

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 1, 2024

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452)

Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor

bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Welcome to Saint Mark's!

*This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here. Join us as we seek,
"To know Christ and to make Christ known."*



An Order for Holy Communion 9:30 am

(Lutheran Book of Worship, Setting Two)

Please Note:

Hand sanitizer is available for your use. Offerings may be received by way of offering plates as you enter or leave. ALL HYMNS ARE PRINTED IN BACK OF BULLETIN.

Bold print indicates Congregation.

****Please stand as you are able.***

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (John 6:63). Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We who were washed in the word when we were born in the font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

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

Kneel/stand. Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,

help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

We question your ways when they differ from our ways.

We turn to our own understanding

rather than trusting in you.

We take offense at your teachings and your love.

Turn us again to you.

**Share with us the words of eternal life
and feed us for life in the world.**

Amen.

Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, † the bread of life,

you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

Amen.

***HYMN** Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun LBW (Green) 269

***THE GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

***HYMN OF PRAISE**



☩ Glo-ry to God in the high- est, and peace to his peo- ple on earth.



☩ Lord God, heav- en- ly king, al- might- y God and Fa - ther:



We wor- ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo- ry.



Lord Je- sus Christ, on- ly Son of the Fa- ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.

For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

you a-lone are the Most High, Je- sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir- it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men

***THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you
And also with you
Amen.

THE FIRST READING..... Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!” ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children.

The word of the Lord
Thanks Be God.

PSALM..... Psalm 15

¹LORD, who may dwell in your ¹ tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your ¹ holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do ¹ what is right,
who speak the truth ¹ from their heart;**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil ¹ to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up- ¹ on a neighbor.

⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who ¹ fear
the LORD.**

They have sworn upon their health and do not take ¹ back their word.

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- ¹ gainst
the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be ¹ overthrown.

THE SECOND READING..... James 1:17-27

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming
down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to
change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth,
so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to
speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's
righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of
wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to
save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive
themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those
who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going
away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the
perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but
doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their
hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God,
the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep
oneself unstained by the world.

The word of the Lord

Thanks Be God.

*THE 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.

*THE GOSPEL..... Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 6th chapter

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” ⁶He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

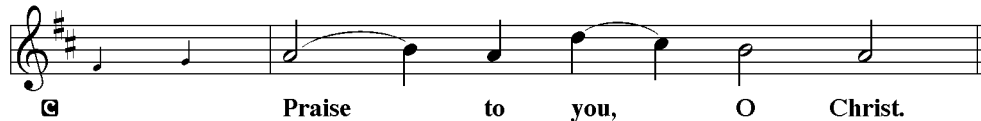
‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

²¹“For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

The Gospel of the Lord



THE SERMON

***HYMN** O God, My Faithful God

LBW (Green) 504

***THE APOSTLES' CREED**

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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

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

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

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

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

***THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:** *After each petition, "Merciful
God/Receive our prayer".*

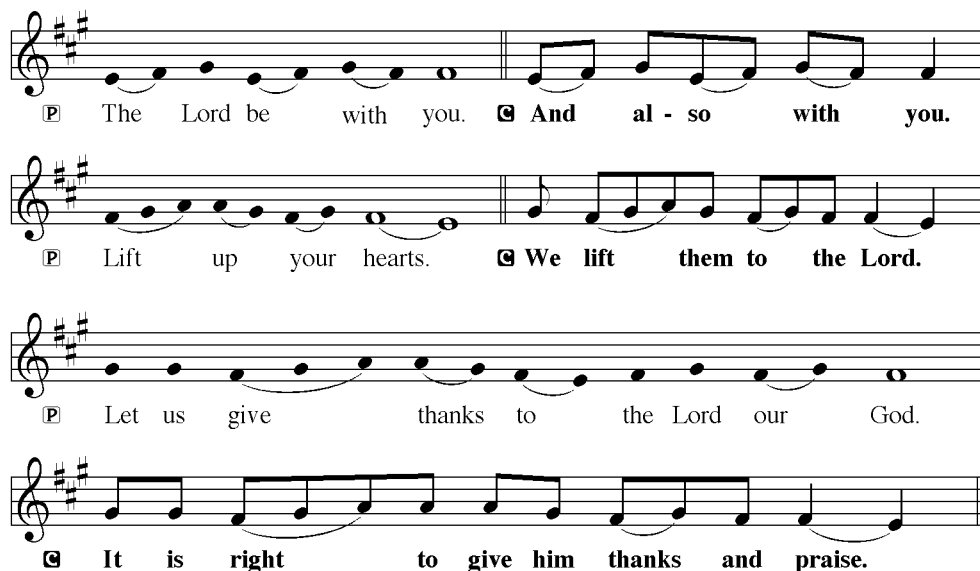
***THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

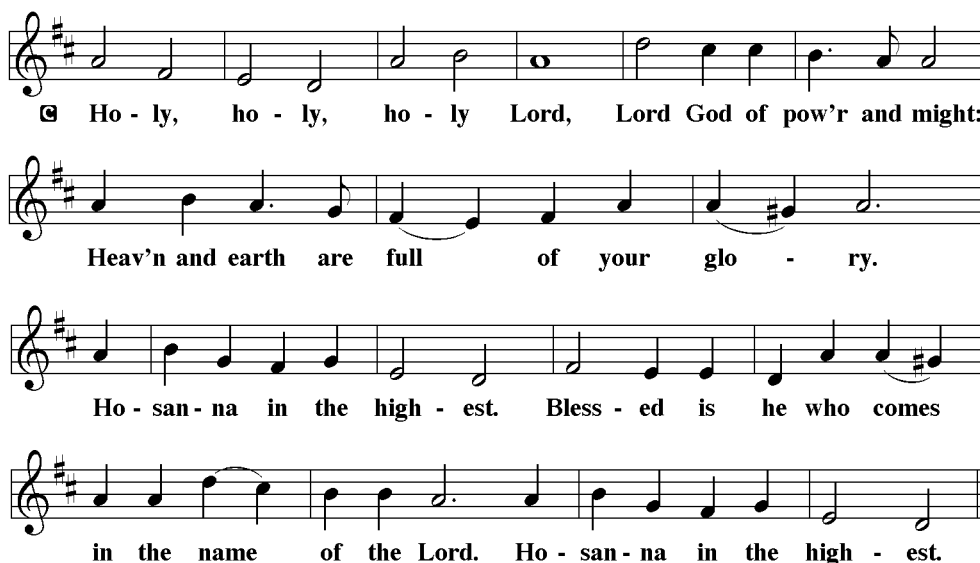
All may greet one another with these or similar words and/or gestures of peace

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**



P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so 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 him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of eternal life. And so with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In your great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,

who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
who on the cross opened his arms to all,
and by his resurrection brought eternal life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread,
gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples,
saying: "Take and eat;
this is my body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."
Again after supper, he took the cup,
gave thanks,
and gave it to 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 death, resurrection and ascension
we await his coming in glory.
Pour out upon us
the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills
of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood
of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom with you
and the Holy Spirit
be all honor and glory,
now and forever.

Amen.

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,**

thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom
 and the power,
 and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.

***LAMB OF GOD**



☞ 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.

***INVITATION**

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all! Come! **Amen**

COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Use the center aisle, pick up a small glass on the way. Receive the bread and then proceed to receive the wine by way of a pouring chalice. After communing return to your pew using a side aisle. Those not communing may come forward for a blessing.

Know that the crucified and risen Christ gives himself to you in his supper. If you cannot eat bread, drink only the wine. If you cannot drink wine, eat only the bread.

***AFTER COMMUNION**

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

Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.
As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.
In your name we pray.

Amen.

***BLESSING**

The blessing of God, Father, Son, ✠ and Holy Spirit,
who provides for us, feeds us and journeys with us
be upon you now and forever.

Amen.

***HYMN** May We Your Precepts, Lord Fulfill LBW (Green) 353

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

THE POSTLUDE

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PRAYER LIST

Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Walt Haussmann, Kristin Rehm, Yvonne and Gerry Myers, Ariel, John Bower, Joseph Baur, John Tartline, Bob Miller, Carl Hieber, Ann Kuntz, Donna Baker, Gary Weber, Tom Waffenschmidt, Phil and Barb Thomas.

OUR STEWARDSHIP August 25, 2024



Regular Offering	\$2,534.00
Food Pantry	50.00
Habitat for Humanity	25.00
Operation Christmas Child	50.00
Organ Fund	200.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	30.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	50.00
Lutheran World Relief	25.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$2,964.00

ALTAR FLOWERS



Today (Sunday, September 1, 2024) are given to the glory of God:

+ In Loving Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Lloyd by Carl and Beverly Hieber and Family.

+ In Loving Memory of my father Glenn Means and in Honor of my mother Pauline Means by Kathy Eshelman.

WORSHIP LEADERS August 25, 2024

Lector	9:30AM	Gary Weber
Communion Assistants	9:30AM	Nikki and Brian Jackson
Organist	9:30AM	Sam Robinson
Ushers:	9:30AM	Tim Maggs, captain Carl Hieber, Charles Kuntz

Altar Guild AUGUST

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



The Pastoral Care Department will be hosting a Volunteer Chaplain Assistant Training at UPMC Williamsport Hospital on September 26, 2024, from 9:30AM – 3:30PM. If you desire to be a spiritual companion for those who are sick at UPMC care facilities in North Central PA (Williamsport, Muncy or Lock Haven), please consider becoming a Volunteer Chaplain Assistant. Contact Sister Gabrielle Nguyen at 570-321-2213 or nguyens4@upmc.edu by September 5, 2024. We hope you can join our mission of extending God's healing love by providing an extraordinary patient experience throughout North Central PA.

Lutheran World Relief



It is that time - Lutheran World Relief kits. Directions for the four different types of kits are in the narthex, please feel free to take them. Kits are due the end of September but the bins will be available beginning 7/21. The goal is 70 school kits, 10 fabric kits (watch for JoAnn's fabrics coupons), 10 personal care kits, and 10 baby kits (yard sales are a great place to find gently used items). The following will be provided - school bags, cloth diapers and diaper pins. These will be available beginning 7/21. If you have questions, please contact me at dabuckman65@gmail.com or 570-323-1707.

Thanks for your generosity. These kits can mean the world to a child, mother or family.

Cereal Sunday: We Hit It Out of the Park!

Our FINAL Cereal Sunday will be September 8, 2024.

Let's Keep Batting a Thousand!



Our total donations to date stand at 248 boxes of assorted cereals. There has already been a dozen or more boxes of cereal donated for September. Can we get to 300 boxes for our grand total?

Tastykakes Needed!



The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee needs your help in providing boxes of Tastykakes for Redeemer's community dinner on September 12, 2024. Please consider donating one or more boxes of Tastykakes of any kind for this outreach. Donations are needed by September 8, 2024 and may be placed on the table in the Narthex. Thank you for any assistance you can give.

Camp Mount Luther

“Foundations for the Future” Capital Campaign



For over 60 years Camp Mount Luther has been providing ministry to youth, families and adults from the congregations and communities of Central Pennsylvania and beyond. After 60 years, however, upgrades and renovations are needed to ensure that this important outdoor ministry will continue for generations to come.

Today at St. Mark’s we are kicking off our 6 week campaign in support of Camp Mount Luther. Over the next several weeks you will receive information regarding the importance of working toward our **congregational goal** of raising **\$7500.00**. We look forward to supporting this capital campaign, and pray that through our generous spirit others may continue to learn about and know the love of Christ found in this amazing space known as Camp Mount Luther.



Urgent Need!

There is No Vacation from Hunger.

A Message from Pastor Tammev Edkin

The United Churches of Lycoming County's Food Pantry is seeing an increase in families that are utilizing the Pantry’s services in order to stretch their limited resources. In response to that information, the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee gathered the groceries that had been donated over the summer months. We are proud to report that we delivered 98 non-perishable food items to the Pantry. Heartfelt thanks to the many members of the congregation who not only donated cereal but other needed food items as well.

Starting September 8, 2024 and continuing through September 22, 2024 we will be holding a mini food drive to be of further assistance to the United Churches Food Pantry. Check out the September Lion for additional information.



Monday, September 2, -
Sunday, September 8, 2024

Monday, September 2
Tuesday, September 3
Wednesday, September 4
Thursday, September 5
Friday, September 6
Saturday, September 7
Sunday, September 8

Office Closed
Office Hours 9:00AM-1:00PM
Office Hours 9:00AM-1:00PM
Office Hours 9:00AM-1:00PM
Office Hours 9:00AM-1:00PM
Office Closed
Holy Communion 8:00AM and 10:30AM

BIRTHDAYS

Todd Smith September 3 Valerie Doeblor September 5
Derek Lewis September 6

ANNIVERSARIES

Lorraine and Edward Barone September 2
Grace and Ronald Arner September 3

Please remember to let the administrative assistant know when committee meetings are scheduled, or changed, so it can be included in the bulletin.

If there is anything you would like to include in the “This Week at Our Church”, please email jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org



When you or a family member are ill, have a crisis of faith, or have a personal concern of which you wish to make the pastor aware, please contact him directly by church office telephone (570-323-4619) 272-788-0161 (cell) or email (bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org). Do not assume the pastor will know of your need any other way.



When you or a loved one has a change of address, telephone number or email, please contact the church office at 570-323-4619 or stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org. Please direct your intentions whether or not to share this information with our church family.

COMMEMORATIONS

**Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, died 1872
Monday, September 2**



Grundtvig was, with Søren Kierkegaard, one of the two great Danish theologians of the nineteenth century. As a pastor, he battled the prevalent idea that Christianity was more a philosophy than divine revelation. He wrote over a thousand hymns.



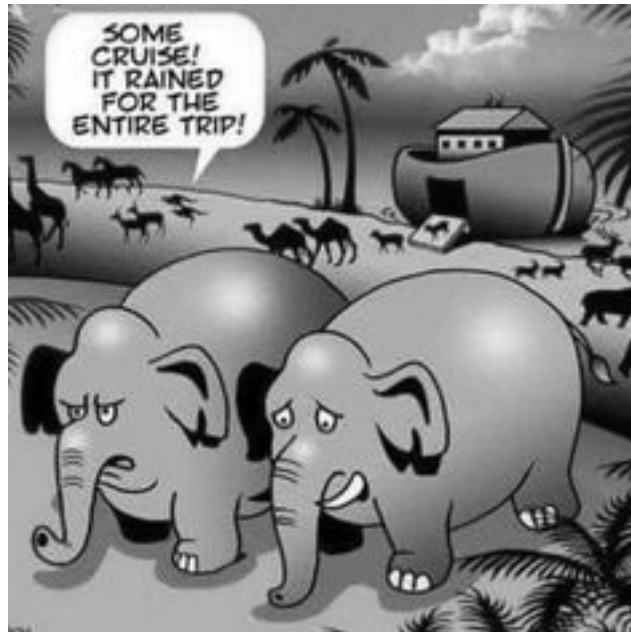
Pastor Vasey will be on vacation September 2-8. Should you need a pastor during this time please contact Pastor Carol Johnson 570-772-6674 or carolandshuman@verizon.net). Thank you.

For 9/8/24:

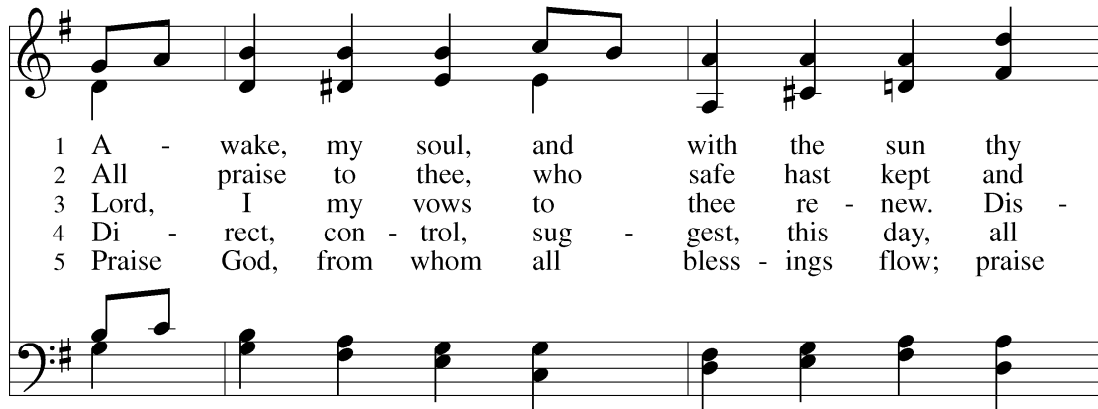
Welcome Ray Huff to our pulpit today and thank him for preaching and presiding at both services.



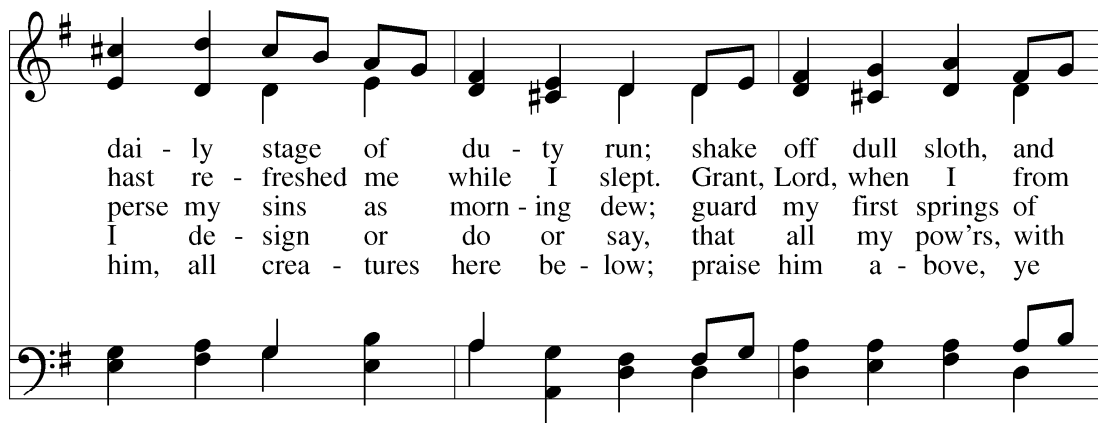
"Which weather app are you using? Mine is forecasting a plague of locusts and scattered showers of fire and brimstone."



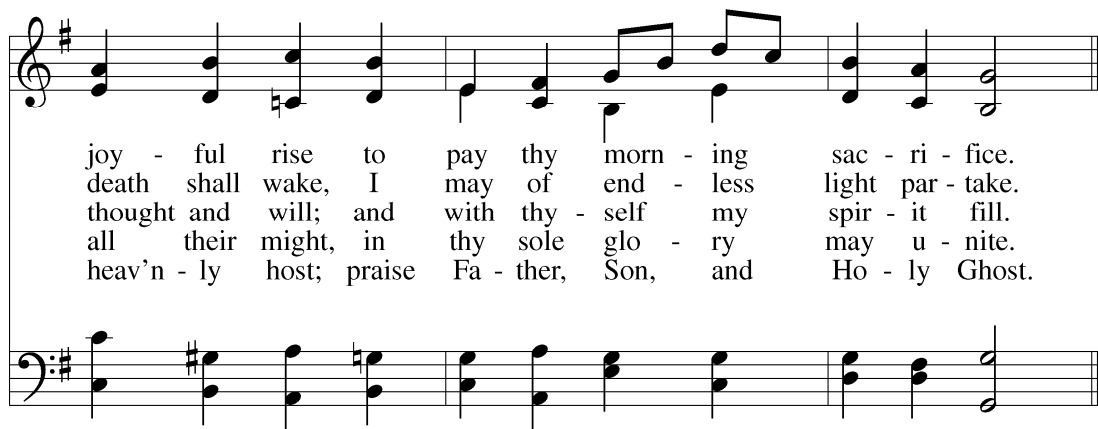
Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun



1 A - wake, my soul, and with the sun thy
 2 All praise to thee, who safe hast kept and
 3 Lord, I my vows to thee re - new. Dis -
 4 Di - rect, con - trol, sug - gest, this day, all
 5 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise



dai - ly stage of du - ty run; shake off dull sloth, and
 hast re - freshed me while I slept. Grant, Lord, when I from
 perse my sins as morn - ing dew; guard my first springs of
 I de - sign or do or say, that all my pow'rs, with
 him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye



joy - ful rise to pay thy morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 death shall wake, I may of end - less light par - take.
 thought and will; and with thy - self my spir - it fill.
 all their might, in thy sole glo - ry may u - nite.
 heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

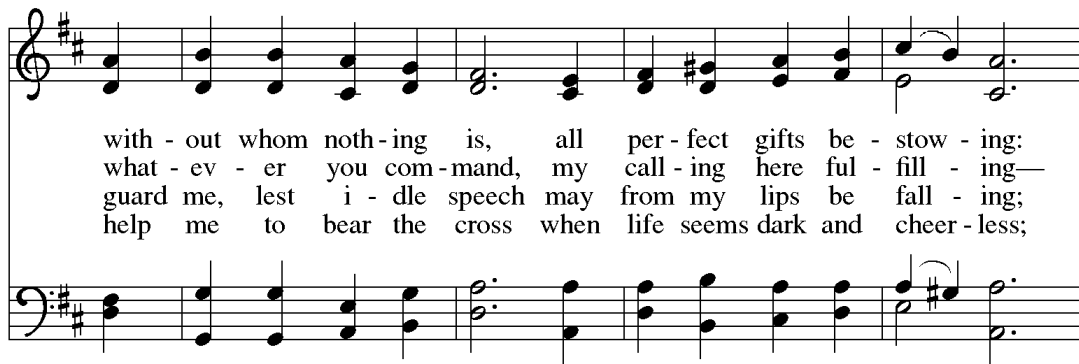
Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711

Music: MORNING HYMN, François H. Barthélémon, 1741–1808

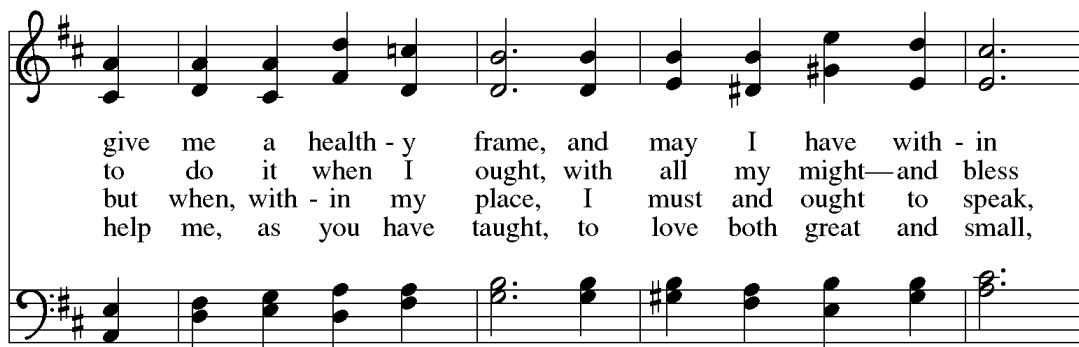
O God, My Faithful God



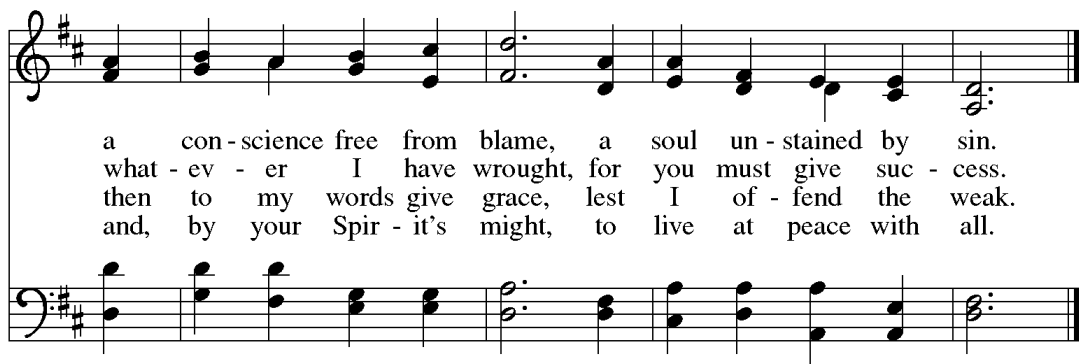
1 O God, my faith - ful God, true foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,
2 Give me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing
3 Keep me from say - ing words that lat - er need re - call - ing;
4 When dan - gers gath - er round, oh, keep me calm and fear - less;



with - out whom noth - ing is, all per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:
what - ev - er you com - mand, my call - ing here ful - fill - ing—
guard me, lest i - dle speech may from my lips be fall - ing;
help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheer - less;



give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in
to do it when I ought, with all my might—and bless
but when, with - in my place, I must and ought to speak,
help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,



a con - science free from blame, a soul un - stained by sin.
what - ev - er I have wrought, for you must give suc - cess.
then to my words give grace, lest I of - fend the weak.
and, by your Spir - it's might, to live at peace with all.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: WAS FRAG ICH NACH DER WELT, Ahasuerus Fritsch, 1629–1701

May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill



1 May we your pre - cepts, Lord, ful - fill and
2 So may we join your name to bless, your
3 Spir - it of life, of love, and peace, our



do on earth our Fa - ther's will as an - gels do a - bove;
grace a - dore, your pow'r con - fess, to flee from sin and strife.
hearts u - nite, our joy in - crease, your gra - cious help sup - ply.



still walk in Christ, the liv - ing way, with
One is our call - ing, one our name, the
To each of us the bless - ing give in



all your chil - dren and o - bey the law of Chris - tian love.
end of all our hopes the same, a glo - rious crown of life.
Chris - tian fel - low - ship to live, in joy - ful hope to die.

Text: Edward Osler, 1798–1863, alt.
Music: MERIBAH, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872