The 3rd Sunday after Pentecost September 3, 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

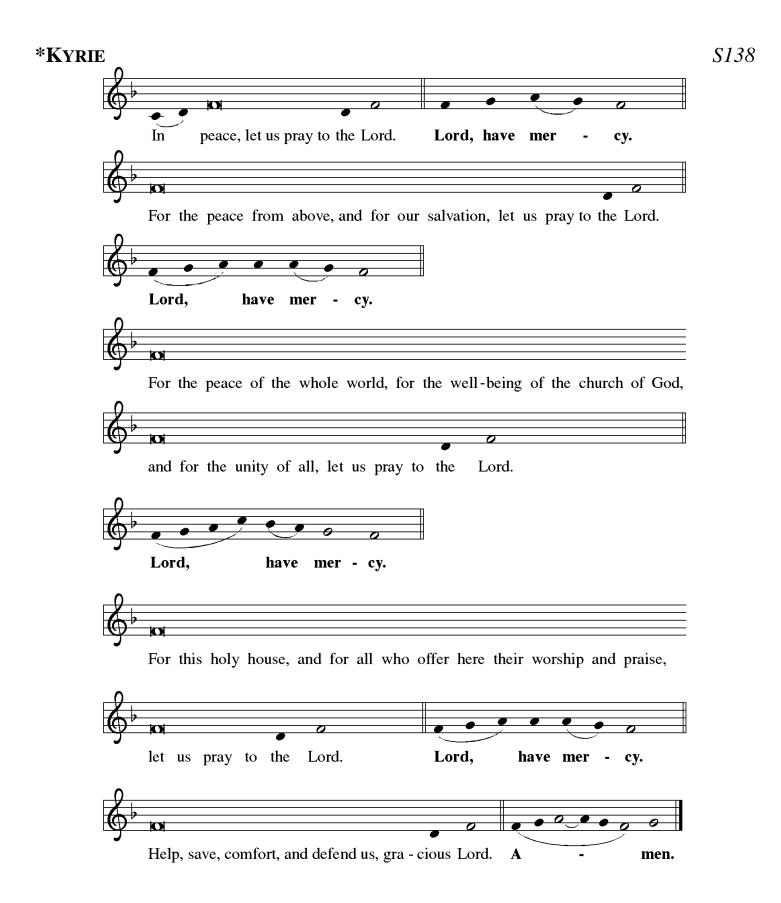
*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- *P:* Blessed be God, the one who forms us, 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** *How Firm a Foundation ELW # 796*

*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.





***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray ... O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. *C:* Amen.

FIRST READING: ¹Exodus 3:1-15

- ¹Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." ⁴When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.
- ⁷Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." ¹¹But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" ¹²He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."
- ¹³But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" ¹⁵God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations."

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

PSALM 26:1-8 (read responsively)

¹Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity; I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

²Test me, O LORD, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.

³For your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.

⁴I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful.

⁵I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked.

⁶I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD, that I may go in procession round your altar,

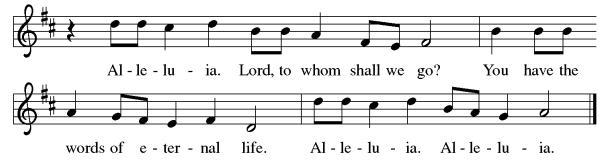
⁷singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds. ⁸LORD, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides

SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21

- ⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.
- ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

- ²¹From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."
- ²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?
- ²⁷"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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

HOMILY		Pastor Traci
*HYMN OF THE DAY	O Master Let Me Walk with You	ELW # 818

*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: God of life, your words are the joy at the heart of your church. Draw the seeker to you, place messages of hope and healing in the mouths of your witnesses, and open your children to your truth when we stumble. Merciful God, *C*: receive our prayer.
- *A:* God of steadfast love, renew the earth by your Spirit, that lands and oceans reveal the beauty of your creation. Challenge us to live humbly and peaceably as part of your world. Merciful God, *C:* receive our prayer.
- *A:* God of patience, lead those who govern to hold fast to what is good. Guide them to show honor to the people in their care. Overcome evil in all nations and grant peace to peoples and places mired in conflict (*especially*). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

- A: God of deliverance, remember all who are suffering, lonely, and in pain. Liberate your people being insulted, persecuted, or in the grasp of the ruthless. Give endurance to workers who persevere on this Labor Day and insure fair wages and safe working environments. Merciful God, *C*: receive our prayer.
- *A:* God of justice, equip this congregation to boldly follow you in uncertain times and to remain faithful in prayer when facing challenges. Show us how best to love and care for one another and our communities. Merciful God, *C:* receive our prayer.
- A God of glory, we give thanks for the saints who now dwell with you in splendor (*especially*). Nurture us in faith until the day we join their heavenly song. Merciful God, **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

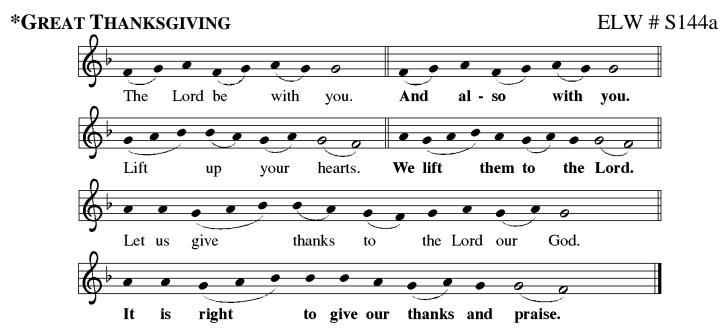
P: The peace of the LORD be with you always.

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**

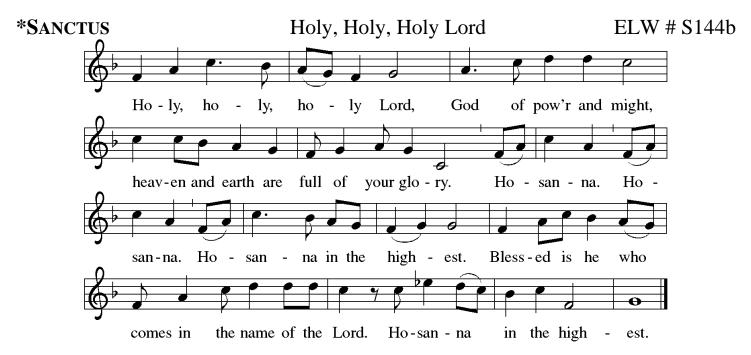
An offering plate is located near the entrance to the nave; we offer thanks for the abundance God has first shown us: *A: Let us pray* God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. *C:* Amen.



***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:

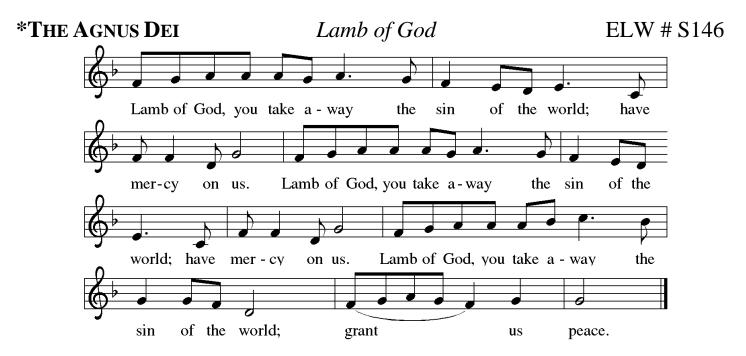


*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- *P*: Holy God, our 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 HYMNSoul Adorn Yourself With GladnessELW # 488

*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**

P: The God of glory, Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever. *C*: Amen.

***SENDING SONG** Lift High the Cross ELW # 660

*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. God is at work in you. . 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 Steve McGraw by the McGraw Family.

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 – Martie Gilbert
Our Lector – Mary Baker
Our Usher – Mike Lamborn
Our Altar Guild – Cindy Snyder and 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.

Share the Harvest



The "Share the Harvest" table is up and running. In the months to come, if you have extra fruit or vegetables to share with members of the congregation, please bring your items and place them on a table in the

Narthex. Members will be able to help themselves to items as desired. Any remaining produce after Sunday morning will be given away at the discretion of the donor. "Let us share God's harvest with others."

Martinsburg Food Pantry

Volunteers from the Martinsburg Mennonite Church will be helping to distribute food on Thursday, September 7 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!

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

Many thanks for your donations! Linda Smith

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

Pastor Traci – Wed. 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Lori – Tues. – Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

This Week Events

Today –	Worship Service in Sanctuary 9:30 a.m.
Monday -	Office Closed
Wednesday -	Yoga, Fellowship Hall 5:00 p.m.
Thursday -	Food Pantry 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
	Civic Life & Faith, Newry 7:00 p.m.
Sunday –	Worship Service in Sanctuary 9:30 a.m.

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, Caleb, 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, Cindy Thomas, Tiffany Townsend, 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).

Study on the ELCA Social Statement on Civic Life & Faith

The ELCA addresses contemporary social issues and seeks to offer theologically informed guidance regarding the questions of modern life through documents called *Social Statements*. The whole church helps author these statements through studies and feedback gathered as they are being written; social statements are then adopted by the Churchwide Assembly. We are currently in the study and feedback phase of a social statement that will speak to the intersection of the Church and civic life. What are our responsibilities as Christian disciples in a democracy?

Please join Pastors Traci, Amanda, and MartyJo and the area Lutheran churches for this six-week study on Civic Life & Faith. We will meet on Thursdays at 7PM with light refreshments:

September 7th : Newry Lutheran September 14th: St. Matthew, Martinsburg September 21st : St. Luke, Roaring Spring

If you can't attend every week, please join us for the weeks you're available. At the end of our study, we will provide feedback to the Churchwide task force.



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.

The training will include:

- ◆ 3 educational sessions held at 10:00 a.m. on 9/7, 10/5, and 11/2.
- ✤ 3 reflection sessions held at 10:00 a.m. on 9/28, 10/26, and 11/30.
- Opportunities to make 6 visits each month with residents in the Lutheran Home in Hollidaysburg. The visitation schedule is flexible.
- All participants who complete the training will receive a certificate of completion.

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 <u>hannah.myers@alsm.org</u>



Dear friend,

The significant loss of life and damage caused by the wildfires in Hawaii have turned our prayers and attention to mourning those lost, supporting the survivors and how Lutheran Disaster Response can assist with recovery.

Exacerbated by strong winds, wildfires on Maui have

claimed dozens of lives and have destroyed homes, businesses and lines of communication. The Big Island of Hawaii has also been impacted by wildfires, and more islands remain vulnerable to additional fires this season.

Lutheran Disaster Response is prepared to accompany our neighbors in Hawaii impacted by these wildfires.

Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Pacifica Synod and other partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires. We will work with them to provide for immediate needs and long-term recovery amid the widespread destruction. Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to accompanying recovering communities in the years ahead.

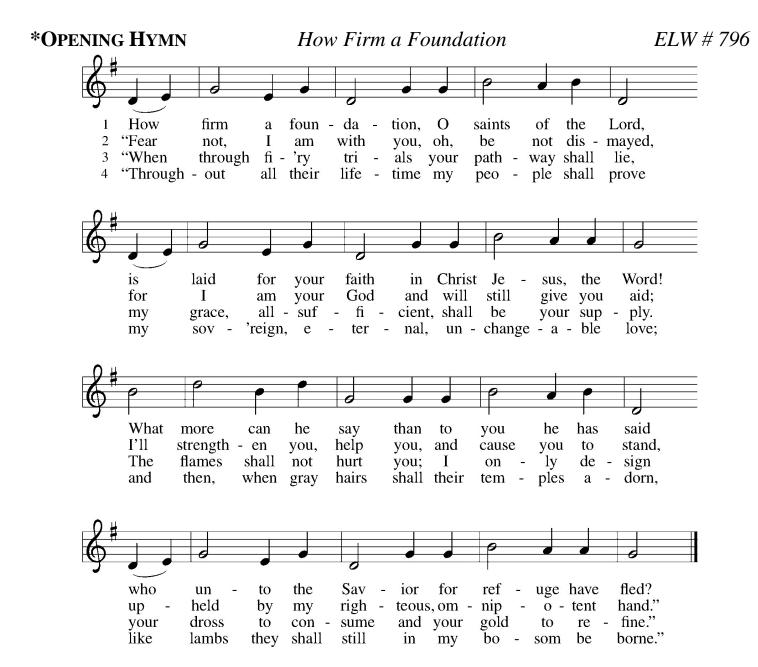
By standing with Maui's wildfire survivors, we follow Christ's call to share hope and healing with our neighbors in need.

With gratitude,

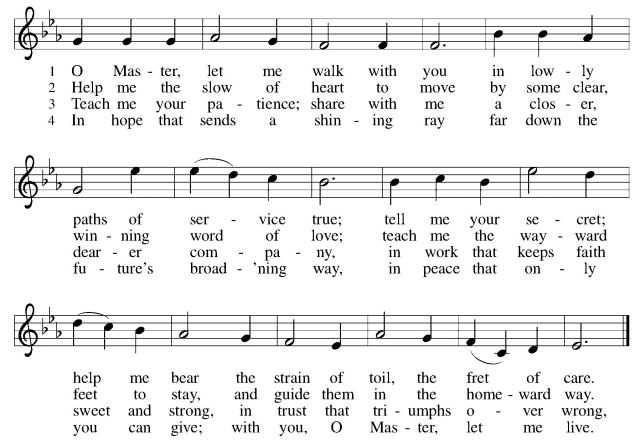
Daniel Rift

The Rev. Daniel Rift Director, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response Fund Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

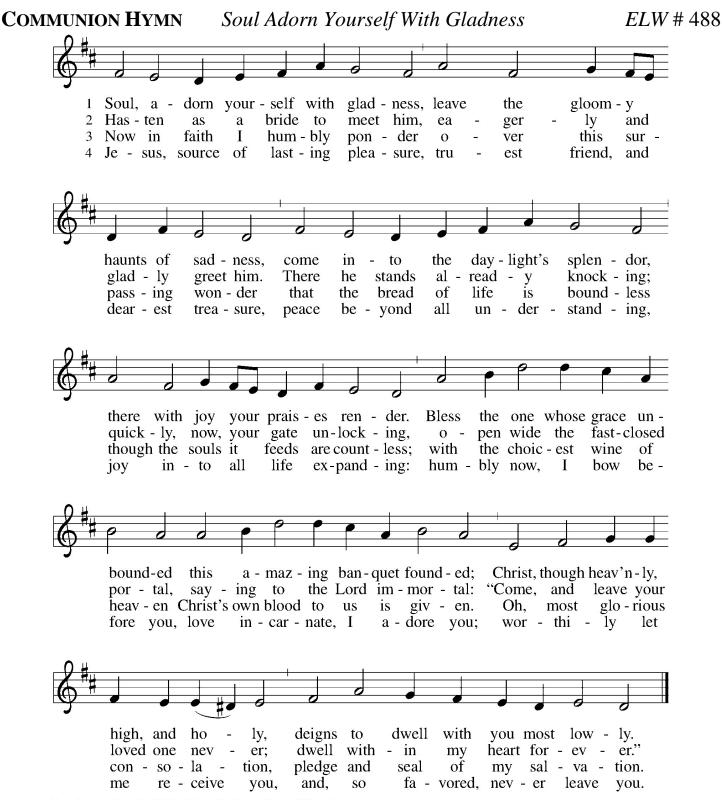
If you consider a gift to Maui's Disaster Response mark your offering envelope or a pew envelope with **"Maui"** and place in the offering plate. Place your **name** or **offering envelope number** on the envelope.



Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt. Music: FOUNDATION, Early American



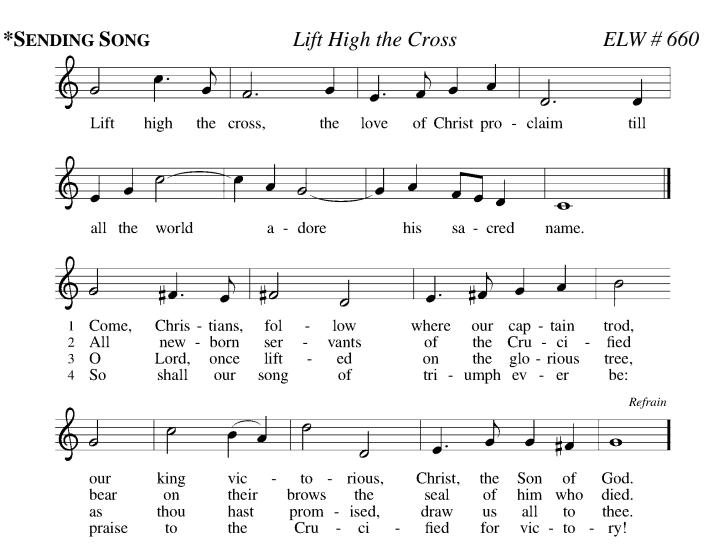
Text: Washington Gladden, 1836–1918, alt. Music: MARYTON, H. Percy Smith, 1825–1898



Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship* Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

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