

**Ecumenical Service
Bethlehem Presbyterian Church
and
Spruce Run Evangelical Lutheran Zion Church**

**July 24, 2022, 9:30 a.m. - Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Proper 12
Celebration of the Lord's Day with Holy Communion**

Organ Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering and Call to Worship [responsive]

Rev. Chris Halverson

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

And also with you.

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

We have received in faith that which you, O Lord, have promised.

Emmanuel: God with us, God in us, revealed to us.

Our souls rejoice in the salvation of the Lord.

The Lord will be our everlasting light and glory.

Praise and glory be to you, now and forevermore

***Hymn 41**

O Come All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Thanksgiving for Baptism (responsive)

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
 Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed by the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Show us your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

[Moment of silence for personal confession and reflection]

***Response to Forgiveness**
Hymn 579

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen

Passing of the Peace

As God has given us peace through Christ, so let us pass the peace of Christ to each other.

[Please greet those sitting around you in peace].

GOD'S WORD TO US

Prayer for Illumination: [unison]

Rev. Linda Gaden

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit that we may hear your word with joy. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

² ^[a]The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied exultation; ^[b] you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Great will be his authority, ^[c] and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Psalm of the Day (responsive)

Psalm 96

Rev. Chris Halverson

¹ O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

² **Sing to the LORD; bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.**

³ Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

⁴ **For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.**

⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

⁶ **Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.**

⁹ Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.

¹⁰ **Say among the nations, "The LORD is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity."**

¹¹ Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar and all that fills it;

¹² **let the field exult and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy**

¹³ **before the LORD, for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with his truth.**

New Testament Lesson Titus 3:4-7 (Christmas 2022)

⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water^[a] of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶ This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to you, O Christ.

Message for Young Christians

Rev. Chris Halverson

Sermon

The Best Gift Ever!

Rev. Linda Gaden

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

Affirmation of Faith [unison]

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:

Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

***Hymn 298**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt. Dutch melody
Arr. Julius Röntgen (1855-1933)

1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, Like the wide-ness of the sea;
2. For the love of God is broad-er Than the mea-sures of the mind;

There's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, Which is more than lib - er - ty.
And the heart of the E - ter-nal Is most won-der - ful - ly kind.

There is no place where earth's sor-rows Are more felt than up in heaven;
If our love were but more faith-ful, We would glad-ly trust God's Word;

There is no place where earth's fail-ings Have such kind-ly judg - ment given.
And our lives re - flect thanks-giv-ing For the good-ness of our Lord.

OFFERING
Invitation to Giving

Rev. Chris Halverson

***Doxology 592**

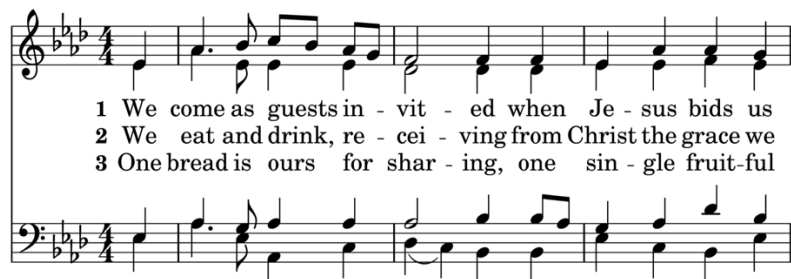
Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow. Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication [unison]

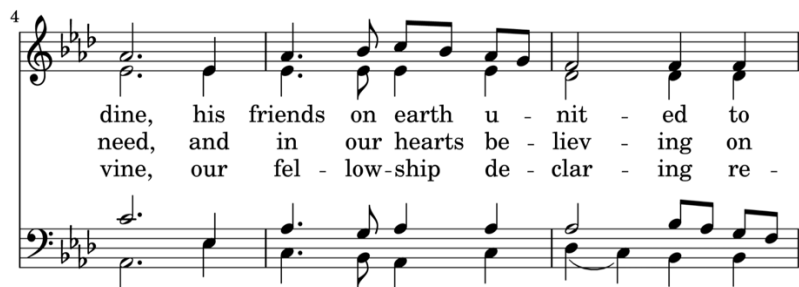
Let us be slow in our yearning to hang on to our blessings, and quick to share them with the hungry, the lonely, the forgotten, and the hurting of our world, that our gifts might become a kind of first fruits for those whose lives are so empty. This we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

*Hymn 517

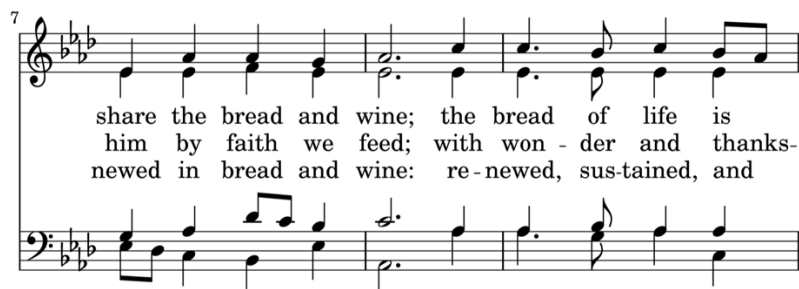
We Come as Guests Invited



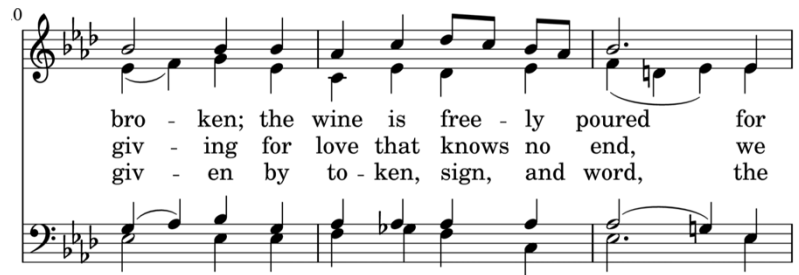
1 We come as guests in - vit - ed when Je - sus bids us
2 We eat and drink, re - cei - ving from Christ the grace we
3 One bread is ours for shar - ing, one sin - gle fruit - ful



4 dine, his friends on earth u - nit - ed to
need, and in our hearts be - liev - ing on
vine, our fel - low - ship de - clar - ing re -



7 share the bread and wine; the bread of life is
him by faith we feed; with won - der and thanks -
renewed in bread and wine: re - newed, sus - tained, and



0 bro - ken; the wine is free - ly poured for
giv - ing for love that knows no end, we
giv - en by to - ken, sign, and word, the



3 us, in sol - emn to - ken of Christ our dy - ing Lord.
find in Je - sus liv - ing our ev - er - pres - ent friend.
pledge and seal of heav - en, the love of Christ our Lord.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Chris Halverson

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

So come... come to this table: you who have much faith, and you who would like to have more;

You have been to this sacrament often, and you who have not been for a long time. You have tried to follow Jesus and you who have failed.

Come.

Jesus invites those who trust him to share the feast which he has prepared.

Great Thanksgiving (responsive)

Rev. Chris Halverson, Rev. Linda Gaden

Beloved, may God be with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts, Beloved of God.

We lift them to the One who loves us beyond all expectations.

God's Beloved, let us offer our thanks and praise to the Lord our God.

Our voices unite in joy and thanks to the One who brings us hope and healing.

Our hearts overflow with praise and thanksgiving, God, our God!

Your Beloved's voice spoke to chaos, calling forth the flowers of grace which bloom in our hearts.

Because you love righteousness, you would anoint us with the oil of joy and clothe us in the robes of mercy and goodness.

But we break your heart by embracing the very wickedness you hate, staining our lives with sin and death.

Still, you love us and seek us out, for in Christ your grace has defeated sin and the Risen Lord has opened the way to life in your kingdom

So, we lift our voices in joy and hope, singing with the choirs of angels in heaven, and with all the faithful of every place and time, singing of your glory forever

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Look, he comes! Your Beloved Child, Jesus Christ, our Lord, our Savior, our Companion, the joy of your Heart. Gazing into our souls, he sees our emptiness and fills us with your grace; listening to our pain, he is quick to speak healing and hope to us; the perfect gift of life, he declares that sin is past, death is over and gone, and resurrection blossoms in our hearts forever.

As you have called him Beloved at his baptism, and as you raised him from death to give us life, so we give ourselves to live for him in grateful praise and service:

Christ was born, hearing your morning song.

Christ died, doing your will even in the moments of his despair.

Christ was raised, in fulfillment of your own purpose.

Christ will come, the first fruits of our resurrection.

Generous God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon those who gather around your Table, and upon the gifts of the Bread and Cup.

As they are the body of your Servant and the Spirit of your compassion, may we become the healing and hope the world longs for in our time.

As you touch our lips with your life, may we be quick to speak of justice; as you pour grace into our hearts, may we be the doers of your Word, those whose hands are stained by generous acts of kindness: feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, lifting the fallen to their feet, comforting all who are broken.

Then, when your Spirit unites us at your Table in heaven, as we clasp hands with all your beloved, we will sing your glory for all eternity: God in Community, Holy in One.

Words of Institution

The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, saying, "Take, eat. This is my body, broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the saving death of our risen Lord until he comes.

And we serving in his name bring these gifts to you.

Sharing of the Elements

*****Please hold the communion elements until everyone has been served.*****

Communion Song to be sung while elements are being served.



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

**Communion Prayer including the Prayers of the People
and The Lord's Prayer**

Rev. Chris Halverson

******* Please pray the Lord's Prayer as you are comfortable*******

We are grateful for the gracious invitation to your table. No other meal sates our hunger, quenches our thirst and fills our hearts the way your banquet does. Fill us with your Spirit and empower us to share the good news of the gospel through our words and actions so those who don't know you will learn that you are the bread of life and the living water. We look forward to the day your kingdom is fulfilled so no one suffers from hunger or thirst.

Prayers of the People...

With the boldness of God's children we pray the prayer 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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

GOD'S PEOPLE GO INTO THE WORLD

Charge and Benediction (responsive)

Rev. Chris Halverson

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

***Hymn 40**

Joy to the World!



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Dismissal (responsive)

Rev. Linda Gaden

Go in peace. Share the good news with others. And make the world a better place!

Thanks be to God!

Postlude