

Service of Holy Communion

8th Sunday after Pentecost

All My Days Worship Series

July 19th, 2026



INTRODUCTION

Welcome back to our series on prayer. Today we continue our intentional encounter with the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples discovering how we are formed by asking for what we need, like our daily bread. Jesus offers us assurance that asking God to act in our lives and in the world is a practice of trust and belief that we are not alone in our need. Our prayer for sustenance is both physical and spiritual. The meeting of needs with the power of prayer helps ease suffering. “Petition” is our focus about prayer today. How can intercessory prayer help us become mindful of the needs of the world and remember that God is the Source of All Gifts?

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The Congregation stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose compassion endures forever.
Amen.

The congregation is seated. Silence is kept for reflection.

P. Let us confess our sin to God. Compassionate God, **we confess to all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.**

P. Jesus says, “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” In the name of God, Father ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God’s love. **Amen.**

CENTERING AND INVOCATION

P. We arrive fully into this moment, Holy One. We open to sense your presence among us. We hear you say,

Seek and you will find.

We need you, Jesus, to help us. We come to you as your first disciples did.

We hear you say,

Seek and you will find.

Spirit of Divine Love, Come to us with your healing waters. We hear you say,

Seek and you will find.

Centering us in the present moment let us sing together:



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943

Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema

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P. You're invited to simply hold your prayer beads in your hands. Feel your rhythms slow. Begin to notice what petitions rise to the surface, held tenderly by God like the beads in your hands. Breathe into a few moments of silence.

Silence

P. Take a deep breath. You are not alone in your need. God meets us here with more love, more sustenance, more nourishment than we can ask or imagine. Let us worship God, follow Christ, and revel in the Spirit of Openness in this place. **Amen.**

Congregation stands

GATHERING HYMN

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

ELW 742

(printed in the back of the bulletin)

THE 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.**

KYRIE

A. In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

A. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

A. For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

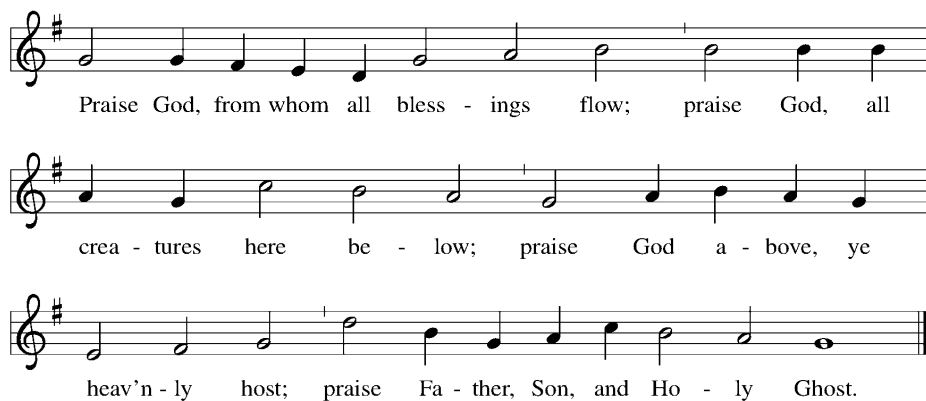
A. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

A. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C. Amen

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Congregation is seated

WORD

FIRST READING: James 5:13-16

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up, and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

A. Word of God, word of life.

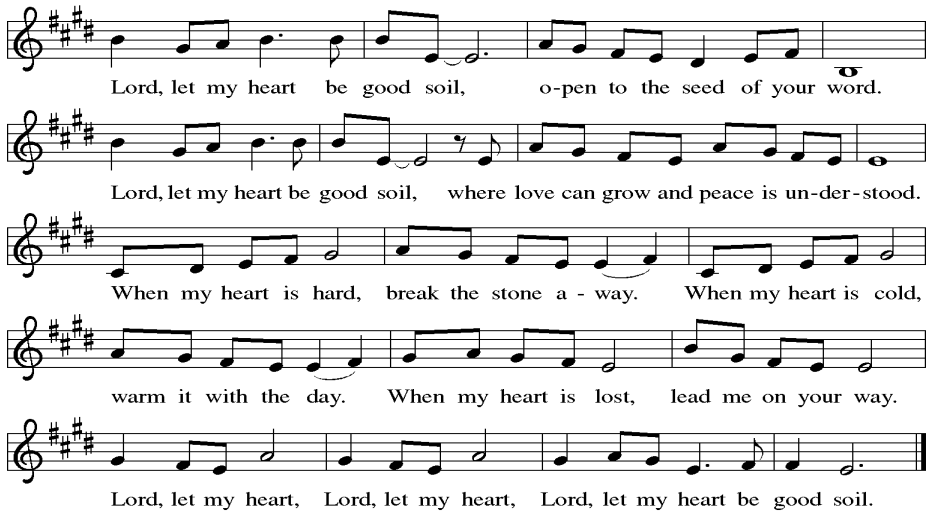
C. Thanks be to God.

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 5:15-16

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

But now more than ever the word about Jesus spread abroad; many crowds were gathering to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. Meanwhile, he would slip away to deserted places and pray.

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

Congregation is seated

SERMON

Petition

Congregation stands

HYMN OF THE DAY

I Need Thee Every Hour

HFW 549

(printed in the back of the 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. Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

A. God our source, protect your church from those who sow weeds among the wheat. Where we trade grace for judgment, restore us, and where we get lost among the complexities of life, guide us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A. God our creator, sustain creation in places not easily seen; the depths of oceans, microscopic plants and animals, galaxies beyond our own. May we share earth's dedication to hope for what we do not yet see. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A. God our soil, we yearn to live on your lands and waters with justice and in righteousness. Renew the hearts of all in authority, that our leaders guide wisely toward the flourishing of all. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A. God our rock, be a source of constancy for those whose lives have been uprooted by war, eviction, global climate change, unemployment, harassment, false witness to their character, or illness or injury. We pray especially for... those we name aloud... and those we hold in our hearts... God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A. God our teacher, guide and provide for all summer camp staff and campers especially our Vacation Bible School this week, as well as daycare professionals, librarians, youth becoming first-time babysitters, summer school educators, and coaches and teachers preparing for the coming academic year. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A. God our hope, the message of your salvation is planted among us in all times and places. We give you thanks for the witness of all the saints who shine like the sun in your presence. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P. Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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.

Congregation is seated

MEAL

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Scan to give
via Venmo ↓



Offering can be given by putting it in the offering plate when it is passed, online directly via the QR codes for Tithely or Venmo, or by requesting your bank to send a check to the church. Find more details on our website.

Thank you for your generous gifts!

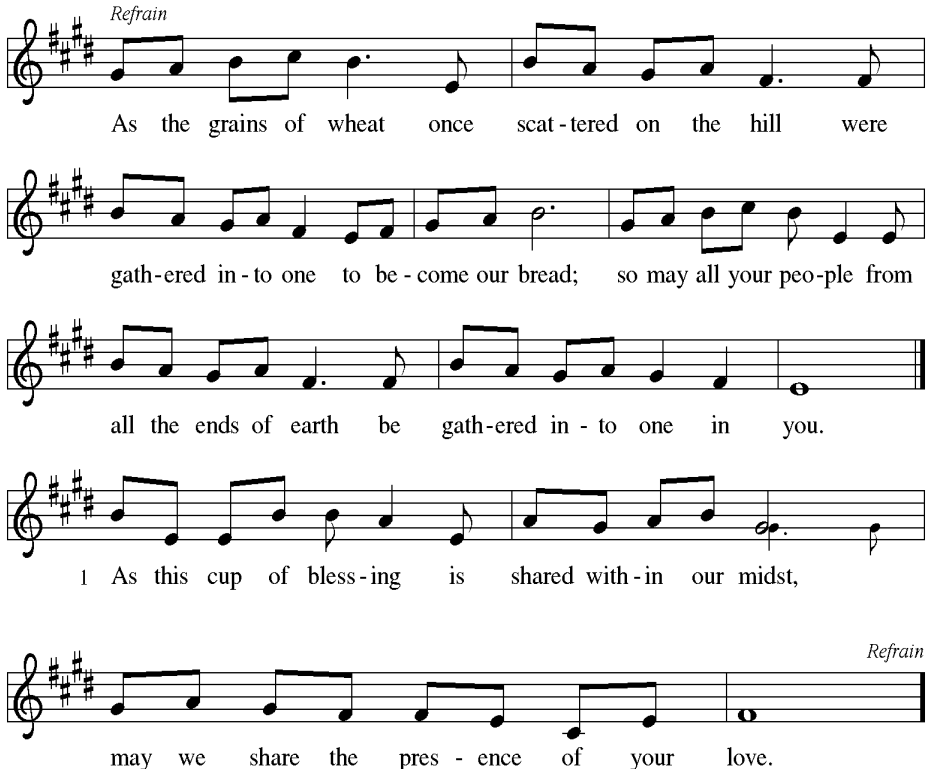
Scan to give
via Tithely ↓



Congregation stands

OFFERTORY SONG

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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A. Let us pray... Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **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 right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you,

Our Father, who art in heaven.

Creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets.

Hallowed be thy name!

And so, with your people on earth and all the company 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 are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. He came to teach us how close you are to us. He came to remind us that our work is this:

Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

And so, your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

Jesus used the most common of items to remind us that all gifts come from God, including the gift of unending grace.

Give us this day our daily bread.

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, 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.

Even as he said these things, he knew that he would be betrayed. And yet he forgave. We ask for God's help to accomplish this in our own lives:

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And so, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The Holy Spirit gives us the courage to do the right thing even when it is difficult. We pray:

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

And so we ask you, God to pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, so that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever.

Through your Son Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

version by Neil Douglas-Klotz

O Birther! Father-Mother of the Cosmos, Focus your light within us – make it useful: Create your reign of unity now – Your one desire then acts with ours, as in all light, so in all forms. Grant what we need each day in bread and insight. Loose the cords of mistake binding us, as we release the strands we hold of others' guilt. Don't let surface things delude us but free us from what holds us back. From you is born all ruling will, the power and the life to do, the song that beautifies all, from age to age it renews. Truly-power to these statements – may they be the ground from which all my actions grow. 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 prayer that Jesus taught is also a template for how he lived, and how he invited us all to be part of his ministry of bringing a little “heaven on earth.” Remembering this prayer, we prepare ourselves to feast at the heavenly banquet on earth as it is in heaven. Let us come to the table.

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.

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.**

Congregation is seated

SONG AFTER COMMUNION



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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A. Let us pray...Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

P. God knows our words before they're said, knows our need and we are fed.
God gives us life, knows our ways, our strength, our path, for all our days;
our strength, our path, for all our days. Go into the world with the assurance
that God goes with you, Jesus prays for you, and the Spirit breathes through
you ✠ all your days. Let all God's people say, **Amen!**

SENDING HYMN

For the Fruit of All Creation

ELW 679

(printed in the back of the bulletin)

DISMISSAL

A. Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C. Thanks be to God.

Announcements for July 19th, 2026

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

*If today is your **first time** worshiping 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.***

*The **Pray-ground** is a special place to help **support kids and families** in worshiping. We love the sound of kids in worship! God made kids wiggly and curious, and we celebrate that here. **Tips:** explain, participate, and move around together. Need to leave? No problem, but please come back!*

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. **Anyone on the altar is on camera.

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***Altar flowers today are in memory of Pastor Peggy’s late father, Gary on his birthday today.***  
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Volunteers for Today’s Worship

Lay Asst.	Debbie Lennon
Ushers	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Comm. Asst.	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Tech	John Heeren
Tellers	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Refreshments	<i>Volunteer needed</i>

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

THIS WEEK AT HOLY COUNSELOR

- Sunday, July 19:** Outdoor Worship w/Communion, 9:30am
Monday-Thursday: July 20th – July 23rd: Vacation Bible School, 1-4pm
Friday, July 24: Summer Cabaret Auditions, 6:00pm
Sunday, July 26: Outside Worship w/Communion, 9:30am

Vacation Bible School: VBS begins **TOMORROW** Monday! **Register today** at myvbs.org/hclclvernon for **God’s Good Creation, July 20th-23rd** from 1-4pm.

Mid-Year Giving Statements: Mid-year giving statements were **sent out** this past week. **Please review** your statement for accuracy. Now is also a **good time to check** if you are on track to honor your intent for the year. If you have any questions regarding your statement or would like to request a printed copy, please speak with John Heeren.

Mindfulness Walk: Join Pastor Peggy for a **Mindfulness Walk at Maple Grange Park NEXT Wednesday, July 29th from 6-7pm**. We will meet in the first parking lot and determine our route based on the group. You're invited to **wear your 'Live Generously T-shirt'**. All ages are welcome!

Prayer Shawls/Lap Blankets: We are running low on prayer shawls and lap blankets which means it's time for another blessing! **Please bring any shawls or lap blankets you have been working on to church by Sunday, August 2nd for a blessing during worship**. Need yarn to make more? We have some at church, just let Pastor Peggy know. Thank you for spreading God's care and love through prayer to those needing comfort and God's presence surrounding them.

Olive Tree Plant Fundraiser: Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches." What a better way to keep this verse in mind than with an olive tree of your very own! Claire Speroni has a limited number of olive trees available. **Suggested donation is \$40-\$60 with all donations going directly to our church missions and programs**. Olive trees retail at local nurseries for \$60+ **Contact Claire** directly to coordinate pick up/delivery to church or to see the selection.

Summer Cabaret Performances: Save the date for a Summer Cabaret at HCLC with shows on **August 14th at 7pm and August 15th at 2pm & 7pm** directed by Damian Vince!

Save the Date: Mark your calendar now for **Sunday, September 13th**. Not only will our **church picnic** be that day, but we will also be taking a **church-wide picture**, and we want everyone here for it!

Food Pantry: Food items to help restock: 4-pack toilet paper, canned tuna, canned chili, canned corn, canned soup, canned green beans, canned fruit, mac & cheese, boxed potatoes, tuna helper, peanut butter, jelly, children's juice boxes or pouches, kid's snacks, shampoo. 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!

What a Friend We Have in Jesus



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

I Need Thee Every Hour



1 I need thee ev - 'ry hour, most gra - cious Lord;
 2 I need thee ev - 'ry hour, stay thou near by;
 3 I need thee ev - 'ry hour, in joy or pain;
 4 I need thee ev - 'ry hour, teach me thy will;
 5 I need thee ev - 'ry hour, most Ho - ly One,



no ten - der voice like thine can peace af - ford.
 temp - ta - tions lose their pow'r when thou art nigh.
 come quick - ly and a - bide, or life is vain.
 and thy rich prom - is - es in me ful - fill.
 oh, make me thine in - deed, thou bless - ed Son.



Refrain
 I need thee, oh, I need thee, ev - 'ry hour I need thee;



oh, bless me now, my Sav - ior, I come to thee.

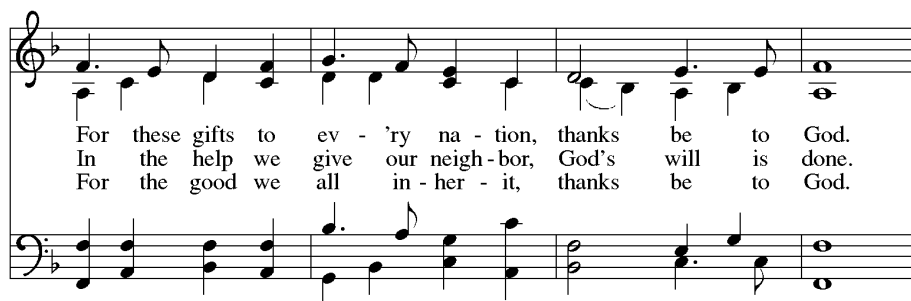
Text: Annie Sherwood Hawks, 1835–1918, stanzas.; Robert Lowry, 1826–1899, refrain

Music: LOWRY, Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

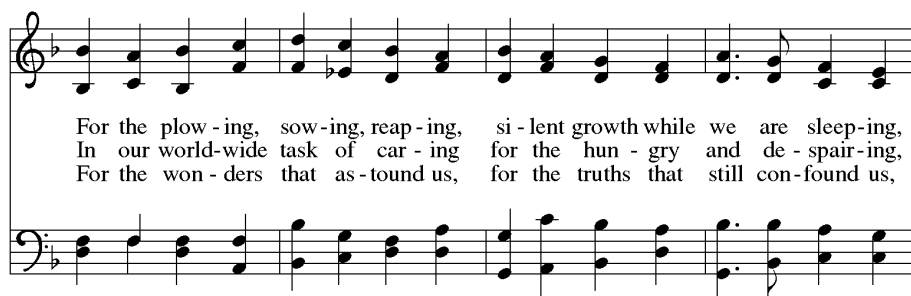
For the Fruit of All Creation



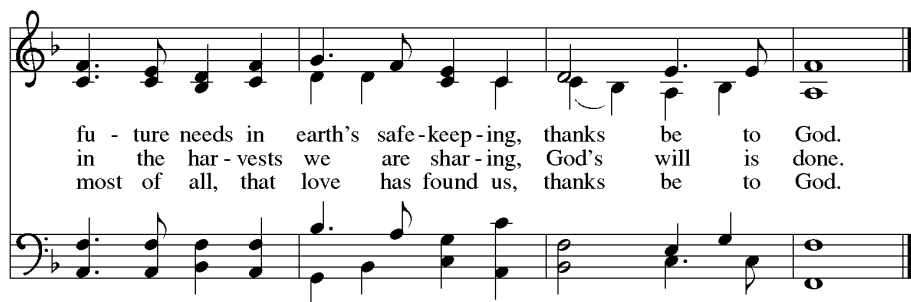
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

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For God's Children of all ages!

Worship Notes

Sunday's Date: _____



My Favorite
Song:



This week, I'm praying for:



I'm curious or have a
question about:



Today's Focus Scripture: _____

I would draw it like:



Word Count

How many times did you hear each
of these words today? Make a tally.

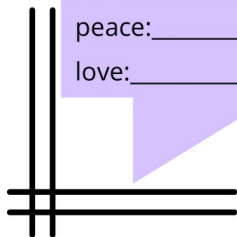
grace: _____

joy: _____

peace: _____

love: _____

||||| ||



God's Good Creation



Register Here



Vacation Bible School 2026

July 20th-23rd 1-4pm



68 Sand Hill Road in Vernon, NJ

Open to all kids: Pre-K-5th grade

\$10 for one kid; \$20 for a family; Scholarships available

Youth and Adults are invited to volunteer!



Contact Information

(973) 827-5251 office

www.hc-lutheranchurch.org

The Reverend Peggy Ludlow: pastorpeggy@hc-lutheranchurch.org

Director of Music: June Tarantino: music@hc-lutheranchurch.org

Office Administrator: Cathy Nemecek: office@hc-lutheranchurch.org

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

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.

