

Service of Holy Communion

Holy Humor Sunday

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 31, 2025



INTRODUCTION

Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God’s grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ’s banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

GATHERING

KNOCK KNOCK WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**The congregation stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P. In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

P. Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

The congregation is seated. Silence is kept for reflection.

P. Merciful God, **you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.**

**Congregation stands*

Rise & Shine *(printed in back of bulletin)*

P. Blessed are those who laugh at themselves for they will be amused forever!
C. Amen.

C. Amen

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all

creatures here below; praise God above, ye

heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. Knock knock. **Who's there?...**

O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**Congregation is seated*

WORD

FIRST READING: Proverbs 25:6-7a

⁶ Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great,

^{7a} for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

A. Word of God, word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 112 (*read responsively*)

¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD
and have great delight in God's commandments!

² **Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

³ Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴ **Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶ **For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

⁸ **Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast
forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

¹⁰ **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine
away; the desires of the wicked will perish.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

A. Word of God, word of life.

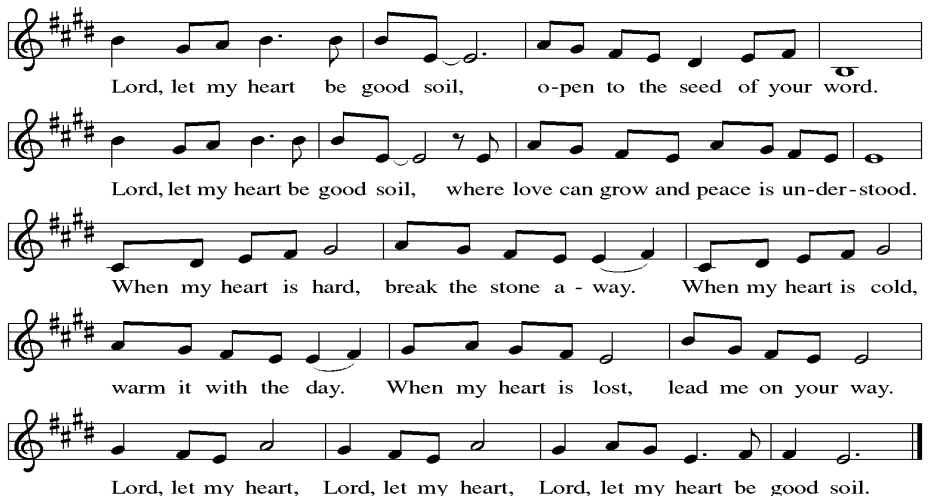
C. Thanks be to God.

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL

Children & Youth are invited forward for a special sermon time with Pastor Peggy.

**Congregation stands*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

GOSPEL: Luke 14:1, 7-14

P. The holy gospel according to Luke. **C. Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

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

**Congregation is seated*

SERMON

It's A Joke

**Congregation stands*

HYMN OF THE DAY

All Are Welcome

ELW 641

(printed in back of bulletin)

APOSTLE'S CREED

**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. What did the cabbage pastor say to the people? **C. Lettuce pray!**

A. Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near. *A brief silence.*

A. For the leaders of the church, we pray. Inspire deacons, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and Christian education directors with a passion for speaking the word of God. Equip all the baptized to share your word of grace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A. For the well-being of creation, we pray. Sustain farm workers and all who labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and pastures, and provide for the cattle and creatures who rely on the land for their sustenance. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A. For the leaders of towns, cities, provinces, states, and nations, we pray. Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for all. On this Labor Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A. For the lowly and those who are ignored, we pray. Provide for the needs of vulnerable communities, those who are unemployed, burdened by debt, or struggle to make ends meet. Accompany all who need reassurance of your loving presence. We pray especially....those we name aloud.....and those we hold in our hearts... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A. For the hospitality ministries of this congregation, we pray. Give ushers and greeters a spirit of welcome for visitors, and bless the work of those who feed and nourish us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A. For all the saints who from their labors rest, we give thanks. With them, we offer our sacrifice of praise to you, O God, the same yesterday and today and forever. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P. Confident in God’s presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.
Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P. Knock knock. **C. Who's there?...**

P. The Peace of Christ be with you always.

C. And also with you.

P. Let us share with each other a sign of Christ’s peace Rock, Paper, Peace style!

**Congregation is seated*

MEAL

OFFERTORY INVITATION

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Thank you for your generous gifts!

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via Tithely*




Congregation stands

OFFERTORY SONG

As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.
1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with - in our midst,
Refrain
may we share the pres - ence of your love.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

A. Let us pray... Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE & PREFACE OF THE 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.

P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you

have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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:

Holy, Holy, Holy (*Sing 2x—English 1st time; Spanish 2nd time*)



San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra.
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.



Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de-cir: San - to e-res Se - ñor.
My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

Text: Argentine traditional

Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, Argentine traditional

Congregation is seated

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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 God, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Believing in the real presence of Christ, we practice Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcome to Communion this morning. Please come forward, guided by the Ushers, to receive the bread and wine. Children are invited to the table for a blessing.

Gluten free and traditional wafers are available, please note this to Pastor Peggy when you come up. The bread is dairy and egg free. Grape juice is available in the second communion plate. As you return to your seat via the side aisles you can place your empty cup in the baskets on either side.

P. The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

COMMUNION SONG

Refrain

“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.
OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”
Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

Text: Taizé Community

Music: BERTHIER, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

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DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

After all have received Communion the congregation stands.

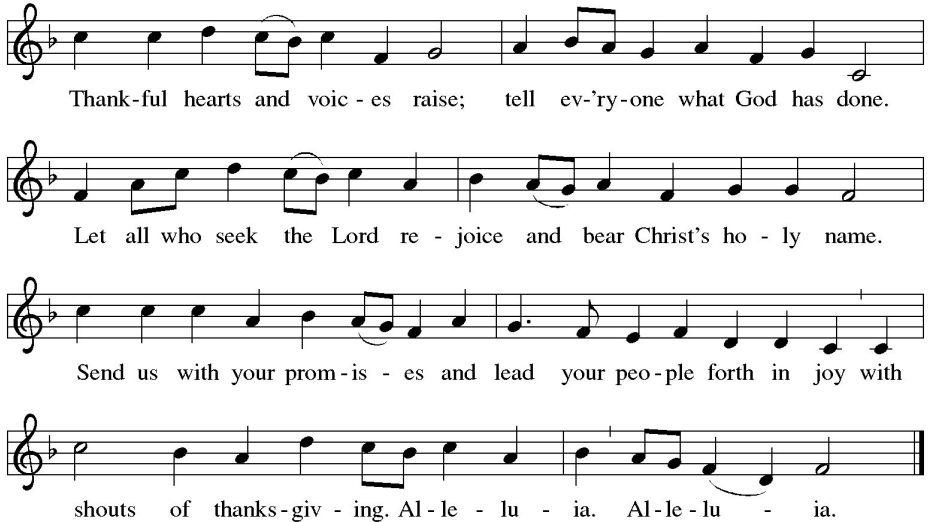
TABLE BLESSING

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

*FINAL TIME FOR JOKES

SONG AFTER COMMUNION

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.

Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.

Send us with your prom-is - es and lead your peo-ple forth in joy with

shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A. Let us pray... Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

P. The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ☩ bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

ELW 836

(printed in back of bulletin)

DISMISSAL

A. Go in peace. Live by the Spirit. **C. Thanks be to God.**

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Announcements for August 31st, 2025

Welcome to Holy Counselor Lutheran Church. May you experience the joy of God's presence in our worship!

If today is your first time worshipping at Holy Counselor, please be sure to fill out the "Guest Book" on the table in the narthex and take a welcome bag.

Please ask our ushers any questions you may have regarding worship this morning. Large print bulletins are available.

Worship is live streamed to our church Facebook page, but the camera is pointed away during Communion and is not on the children when they come forward during A Time for the Child in Us All.

~~~~~  
**Thank you, Diane Diovisalvo, for this morning's refreshments**

**Welcome Back Pastor Peggy!!!!**

~~~~~  
Volunteers for today's Worship

Lay Asst.	Mark Rossi
Ushers	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Comm. Asst.	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Tech	Fred Schoenagel
Tellers	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Refreshments	Diane Diovisalvo
Outdoor Setup	Diane & Mark Rossi

Volunteers for next Sunday, Sept 7th

All roles open

******* Join us for refreshments after worship*******

THIS WEEK AT HOLY COUNSELOR

Sunday, August 31: Holy Humor Outside Worship with Communion, 9:30am

Monday, September 1: Labor Day, *Office Closed*

Saturday, September 6: Sisters in Prayer, Zoom, 8:30am

Vernon Day, church booth, 11am-4pm

Sunday, September 7: Worship w/Communion, Blessing of Backpacks 9:30am

Choir Practice following worship

Welcome Back: We're excited to welcome Pastor Peggy back from maternity leave!

Adult Ed: Adult Ed will resume Adult Ed on Wednesday, September 10th at 10am on Zoom, with the Study of Hebrews. Please reach out to Pam Kucks if you plan to attend. All are welcome.

Sisters in Prayer: Sisters in Prayer will resume on Saturday, September 6th at 8:30am on Zoom with Breath of Prayer study sessions. Open to all women of the church.

Vernon Day: Mark your calendars for THIS Saturday, September 6th (rain date is Sept. 7th) for the church booth. Come by and enjoy the day! Thank you to our church volunteers staffing the booth!

Choir: Choir rehearsals resume on Sunday, September 7th after worship. Talk to June if you are interested in joining the choir! All skill levels are welcome.

College Addresses Needed: Pam Kucks is requesting addresses for students that are attending college. Please reach out to her with this information or email the church office.

Blessing of the Backpacks and Technology: All students, teachers, and school staff are invited to bring their backpacks and/or technology to worship on Sunday, September 7th for a special blessing during worship. May you learn and grow in this new school year!

Church Picnic: Come celebrate at our Church Picnic on Sunday, September 14th following worship! Everyone is invited—bring a friend! There will be food, games, music, and fun!

Sunday School & Confirmation: Sunday School resumes Sunday, September 21st! Sunday School is from 8:45-9:15am Sunday mornings before worship for ages 3yrs old-6th grade. Register for the new program year [via this link](#). Confirmation is for 7th and 8th graders held on Sunday evenings, approximately twice a month, beginning in October. Please talk to Diane Rossi or Pastor Peggy with questions about either program.

Save the Date: Our annual Auction of the Gifts will be held Saturday, October 4th this year. Mark your calendars! Dinner is at 5pm and the auction begins at 6pm.

Food Pantry: The Food Pantry is low on canned chili, canned green beans, pasta, pasta sauce, canned soup, canned baked beans, macaroni & cheese, boxed rice, mayonnaise, tuna helper, cereal, instant pudding & jello, snacks and juice packs for kids, deodorant, body wash, toothpaste, and 4-pack toilet paper. You can always bring donations of canned goods, paper goods, and hygiene products. All donations can be placed in the blue bin by the sanctuary doors. Thank you!

QUOTES BY GREAT THEOLOGIANs

"If you're not allowed to laugh in heaven, I don't want to go there." — **MARTIN LUTHER**

"A sour religion is the devil's religion." — **JOHN WESLEY**

"The Christian should be an alleluia from head to foot."
— **AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO**

"God weeps with us so that we may some day laugh with Him." — **JURGEN MOLTMANN**

"Be then a sinner and sin boldly, but believe and rejoice still more boldly in Christ, who is victor over sin, death, and the world." — **MARTIN LUTHER**

"If Jesus doesn't have a sense of humor, I am in huge trouble."
— **STEPHEN COLBERT**

GATHERING HYMN: Rise & Shine

1 The Lord told Noah, "There's gonna be a floody, floody."
The Lord told Noah, "There's gonna be a floody, floody.
Get those children out of muddy, muddy,"
Children of the Lord!

Refrain:

**So rise and shine and give God the glory, glory.
Rise and shine and give God the glory, glory.
Rise and shine and give God the glory, glory,
Children of the Lord!**

2 The Lord told Noah to build them an arky, arky.
The Lord told Noah to build them an arky, arky.
Build it out of hickory barky, barky.
Children of the Lord! [Refrain]

3 The animals, they came on, they came on by twosies, twosies.
The animals, they came on, they came on by twosies, twosies.
Elephants and kangaroosies, roosies,
Children of the Lord! [Refrain]

GATHERING HYMN CONT.

4 It rained, and poured, for forty daysies, daysies.

It rained, and poured, for forty daysies, daysies.

Nearly drove those animals crazy, crazy.

Children of the Lord! [Refrain]

5 Now, Noah, he sent out, he sent out a dovie, dovie.

Noah, he sent out, he sent out a dovie, dovie.

Brought a symbol of God's lovie, lovie

Children of the Lord! [Refrain]

6 The sun came out and dried up the landy, landy,

The sun came out and dried up the landy, landy.

Everything was fine and dandy, dandy,

Children of the Lord! [Refrain]

7 The animals, they came off, they came off by threesies, threesies,

The animals, they came off, they came off by threesies, threesies.

Must have been those birds and beesies, beesies,

Children of the Lord! [Refrain]

8 This is the end of, the end of my story, story,

This is the end of, the end of my story, story.

Everything is Hunky-dory, dory.

Children of the Lord! [Refrain]

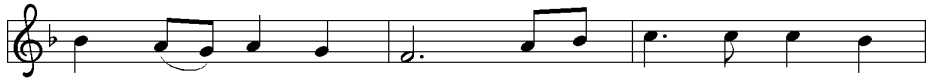
All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
 strang-er, bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 claim the faith of Je - sus:
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 end to fear and dan - ger:
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen

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Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
- 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
- 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais-ing thee, their sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
 Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flow-'ry mead-ow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.



Contact Information

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Bookkeeper: Wynn White: accounts@hc-lutheranchurch.org

MISSION STATEMENT

***As Children of God,
we are called to share and serve
Christ's love and bring God's word to all.***

CHURCH COUNCIL

Pastor Rev. Peggy Ludlow

President Nancy Knecht

Vice President Frank Urbaniak

Treasurer Claire Speroni

Recording Secretary Dawn McCormick

Financial Secretary John Heeren

Outreach Coordinator Francine Vince

Nurture Coordinator Fred Schoenagel

Administration Coordinator Diane Rossi

Youth Representative Kevin Drache

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Kristina Heeren

Pam Kucks

Matt Moller

Aileen Donovan

Holy Counselor is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Munsee people, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

