

# The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

An ELCA, Reconciling in Christ, and Rejoicing Spirits congregation

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Eighth Sunday after Pentecost  
August 3, 2025  
8:30 am

## **The Holy Spirit Empowers Us for Ministry in Daily Life**

Gathered by God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit,  
we invite and welcome all people to join us on our journey  
to become more faithful ministers of Jesus Christ  
in our homes, our communities, and the world.

**We welcome all who worship with us today.**

Visitors are invited to sign the guest register located in the lobby.

If you are interested in joining our family of faith,  
please talk with one of our Pastors or call the church office.

**Children are welcome and celebrated!**

The “Children’s Ministry” table and basket in the lobby  
contains a variety of items for children’s use during worship.  
Stop by to borrow a book or pick up some coloring sheets and crayons.

Please silence all communication devices.

Our services are live streamed and recorded. In-person attendance implies consent  
to be included in the live streamed and recorded worship service.

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**HOLY COMMUNION**

All who believe in the presence of Jesus Christ in Holy Communion are welcome to receive the Sacrament. To facilitate flow, the ushers invite people to come forward starting with the back rows and working forward. You should come forward using the center aisle to receive the elements in a continuous style from pastor and worship assistant. Afterward you may choose to kneel or stand at the altar rail for a brief moment of prayer or return to your seat up the side aisle, depositing your empty cup in the receptacle on your way. Gluten free wafers are available. Our wine is grape juice so that all may freely receive.

Children who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. Communion kits are available at the usher stands for those who prefer to remain in their seats, and they will be communed along with our Zoom worshippers at the beginning of distribution.

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## **Gathering Music**

A Living Prayer  
Douglas Helfrich, solo

arr. Gulia

## **Welcome and Announcements**

*We rise in body or spirit.*

## **Confession**

When we could be revived by God's grace,  
we find ourselves fearing God's judgment,  
doubting God's joy in us, believing God has turned away from us.  
Let us come to the One who heals us and calls each of us by name.

Amazing God,  
**You hold nothing back from us, yet we are determined to cling to what we have accumulated. You invite us to set aside our old ways and walk with you, but unknown paths fill us with fear.**

**Have mercy on us.  
We come to the table of grace and hope,  
not for our personal satisfaction,  
but for the joy of recognizing the one who calls us to new life,  
and for the grace to share this joy with everyone we meet.  
This we pray in the name of Jesus.**

Do not be afraid. More than anything else, God would rather turn decaying swamps into pools of crystal clear water; bonds of sin into cords of compassion; sinners into servants.

**God loves us. God forgives us.  
God lifts us to new life.  
Thanks be to God. Amen**

*Refrain*

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way;  
 for if you lead me, I can - not stray.  
 Lord, let me walk each day with thee.  
 Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r  
 2 Help me tread in the paths of right - teous - ness,  
 3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,

to help me o - ver my weak - est hour.  
 be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.  
 I am blind with - out . . . thy light to see.

Help me through the dark - ness thy face to see.  
 I am put - ting all . . . my trust in thee.  
 Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

*Refrain*

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

## Greeting and 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.**

We pray.

**Spirit of hope and renewal, as the dawn nudges us awake, summon us with your presence. Wrap us with the cloak of your wisdom and grace. As your light breaks the horizon this day, help us see the love revealed in your realm. Nourish us with your wisdom and guide us with your hope, for we hunger to know you better.**

**Amen**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture readings, preaching and song.*

**Reading** Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23      Translation: NRSV-UE

A reading from Ecclesiastes.

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with. I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind. I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God!**

*We rise in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.*

**Gospel** Luke 12:13-21

Translation: NRSV-UE

The Good News from Luke, the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Open our hearts, Lord.**

Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

This is the Good News!

**Thanks be to God!**

*The assembly is seated.*

**Sermon**

Pastor Shari Duminy

*We rise in body or spirit.*



- 1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what had seemed sure,
- 2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - ry's roots a - live
- 3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en - larg - ing hearts,



tak - ing risks and press - ing on, though the way feels less se - cure:  
so that hope may bear its fruit; prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive,  
shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer, bind - ing up the bro - ken parts;



pil - grim - age both right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.  
not through mer - it we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.  
till we find the com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

## Prayers of the People

### *Invitation to prayer:*

With all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church  
and pray for the needs of the world.

### *After each petition:*

We pray to you for comfort, healing and peace, saying,  
**Gracious God, hear our prayer**

### *Pastor's closing prayer:*

Trusting in your love, we place our prayer and hope in you,  
in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen**

## Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace by saying,  
"Peace be with you."*

*The assembly is seated.*

# MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

*During the Offering Song, the gifts will be brought forward. You may remain seated.  
If you wish you may leave your offering in the additional offering plates located on the  
tables in the back of the sanctuary as you leave.*

## Offering Song

### We Plow the Fields and Scatter

ELW 681

#### Verse 1



1 We plow the fields and scat - ter the good seed on the land,  
2 You on - ly are the mak - er of all things near and far.  
3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,



but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand,  
You paint the way-side flow - er, you light the eve - ning star.  
the seed-time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.



who sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,  
The winds and waves o - bey you, by you the birds are fed;  
No gifts have we to of - fer for all your love im - parts,



the breez-es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain.  
much more to us, your chil - dren, you give our dai - ly bread.  
but what you most would trea - sure—our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.

#### Refrain



All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav'n a - bove.



We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.



## Offering Prayer

We pray.

God of Goodness, thank you for your steadfast love and your wonderful works.

Today we stand in front of you with our riches in hand: our treasures, time, and talents.

May our giving reflect the faithfulness of our spirits. And may our offering be clothed with your visions and dreams.

**Amen**

*We rise in body or spirit.*

## Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

People of God, open up your hearts.

**We open them to God and one another.**

Give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks to the One who offers us lives filled with grace.**

## Words of Institution

### Word in Meal

Compassionate God, pour out your gracious Spirit on us,  
and on these your simple gifts.

Fill us with the broken bread that we might be made whole;

touch our parched lips with the cup of salvation, so we might proclaim your gospel.

Then send us forth:

our hearts recoiling at the oppression suffered by our siblings;

our hands willing to build shelter for those cast out by the world;

our arms surrounding the lost and the least in the embrace of common humanity.

And when we are clothed with our new self, when we are united with our siblings around the table of glory, we will sing our praises to you forever as you satisfy the thirsty with your grace, and fill the hungry with your love.

**Amen**

## **Lord's Prayer**

God in Community, Holy in One,  
hear us as we pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen**

## **Invitation to the table**

God's table is set before you.  
Eat and rejoice.

*The assembly is seated.*

## **Distribution of communion**



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,  
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;  
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.  
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.  
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.  
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.  
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,  
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,  
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,  
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.  
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.  
Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel - come here.  
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.



1 Mak-ing their way down through the a - ges, sin - ners and saints have  
2 Mak-ing their way all the world o - ver, Chris - tians as - sem - ble  
3 Mak-ing our way sea - son by sea-son, pil - grims, we jour - ney



heard God's call: wealth - y and poor, pow - er - ful, low - ly,  
on this day, hear - ing the Word, shar - ing the Ban - quet,  
till life's end, trav - el - ing light, shar - ing the rich - es,



Je - sus' dis - ci - ples, one and all. Gath - ered for wor - ship, of - fer - ing thanks,  
learn - ing to walk in Je - sus' way. Mem - bers of Christ, u - nit - ed in love,  
car - ing for strang - er as for friend, till in the joy of long - ing ful - filled,



the great - est with the least have come to share this feast.  
they seek our God to know, and so to - geth - er grow.  
to - geth - er we will come to our e - ter - nal home.

*We rise in body or spirit.*

### Prayer after communion

We pray.

Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace.  
Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves  
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

**Amen**

# SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## Blessing

May the God who gives us every good gift  
bless you and keep you in the mind of Christ,  
by the power of the Spirit who sustains us all.  
**Amen**

## Sending Song

### Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

ELW 535

*Refrain— sung twice each time*



Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa ro - na, di tha -  
Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es, all our



bi - le ka - o - fe - la. Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa  
hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your



ro - na, di tha - bi - le ka - o - fe - la.  
prais-es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness. *End*



1 Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,  
2 Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,

*Repeat stanza, then sing refrain*



I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hun - ger.  
strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joy - ful gos - pel.

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

Please join in supporting our church's ministries using your preferred method of giving:



**venmo**

- Enroll in our on-line giving program, Simply Giving (recommended);
- Mail your offering check to the church;
- Text your offering to 610-981-1312;
- Download our mobile app for recurring or one-time gifts;
- Establish automatic contributions to the church using your bank's bill pay service.

Additional information is located in the Stewardship section of the church's website at: [lchsemmaus.org](http://lchsemmaus.org).

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## **WORSHIP LEADERS**

Pastor Shari Duminy, Senior Pastor  
Pastor Tami K. Reichley, Associate Pastor  
Pastor Cindy Camp, Associate Pastor  
Deacon Melanie Werley, Director of Liturgy  
Deacon Reylene Starego, Director of Music  
Karin Kahler, Director Faith Formation for Children

## **WORSHIP HELPERS**

### **Assisting Minister**

Becky Keane

### **Reader**

Fran Derhammer

### **Communion Assistants**

Sue Mathieu  
JoEllen Rooney

### **Greeter**

Sue Smith

### **Usher**

Rob Smith

### **Production/Technology Team**

Al Bauernschmidt, Chuck Coe, Max H., Glenn Hinderliter, Jeff Gross, Eric Kahler,  
Craig Kauffman, Bill Keane, Paige Mathieu, Tom Moessner, Bob Neitz, Bill Newill,  
Kristen Newill, Carol Osenbach, John Osenbach, Chris Pirrotta, Ev Reggie,  
Bob Stevens, and Jimmy Lee Werley

### **Altar Care**

Terri Hinderliter, Julie Timmcke, Linda Letts, Cindy Clark,  
Carol Osenbach, Brenda Brookover Jennifer Wetzel, Lynn Snyder, Kitti Berkheimer