant, and protect all those who are victims of prejudice and discrimination. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of love, we pray for this holy house and all those who worship here. We pray especially for those whose efforts behind the scenes often go unnoticed; for the custodian(s) and maintenance workers, for our office staff (*other positions may be named*), and for all of our volunteers. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We thank you, God, for the saints, martyrs, and prophets who have died in the faith (*especially Benedict of Nursia*). We remember those in this community who have recently died (*especially*). United with them as God's children, assure us that we are yours forever. Lord, in your mercy,

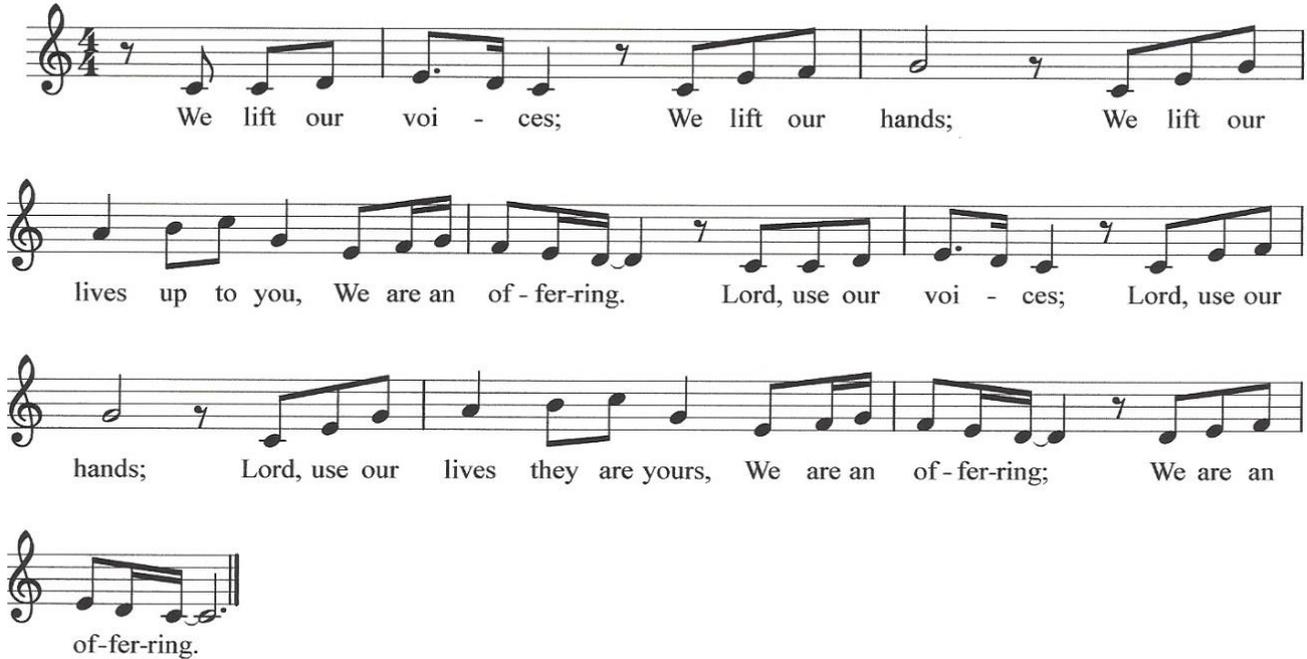
**hear our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace. **Amen.**

## OFFERING

### SPECIAL MUSIC

#### \* OFFERING SONG - "WE ARE AN OFFERING"



The musical notation is written on a single treble clef staff in 4/4 time. It consists of four lines of music. The lyrics are: "We lift our voi - ces; We lift our hands; We lift our lives up to you, We are an of - fer-ring. Lord, use our voi - ces; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives they are yours, We are an of - fer-ring; We are an of-fer-ring." The melody is simple and repetitive, with a final cadence at the end.

#### \* OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. **Amen.**

#### \* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

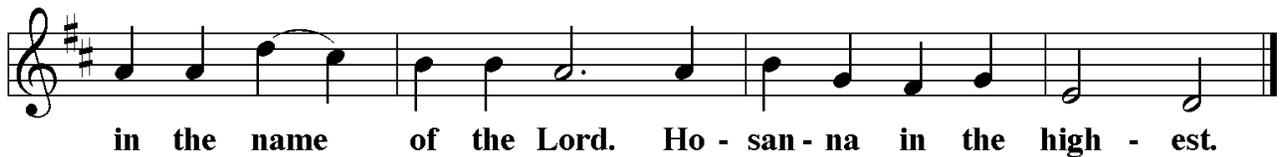
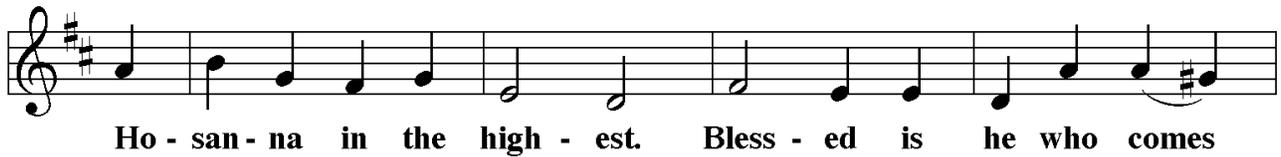
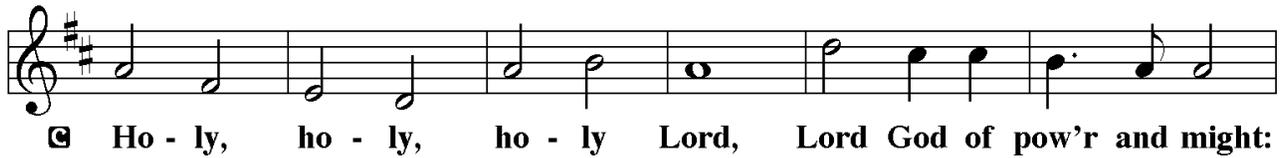
Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and salutary...*(Here the minister continues with the preface appropriate to the day or season, concluding:)* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



**\* WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*(BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS who believe that the risen Christ is present in the Eucharist to forgive sin and renew life are invited to share at your pew. Please remain there, kneel as you are able, and receive the elements using the communion packet you were given. If there are other special needs, please speak to an usher.)*

**\*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen**

**\* POST COMMUNION HYMN**

**Go, My Children, with My Blessing**

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff begins with a '3' time signature. The lyrics are: "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me. Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free. Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here his ten - der com-fort stilled you. Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free."

**\* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray: Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

**\* BLESSING**

And now a Blessing: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✝ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

**\* THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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**

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!  
**We come.**

\* CLOSING SONG

## Faith of Our Fathers



1 Faith of our fa - thers, liv - ing still in spite of dun - geon,  
2 Faith of our moth - ers, dar - ing faith, your work for Christ is  
3 Faith of our sis - ters, broth - ers too, who still must bear op -  
4 Faith born of God, oh, call us yet, bind us with all who



fire, and sword. Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy  
love re - vealed, spread - ing God's word from pole to pole,  
press - ion's might, rais - ing on high, in pris - ons dark,  
fol - low you, shar - ing the strug - gle of your cross



when - e'er we hear that glo - rious word. Faith of our fa - thers,  
mak - ing love known and free - dom real. Faith of our moth - ers,  
the cross of Christ still burn - ing bright. Faith for to - day, O  
un - til the world is made a - new. Faith born of God, O



ho - ly faith, we will be true to you till death.  
ho - ly faith, we will be true to you till death.  
liv - ing faith, we will be true to you till death.  
liv - ing faith, we will be true to you till death.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, st. 1, alt.; Joseph R. Alfred, b. 1947, sts. 2–4  
Music: ST. CATHERINE, Henri F. Hemy, 1818–1888; James G. Walton, 1821–1905, refrain  
Text sts. 2–4 © Joseph R. Alfred, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

\* SENDING

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

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