The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost September 15, 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."



Order for Holy Communion 8:00/10:30 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

Three weeks ago we heard Peter's confession of faith as told in the Gospel according to John. This week we hear Mark's version, when Peter says, "You are the Messiah." In John, the stumbling block is Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark the scandal has to do with Jesus' words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus' words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of messiah) in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.

PRELUDE Adoration Florence Price

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Kneel/stand. Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us.

We confess that we have honored you with our lips,

but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.

The cravings at war within us

cause conflicts and disputes.

In our desire to be first

we make distinctions among ourselves.

We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

*HYMN

Lift High the Cross

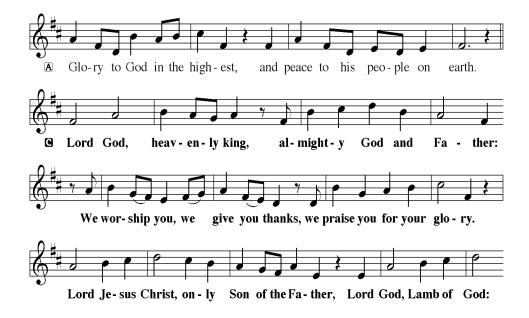
LBW "Green" 377

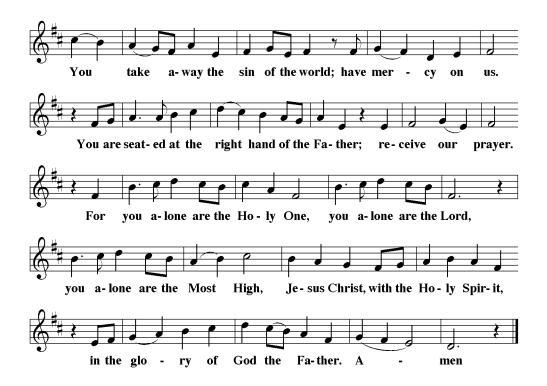
*THE GREETING

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





*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you **And also with you**

Amen.

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

THE FIRST READING..... Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴The Lord GOD has given me

the tongue of a teacher,

that I may know how to sustain

the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—

wakens my ear

to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,

and I was not rebellious,

I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,

and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face

from insult and spitting.
⁷ The Lord GoD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸ he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
^{9a} It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?
The word of the Lord
Thanks Be God.
PSALM Psalm 116:1-9
¹ I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,
² for the LORD has given ear to me
whenev- er I called.
³ The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;
I came to grief and sorrow.
⁴ Then I called upon the name of the LORD:
"O LORD, I pray you, save my life."
⁵ Gracious is the LORD and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.
⁶ The LORD watches o- ver the innocent;
I was brought low, and God saved me.
⁷ Turn again to your rest, ¹ O my soul.
for the LORD has dealt well with you.
⁸ For you have rescued my life from death,
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling;
⁹ I will walk in the presence of the LORD
in the land of the living.
THE SECOND DEADING
THE SECOND READING
¹ Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ² For all of us make many
that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ² For all of us make many

mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the

whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

The word of the Lord

Thanks Be God.

*THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 8th chapter



²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him,

"You are the Messiah." ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." The Gospel of the Lord



THE SERMON

*HYMN Will You Come and Follow Me

No Notation Available

*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,

"Hear us O God / Your mercy is great".

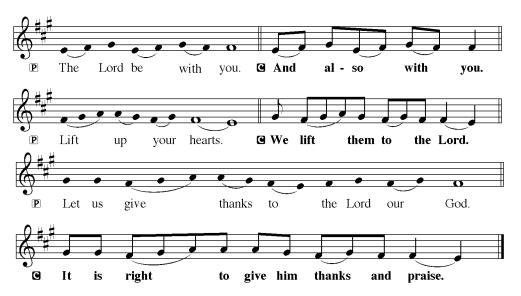
*THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

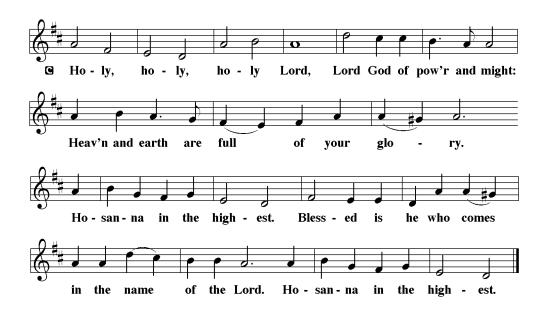
And also with you.

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

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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:



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."

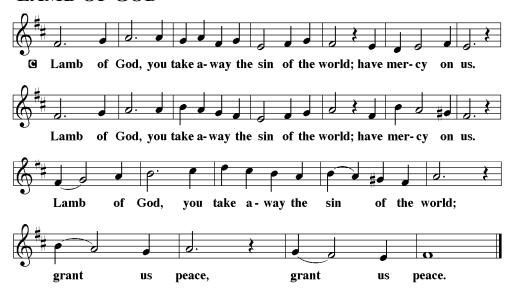
Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection and ascension we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honor and glory, 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



*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

Holy God,

you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*BLESSING

The blessing of God, Father, Son, + and Holy Spirit, Bless you, keep you and give you peace **Amen.**

*HYMN O Jesus I Have Promised

LBW "Green" 503

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

THE POSTLUDE *Toccata in Seven* John Rutter

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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 September 8, 2024



GRAND TOTAL	\$3,157.00
Flowers Memorials / Tributes	70.00
Family Promise Hosting	30.00
Plate Offering	10.00
Regular Offering	\$3,047.00

ALTAR FLOWERS



Today (Sunday, September 15, 2024) are given to the glory of God:

+ In Loving Memory of Luella Bair birthday by her children.

+To the Glory of God by Steve and Karen Mariano

WORSHIP LEADERS September 15, 2024

		,
Lector	8:00 AM	Nikki Jackson
	10:30AM	Donna Boston
Communion Assistants	8:00 AM	Nikki Jackson
	10:30AM	Matt and Wanda Fortin
Ushers	8:00 AM	Herb Poff, Richard Miller
	10:30AM	Matt Fortin captain
		Glenn Yaple, Dick Reitz
Organist		Sam Robinson
Altar Guild	September	Leah Haussmann, Deb Buckman

Lutheran World Relief



We are coming down to the last month. We have exceeded our goal of 10 personal care kits, and have 62 school kits. I have received several baby care kits but could use more and

the same with the sewing kits. Your generosity and faith have been wonderful. Blanket Sunday is coming soon and for LWR blankets should be twin size up to 60x80 inches. Cotton or light wool is acceptable but not fleece, afghans or throws.

Family Promise - thanks to everyone who pitched in for the first week of September. Our next hosting begins Nov. 24.

BUDGET TIME

Budget time - all committee heads need to see me about budget paperwork.

Thanks – Deb Buckman, Treasurer

Tastykakes by the Boxful



The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee is grateful to the congregation for their donations of 21 boxes of assorted TastyKake cupcakes. That is 126 servings, more than enough for the dinners that were served at Redeemer's Community dinner on September 12. Thank you for your willingness to say "yes" to our requests.

We Batted a Thousand !!!!!



Our final Cereal Sunday last week saw donations totaling 70 boxes of assorted cereals. Our grand total for this project is **318 boxes of cereal.** We met AND exceeded our goal of 300 boxes. If all this

news is not good enough, we donated 27 more boxes of cereal this year than in 2023! The folks at the United Churches Food Pantry were thrilled with the carload of cereal that was delivered last Monday. The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee thanks you from the bottom of our hearts for answering our call to help prevent food insecurity in our community.

Urgent Need! There is Still No Vacation from Hunger.

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee is holding a mini food drive that continues through September 22, 2024 to further assist the United Churches Food Pantry. There is still time to take a small grocery bag from the stack in the Narthex and fill it with a few items from your own pantry or add an item or two to your shopping list. We could not do what we do without the support from the members of St. Mark's. Thank you for any help you can give.

Youth Game Night Sunday, September 22, 202 No registration required! Just show up with a game! Calling all youth!

Do you enjoy church but wish there were more kids your own age? Well then we have good news for you! You are invited to the Upper Susquehanna Synod Youth Group's first gathering on Sunday, September 22, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Christ's Lutheran Church in Lewisburg. The theme is game night, so bring

your favorite board game. We will spend some time getting to know each other, playing games, and enjoying some refreshments. All youth confirmation-age and up are invited! We hope to see you there!



Our Community's annual walk to fight hunger, CROP Hunger Walk, will be held **Sunday, October 13**th at 1:00 PM, on the River Walk in Williamsport. The walk begins here at St. Mark's and you can walk 3, 6 or 9 miles (most of us walk 3 miles).

Join the **St. Mark's Lutheran Church Lions** team to walk or donate. Our goal is \$1,000 (last year we raised \$940)! Hungry people in developing countries can walk as many as six miles a day for food and water. We walk because they walk. By walking on a fall afternoon, you create awareness to these issues, raise funds and have

fellowship with members of the St. Mark's congregation as well as other congregations.

25% of the funds we raise support local hunger agencies and the other 75% is distributed by Church World Service nationally and internationally. In partnership CROP walks support self-help programs, assist after disasters and help address root causes of poverty by providing water systems and tools to grow the food they need.

To register to walk or donate to our team, you can speak with Brenda Gair (text 570-220-8859) or on-line; https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/team/st-marks-lutheran-church-lions

Click the orange "Donate Now"

Checks can be made payable to "CWS/CROP"





Monday, September 16, -Sunday, September 22, 2024

Monday, September 16

Tuesday, September 17 Wednesday, September 18 Thursday, September 19 Friday, September 20 Saturday, September 21 Sunday, September 22 Little Lambs Liaison Meeting 12:15PM ML Nomination Committee 5:15PM ML Church Council Meeting 6:00PM ML 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

Audrey Bower September 19 Ronald Arner September 22 Brittany Dewar September 22

ANNIVERSARIES

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

Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, died around 258



September 16

Cyprian served as a bishop during a time of great persecution of Christians. He insisted on receiving back those who had left the faith under duress. He also provided medical care during a severe epidemic.

Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, died 1179



September 17

A mystic who was widely influential within the church, Hildegard advised and reproved kings and popes, wrote poems and hymns, and produced treatises in medicine, theology, and natural history. She was also a musician and artist.

Dag Hammarskjöld, renewer of society, died 1961



September 18

A Swedish diplomat, Hammarskjöld served as the second Secretary General of the United Nations until his death in a plane crash while trying to negotiate peace in present-day Zambia. His journal, published as Markings, revealed the depth of his Christian faith.

Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist



September 21

Matthew (or Levi) was a tax collector in Capernaum for the Roman government. Tax collectors were frequently despised for dishonesty and for assisting the occupiers. Jesus nevertheless showed love for them, and chose Matthew to be a disciple.



St. Luke Lutheran Church

1400 Market Street; Williamsport, PA (570) 323-7309

Sunday, September 15th, 2024

Noon — 3:00 pm

- Blueberry treats, hot dogs, chips & drinks
- Music provided by the Blues-berry Band
 - Games for children of all ages

FREE-WILL OFFERING will be taken

Proceeds to benefit:

Sojourner Truth—House of Hope Ministries

Williamsport, PA





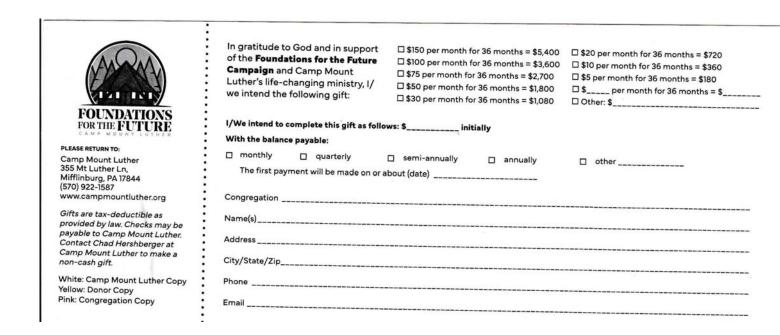
Hope to see you on the 15th

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.





Thank You All (Once Again)

It was so nice of Fred's (cancer) brother Felix (blood clot) to visit and decide to travel to my lungs. Yup not just one I got a saddle pulmonary embolism which effected both lungs. It will take some time to break up the clot but my oxygen tank is my new companion. Everyone here has been so supportive with your thoughts and prayers. I especially want to

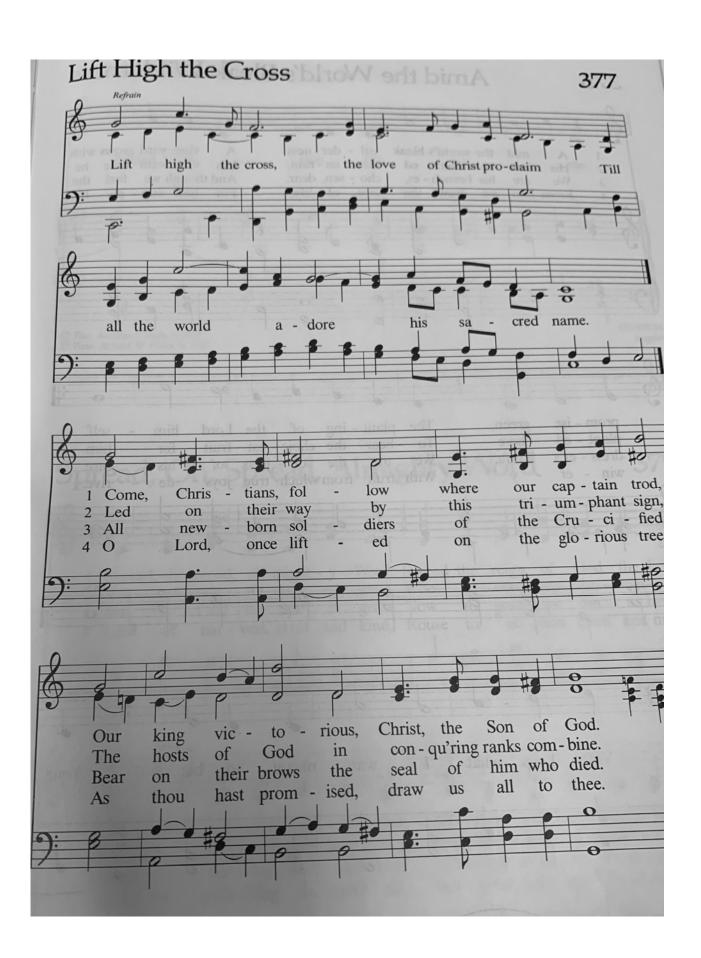
thank Ray and Deb for filling in for me and getting the bulletin done and printed. Your Administrative Assistant
Joe Baur



"This would make a great reality show for the religion channel."







Will You Come and Follow Me

The Summons



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional
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O Jesus, I Have Promised



Text: John E. Bode, 1816–1874, alt. Music: MUNICH, Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch, Meiningen, 1693