



*“Then he called the crowd again and said to them,  
“Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing  
outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things  
that come out are what defile.”*

*Mark 7: 14-15*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – September 1, 2024**

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Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister

Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning!  
Know that you are welcome here just as you are.*

*If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time worshiping at St. John, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.*

*Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an \* and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**. All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.*

*During the time of **Peace**, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.*

*At the time of **Offering**, you are invited to share a gift. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Online gifts may be made using the QR code below:*



*You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. **Visitor information cards** and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.*

*As Lutherans, we believe Christ is truly present in the elements of the Lord's Supper. At the time of **Holy Communion**, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then pre-filled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

*If you need a **restroom**, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.*

*A **playroom** is available downstairs for children who need a break from the worship service. This room is by the elevator on the lower level. Children are also welcome to utilize the books and puzzles available in the Greeting Area on the top level by the elevator.*

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms located in each pew. The cards will be collected during our hymn of the day, and prayers will be offered during the prayers of intercession.

## PRELUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## GATHERING

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

### \*GATHERING SONG *O Master, Let Me Walk with You* (ELW 818)



1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly  
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,  
3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,  
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the



paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;  
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward  
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith  
fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly



help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.  
feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.  
sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,  
you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

## **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

*We admit our sins*  
Please pray with me.

Jesus, you spread out your arms to welcome the world.  
And then you tell us to feed them.

**But we struggle with your command.**

**We find the seed of doubt growing in our hearts:**

**What is our compassion among so much pain?**

**What is our small kindness in a system of injustice?**

**What is one act of reconciliation in a divided society?**

**How can so little food feed so many hungry mouths?**

We have simply forgotten: when you ask us to feed the world, you always provide the bread.

**Even when we have tasted the bread you multiply; even when we gather your leftovers, we still find ourselves between your wondrous power and our sinful reality.**

*We plead for God's forgiveness*  
So we ask for your forgiveness.

**When you call for our faith, forgive our unbelief.**

**As you prepare our heavenly dwelling, forgive our earthly worries.**

**When you offer us armfuls of food that satisfies, forgive our appetite for unhealthy fare.**

**When your gospel challenges us, forgive our irritable complaints.**

You are patient with us even when we prove fussy and doubtful, reluctant and argumentative.

**How often do we act this way just because we are hungry?**

*We receive God's immediate forgiveness*

People of God, Jesus knows you are hungry for forgiveness.

So Jesus has set our table with bread from heaven; and a feast to heal the soul.

You are forgiven. God leavens you with eternal goodness. Jesus gives you forgiveness enough to share. And the Holy Spirit fills your life with the flavor of transformation.

You are forgiven.

**God, give us this bread always.**

**\*Canticle of Praise *This Is the Feast***

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



peo-ple of God. Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and strength, and

*Refrain*



hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his. This is the feast of



vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-



le-lu-ia. 2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or,



glo-ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9**

A reading from Deuteronomy.

<sup>1</sup>So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. <sup>2</sup>You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

<sup>6</sup>You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!” <sup>7</sup>For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? <sup>8</sup>And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

<sup>9</sup>But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 15**

*Read responsively – congregation reads bold printed verses*

<sup>1</sup>LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

<sup>2</sup>**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,  
who speak the truth from their heart;**

<sup>3</sup>they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

<sup>4</sup>**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD.  
They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

<sup>5</sup>They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.  
Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

## SECOND READING: James 1:17-27

A reading from James.

<sup>17</sup>Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup>In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

<sup>19</sup>You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup>for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. <sup>21</sup>Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

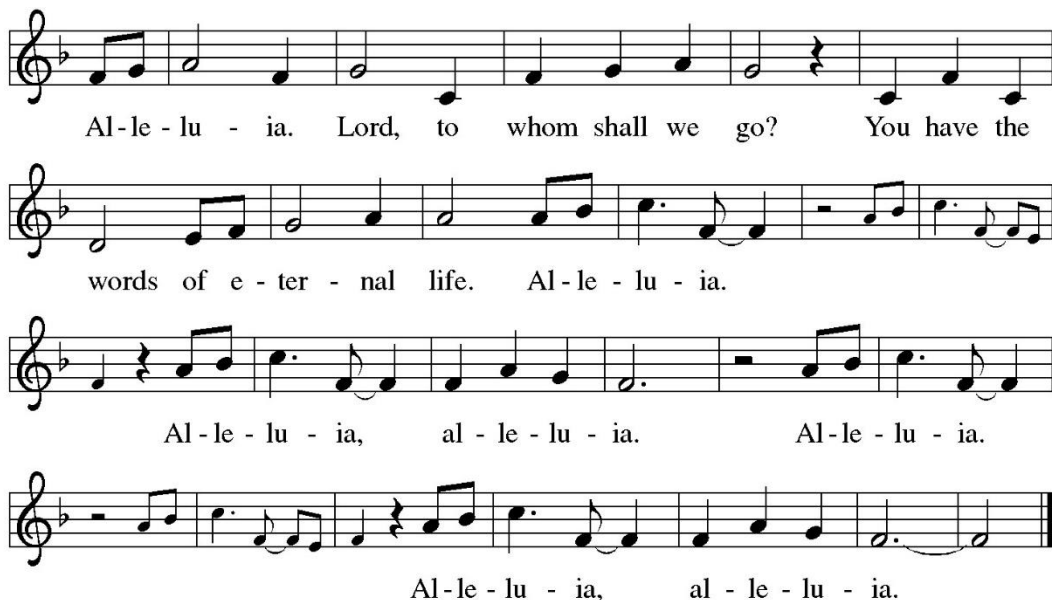
<sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup>For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for they look at themselves and, ongoing away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup>But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

<sup>26</sup>If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**\*GOSPEL READING: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], <sup>2</sup>they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup>(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; <sup>4</sup>and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) <sup>5</sup>So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?”

<sup>6</sup>He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,

but their hearts are far from me;

<sup>7</sup>in vain do they worship me,

teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

<sup>8</sup>You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

<sup>14</sup>Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand:

<sup>15</sup>there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

<sup>21</sup>“For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**SERMON**



**\*HYMN OF THE DAY** *The Heavens Tell of Your Creative Glory* (ACS 1070)

(Blue prayer cards are collected)

The heav-ens tell of your cre-a - tive glo-ry. The fir - ma-ment of the  
6 sky de - clares your sto - ry, and day to day is your  
10 knowl - edge still speak - ing and night to night the dark is teach - ing your wis - dom  
14 to those still seek - ing. You craft - ed all your works with care and  
19 beau - ty the moon and the stars, the gal - ax - ies of light and  
25 you call peo - ple to tend your cre - a - tion. All the earth prol - claims to - geth - er,  
29 "O God your name be ex - alt - ed!" So help us, Cre - a - tor of all, in sus -  
35 tain - ing the world you made, and in nur - tur - ing na - ure, your  
38 gift that keeps us a - live. So help us, Cre - a - tor of all, in sus -  
43 tain - ing the world you made, and in nur - tur - ing na - ture, your  
46 gift that keeps us a - live.

**\*APOSTLES' CREED**

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.\***

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come 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**

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

God of every generation, give the church a sense of purpose and belonging. Sustain and build up leaders and lay people as we accompany one another in our life with Christ. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of creation, you named humans as co-creators with you. Where the earth cries out in pain, bring wholeness. Guide governments and industry, that environmental laws and practices seek to heal and not harm. Bring relief and justice to people and places suffering from climate catastrophe. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sovereign God, we pray for local communities of every kind: rural and urban; established and new. Lead those in authority to seek the good of all through their words and actions and to mentor others in honest and generous ways. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Healing God, you draw near to all who are hurting. Be with all who desire relief from chronic and acute illness, cancer, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Strengthen health care workers, therapists, and caregivers. Tend to those who are close to our hearts, especially Bob, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Ellen, Ruth, Sally, Katie, Debi, Anne, those on our prayer list, all whom we remember in our hearts and all who suffer in any way and grant them renewal. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

On this Labor Day weekend we remember and give thanks for all who have fought for workers' rights around the world. Continue to improve working conditions and establish fair wages so that all people may thrive. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Comforting God, console us as we mourn our departed. We hold fast to the promise that death has been defeated by our Savior Jesus Christ. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God and those on the hearts and minds of this congregation this day (*blue prayer cards are read*). Receive these and the prayers for which we do not yet have words into your holy keeping.

**Amen.**

## **\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

## MEAL

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

### OFFERING

#### OFFERTORY HYMN *Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil* (ELW 512)

*Sing three times through*

*Rise on third time*



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

#### \*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.**

## \*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.**

It is indeed right and salutary  
that we should at all times and in all places  
offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord,  
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:

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

God of all, mighty and merciful,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We thank you and praise you  
for you have satisfied the hunger of your people in every age:  
from the beginning you drew up food from the earth  
and humankind from the soil,  
filling our nostrils full of your Breath.  
You ate the fatted calf with Abraham and Sarah,  
and answered their deep longing for a child;  
you sustained your chosen people with manna  
as you led them toward the promised land;  
you sent prophets to answer the cry for bread and for justice;  
and in fullness of time,  
you sent your own Son, Jesus Christ, the Bread of Heaven;

Who, in the night in which he was handed over, 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:  
The 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 to share with us the great and promised feast.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
And stir in us a hunger for justice and thirst for compassion.  
Open wide you hand and satisfy our deep desire-  
feed us with the Bread that is you.  
All honor and glory to you, almighty God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,  
**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. Taste and see that the Lord is good. Come!

*Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.*

*Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.*

## COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God*

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, Lamb of God.

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN *We Plow the Fields and Scatter* (ELW 680)



*A - ra - mos nues-tros cam-pos, y lue - goel sem - bra - dor*  
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,



*en e - llos la si - mien - te es - par - ce con a - mor.*  
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.



*Mas es de Dios la ma - no que laha - ce ger - mi - nar,*  
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 what your love im - parts



*ca - lor y llu - via dan - do a to - dos por i - gual.*  
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.



## COMMUNION HYMN *Change My Heart, O God* (ELW 801)



Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

### **\*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

### **\*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

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.

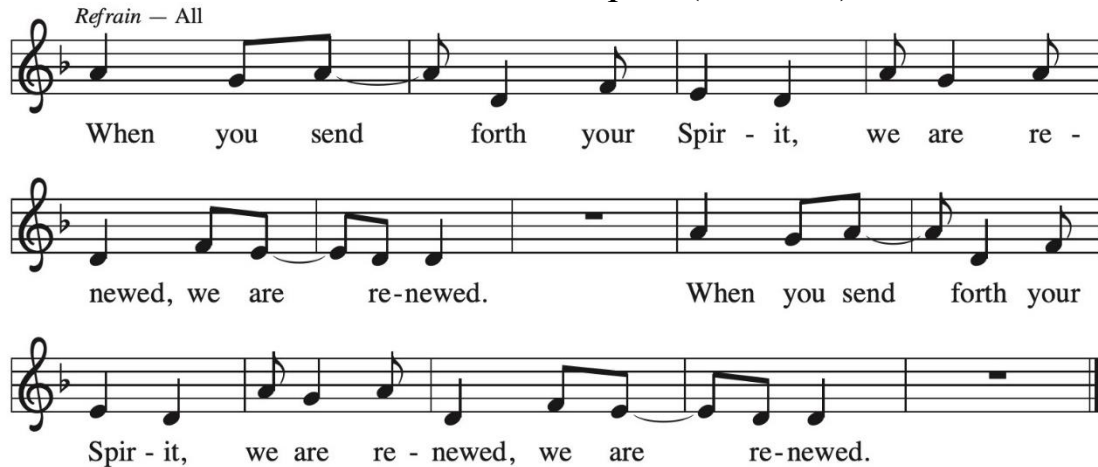
In your name we pray. **Amen.**

### **\*BLESSING**

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, † be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

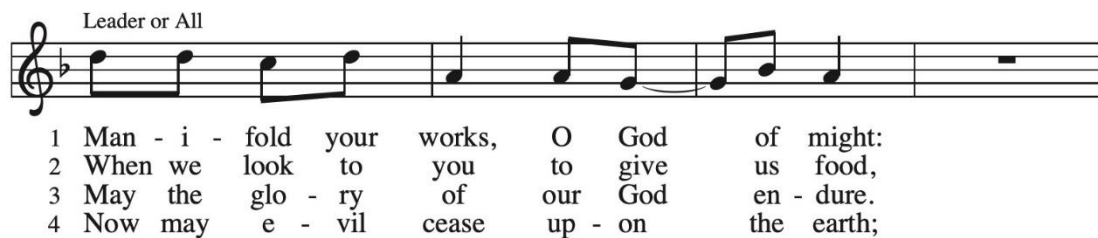
**\*SENDING SONG *When You Send Forth Your Spirit* (ACS 945)**

*Refrain — All*



When you send forth your Spir - it, we are re -  
 newed, we are re-newed. When you send forth your  
 Spir - it, we are re - newed, we are re-newed.

*Leader or All*



1 Man - i - fold your works, O God of might:  
 2 When we look to you to give us food,  
 3 May the glo - ry of our God en - dure.  
 4 Now may e - vil cease up - on the earth;

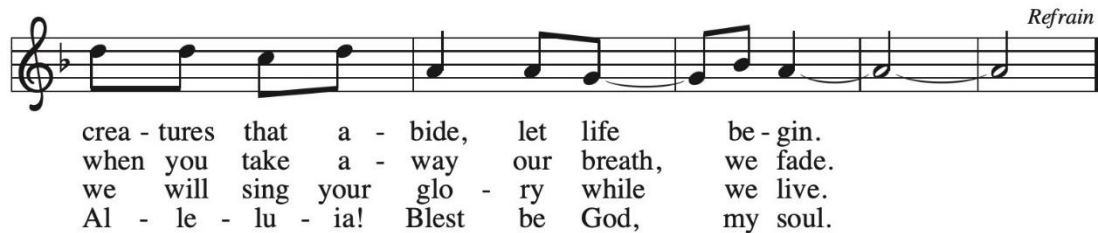


Mak - er of the earth, the air, the light.  
 you o - pen your hand, fill us with good.  
 May our God be glad, be strong, be sure.  
 wick - ed - ness no more shall be of worth.



Wa - ters great and wide and all there - in,  
 When you hide your face, we are dis - mayed;  
 Un - to you, O God, our praise we give:  
 Pleas - ing God shall be our on - ly goal.

*Refrain*



crea - tures that a - bide, let life be - gin.  
 when you take a - way our breath, we fade.  
 we will sing your glo - ry while we live.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Blest be God, my soul.

**\*DISMISSAL**

[Jesus said,] "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry..."

*John 6:35*

Fed and nourished, go in peace and love and serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

**The flowers on the altar today were provided by John and Ruth Ann Tully in celebration of the new school year.**

**Assisting in worship today:**

**Assisting Minister: Valerie C**

**Acolyte: Ava N**

**Ushers:**

**Greeters:**

**Offering: Anna K and Nathan K**

**Attendance last week: 57 + 5 zoom**

### **Notes for the day's texts:**

Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (John 6:63). Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We who were washed in the word when we were born in the font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

### **Today's Music**

*O Master, Let Me Walk with You.* Text: Washington Gladden, 1836-1918, alt., Music: H. Percy Smith, 1825-1898. Public Domain.

*Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil.* Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950, Music: Handt Hanson. Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church Forum, Inc.

*The Heavens Tell of Your Creative Glory.* Text: Horacio Vivares; tr. David Bjorlin, b. 1984, Music: Horacio Vivares. Text and music © 2019 Red Create.

*We Plow the Fields and Scatter.* Text: Matthias Claudius, 1740-1815; English tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817-1878, alt.; Spanish tr. Ernesto Barocio, 1866-1948, Music: Luis Olivieri, b. 1937. Public Domain / Abingdon Press.

*Change My Heart, O God.* Text: Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953, Music: Eddie Espinosa. Music Services, Inc.

*When You Send Forth Your Spirit.* Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943, Music: Ray Makeever. Augsburg Fortress.

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### **Next Week's Readings**

Isaiah 35:4-7a *Like streams in the desert, God comes with healing*

Psalm 146 *I will praise the Lord as long as I live*

James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17 *Faith without works is dead*

Mark 7:24-37 *Christ healing a little girl and deaf man*