



SEASON OF GENEROSITY

THE PRODIGAL **and REFORMATION SUNDAY**

Sunday, October 29, 2023 • 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

As a community following Christ,
we LOVE with an open heart
GROW with a curious mind
and SHARE with a generous spirit.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Please turn off all cell phones.

*If you are visiting with us today, we extend to you a particular welcome
and invite your questions and comments.*

*Our entire worship service is printed in this worship folder for your
convenience.*

Hearing assistance devices are available in the Narthex.

*Child care is available for children ages 5 years and under in the Child
Care Area, across from the Life Together Hall.*

In the order of service, the words
that are spoken by a leader are in regular type.

Words spoken by the assembly are in boldface type.

PRELUDE

Stand.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Sometimes we hear the story.

Band side: **Sometimes we tell it.**

Pulpit side: **Sometimes we ignore it altogether.**

Pastor: Sometimes we're the ones who offer the welcome.

Band side: **Sometimes we're the ones who return.**

Pulpit side: **Sometimes we're somewhere in between.**

Pastor: Sometimes we're lost.

Band side: **Sometimes we're found.**

Pulpit side: **Sometimes we're a little bit of both.**

Pastor: But all the time, God is writing the story.

Band side: **All the time, God is calling us home.**

Pulpit side: **All the time, God waits for us, ready to celebrate.**

All: **Come, let us worship God.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

True Vine Music / Michael A. Schmid



I con - fess to you, — O — Lord, that I have sinned. — I con -
fess to you, — O — Lord, that I have sinned. — I con -



fess to you, — O — Lord, all my sin with - in. — I have
fess to you, — O — Lord, all my sin with - in. — I have



failed to live for you — in the things I say and
placed my - self a - bove, — and have hurt the ones I



do, — and have fall - en short — of liv - ing in — your love. —
love, — and I know that on - ly you — can set — me free. —



I con - Lord, have mer - cy — on — me. — Lord have



mer - cy — set me free. — O for - give me, Lord, I pray, and —



take my sin a - way, by the cross and emp - ty grave for my soul. —

Take us back — to the wa - ter, — wash a - way — our sins. —

Wel - come us, — O — Fa - ther, — back to your home — a - gain. —

Bless your sons — and — daugh - ters, — and let the feast — be - gin, —

let it be - gin...

The pastor declares the absolution over instrumental music.

**You take us back to the water. You wash away our sins.
 You welcome us, O Father, back to your home again.
 You bless your sons and daughters.
 Now let the feast begin, let it begin.**

**Lord, your mercy covers me.
 Lord, your mercy has set me free.
 You've forgiven me today, and my sins are washed away,
 by the cross and empty grave for my soul.**

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE • "A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD"

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Father, it was said of the Prodigal Son that he “came to himself.” Help us to wake up to ourselves, and to You. Set us free from the illusion of trying to be perfect so that we might be more fully human. Help us not to chase after an imaginary life, and to find satisfaction in our real lives. And turn us away from our self-rejection so that we might see that Your arms open in welcome.

Amen.

Sit.

SEASON OF GENEROSITY SPEAKER

ACCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE • “ALLELUIA”

Evangelical Lutheran Worship • Holy Communion, Setting Eight



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.

READING

A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

Luke 15:1-2, 11-32

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

¹¹Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S SERMON + SERMON

Pastor Briana Merkle.

Stand.

HYMN OF PRAISE • "WHEN WE HAVE WANDERED"

Protest of Praise



1. When we have wan - dered far from our home - land,
2. And while re - turn - ing, still at a dis - tance,
3. While we still wan - der lost and de - feat - ed,



sow - ing re - bel - lion, reap - ing de - spair,
Christ runs to meet us, wait - ing no more.
yet Christ comes search - ing where we now roam—



Christ waits to claim us— save us, not shame us—
Not to dis - grace us, but to em - brace us,
seeks till he finds us, and in love binds us



ev - er re - veal - ing God's ten - der care.
Christ comes to par - don, heal, and re - store.
to God's great mer - cy lead - ing us home.

CREED

Together, let us confess our faith.

**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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Trusting in the transformative power
of God's loving Spirit,
let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

At the conclusion of each petition:

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your unending love and amazing grace;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Sit.

OFFERING

God could have stopped after saying, “Welcome home,” but God didn’t stop there. Tables of food, a robe, a ring, music, celebration, delight, and a loving rebuke for anybody who thought it was all a little too much, who thought it was all a little “extra.”

We could stop at “sharing enough.” We could think about groceries for ourselves, healthcare for ourselves, college for our children, car payments for our cars, that new pair of shoes for our feet. Or, we could get carried away. We could give extravagantly. We could think about groceries, healthcare, college, transportation, and clothing for ourselves and for our neighbors. We could open our hearts with generosity until everyone hungry is fed, everyone who needs a house has shelter, and everyone who ever needed to be loved back to life had a party thrown in her honor, for what was dead and is alive again, and what was lost is now found!

The offering will now be given and received.

OFFERTORY

*“I’m So Glad Jesus Lifted Me”
The Band for God’s Sake*

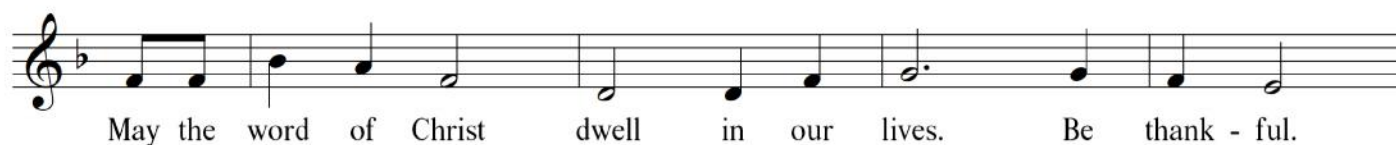
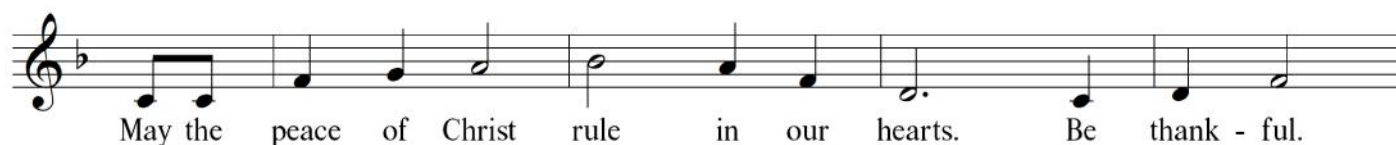
Stand.

*You can participate in the Offering electronically
by scanning the QR code
and filling out the online form.*



OFFERTORY RESPONSE • "BE THANKFUL"

Lutheran Summer Music 2023



PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Take this offering, God.

Add it to that welcome, to that feast, and robe,
and ring that you offer the least and the lost.

Add it to your party fund, and then make us the party planners,
the door openers, the cupcake makers, the decorating committee,
the potluck organizers, the people of God
who make everyone feel wanted and welcomed and loved back to life.

Do all this and more in Jesus' name,

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right,
our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times
and in all places
give thanks and praise to you,
almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
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 all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth
and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name
and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS • "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY"

Evangelical Lutheran Worship • Holy Communion, Setting Eight



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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom
and teach us to pray:

**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.**

COMMUNION

Jesus invites you to this table.

Come, eat and live.

Sit.

DISTRIBUTION

At Mountain View Lutheran Church we practice an open communion table, which means that everyone is welcome to receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ. (You don't have to be a member of MVLC.)

If you need an alcohol-free element or a gluten-free element, then please let your server know.

If you are unable to come forward for communion, then please let an usher know and you will be served where you are seated.

This is the table, not of the Church, but of Jesus Christ.
It is made ready for those who are loved by God,
whether you feel loved or not.

It is for those who desire to grow in love with God.

So come, you who have much faith and you who have little.

You who have been here often
and you who have not been for a long time or ever before.

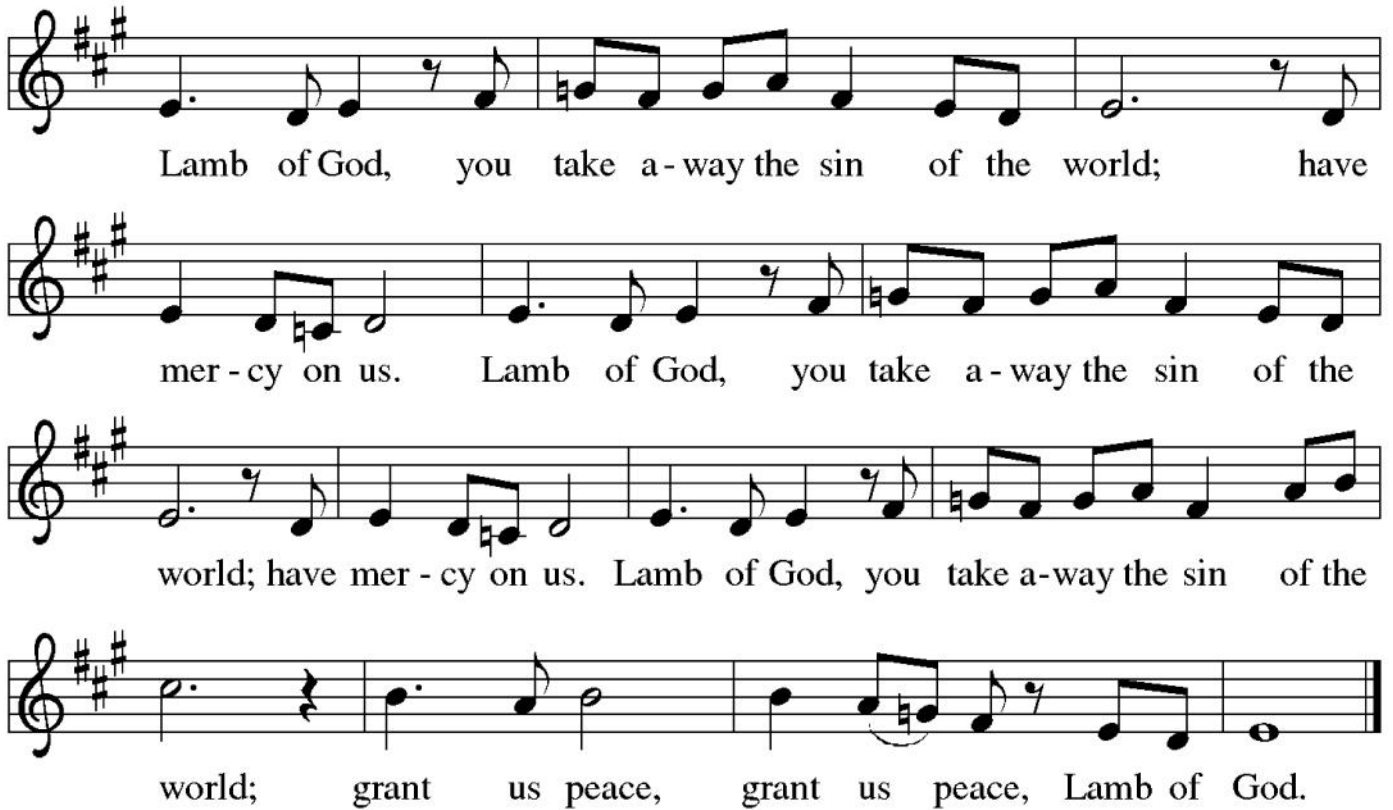
Come, you who have tried to follow
and you who live with a sense of failure in your following.

Come, not because the Church invites you;
it is Christ who invites you to be known and fed and loved here.

Please come. Receive the gifts of God for all the people of God.

LAMB OF GOD • "LAMB OF GOD"

Evangelical Lutheran Worship • Holy Communion, Setting Eight



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.

COMMUNION HYMN • "IN THE SINGING"

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 466



1 In the sing - ing, in the si - lence, in the hands ex - pect - ant, o - pen,
2 In the ques - tion, in the an - swer, in the mo - ment of ac - cept - ance,



in the bless - ing, in the break - ing, in your pres - ence at this ta - ble,
in the heart's cry, in the heal - ing, in the cir - cle of your peo - ple,



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

COMMUNION HYMN • "ALL WHO HUNGER, GATHER GLADLY"

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 461



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na is our bread.
2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
3 All who hun-ger, sing to- geth-er, Je-sus Christ is liv-ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.
Come from lone-li-ness and long-ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.
We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.
Blest are those who from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.



Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.

COMMUNION HYMN • "WELCOME TABLE"

All Creation Sings 969



1 I'm a-goin'-a eat at the wel - come ta - ble,
2 I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . . and hon - ey,
3 I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er,



I'm a-goin'-a eat at the wel - come ta - ble, some of these days.
I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . . and hon - ey, some of these days.
I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er, some of these days.



I'm a-goin'-a eat at the wel - come ta - ble,
I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . . and hon - ey,
I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er,



I'm goin' - a eat at the wel - come ta - ble, some of these days.
I'm goin' - a feast on milk . . . and hon - ey, some of these days.
I'm goin' - a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er, some of these days.

Stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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 as a community following Christ,
to LOVE with an open heart,
GROW with a curious mind,
and SHARE with a generous spirit.**

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

DEACON SENDING

Gracious God,

**you took the form of a servant, offering yourself as food,
comfort, and strength to a sick and hurting world.**

**Anoint with a servant heart those who take your word and
sacrament to our siblings in their homes and in hospitals.**

**Grant grace, mercy, healing, and hope to those who feast on your
body and blood and receive your words of new life.**

**May we all recognize that we have a place and a home
in the body of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

BLESSING

God saw you afar off this morning and *ran* to greet you.

The robe, the ring, the sandals on your feet: that's how much God loves you, delights in you, gracefully welcomes you home.

Go, then, in peace, and bring God's extravagant, joyful love to a weary world, putting grace into action! And may God the Creator, God the Redeemer, and God the Sustainer be with you as you go.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN • "AMAZING GRACE"

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 779



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

SENDING

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

*Flowers on the altar today
are given to the glory of God
by the MVLC Altar Guild.*

WORSHIP NOTES

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Worship leaders include:

Both services

- J PREACHER: Pastor Briana Merkle.
- J PRESIDER: Pastor Eric Bostrom.
- J ASSISTING MINISTER: Soren Bostrom..
- J DIRECTOR of MUSIC MINISTRIES: Brenna Sage.
- J VIDEOGRAPHER: David Burch.
- J ALTAR GUILD: Kathy Harris, Janice Harrison, Cindy Jones, Karen Lonn.

8:15 a.m.

- J USHERS: Fred Albert (head usher), Gary Larson, Chris Ray.
- J LECTOR: Mary Beth Dahl.
- J COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Flora Larson, Anne Roff.
- J SOUND: Gene Quandt.
- J SEASON of GENEROSITY SPEAKER: Vic Lindstrom.

10:45 a.m.

- J USHERS: Ken Johnson, Terry Johnson, Keith Wright, Bob Yost (head usher).
- J GREETERS: Barb Edmonds, Ken Edmonds.
- J LECTOR: Bob Linden.
- J COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Ken Edmonds, Linda Roa.
- J SOUND: Beth Ann Johnson.
- J SEASON of GENEROSITY SPEAKER: Jim Hushagen.

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