The 9th Sunday after Pentecost July 30, 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**

When Morning Gilds the Skies

ELW # 853

*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. \mathbf{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. \mathbf{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. \mathbf{R}

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: 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. *C:* Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 29:15-28

- ¹⁵Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" ¹⁶Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. ¹⁸Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." ¹⁹Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." ²⁰So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.
- ²¹Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." ²²So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast.

²³But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. ²⁴(Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) ²⁵When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" ²⁶Laban said, "This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. ²⁷Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." ²⁸Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

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

PSALM 105:1-11, 45B (read responsively)

- ¹Give thanks to the LORD and call upon God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the peoples.
- ²Sing to the LORD, sing praises, and speak of all God's marvelous works.

³Glory in God's holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

- ⁴Search for the strength of the LORD; continually seek God's face.
- ⁵Remember the marvels God has done, the wonders and the judgments of God's mouth,
- ⁶O offspring of Abraham, God's servant, O children of Jacob, God's chosen ones.

⁷The LORD is our God, whose judgments prevail in all the world,

⁸who has always been mindful of the covenant, the promise made for a thousand generations:

⁹the covenant made with Abraham, the oath sworn to Isaac,

¹⁰which God established as a statute for Jacob, an everlasting covenant for Israel,

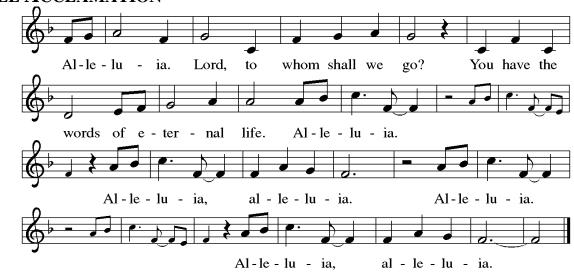
¹¹saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan to be your allotted inheritance." ^{45b}Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39

- ²⁶The 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. ²⁷And 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.
- ²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For 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. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

- ³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He 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? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who 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. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."
- ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor 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.

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



*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 The holy gospel according to Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord.

- ³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³²it 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."
- ³³He 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."

⁴⁴"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.

- ⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.
- ⁴⁷"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵²And 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."

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

HOMILY

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Be Thou My Vision

*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 church, those in need, and all of creation.
- A: Almighty God, we pray for the church and all servants of the gospel. Equip rostered and lay ministers to proclaim that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Form confirmands and catechumens into disciples. Hear us, O God. *C:* Your mercy is great.

Pastor Traci

ELW # 793

- A: Gracious God, we pray for the well-being of creation. Safeguard the environment, clean polluted rivers and lakes, preserve the mighty tree and the tiny mustard seed, and send advocates for sustainable practices. Hear us, O God. *C:* Your mercy is great.
- A: Compassionate God, we pray for the nations. Instill in all who govern the ability to discern between good and evil, free those who are oppressed, and protect those facing danger. Promote peace across the world and in our towns and neighborhoods. Hear us, O God. *C:* Your mercy is great.
- *A:* Merciful God, we pray for all in any need. Protect those fleeing from war, shelter any who are in poverty, clothe the naked, soothe all who grieve, and heal the sick. Hear us, O God. *C:* Your mercy is great.
- A: Holy God, we pray for this congregation, both those gathered today and those absent from our assembly. Grant safety to travelers and refreshment and safety for children attending summer camps or community programs. Give direction to any experiencing life transitions. Hear us, O God. *C:* Your mercy is great.
- A: Eternal God, we give thanks for your saints who now rest from their labors. Inspire us by their witness to treasure the gospel, and continually nourish us with your grace. 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**

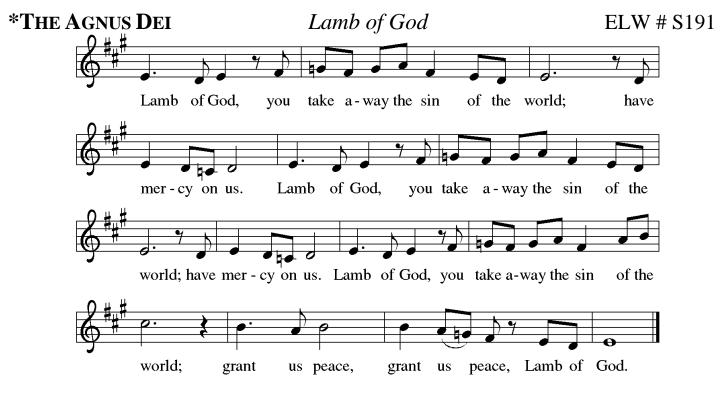
P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

*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.



***INVITATION**

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

COMMUNION HYMN You Satisfy the Hungry Heart ELW # 484

*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 Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing ELW # 545

*DISMISSAL

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

Reprinted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* copyright © 2006 Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #SB105031 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 our Grandson, Vincent Reimer, by Rick and Cindy Snyder.

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 – Tina Harclerode
Our Lector – Allen Kuster
Our Usher – Melissa Fetzer
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

Volunteers from the Martinsburg Mennonite Church will be helping to distribute food on Thursdays, August 3 and August 17 from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m. along with the regular volunteers. If anyone harvests more vegetables or fruit than can be used, we will welcome it on the dates it is open! When you are shopping, the Food Pantry is providing school supplies, again, which can be placed in the school box in the narthex.

Items most needed for August: Juice, Peanut Butter, Spaghetti, Tomato Sauce, Fruit. Many thanks for all your donations!

Many thanks for your donations! Linda Smith

Supplies for Food Pantry (K-5)

We'll be collecting school supplies to give children going back to school in August and September. Please look for items when you shop and place them in the "<u>school bus</u>" at church in the Fellowship Hall.

Crayola Crayons (24 colors) 12 pack of #2 pencils & large erasers Highlighters (yellow, pink & green) 8½x11 spiral notebooks (3 hole punched) Crayola washable markers (10 colors) Crayola colored pencils (24 color set) Elmer's large glue sticks (.77 oz.) Elmer's washable school glue (4 oz bottle)

This Week at St. Matthew: 814-793-2413: Office Hours

Pastor Traci – No office hours. Pastor is Chaplain at Sequanota. She can be reached on her cell: 814-935-9267.

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

This Week Events

Today –	Worship Service in Sanctuary 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday -	Knotty Ladies 12:30 – 3:00 p.m.
Sunday –	Worship Service in Sanctuary 9:30 a.m.
	Staff Support Meeting following worship

Prayers are needed for our homebound: Carl Alexy, Vivian Beach, Fred Brandenberg, 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, Ted Chipperfield, Dave Clayton, Greg Comer, Greg Dick, Brian Fleck, Ron Focht, Jim Fritz, Doris Hershberger, Marilyn Horton, Baby James, Darren Kreutzer, Carrie Lively, Kristen Malloy, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Kay McGraw, 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

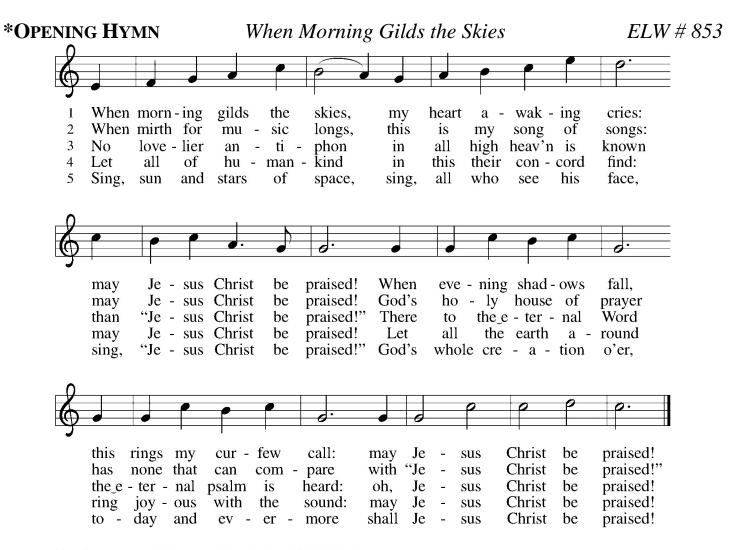
programs. Auxiliary members have contributed more than \$2 million annually in benevolent care to those ALSM residents with limited funds. St. Matthew has always been a significant contributor to this benevolent care program. Any amount of gift will be greatly appreciated. A gift of just \$10.00 provides 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 – <u>"ALSM AUXILIARY</u>" 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.
Please make your check payab	Altoona, PA 16602 814.696.4500	
My gift is in honor of: (living)		CELEBATING TO SEE A
My gift is in memory of: (decease	ed)	years y

2023 Annual Auxiliary Appeal

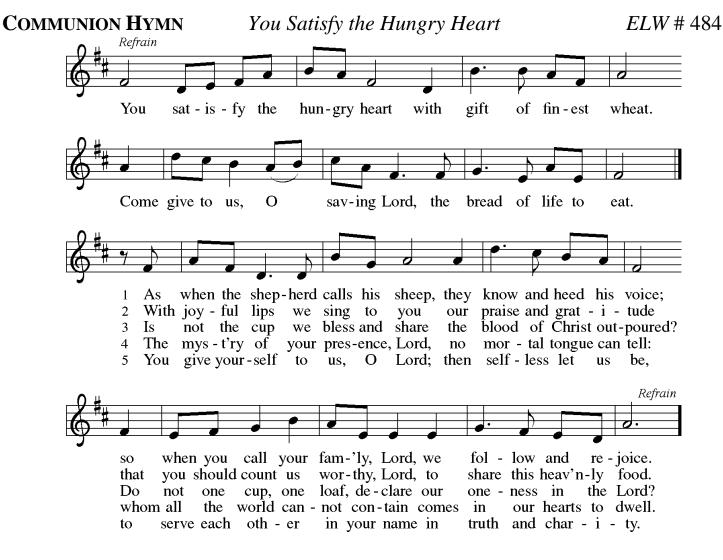
Name(s)		
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City, State & Zip Code		
Congregation (if applicable)	City	



Text: German hymn, 19th cent.; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt. Music: LAUDES DOMINI, Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896

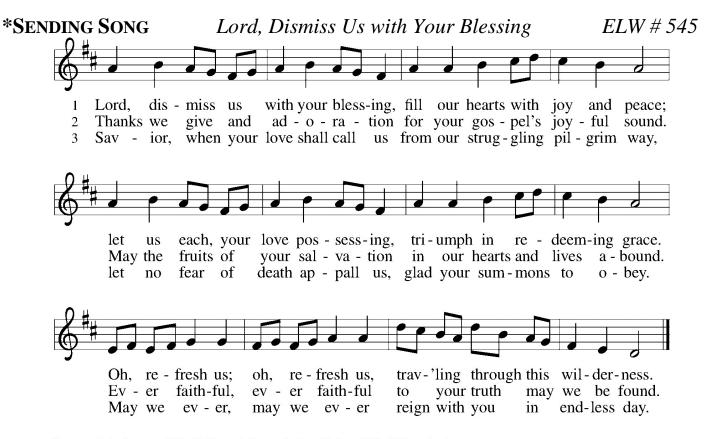


Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional



Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997 Music: BICENTENNIAL, Robert E. Kreutz, 1922–1996 Text and music © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

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Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt. Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian, 18th cent.