

# Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 30, 2023

## Order of Worship: Holy Communion, Setting Four

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### **Congregational responses are printed in bold type.**

*Hearing assistance is available near the usher's table. See an usher for help.*

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**PRELUDE & BELLS** *We observe a moment of silence for prayer and meditation.*

**WELCOME** *congregation responds and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

*We stand* **OPENING HYMN**

#532

“Gather Us In”

### **✠BRIEF RITE FOR CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS✠**

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thought of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*1 John 1:8-9*

*Silence is kept for reflection and personal confession.*

Most merciful God... **we confess that we are born captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you- who believe and repent- of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

✠HOLY COMMUNION✠

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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.**

SONG OF PRAISE

“Glory to God in the Highest”

*p. 148 Luke 2:14*



**A** Glo-ry to God in the high- est, and peace to his peo- ple on earth.



**B** 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.



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.



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

Let us pray...Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

Next Steps Weekly Memory Verse: MATTHEW 8:11  
*Many will come from east and west and will eat in the kingdom of heaven.*

*We sit* FIRST READING: 1 KINGS 3:5-12

<sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. <sup>7</sup>And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" <sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

RESPONSE & MEDITATION: PSALM 119:129-136

<sup>129</sup>Your decrees are wonderful;  
therefore I obey them with all my heart.

<sup>130</sup>**When your word goes forth it gives light;  
it gives understanding to the simple.**

<sup>131</sup>I open my mouth and pant;  
I long for your commandments

<sup>132</sup>**Turn to me in mercy,  
as you always do to those who love your name.**

<sup>133</sup>Steady my footsteps in your word;  
let no iniquity have dominion over me.

<sup>134</sup>**Rescue me from those who oppress me,  
and I will keep your commandments.**

<sup>135</sup>Let your countenance shine upon your servant  
and teach me your statutes.

<sup>136</sup>**My eyes shed streams of tears,  
because people do not keep your law.**

SECOND READING: ROMANS 8:26-39

<sup>26</sup>The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. <sup>28</sup>We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. <sup>31</sup>What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

*We stand.* GOSPEL VERSE: JOHN 6:68

p151

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 13:31-33, 44-52

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;<sup>32</sup>it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” <sup>33</sup>He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.” <sup>44</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.<sup>45</sup>“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup>on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. <sup>47</sup>“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup>when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>51</sup>“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” <sup>52</sup>And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

The Gospel of the Lord **Praise to You, O Christ!**

HYMN OF THE DAY

#793

“Be Thou My Vision”

*We sit.* SERMON

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

*Whose Kingdom Is It?*  
**Kingdom's Treasures**

*We stand.* PROFESSION OF FAITH    Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic\* and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the + resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

\*means whole, entire Christian Church

#### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Let us lift our hearts, hands, and voices in prayer to God on behalf of all people.

*A brief silence is kept.*

Dear Father, thank you for giving to your Chosen People the pearl of your holy Word in the Hebrew Scriptures. Thank you for perfectly enfleshing your Word in the Pearl of great price, your dear son Jesus. Thank you for making us, through him, into your pearl, your hidden treasure, and your beloved people!

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make the Church lovely with Jesus' goodness. May it always treat your Word and Sacraments as precious, living treasures. By the gracious power of your Spirit, draw many to faith in Jesus, so they may never be separated from your love.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our persecuted sisters and brothers, who face "tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword." Make them more than conquerors through the Cross of Christ; and soften the hearts of those who torment them.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Keep this congregation in your care, knowing that nothing can separate us from your love for us in Christ Jesus. We pray for our mission to develop fully devoted followers of Jesus; to support Solid Rock our mission in action; and that you send us adults for baptism. Use our words and deeds to share that love with those around us who need it most.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless your people the Jews. You chose them not because they were great but because you loved them. From them you brought forth the pearl of great price, your dear Son Jesus. Keep them in your protective and loving embrace. Bring them and us into the fulness of joy you have prepared for all who love you.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Establish your justice among the nations, O Lord; and do not let the scepter of evil hold sway over us. Establish your justice among rulers of countries and captains of industry; among leaders in every field of inquiry and endeavor; and among your people everywhere. Turn our hearts from evildoing and crooked ways; and fix them firmly upon faith toward you and fervent love toward one another.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for justice, concord, and safety to flourish in this land. We pray for wrongdoers to be held accountable for their deeds, and to repent of them. We pray for wise words, not inflamed rhetoric, from our leaders. We pray for constructive decisions, not rash actions or empty gestures, from those entrusted with authority. We pray for those who risk their lives on behalf of others, that even in difficult circumstances they exhibit integrity and valor. We pray that in all circumstances, your will be done.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the sick, injured, dying and bereaved; for the troubled, confused, lonely, or despairing; and for everyone who struggles with the tribulations of this life. Therefore we also pray for our dear ones, including: {List}. Help us to show them that though the world seems against them, you are for them; you love them; you justify them; and you shall indeed make them more than conquerors.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Most Holy Father, we remember before you our beloved dead. We pray for the families of {List}. Remember your faithfulness and loving-kindness to us, though we are in the thousandth generation of those whom you name as your own. Teach us to treasure your Son, our Pearl of great price. Whatever trials we endure in this life, grant the blessed outcome promised to all who love you. In your great mercy, bring us into your Kingdom. There, with all the redeemed, may we rejoice in your love and delight in you forever.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear our prayers, dear Father, as they touch your heart through the Spirit who searches our hearts. For the sake of your beloved Son, answer them as may be best for us and give you glory. **Amen**

#### SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

*We briefly greet those in our row with the words "Peace be with you."*

*We sit.* OFFERING, OFFERTORY SONG & PRAYER- *Giving back to God*



*First- and second-time guests are not expected to give a monetary offering; your Connection Card and your presence this morning are your gifts. Safe, secure & easy electronic giving is available on our website [stpeterhallettsville.org/giving](http://stpeterhallettsville.org/giving) or by scanning this code.*

*We stand* #184

“Let the Vineyards”

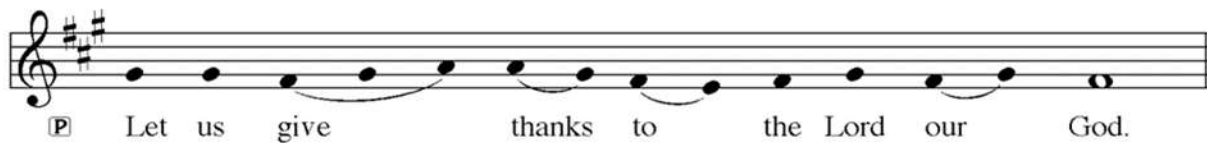
*Isaiah 5:1, Psalm 23:5, others*

Let the vine- yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless- ing. Gath- er a har- vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath- er the hopes and dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Blessed are you, O Lord, our God, king of the universe. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



## GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right and salutary . . . and join their unending hymn:



## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

You are indeed holy...

In the night in which he was betrayed, ... Do this for the remembrance of me.

All honor and glory are yours...now and forever. **Amen**

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**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.**

*We sit.* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

*Holy Communion is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ present and received in, with, and under the bread and wine. All who are baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and who believe the Lord's words "This is my body given for you" and "This is my blood poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins" may receive Communion. Young children, not yet receiving Communion, may receive a blessing.*

(Matt 26:26ff, Mark 14:22ff, Luke 22:19ff, 1 Cor. 11:24ff)

*Communion administration occurs in a continuous fashion at the Communion rail. The ushers will guide you to the rail. To receive the elements, extend your hand, palm up, to the ministers. White grape juice is available in the center of the trays. For those unable to consume either bread or wine, the Church affirms the Lord's full presence in each element alone. Once you have received the elements, return to your seat by the side aisles. If you do not desire to receive Holy Communion, you may remain seated.*

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Lamb of God"

p154 John 1:29



**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.**

*We stand* POST-COMMUNION BLESSING, SONG, & PRAYER  
May the true body and blood...keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

“Lord Now You Let Your Servant”

*Luke 2:29-32*



♩ Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful -  
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -  
pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re - veal you to the  
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.  
Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,  
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now,  
and will be for - ev - er. A - men

Let us pray... Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn  
#547

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
100 North Promenade, Hallettsville, Texas 77964  
(361) 798-2808 www.stpeterhallettsville.org

Our mission is Christ's mission – "I will build my church"  
by developing fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

**Kari & Sophie would like to give a great big SHOUT OUT** to all who helped with VBS this year! What a blessing to have 35 volunteers and 48 youth with a little less than half being St. Peter youth! From the meals prepared, to the teachers/helpers, crew leaders/assistant leaders, everyone who helped decorate, and all the behind-the-scenes helpers we **COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!** Thank you from the bottom of our hearts! Hope to see everyone next year! St. Peter VBS collected \$505.82 for Lucie's Project! We surpassed our goal of \$500! Thank you to all who donated!!

**We have a few kids playing Hallettsville soccer this fall.** If you'd like raffle tickets or turkey dinner tickets, ask us in the office and we'll connect you to one of their families starting **Monday 08.07**

**SUMMERTIME AND THE GIVING IS EASY:** St. Peter Lutheran Church, along with the South Texas Blood and Tissue Center, would like to invite persons in the community to make a difference in the lives of those in dire need of blood products. At a time when there are all kinds of activities planned before the start of school, the need for those in treatment, planning or needing surgeries, or in emergency situations are ongoing. Therefore, the opportunity for you to be a hero by donating your blood is critical. The blood drive to be held in a mobile unit in front of St. Peter, is scheduled for **SUNDAY, AUGUST 6<sup>TH</sup>, FROM 8am-1pm.** You are encouraged to make an appointment online at [www.southtexasblood.org](http://www.southtexasblood.org) or by calling 210-731-5590. Also, know that walk-ins are always welcomed and needed.

**August & December Coffee Time:** We have a few **OPEN DATES** to head up Coffee Time. There will be a sheet in the FH to sign up to help. (August 6<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, & 27<sup>th</sup>; December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>)

**Wednesday, Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> Lunch and Learn Program at First United Methodist Hall 10:30 am -12:00 pm: "Brain Health As You Age"** by Kelly Haas, FNP *(Please RSVP by Monday, July 31<sup>st</sup> to Hallettsville Chamber of Commerce @ 361-798-2662)*

**Thursday, Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> Sharps Disposal @ LMC parking lot 9:00 am-1:00 pm**

**May OFFERING YTD**

\$120,389.08

**EXPENSES YTD**

\$115,508.38 *(Paid \$16,805 Property Insurance this month)*

**DIFFERENCE +/-**

+\$4,880.70

## **Attendance**

Sunday, July 23 AM 92/PM 9

## **Readings for Aug 6th Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 136: 1-9; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14: 13-21

## **Openings for:**

Radio: Oct 1, 8,15, 22, 29; Nov 12, 19, 26; Dec 3, 10, 17, 31

Flowers: Sept 10; Oct 22, 29; Dec 3, 10, 31

## **This Week @ St. Peter**

**Sun** July 30, 9:00 am Worship, 10:00 am Coffee Time, 10:30 am Adult Christian Learning,  
5:00 pm Worship

**Mon** July 31, 1:00 pm Quilters, 7:00 pm FH Rental

**Tue** Aug 1, 9:30 am Nursing Home Service, 6:00 pm Learning Commission,  
7:00 pm Prayer Group

**Thu** Aug 2 7:30 pm AA/Al-Anon Meeting

**Sun** Aug 6, 9:00 am Worship, 10:00 am Coffee Time, 10:30 am Adult Christian Learning,  
5:00 pm Worship

## **Serving This Weekend July 30th**

Sunday AM: *Assisting:* Tammy Garner

*Communion Set Up:* Stephanie Foeh

*Communion Clean Up:* Marilyn McAda

*Organist:* Denise Drozd

*Ushers:* Donald Muehr, Clayton Muehr, & Ramon Lopez

*Acolytes:* Kaylie Hotz & Benson Adee

*Power Point Sunday:* Barbara Koehn

*Altar Flowers given by:* Teltschik Family in memory of Janice Teltschik

*Additional Flowers:* Lee Cindy Rother in honor of Kay Rother

*Radio Ministry given by:* Matthew & Martha Bludau in celebration of our Wedding Anniversary  
on Aug 1st

Sunday PM: *Assisting:* Lana Leopold

*Communion Clean-up:* Judy Winfield

*Organist:* Denise Drozd

**Our Prayer List: Requests listed 4 weeks under Concerns For unless otherwise requested.**

**Concerns for:** Rida Chovanetz, Kathy Brown, Lorene Stork, Michael Amaya, Damien O'Daniel, Margie Renger, Juliean Mihalovich, Cathy Rains, Melanie Gilliam, Michelle Keegan, Oleen Covey, Marco Melendez, Pr. John Sutton, Rusty Renger, Catherine Poppe and send favorable rainfall

**Extended concerns:** William Lane, Mary Esther Rios, Erwin Rath, Maeve Lynch, Brandi Orsak, Paiden Pruett, Richard Chapman, Morgan Heck, Dillon McCord, Jeffrey Morgenroth, Charlie Garmon, Carrie Besetsny, DeWayne Dixon, Evelyn Lishinski, James Evans, Pr. John Schmidt & family (*Missionary in Ghana*)

**Other Concerns:** first responders (*military, law enforcement, firefighter, medical*), Safe House Church (*Hallettsville*); San Miguel (*Ft. Worth*) and Houston Oromo Lutheran Churches, President Biden; our country; and those facing unrest & unemployment

**Grieving Families:** Anne Rowbotham, Fred Chovanetz, David Myers, Gary Schaefer, Evelyn Technik, Barbara Tise, Landon Koehne, Gertrude Burrow

**Serving Next Weekend Aug 6th**

Sunday AM: *Assisting:* Darlene Stacy

*Communion Set Up:* Barbara Koehn

*Communion Clean Up:* Kellee Horton

*Organist:* Denise Drozd

*Ushers:* Warren Grindeland, Jerome Kanak, Tommy Brandenberger

*Acolytes:* John Stillions & Adam Leopold

*Power Point Sunday:* Judy Garmon

*Altar Flowers given by:* John & Cheryl Draper celebrating our 32<sup>nd</sup> Wedding Anniversary

*Radio Ministry given by:* John & Cheryl Draper celebrating our 32<sup>nd</sup> Wedding Anniversary

Sunday PM: *Assisting:* Daniel Drozd

*Communion Clean-up:* Daniel Drozd

*Organist:* Denise Drozd

**SAVE THE DATES in August**

Sunday, Aug 13<sup>th</sup> Blessing of the Backpacks, Rally Day, and Solid Rock Open House

Saturday, Aug 19<sup>th</sup> WIM Market Days Bake Good Fundraiser

Saturday, Aug 19<sup>th</sup> LYO Outlaw Pass (*Adventure Golf*)

## Opening Hymn; “Gather Us In” (#532)

Text & Music by Marty Haugen

1 Here in this place the new light is streaming,  
now is the darkness vanished away;  
see in this space our fears and our dreamings  
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,  
gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

2 We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,  
we are the old who yearn for your face;  
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,  
called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,  
gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,  
give us the courage to enter the song.

3 Here we will take the wine and the water,  
here we will take the bread of new birth,  
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
call us anew to be salt for the earth.  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,  
give us to eat the bread that is you;  
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4 Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven, light years away--  
but here in this place the new light is shining,  
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever,  
gather us in and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

## **Hymn of the Day: “Be Thou My Vision” (#793)**

Text by Mary E. Byrne & Music by Irish traditional

**1** Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

**2** Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,  
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

**3** Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,  
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

**4** Light of my soul, after victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.



## **Closing Hymn: “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”(#547)**

Text by Omer Westendorf; Music by Welsh folk tune

1 Sent forth by God's blessing,  
our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The supper is ended.  
Oh, now be extended  
the fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of Christ's teaching,  
receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
Your grace shall incite us,  
your love shall unite us  
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.

2 With praise and thanksgiving  
to God ever-living,  
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face--  
our faith ever sharing,  
in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children, the whole human race.  
With your feast you feed us,  
with your light now lead us;  
unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living  
with praise and thanksgiving  
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.