

The 8th Sunday after Pentecost

July 23, 2023

9:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary



We ask that all present sign our Friendship Sheet. After you add your name to the sheet, please pass it toward the center aisle. Then return it to the outside aisle so that you become familiar with our family in Christ. These sheets help our pastor and congregation with our ministry. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to join us here at St. Matthew to worship and serve Christ together!

Masks are optional but available in the narthex for anyone who feels more comfortable taking that precaution for themselves or on behalf of others.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

P: Righteous and merciful God,

C: we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak and spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy. Amen.

P: God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

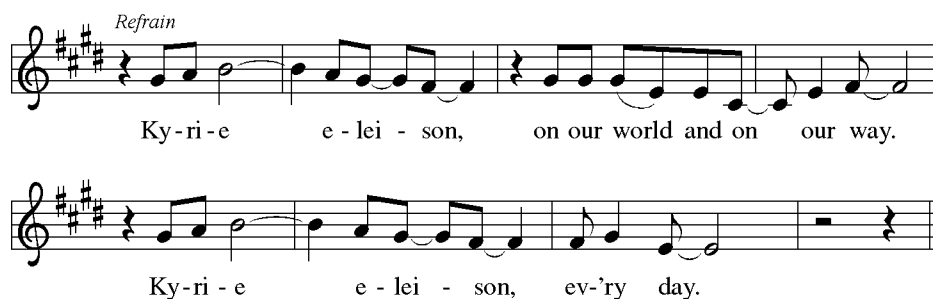
***OPENING HYMN**

As Rain from the Clouds

ELW # 508

***GREETING**

P: The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**



For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all; for this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **R**

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **R**

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family; for life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **R**

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word; that you nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **R**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray ... Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 28:10-19a

¹⁰Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. ¹²And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; ¹⁴and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. ¹⁵Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." ¹⁶Then Jacob woke from his

sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!”¹⁷ And he was afraid, and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

¹⁸So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ^{19a}He called that place Bethel.

L: The word of the Lord. *C:* **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 139:1-12, 23-24 (*read responsively*)

¹LORD, you have searched me out; O LORD, you have known me.

²**You know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.**

³You trace my journeys and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴**Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O LORD, know it altogether.**

⁵You encompass me, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

⁶**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

⁷Where can I go then from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

⁸**If I climb up to heaven, you are there; if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.**

⁹If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

¹⁰**even there your hand will lead me and your right hand hold me fast.**

¹¹If I say, “Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night,”

¹²**darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike.**

²³Search me out, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my restless thoughts.

²⁴**Look well whether there be any wickedness in me and lead me in the way that is everlasting.**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-25

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the

revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

L: The word of the Lord. *C:* **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:** Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

P: The Gospel of the Lord. *C:* Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY

Pastor Traci

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

O God, Whose Word Well Planted

ACS # 975



1 O God, whose word well-plant - ed yields fruit a hun - dred - fold,
 2 O God of seed and har - vest, of sun and soil and rain,
 3 O God, your fi - nal har - vest of his - t'ry's an - cient field



we praise your grac - es grant - ed to those who sowed of old,
 at - tend the word we sow, lest its plant - ing be in vain.
 will test with truth the proud - est that hu - man work can yield.



who by their wit - ness scat - tered good seed up - on the soil
 Send show - ers of your Spir - it, bright sun - shine of your grace,
 Op - pres - sion's blight will van - ish, fair free - dom's fruits in - crease;



where oth - ers, reap - ing, gath - ered the har - vest of their toil.
 that mul - ti - tudes who hear it your gos - pel may em - brace.
 and love and joy will flour - ish to clothe the earth with peace.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007
 Music: ABIDING PRESENCE, Stephen P. Folkemer, b. 1952
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***APOSTLES' CREED**

P: Let us confess our faith through the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C: 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 THE CHURCH**

A: Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the
A: O God, you call your church to announce the gospel of reconciliation and truth both near and far. Guide your church as it seeks your wisdom and shares it, trusting your Spirit bearing witness among us. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

A: You brought forth all creation and called it good. Direct policymakers to protect lands and seas. Bring rain to sun-parched fields and protect areas impacted by natural disasters. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

A: You desire peace among nations and peoples. Guard our neighborhoods from hatred, watch over police officers and firefighters, and teach us to advocate for those who live in fear. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

A: You are gracious and merciful, comforting those who suffer any affliction. Sustain your people living with HIV/ AIDS, provide shelter for all who are unhoused, and release any who are unjustly imprisoned. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

A: You name each of us as your children. Guide our hospitality ministry to welcome all, our education ministry to equip us for faithful living, and our social ministry to enact the gospel in our community. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

A: You send faithful people to proclaim freedom from bondage and to renew your church. Encourage us by the witness of the faithful departed, so that we live into that same hope. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior. **C: Amen.**

***THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the LORD be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Please share the peace with those around you using a greeting that is comfortable for both you and them.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

*An offering plate is located near the entrance to the nave;
we offer thanks for the abundance God has first shown us:*

A: Let us pray ... God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. C: Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PROPER PREFACE**

P: 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.

***EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise. When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **C: Amen.**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

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

C: 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.

***THE AGNUS DEI**

Lamb of God

ELW # S191



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.

***INVITATION**

P: All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

COMMUNION HYMN

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW # 465

***BLESSING**

P: May the body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray... We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

P: The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed † bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age. *C:* **Amen.**

***SENDING SONG**

On What Has Now Been Sown

ELW # 550

***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Share the harvest. *C:* **Thanks be to God.**

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Also, please be advised that our parking lot has surveillance cameras and that our worship service is video recorded and/or live-streamed on social media.

Today's Altar Flowers are placed to the Glory of God and in memory of Loved Ones by Jim Barley.

Serving God and Us

Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew

Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott

Our Pianist – Dr. Adam Smith

Our Organist – Mary Nelson

Our Missionary Family – Leslie Hand, On Eagle's Wings

Our Administrative Assistant – Lori Tremmel

Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck

Our Sexton – Phil Claar

Our Assisting Minister – Melissa Fetzner

Our Lector – Jane Fagans

Our Usher – Steve Oswalt

Our Altar Guild – Jean Sinal

Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster

Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

Third Quarter Ventures in Faith to “*OEW and Missionaries*”



Lutheran Day at the Altoona Curve

Sunday, August 13, 2023

Game begins at 6:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$7:00 each

Register with the Synod Office by Friday, August 1, 2023



Church Messenger

The July 2023 *Messenger* is now available at the St. Matthew **Website** (stmatthewlc.com), and on your recent **Email** message from St. Matthew by using the link listed in the body of the message. A paper copy of the *Messenger* is available in the news rack in the church Narthex. By calling the church office at (814-793-2413), you can request a paper copy to be sent by mail to your home. Do not hesitate to call the church office if you need help in securing a copy of the *Messenger*. Your readership and articles are always appreciated.



Martinsburg Food Pantry

The Food Pantry distributes food on the first and third Thursdays of the month from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m.

Items most needed for July: Juice/Beverages, Pasta, Tomato Sauce, Hamburger Helper, and Paper Towels.

Note: During the Summer, donations seem to slow down, and children are home from school, so please fill our church basket.

Also, garden produce on the days that Food Pantry is open, are very welcomed to be dropped off at the pantry. *Thank You! Linda Smith*

This Week at St. Matthew:

814-793-2413: Office Hours

Pastor Traci – Thurs. 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Lori – Mon. – Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

This Week Events

- Today** – Worship Service in Sanctuary 9:30 a.m.
- Monday** - Social Ministry Meeting, via Zoom 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday** - Knotty Ladies 12:30 – 3:00 p.m.
Staff Support Committee Meeting, Fellowship Hall 2:00 p.m.
- Sunday** – Worship Service in Sanctuary 9:30 a.m.

Email Address: In January 2023 we stopped using stmatthewluth@aol.com as our email address. Please delete that from your email contact list and start using our NEW email address: **stmatthewmartinsburg@gmail.com**.

Prayers are needed for our homebound: Carl Alexy, Vivian Beach, Fred Brandenburg, Mary Creps, Gerry Girolami, Betty Helsel, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger, Janet Kreider, Ginny Sell, Bill Stahl, Joy Williams.

Prayer Concerns: Amy & Family, Randy Barrett, Diane Cappel, Dave Clayton, Greg Comer, Brian Fleck, Ron Focht, Jim Fritz, Doris Hershberger, Marilyn Horton, Debbie Imler, Baby James, Darren Kreutzer, Carrie Lively, Kristen Malloy, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Rick McIntyre, Aunt Mica, Carl Miner, Charles Minnick & Family, Nathan, Deb Peters, Bob & Annette Ritchey, Paul Ruth, Dennis Smith, Cindy Thomas, Tiffany Townsend, Zachary Tremmel, Jean White, Joel Widmann, Pete Williams, Tim Wilson, Pat Winston, Jody Zelanko, and for our

Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle's Wings.

Our college students: Olivia Day, Camryn Gates.

Those Serving in our Armed Forces: Bradley Buchart, Melody Estep, Colin Guyer, Nathan Smith (Germany).

Sight and Sound Bus Excursion to see *Moses*!

Join the Martinsburg Boosters for this exciting excursion to see Sight & Sound live on stage production of Moses on Wednesday, October 4th, 2023. **Price per individual will be \$160.**

From the banks of the Nile River to the depths of the Red Sea, MOSES is a spectacular entertainment experience for the whole family! Set adrift as a baby, he is an unlikely hero—until God calls him to lead His people out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. Journey with Moses as he ventures through the wilderness, encounters God at the burning bush, and ascends to the top of Mount Sinai. Experience one of the Bible's most epic stories as MOSES comes to life with massive sets, special effects, and live animals in this original stage production.

Price Includes:

- Round Trip Motorcoach Transportation
- Reserved Main Floor Seating 11 am show
- Dinner stop made on return-Hoss's in Carlisle (on own)

Depart:

- 7 am from Morrisons Cove Park

Reservation Deadline:

- August 20, 2023

Payment:

- Check payable to Duane Bordell or Cash

For More Information

Contact Duane Bordell, Raystown Transit Service at 814-944-2585
1117 Logan Blvd., Altoona, PA 16602

2023 ALSM ANNUAL AUXILIARY APPEAL



Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries (ALSM) is celebrating 75 years of service to ALSM residents who have limited funds. The Auxiliary supports ALSM'S senior communities through benevolent care and gifts to enhance the daily lives of residents by funding life enrichment programs. Auxiliary members have contributed more than \$2 million annually in benevolent care to those ALSM residents with limited funds. St. Matthew has always been a significant contributor to this benevolent care program. Any amount of gift will be greatly appreciated. A gift of just \$10.00 provides a meal for a resident. St. Matthew's appeal will run for the months of July and August. Please fill out the form in the bulletin insert and return with your gift (cash or check) to the church office, Martie Gilbert or to ALSM. Additional forms are located at the Usher's Station in the Narthex. Please prayerfully consider giving to this very life sustaining appeal. To support this appeal, you may also place Cash or **CHECK PAYABLE TO – “ALSM AUXILIARY”** in a plain envelope along with indication and names if this is in “Honor” or “Memory” gift. Please make sure your name is included and give to Martie Gilbert, Key Lady. **(Deadline for donations is Sunday, August 27, 2023.)**

Please accept my gift of:

(check one, please)

_____ \$875
_____ \$100
_____ \$75
_____ \$30
_____ \$10

Other: \$ _____

Thank You for
helping us touch lives
over the past 75 years!

Allegheny Lutheran
Social Ministries
Attn: Advancement Office
998 Logan Blvd.
Altoona, PA 16602
814.696.4500

Please make your check payable to Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries

My gift is in honor of: (living) _____

My gift is in memory of: (deceased) _____



2023 Annual Auxiliary Appeal



Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip Code _____

Congregation (if applicable) _____ City _____



1 As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth,
 2 As grain that is scat - tered your word has been sown
 3 As rays of the sun shall your word light the world,



as snow from the heav - ens re - fresh - ing the land.
 on rocks and on road - ways, in good earth and sand.
 a - wak - ing and warm - ing and heal - ing our land.



Then soft - en our soil that the good seed may grow
 Make fer - tile our soil that the good seed may grow
 Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow



and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
 and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
 and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.



We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word;
 We praise you, our God, for the seed of your word;
 We praise you, our God, for the light of your word;



we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.
 we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.
 we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.



We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,
 We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,
 We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,



for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.
 for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.
 for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.

Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939
 Music: AFTON WATER, Jonathan E. Spilman, 1812-1896
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COMMUNION HYMN

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW # 465



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,

2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when



may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Refrain

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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***SENDING SONG**

On What Has Now Been Sown

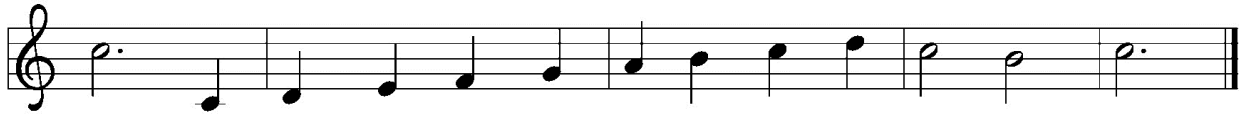
ELW # 550



1 On what has now been sown your bless-ing Lord, be - stow; the
2 To you our wants are known, from you are all our pow'rs; ac -
3 Oh, grant that each of us, now met be - fore you here, may



pow'r is yours a - lone to make it sprout and grow. O Lord, in
cept what is your own and par-don what is ours. Our prais - es,
meet to - geth - er thus when you and yours ap - pear, and fol - low



grace the har - vest raise, and yours a - lone shall be the praise!
Lord, and prayers re - ceive and to your word a bless - ing give.
you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt.

Music: DARWALL'S 148TH, John Darwall, 1731-1789