

15th Weekend after Pentecost / Labor Day
September 5-6, 2026
Holy Communion

The Prelude is a signal to *end our conversation* and prepare our hearts for worship.

PRELUDE (w/ *ANTHEM INCLUDED at CENTRAL SUN, LW*)

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND
(u)
PASSING OF PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP "SURELY THE PRESENCE"
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.
I can feel His mighty power and His grace_.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings.
I see glory on each face.
Surely the pre - sence of the Lord is in this place.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.
- C** Amen.
- P** Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin. Compassionate God,
- C** we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

P Hear this good news: We have peace with God through
✝ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only
forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely
this healing gift of grace.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

"Take My Life, That I May Be"

- 1 Take my life, that I may be / consecrated, Lord, to thee; /
take my moments and my days; /
let them flow_ in ceaseless praise.
- 2 Take my hands and let them move /
at the impulse of thy love; /
take my feet and let them be /
swift and beau - tiful for thee.
- 5 Take my will and make it thine, / it shall be no longer mine. /
Take my heart, it is thine own, /
it shall be_ thy royal throne.

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.

ANTHEM (*SOUTH CAMPUS ONLY*)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray together.

C O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your
perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail;
remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us
toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord. Amen.

KYRIE/ CANTICLE OF PRAISE

**Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.
We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.
Have mercy on us, Lord; make sin and shame depart.
Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!**

**Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
We exalt you, we adore you,
we lift_ high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you;
here on earth our songs we raise.**

(d)

LESSON OF THE DAY

Romans 13:8-14

The lesson begins:

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

P The Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

(u)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open_ now your saving word.
Let it burn like fire within us;
speak un - til our hearts are stirred.
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:15-20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

G Glory to You, O Lord.

"If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. "Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to you, O Christ.

(d)

SERMON

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SERMON RESPONSE

**We will build our lives upon God's love.
It is a firm foundation and we will put our trust in Him
Alone and we will not be shaken_.**

APOSTLES' CREED

- P** Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
- C** 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.

(d)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- P** With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

- P** Gracious Father, teach us what true discipleship is. By your Spirit, give us the faith and steadfastness to bear its cost. Thank you for so clearly setting before us the "way of blessing and curse, of life and death." Thank you for the grace to choose the life you offer through the death and resurrection of your Son. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer.
- P** We pray for the Church around the world. Make it holy and blameless, wise and loving, fearless and compassionate in equal measure. Make it delight in your Law and proclaim your Gospel. Establish its roots in the living waters flowing from Christ its head and its life. Lord in your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer.

- P** We pray for the people and ministries of this congregation. Help us to meditate on your Word day and night. Give us grace to forgive, faithfulness to serve, and joyfulness to worship. Use us to lead many people, as well as the younger generations including our grandchildren, to those streams of living water in which is found true life in Christ. Lord in your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer.
- P** We pray for persecuted Christians, for missionaries, for seminary professors and students, and for all pastors and evangelists. Give them wise and humble hearts. Use them to bring the healing and saving Gospel to those whom the world has despised and rejected. Lord in your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer.
- P** Your Son dignified our labor by sharing our toil. Be with your people wherever they work. Make leaders of industries and commerce of this land responsive to your will. Give us pride in what we do. Be the strong refuge of those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of employment. Lord in your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer.
- P** We pray for everyone who needs your mercy and loving-kindness (*including...*). Refresh their hearts; heal whatever is wounded; and restore them to fellowship with all who love them. Lord in your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer.
- P** In the power of the Holy Spirit, we entrust our prayers and petitions into your hands, gracious Father, for the sake of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C** Amen.

THE OFFERING

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THE OFFERTORY “PRAISE TO YOU, O GOD OF MERCY”

Praise to you, O God of mercy; thanks be to you forever!

Raising high the weak and lowly; thanks be to you forever!

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 him thanks and praise.

P It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, 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 the prophets. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Holy Holy Holy Holy, Lord, God of pow’r and might_,

Heav’n and earth are full of Your glory,

Hosannah_ in the highest.

Bless’d is He who comes in Your name_,

Hosannah_ in the highest!

P Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. 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 resurrec-

tion 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.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving 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.

☞ 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, 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. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

☞ Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P** As a community, let us pray in the way our Lord Jesus has taught us: *(SPOKEN)*
- C** 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

- P** Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

(d)

THE COMMUNION is given and received.

(w/ ANTHEM at SOUTH, & OPTIONAL HYMN INCLUDED)

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POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- P** Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

- 1 Precious Lord, take my hand, / lead me on, let me stand_, /
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
*Through the storm, through the night, /
lead me on to the light_:

Ref. Take my hand_, / precious Lord, / lead me home.

- 2 When my way grows drear, / precious Lord, linger near_, /
When my life is almost gone,
*Hear my cry, hear my call, /
hold my hand lest I fall_: (*Refrain*)

- 3 When the darkness appears / and night draws near_, /
And the day is past and gone,
*At the river I stand, /
guide my feet, hold my hand_: (*Refrain*)

DISMISSAL

-  Let us go forth, to know Christ and to make Christ known,
 Caring for one another and serving our community.

POSTLUDE

Let Us Break Bread Together

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

The first system of the hymn features a treble and bass staff in B-flat major (two flats). The melody is in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with three parts indicated by numbers 1, 2, and 3. The first part is 'Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;', the second is 'Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;', and the third is 'Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;'. The music ends with a double bar line.

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with three parts indicated by the words 'let us'. The first part is 'let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.', the second is 'let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.', and the third is 'let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.'. The music ends with a double bar line.

Refrain
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

The third system is the beginning of the refrain, marked with the word 'Refrain' in italics. The melody and accompaniment continue. The lyrics are 'When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing'. The music ends with a double bar line.

sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

The fourth system continues the refrain. The melody and accompaniment continue. The lyrics are 'sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.'. The music ends with a double bar line.