



Sunday, August 25, 2024  
Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost  
St. James Lutheran Church

**Confession and Forgiveness**

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

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our provider,  
**help us.**

**It is hard to believe there is enough to share.  
We question your ways when they differ from the ways  
of the world in which we live.  
We turn to our own understanding  
rather than trusting in you.  
We take offense at your teachings and your ways.  
Turn us again to you.  
Where else can we turn?  
Share with us the words of eternal life  
and feed us for life in the world.  
**Amen.****

**INTRODUCTION**

In today's gospel many people take offense at Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus' disciples peel off. This is the backdrop in John's gospel for Peter's confession of faith. "To whom can we go?" asks Peter, in words we sometimes sing just before the gospel is read. "You have the words of eternal life." In order to take such a stand, as Peter and Joshua did, Paul tells us to arm ourselves with the word of God. We pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the gospel.

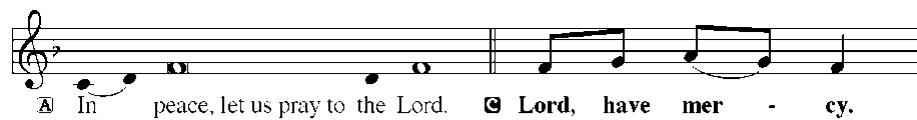
Beloved people of God:  
in Jesus, the manna from heaven,  
you are fed and nourished.  
By Jesus, the worker of miracles,  
there is always more than enough.  
Through Jesus, ✝ the bread of life,  
you are shown God's mercy:  
you are forgiven and loved into  
abundant life.  
**Amen.**

# ENTRANCE HYMN: "What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine" (WOV 780)

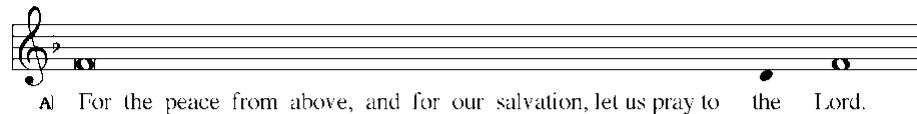
## GREETING

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.**

## KYRIE



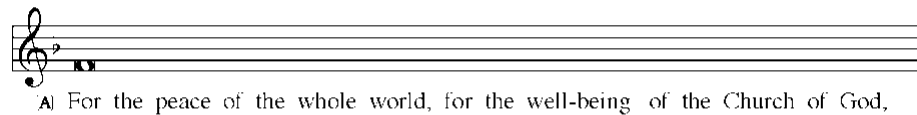
**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



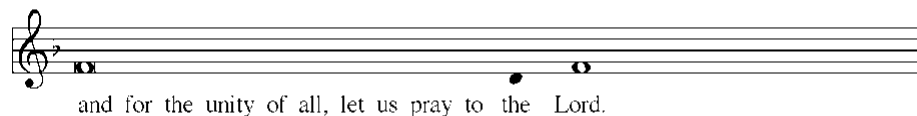
**A** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



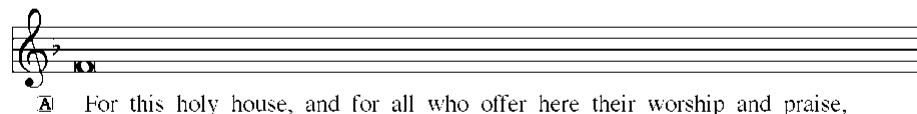
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



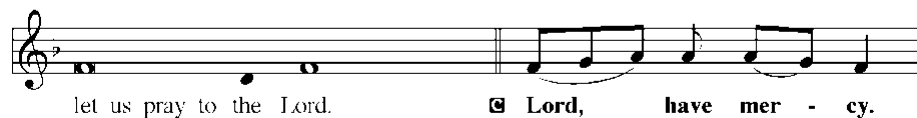
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



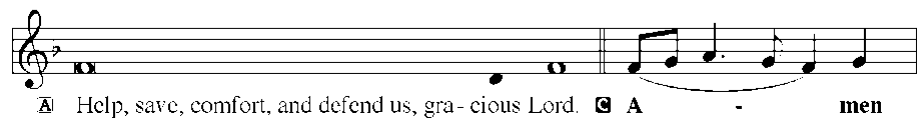
**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



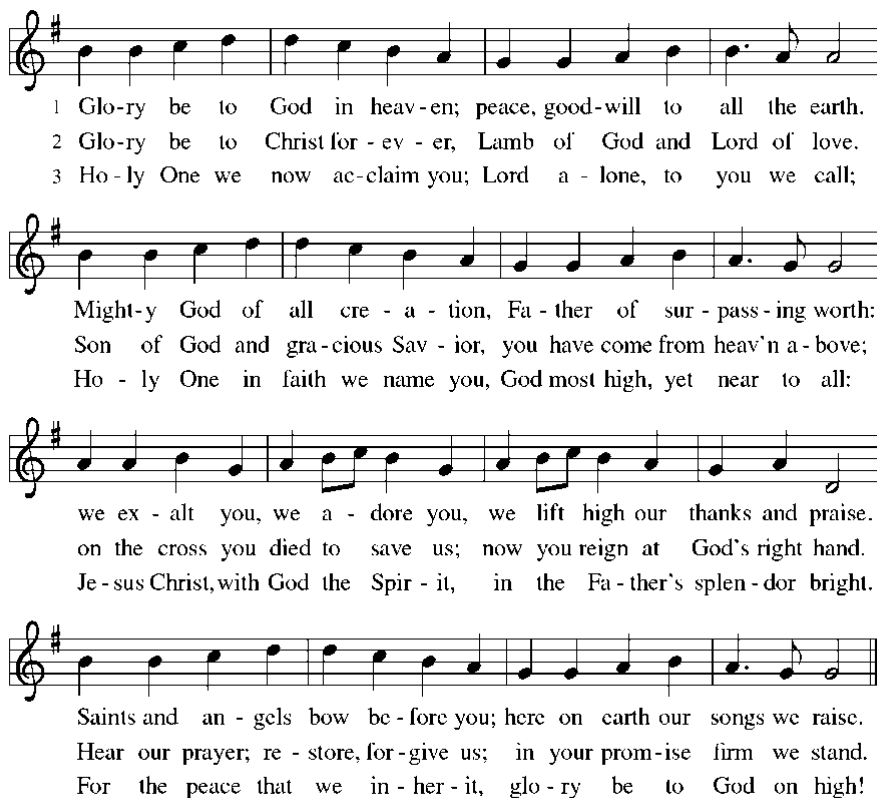
**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **G** A - men



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;

Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
 Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
 Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:

we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
 on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
 Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.

Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
 Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
 For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

## PRAAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us pray. . .

Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

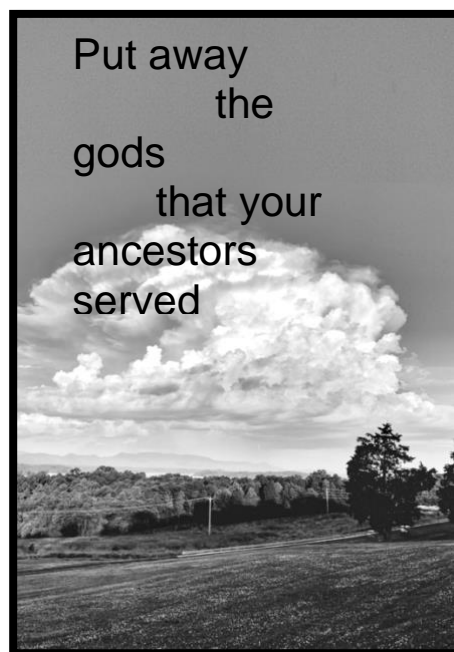
**Amen.**

## FIRST READING:

*In the Near East, covenant means “agreement” or “alliance.” It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.*

### Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

<sup>1</sup>Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. <sup>2a</sup>And Joshua said to all the people, <sup>14</sup>“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup>Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as



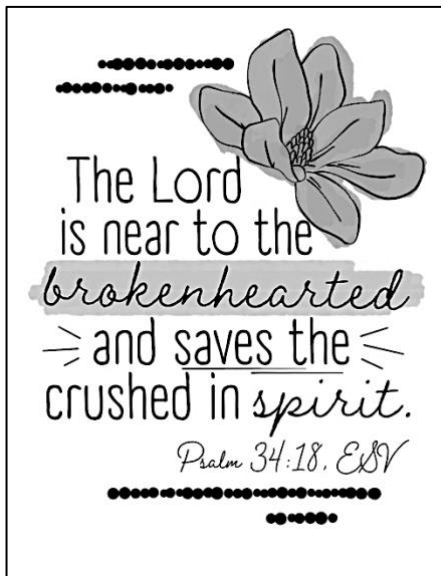
for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

<sup>16</sup>Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; <sup>17</sup>for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; <sup>18</sup>and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

Here ends the reading.

Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 34:15-22



<sup>15</sup>The eyes of the LORD are up- | on the righteous,  
and God’s ears are open | to their cry.

<sup>16</sup>**The face of the LORD is against those | who do evil,  
to erase the remembrance of them | from the earth.**

<sup>17</sup>The righteous cry, and | the LORD hears them  
and delivers them from | all their troubles.

<sup>18</sup>**The LORD is near to the | brokenhearted  
and saves those whose spir- | its are crushed.**

<sup>19</sup>Many are the troubles | of the righteous,  
but the LORD delivers them from | every one.

<sup>20</sup>**God will keep safe | all their bones;  
not one of them | shall be broken.**

<sup>21</sup>Evil will bring death | to the wicked  
and those who hate the righteous | will be punished.

<sup>22</sup>**O LORD, you redeem the life | of your servants,  
and those who put their trust in you will | not be punished.**

## Second Reading:

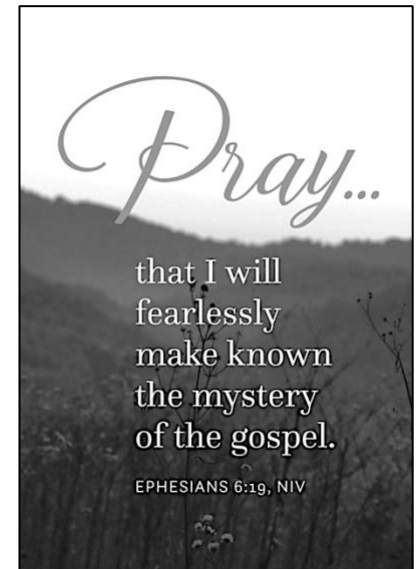
*Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit.*

## Ephesians 6:10-20

<sup>10</sup>Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

<sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup>Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup>As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup>Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. <sup>19</sup>Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to



make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,<sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Here ends the reading.

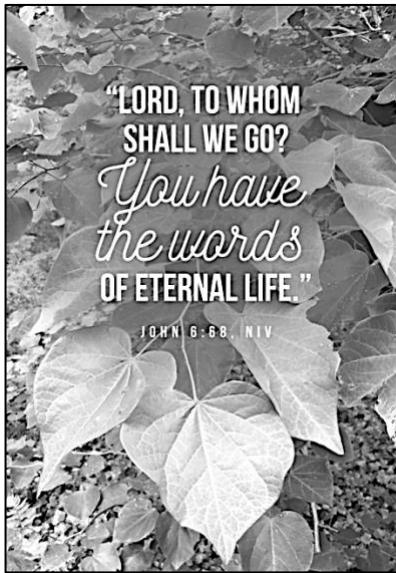
Thanks be to God.



## GOSPEL: John 6:56-69



The “hard saying” that offends Jesus’ disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: “To whom shall we go?”

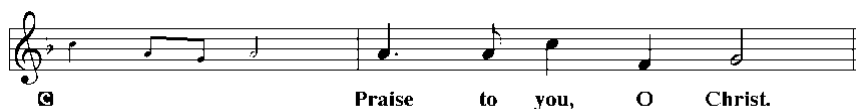


[Jesus said,] <sup>56</sup>“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” <sup>59</sup>He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup>When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” <sup>61</sup>But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup>Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup>It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup>But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. <sup>65</sup>And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

<sup>66</sup>Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup>We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



## SERMON: Rev. Gordon Putnam

## HYMN OF THE DAY: “One Bread, One Body” (WOV 710)

### APOSTLE’S CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith by using the words of the Apostle’s Creed.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of  
the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

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

**He ascended into heaven,**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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.**

### THE PRAYERS

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, you have the words of eternal life. Lead the church to put its trust in Jesus, the living Word. Direct preachers, teachers, writers, and all the baptized in faithful speech and bold witness. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Creator God, we and all creation are sustained by your Word. We pray for all who remind us of our interconnectedness with all living things. Prosper the work of conservation organizations, ELCA advocacy, and local climate justice advocates. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of wisdom, as our nation navigates another election cycle, guide our leaders to act justly for the sake of the world. Bring about fruitful conversation among your people and bring about change where you see fit. Sustain all who serve on juries in their deliberations. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of new life, protect students and teachers for a new school year. Bring an end to school shootings and cycles of violence. Move us to do all that is necessary to ensure a safe future for our children. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of restoration, bring healing and wholeness to all who cry to you. Where pain is sharp, bring a sense of comfort and relief. Where grief runs deep, bring your tender mercy. Care for those on our hearts. We especially



pray for Norma, Cecilia, Jean, Betty, Inez, Claire, Charles, Ellen, Jerry, Josh, Mike, Melvin, Charles, Tony, Peggy, Bonnie, Wayne, Margie, Rick, Lynda, Eckehardt, and the family of Ted Straw. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**


(For whom else and what else shall we pray...)

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.  
**Amen.**

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

(Greet each other in the peace of the Lord.)

## OFFERING



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 the dreams of all; u - nite them with the  
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## 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.**

## DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

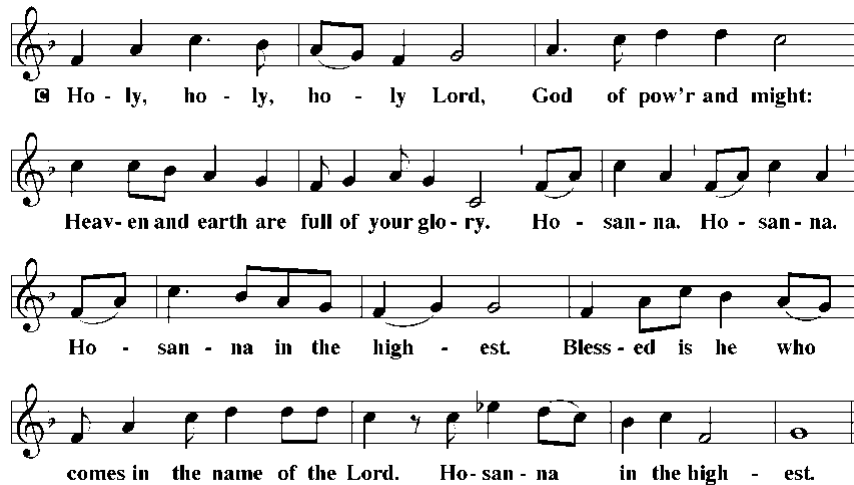
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

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

## SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav- en and earth are 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 in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus 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 for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This 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.

## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.  
 Come!


**COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you.  
 The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
 Amen.

**POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.



August  
 25<sup>th</sup> Tammy Jones

September  
 1<sup>st</sup> Bambi Straw  
 8<sup>th</sup> Anne Putnam  
 15<sup>th</sup> Ivan Diehl  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Sam Diehl  
 29<sup>th</sup> Sherie W-Rohal



☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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.

**CLOSING HYMN: "Bind Us Together" (WOV 746)**

**BLESSING**

The blessing of God,  
 who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,

**BACK PACK PROGRAM**

The kids are going back to school. We are starting with 12 kids. Below is the list of items, remember they are all individual servings.



- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Mac and cheese       | Kroger meals            |
| Chef Boyardee meals  | Fruit cups              |
| Boxes of cereal      | Poptarts                |
| Oatmeal              | Ramen Noodles, any kind |
| Boxed juices         | Yahoo chocolate milk    |
| Apple sauce          | Raisins                 |
| "Hugs" Drink Barrels | All single servings     |

† be upon you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

# SEPTEMBER



## BIRTHDAYS

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Danny Snyder
- 9<sup>th</sup> Christopher Dull
- 18<sup>th</sup> David Diehl
- 26<sup>th</sup> Travis Thompson
- 26<sup>th</sup> Phyllis Stewart



Many thanks to the ice cream social team, the Nickel Plate Brass Quintet, and everyone who came out to support the event. \$325 was raised for the BackPacks Program.

**Prayer Concerns**

Ongoing Need for Prayer

Norma Turak, Cecilia Shott, Jean Geiser, Claire Viette, Ellen McDonald, Charles McDonald, Inez Johnson (Becky and Debbie’s aunt), Jerry Hill (friend of Pastor Gordon and Anne), Josh Thornhill (Norma Turak’s grandson-in-law), Mike Martin (friend of Phillip Snyder), Charles Driver (Sam and Lynda’s neighbor), Melvin Glass (friend of Ivan), Bonnie Snyder (Danny’s mother), Peggy Desimore (friend of Norma) and Margie Lambert.

Prayer Concerns

Betty Diehl, Tony Giltner (Gene’s brother), Wayne Puffenbarger (husband of Debbie’s friend Glenna), Rick Mays (friend of Joyce), Lynda Diehl, Eckehardt Rupp, and the family of Ted Straw.

**Community Conversations**

- August flowers are given by Betty Bartley.
- September flowers will be given by Joyce Dull.
- Today’s Salad Luncheon Goodwill offering will benefit the BackPacks Program.
- August 27<sup>th</sup> Quilting at 1pm.
- September 3<sup>rd</sup> Open Circle at St. James at 1pm. Bambi is our hostess.
- Men’s Group meets every Friday at 9:00 am.
- For prayer concerns, contact Pastor Gordon.
- Council Person of the Month
  - August—Steve Straw
  - September—Ivan

Pastor Gordon Putnam  
434-760-0263  
Grputnam1949@gmail.com  
Pastor Carl Trost  
Hannah Pingel, Pianist  
Sam Diehl and Bambi Straw, Assisting Ministers

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