

The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

An ELCA, Reconciling in Christ, and Rejoicing Spirits congregation

3461 Cedar Crest Blvd.
Emmaus, PA 18049-1599
PHONE 610.967.2220
FAX 610.966.3021

email info@holyspirit-emmaus.org
www.lchsemmaus.org
www.facebook.com/lchsemmaus



16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2026
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.

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

Forgiveness
Spirit of Praise

West

Welcome and Announcements

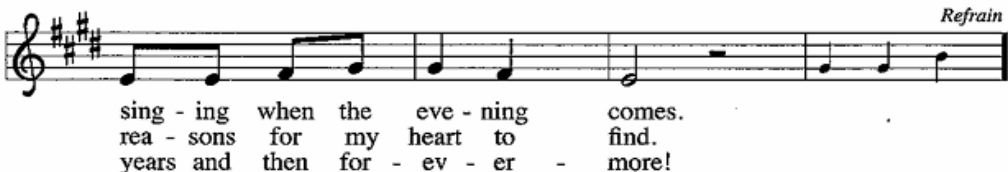
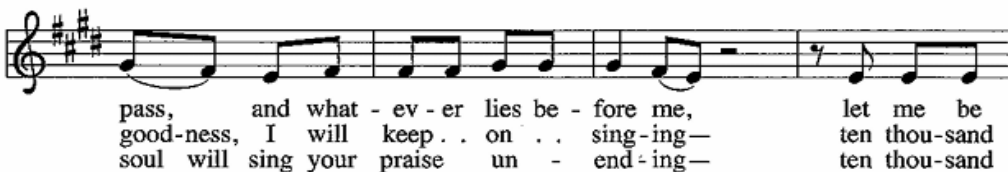
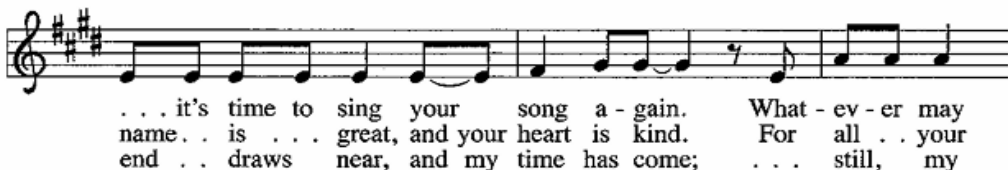
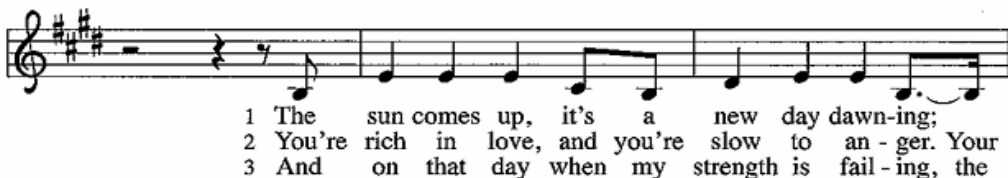
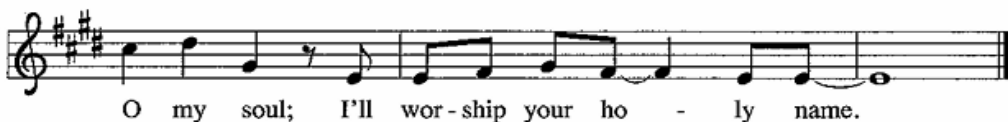
We rise in body or spirit.

Gathering Dialog

When we have been overwhelmed by the flood of fears,
when our wheels got stuck in the mud,
you were with us, O God, helping us to find solid ground.

When we clung to our old securities, when we relied on the ways of the world,
you went before us, leading us into the kingdom of grace.

When we cling to everything that would hold us back,
when we are hesitant to cut the ties to our past,
**you show us the future you have prepared for us;
you open our hearts to your love.
Thanks be to God!**



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, O Lord God, merciful judge, **you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

Reading – Genesis 50:15-21

Translation: NRSV-UE

A reading from Genesis.

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

We rise in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.

The Good News from Matthew, the 18th chapter.

Open our hearts, Lord.

Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

This is the Good News!

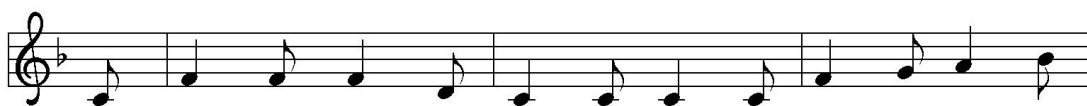
Thanks be to God!

The assembly is seated.

Sermon

Pastor Shari Duminy

We rise in body or spirit.



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Prayers of the People

Invitation to prayer:

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers,
 confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

After each petition:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Pastor's closing prayer:

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

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.



- 1 God, whose giv-ing knows no end-ing, from your rich and end-less store:
- 2 Skills and time are ours for press-ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
- 3 Treas-ure, too, you have en-trust-ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con-ferred;



na-ture's won-der, Je-sus' wis-dom, cost-ly cross, grave's shat-tered door,
all at peace in health and free-dom, rac-es joined, the church made one.
ours to use for home and kin-dred, and to spread the gos-pel word.



gift-ed by you, we turn to you, of-f'ring up our-selves in praise;
Now di-rect our dai-ly la-bor, lest we strive for self a-lone;
O-pen wide our hands in shar-ing, as we heed Christ's age-less call,



thank-ful song shall rise for-ev-er, gra-cious do-nor of our days.
born with tal-ents, make us ser-vants fit to an-swer at your throne.
heal-ing, teach-ing, and re-claim-ing, serv-ing you by lov-ing all.

Offering Prayer

Merciful God, you forgive us more than we can count and free us from debts we could never repay. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and trust. Use them to share your mercy, heal broken relationships, and help us forgive from the heart, just as we have been forgiven in Christ. **Amen.**

We rise in body or spirit.

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.

Savior God, you look at our world with compassion.
You also look at our world with clarity and a zeal for justice.
Use all we bring to live, and all we bring to you today,
to fight for justice with mercy and compassion.
Make us and our gifts part of the healing of the world.

Words of Institution

Word in Meal

Creator God, send your Spirit in peace upon us and these simple gifts of the bread and of the cup.
As we share the bread, we share the presence of Christ,
strengthened to go out with forgiveness in our hearts.
As we share the cup, we share Christ's Spirit with our neighbors,
and are called to welcome all as our siblings.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

God in Community, Holy in One, as you are all to us,
so we would offer all we are to you, even 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

Jesus invites you to this table.
Come, eat and live.

The assembly is seated.

Distribution of Communion

Refrain

I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.



I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.



- 1 Je - sus said: I am the bread, knead - ed long to give you life;
- 2 Je - sus said: I am the way, and my Fa - ther longs for you;
- 3 Je - sus said: I am the truth; come and fol - low close to me.
- 4 Je - sus said: I am the life, far from whom no thing can grow,

Refrain

you who will par - take of me need not ev - er fear to die.
so I come to bring you home to be one with us a - new.
You will know me in your heart, and my word shall make you free.
but re - ceive this liv - ing bread, and my Spir - it you shall know.



- 1 Bread of life, our host and meal, Je - sus, feed us.
2 Bread now break and wine now pour, Je - sus, feed us.
3 Grant for - give - ness in the feast— Je - sus, feed us—
4 Thank you for this gift we share. Je - sus, feed us.



Christ, by faith, to see and feel, feed us with your love.
Make us one, our hope re - store; feed us with your love.
for the great - est and the least; feed us with your love.
Save God's chil - dren ev - 'ry - where; feed us with your love.

Communion Song

When We Are Living

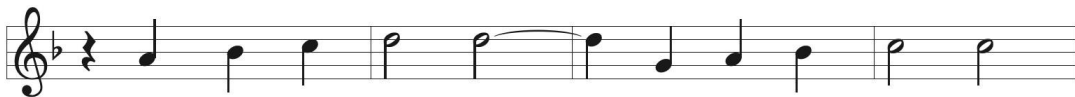
ELW 639



Pues si vi - vi - mos, pa - ra él vi - vi - mos,
 1 When we are liv - ing, it is in Christ Je - sus,
 2 'Mid times of sor - row and in times of pain,
 3 A - cross this wide world, we shall al - ways find



y si mo - ri - mos pa - ra él mo - ri - mos.
 and when we're dy - ing, it is in the Lord. . . .
 when sens - ing beau - ty or in love's em - brace, . . .
 those who are cry - ing with no peace of mind; . . .



Sea que vi - va - mos o que mu - ra - mos,
 Both in our liv - ing and in our dy - ing,
 wheth - er we suf - fer, or sing re - joic - ing,
 and when we help them, or when we feed them,



so - mos del Se - ñor, so - mos del Se - ñor.
 we be - long to God, we be - long to God.
 we be - long to God, we be - long to God.
 we be - long to God, we be - long to God.

We rise in body or spirit.

Prayer after communion

Let us pray.
 Blessed be your name, O God,
 for we have feasted on your Word,
 Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.

Strengthened by this food,
send us to gather the world to your banquet,
where none are left out and all are satisfied.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

SENDING

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

Commissioning and Blessing of Faith Formation Leaders

Siblings, you have shared your time, your energy,
and your gifts to the children, youth, and family ministries of this congregation.
Will you offer your giftedness to this ministry in the confidence that it comes
from God?

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

Will you carry out this ministry centered in Christ's call,
striving to trust God as your guide and inspiration?

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

Will you trust in God's care, seek to grow in love for those you serve,
strive for excellence in your skills, and honor the gospel with a faithful life?

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

I now ask you, people of The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit:
Will you today renew your commitment to our children and youth
who look to you for guidance, support,
and examples of righteous living?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Those being commissioned face the assembly.

Will you pray for these leaders and the young people they serve,
celebrating our children and youth as the ones Jesus blessed and welcomed?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

The presiding minister continues.

Pastor:

Let us pray. Gracious God, for Jesus' sake, empower these ministers to care for the young ones in our family of faith.

Help them to teach faithfully, lead patiently, and guide confidently.

Stir up in these servants the gift of your Holy Spirit:

the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the spirit of counsel and might,

the spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord,

the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Pastor:

On behalf of The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit,
we now commission you for ministry, grateful for your gifts
and your willingness to serve.

Blessing

The God of glory,

✠ Jesus Christ, name above all names,

and the Spirit who lives in you,

bless you now and forever.

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.



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

God calls to us to join the holy work of making the world right.
We will live for God and for God's work in all we do!



venmo

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

- 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.

Text copyright permissions: Portions of the liturgy taken from: *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023: Worship Resources for Every Sunday of the Year*. Copyright © 2022 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission; *Playing Hopscotch in Heaven: Lectionary Liturgies for RCL Year A*, Copyright © 2013 Thom M. Shuman; *Lectionary Worship Aids, Series VIII, Cycle A, Cradled in God's Heart*, Thom M. Shuman, Copyright © 2007 by CSS Publishing Company, Inc., Lima, Ohio.

Bible Translations currently used at worship in this parish: Contemporary English Version (CEV) © 1995 by American Bible Society. New International Version (NIV) © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition. ©2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Primary Liturgy Resources from SundaysandSeasons.com. ©2020, 2017, 2014, 2011 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #20593

Music permissions: All music reprinted and streamed with permission under OneLicense A-701076, all rights reserved.

Ten Thousand Reasons, © 2011 Atlas Mountain Songs | sixsteps Music | Thankyou Music Ltd | worshiptogether.com songs, CCLI Song #6016351.

I Come with Joy, Text © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. One License #00455.

Music Public Domain.

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending, Text © 1961, Ren. 1989 by The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188). All rights reserved. Used by permission. One License #00783. Music Public Domain.

I Received the Living God, Text and Music Public Domain.

Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal, Text and music © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. One License #43657.

When We Are Living, Spanish text, stanzas 2-4 © 1983 Abingdon Press, admin. Music Services, Brentwood, TN; tr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, admin.

Music Services. All rights reserved. One License #16733. Music Public Domain.

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises, Text and arr. © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp. One License #94986.



WORSHIP LEADERS

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

WORSHIP HELPERS

Assisting Minister

Charlotte Gross

Reader

Louise Arnold

Communion Assistants

Sue Mathieu, Linda Devine

Greeter

Irv Keister

Usher

Angie Niland

Production/Technology Team

Al Bauernschmidt, Chuck Coe, Lexi H., Max H., XJ H., Glenn Hinderliter,
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

Cindy Clark, Deb Stevens, Robbie Flynn, Nancy Shoemaker, Donna Bhagat,
Lynn Snyder, Linda Letts, Terri Hinderliter, Jennifer Wetzels, Julie Timmcke