# The 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost September 17, 2023

10:30 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,



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

we invite you to join us here at St. Matthew to worship and serve Christ together!

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **PRELUDE**

#### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be God, the one who forms us,  $\pm$  Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. C: Amen.

P: Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

P: Steadfast and faithful God,

C: you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

P:Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In 

☐ Christ, you are already and always forgiven. C: Amen.

\*OPENING HYMN Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

ELW # 363

#### \*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.  $\mathbf{R}$ 

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. **R** 

#### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*P: Let us pray* ... O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

#### C: Amen.

# FIRST READING: Exodus 14:19-31

<sup>19</sup>The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. <sup>20</sup>It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

<sup>21</sup>Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. <sup>22</sup>The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. <sup>23</sup>The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. <sup>24</sup>At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic.

- <sup>25</sup>He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."
- <sup>26</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." <sup>27</sup>So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. <sup>28</sup>The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. <sup>29</sup>But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.
- <sup>30</sup>Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. <sup>31</sup>Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

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

# PSALM 114 (read responsively)

- <sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! When Israel came out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,
- <sup>2</sup>Judah became God's sanctuary and Israel God's dominion.
- <sup>3</sup>The sea beheld it and fled; Jordan turned and went back.
- <sup>4</sup>The mountains skipped like rams, and the little hills like young sheep.
- <sup>5</sup>What ailed you, O sea, that you fled, O Jordan, that you turned back,
- <sup>6</sup>you mountains, that you skipped like rams, you little hills like young sheep?
- <sup>7</sup>Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the God of Jacob,
- <sup>8</sup>who turned the hard rock into a pool of water and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

#### **SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12**

- <sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.
- <sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds.

<sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

<sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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

#### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



\*Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

# Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.'

<sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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

**HOMILY** 

Beyond Vegetables

Rev. Robert Linders

\*HYMN OF THE DAY

Where Charity and Love Prevail

ELW # 359

#### \*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: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.
- A: We pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood. Merciful God, C: receive our prayer.
- A: We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and healing to rivers clogged with pollution. Enrich the soil for trees and plants. Protect the crops needed to feed those who hunger. Merciful God, C: receive our prayer.

- A: We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. Merciful God, *C:* receive our prayer.
- A: We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially; for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or otherwise afraid or in harm's way. Protect all who cry out for mercy. Merciful God, C: receive our prayer.
- A: We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation. Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment. Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety. Merciful God, C: receive our prayer.
- A: We give thanks for the saints who died in faith. Show us how to live faithfully, creatively, and lovingly in your church and world. Merciful God, C: receive our prayer.
- P: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ. 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 power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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.

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:

#### \*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.

You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

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 life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

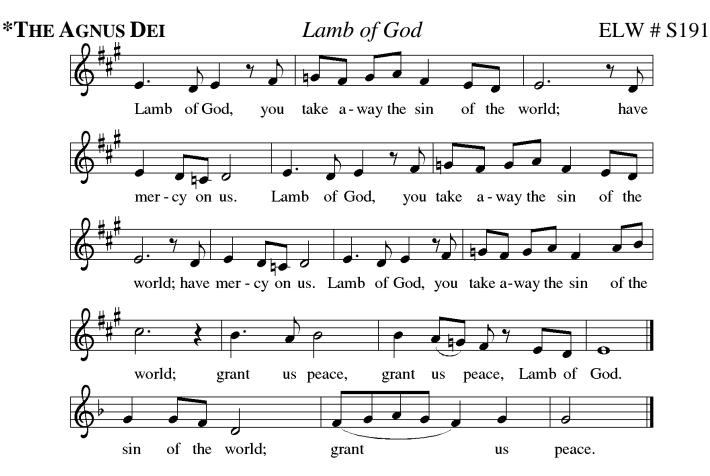
By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

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: Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

**COMMUNION HYMN** 

God, When Human Bonds are Broken

ELW # 603

### \*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... 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 to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. C: Amen.

#### \*BENEDICTION

\*SENDING SONG

God of Grace and God of Glory

ELW # 705

#### \*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. God is at work in you. C: Thanks be to God.

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**Today's Altar Flowers** are placed to the Glory of God and in memory of Rev. Charles Haffling by Greg and Amy Haffling.

# **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 – Jen Ripka

Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck

Our Sexton - Phil Claar

Our Assisting Minister – Calleigh Wright

Our Lector – Destarta Carberry

Our Usher – Stanley Smith

Our Altar Guild – Cindy Snyder, Jeannie Smith

Our Audio/Video Tech - Camden Kuster

Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

Third Quarter Ventures in Faith to "OEW and Missionaries"

### **Church Messenger**

The September 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.

# **Help Wanted: Pianist/Organist**

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Martinsburg is seeking an accomplished pianist or organist to accompany liturgical worship services 2 to 3 Sundays per month. If interested, contact Rev. Traci Marriott at 814 935-9267 or revtracimarriott@gmail.com for more information and application.

Our Administrative Assistant, Loretta (Lori) Tremmel, has submitted her letter of intention to retire effective September 15, 2023. The Congregational Council has accepted her request. On Sunday, September 24, 2023, Pastor Traci and members of St. Matthew will recognize Lori's faithful employment since November 1993. May God bless her retirement years with health and enjoyment.

# Dr. Smith's Resignation

Adam announced his resignation Smith St. Matthew's Dr. has as Pianist/Accompanist in advance of a move to the Lancaster area. October 22nd will be Adam's last Sunday with us; he has graciously offered to return to play a holiday concert on Friday, December 15th, to benefit Camp Sequanota. We extend our appreciation for his sharing the gift of music with us for the past four years and wish him and his family many blessings in the future.

# **Martinsburg Food Pantry**

Volunteers from the Memorial Church of the Brethren will be helping to distribute food on Thursday, September 21st from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m. along with the regular volunteers. If anyone harvests more vegetables or fruits than can be used, we will welcome it on the dates it is open!

Items most needed for September: Cereal, Ravioli, Mashed Potatoes, Tomato Sauce, Kidney Beans. Many thanks for all your donations! Linda Smith

# "Civic Life and Faith"

You are invited to our six week study of the ELCA's curriculum, giving participants the opportunity to share feedback with churchwide to be considered in the writing of the "Civic Life and Faith" social statement.

9/21 (at St. Luke Roaring Spring) "How Do We Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord in Civic Life?"



We welcome Jennifer Ripka to St. Matthew as our new Administrative Assistant. Jennifer is a graduate of Altoona Area High School, South Hills School of Business & Technology, and Penn State, Altoona. She

has worked in accounting and customer service in several local businesses and serves as the treasurer for the Lady Dragons Soccer Boosters. Jennifer, her husband, and their three children live in Martinsburg. Jennifer will be staffing the office on weekday mornings. Home phone #814-935-3801.

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

Pastor Traci – Thurs. 1:00-4:00 p.m. Jen – Mon. – Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

#### **This Week Events**

**Today** – Worship Service, Sanctuary 10:30 a.m.

Mon.-Wed. Pastor Traci is at Bishop's Convo may be reached by cell

814-935-6297

Tuesday - Young at Heart Reservation Deadline

Thursday - Employee Meeting, Fellowship Hall 10:00 a.m.

Civic Life & Faith, St. St. Luke, Roaring Spring 7:00 p.m.

Sunday – Worship Service in the Sanctuary 10:30 a.m.

Lori Tremmel's Reception after Worship, Fellowship Hall

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

Prayer Concerns: Amy & Family, Randy Barrett, Caleb, Diane Cappel, Ted Chipperfield, Dave Clayton, Greg Comer, Greg Dick, Brian Fleck, Ron Focht, Jim Fritz, 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, Cindy Thomas, Tiffany Townsend, Drew Wenzel, Jean White, Joel Widmann, Pete Williams, Tim Wilson, Pat Winston, Jody Zelanko, and for our Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle's Wings.

Away at School: Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Camryn Gates, Jeff Hoenstine.

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

# **Young at Heart Dinner**

Our "Young at Heart" folks from the Allegheny Lutheran Home, Homewood, and The Village at Morrisons Cove, along with members of St. Matthew, are invited to the Young at Heart Luncheon on Tuesday, September 26, in St. Matthew's fellowship hall. Lunch will be served at 12:00 p.m. **Reservations are due by September 19**. Please sign the sheet posted in the narthex or contact the church office at 793-2413 to make your reservation.

#### LAY VISITATION TRAINING

Lutheran Home at Hollidaysburg 916 Hickory St., Hollidaysburg

Answering a call to minister with others can be challenging even when they may have belonged to the same congregation. Yet, the need to reach out to those who are no longer able to participate in the worship life and social activities of the church can be vital to those who reside at home or in skilled care facilities.

Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries will provide training to address these and other concerns for those interested in serving on their congregation's visitation team.

If you have questions or to register, please contact:

Pastor Hamer, Director of Pastoral Care and Congregational Relations at 814-696-4558 or by email at pastor.hamer@alsm.org or by contacting

Miss Hannah Myers, Life Enrichment Manager at 814-696-4530 or by email at hannah.myers@alsm.org

**The Rev. Robert Linders:** Today we welcome guest preacher, The Rev. Robert Linders to the pulpit. A graduate of Gettysburg College, Monmouth College, the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, and Princeton Theological Seminary, Pastor Robert served his first two calls in New Jersey before serving as senior pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Doylestown. He is a published author and teacher of homiletics. Pastor Robert is a friend of Murray and Sharon Smith.

# The Weekend

Allegheny Synod Youth Event Grades 6-12 December 8-10, 2023 Huntingdon, PA

Registration is Now Open
\$10 deposit/ for Familes & Friends St. Matthew covers the remainder
See Pastor Traci for forms & details

FORMS ARE ALSO LOCATED
AT THE
USHER STATION



- 1 Come, you faith ful, raise the strain of tri um phant glad ness!
- 2 'Tis the spring of souls to day: Christ has burst his pris on,
- 3 Now the queen of sea sons, bright with the day of splen dor,
- 4 Nei ther could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por tal,
- 5 Al le lu ia! now we cry to our Lord im mor tal,



God has brought forth Is - ra - el from sad - ness, in - to joy sleep in death and from three days' has ris - en. sun as a feast of feasts with the roy - al comes its joy to ren - der; the watch - ers, nor the seal. hold you as mor - tal: a who tri - um - phant burst the bars of the tomb's dark por - tal;



loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh-ters; is fly - ing af - fec - tion win - ter of our sins, All the long and dark, glad Jer - u - sa - lem, comes to who with true to - day, a - mong your own, be - stow - ing ap - pear, you le - lu - ia! with the Son the God Fa ther prais - ing;



them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters. led from the Light to whom we give praise un - dy - ing. laud and res - ur - rec - tion! wel-comes in un - wea - ried strain Je sus' your deep peace, which ev - er - more pass hu - man know - ing. es Al - le - lu - ia! yet a - gain Spir - it rais - ing. to the

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: GAUDEAMUS PARITER, Johann Horn, 1490–1547

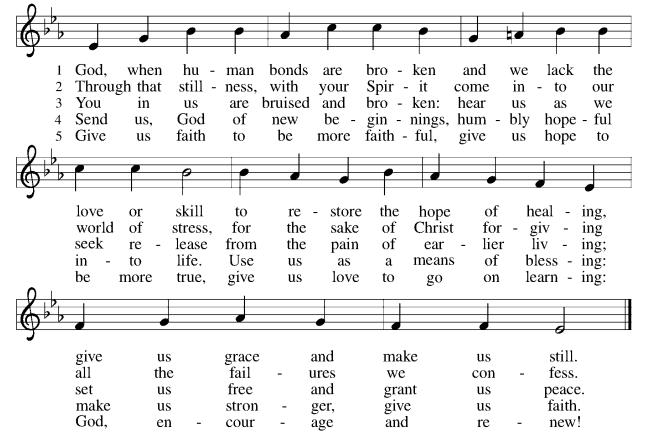


with heart and mind and soul now love God in let us re - turn. mem-bers of bod - y joined, in him we are made one. as each God's the Be glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace. that may love each oth - er well in Chris-tian gen - tle - ness. we

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt. Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

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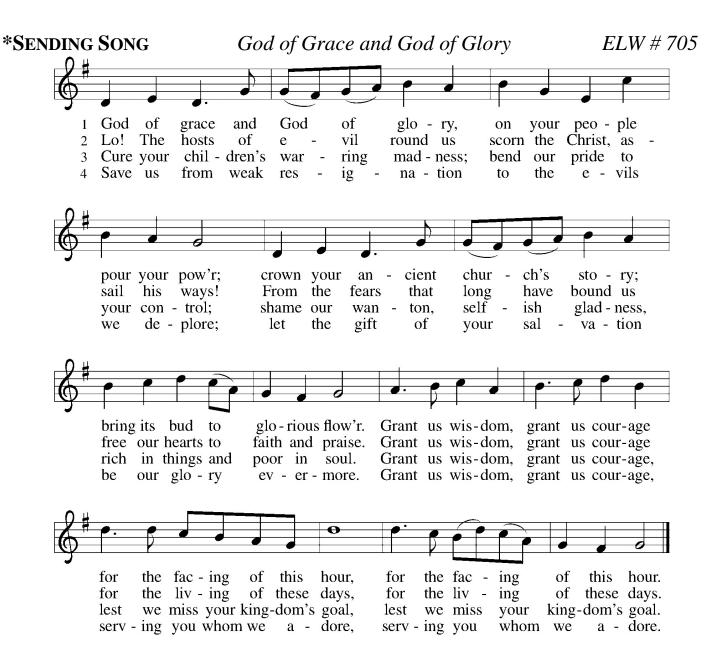
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Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889
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Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969

Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932