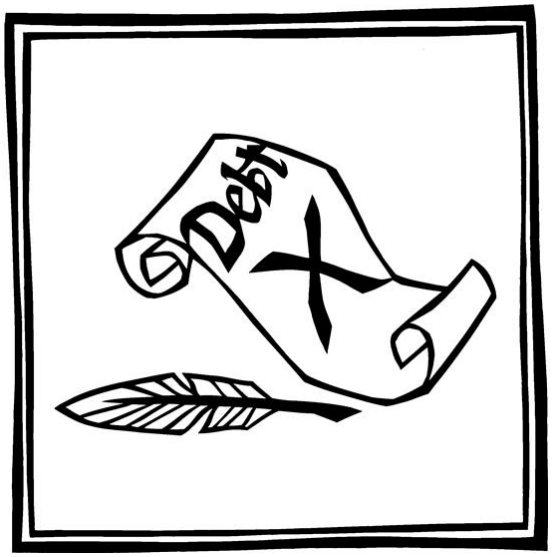
St. John's Lutheran Church
ELCA

PO Box 55, 1253 County J
Little Suamico, WI 54141
920-826-7785



Pastor Kim Swenson

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 13th , 2026

Outdoor Service & Blessing of the Pets

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday, 9 am - 1 pm

Email : pastor@stjohnlittlesuamico.org
Office: stjohnsls@stjohnlittlesuamico.org

Our worship services are live broadcasted and available for future viewing via YouTube. In-person attendance implies consent to be included in the live streamed and recorded worship service.

Meditation

During the prelude, we invite you into a time of reflection. The main doors of the sanctuary will remain closed prior to worship so those who wish may have a time of centering and reflection of the past week, our community, our world, and God's sacrificial and redeeming love for us all.

Church Year Information~ Season: *Pentecost* • ***Color:*** *Green*

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

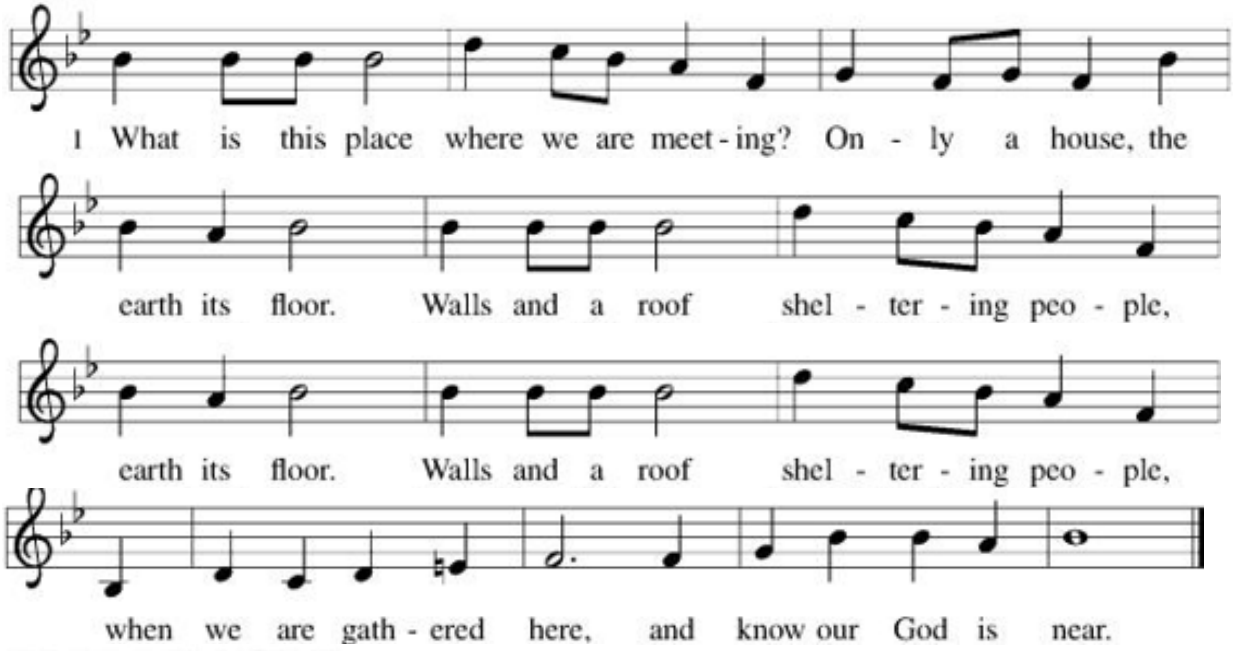
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.
Amen.
Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.
Compassionate God,
we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world 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.
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.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: For the Beauty (See Page 13)

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: What is This Place



Text: Huub Oosterhuis, b. 1933; tr. David Smith, b. 1933
Music: KOMT NU MET ZANG, A. Valerius, *Nederlandtsch Gedenckclanck*, 1626
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

WORD

SCRIPTURE: Romans 14: 1-12

1 Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of
quarreling over opinions. 2 Some believe in eating anything, while the
weak eat only vegetables. 3 Those who eat must not despise those
who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on
those who eat, for God has welcomed them. 4 Who are you to pass
judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they
stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make
them stand.

5 Some judge one day to be better than another, while others
judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own
minds. 6 Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those
who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those
who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

7 For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. 8 If
we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then,
whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. 9 For to this end
Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the
dead and the living.

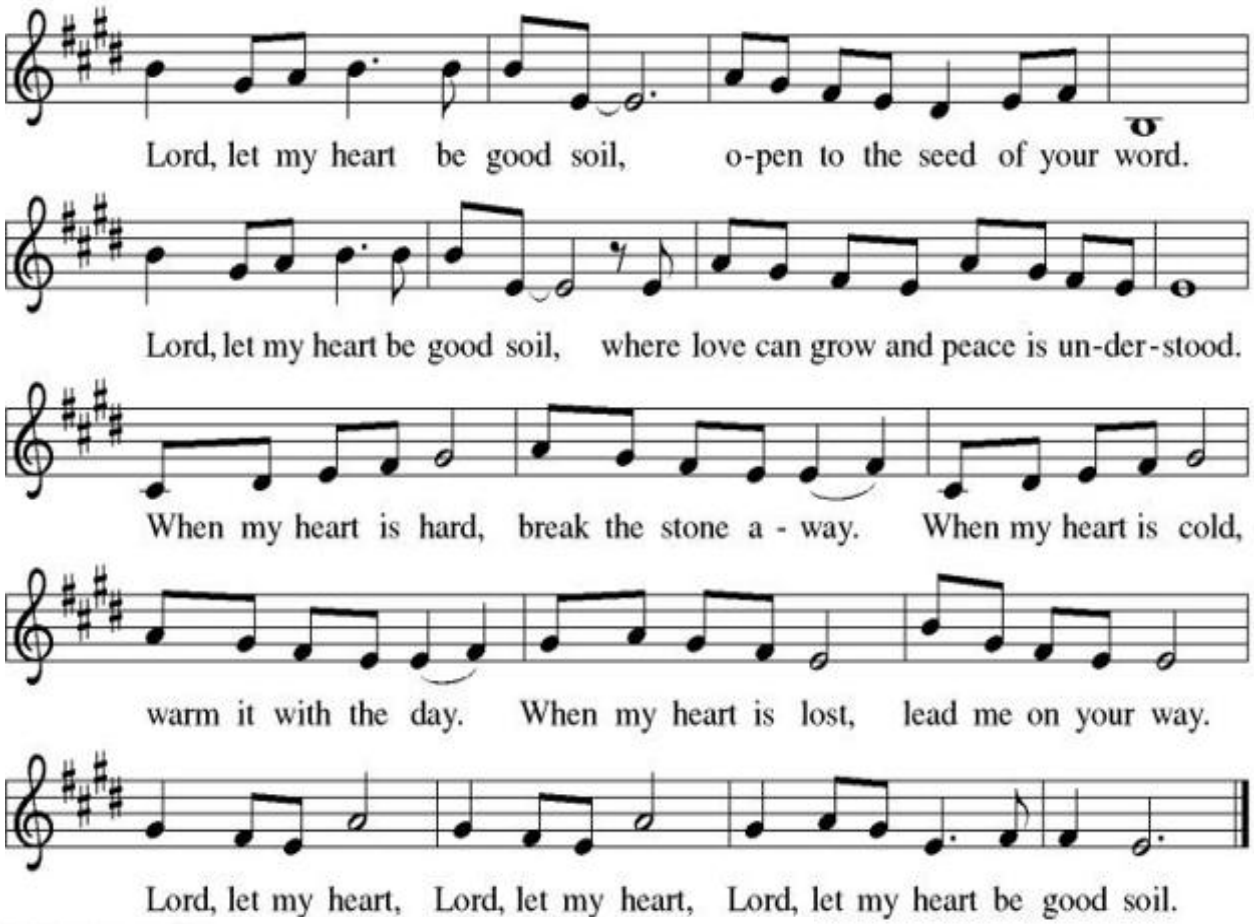
10 Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why
do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the
judgment seat of God. 11 For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

12 So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Let My Heart Be Good Soil*

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950
Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson
Text and music © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 18: 21-35

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the Eighteenth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

21 Peter came and said to [Jesus,] "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

23 "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24 When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought

to him, 25 and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold,
together with his wife and children and all his possessions and
payment to be made. 26 So the slave fell on his knees before him,
saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' 27 And
out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave
him the debt. 28 But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one
of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him
by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' 29 Then his fellow slave fell
down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay
you.' 30 But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until
he would pay the debt. 31 When his fellow slaves saw what had
happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported
to their lord all that had taken place. 32 Then his lord summoned him
and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt
because you pleaded with me. 33 Should you not have had mercy on
your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' 34 And in anger his lord
handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire
debt. 35 So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you
do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

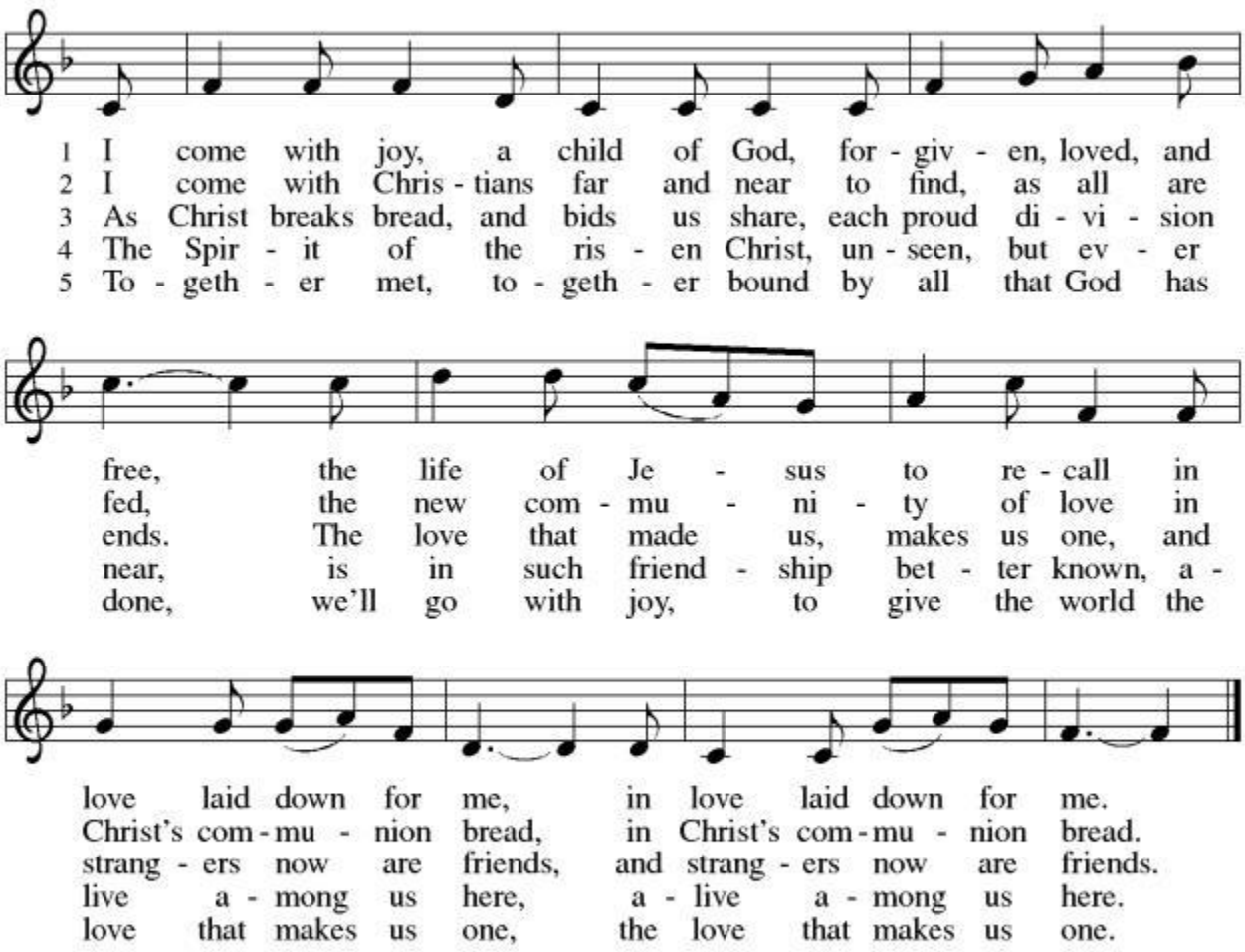
The gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY:

I Come with Joy



Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936
Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835
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THE 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 PEOPLE

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

God has offered us our lives and bestowed us with mercy, grace, and love. Let us now respond to God's offering to us by returning to God in part what is God's in whole. (based on Exodus 32:7-14)

OFFERTORY

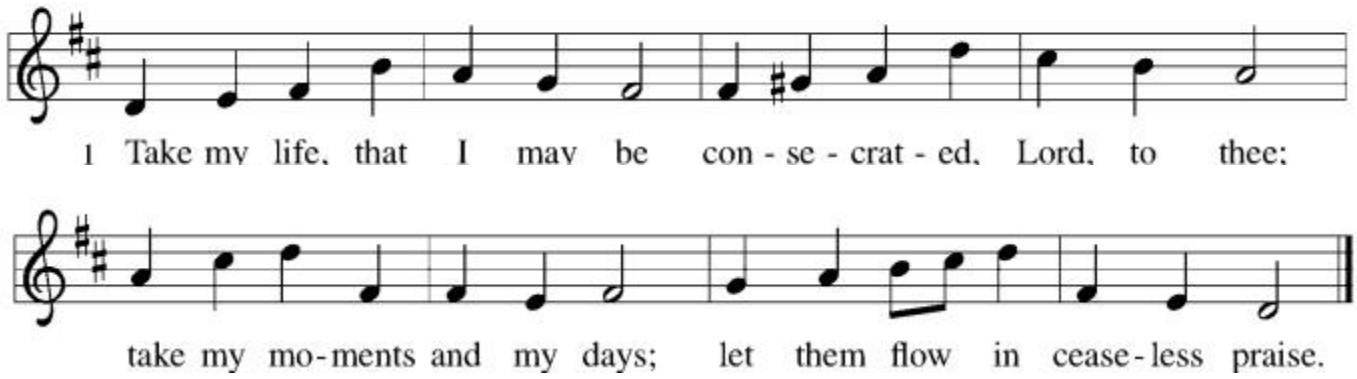
Thank you for your ongoing financial support of St. John's Ministries.

Offerings may be given in the following ways:

- Use the QR code to the right to make a gift.
- Place your offering in the plate when it is passed.
- Enroll in Simply Giving for automatic giving from a bank account or credit card.

OFFERING OF SERVICE

OFFERTORY RESPONSE:

Take My Life, That I May Be

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.
Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

OFFERTORY PRAYER

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

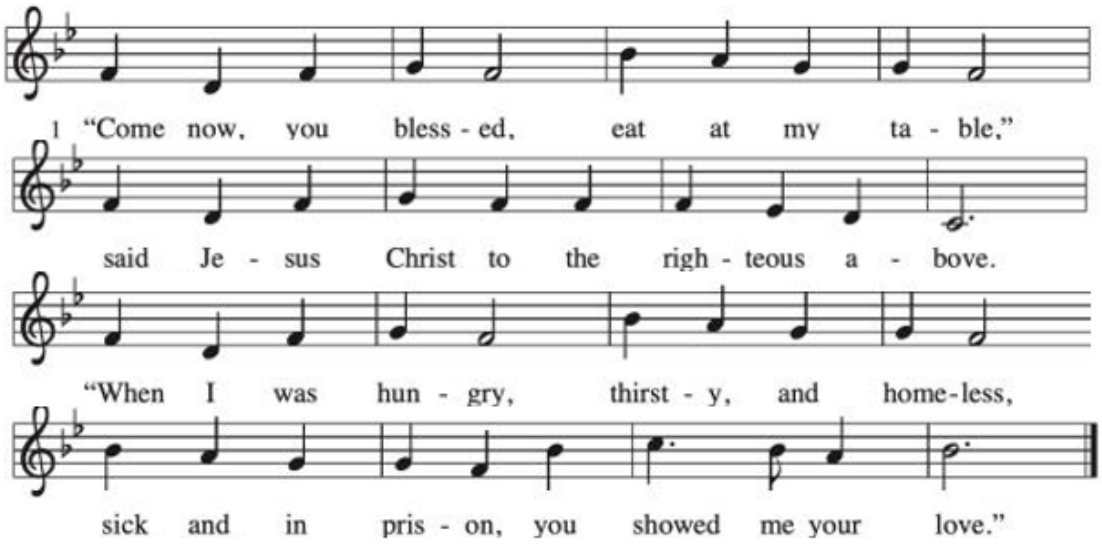
THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Gluten free wafers and grape juice are offered.

LAMB OF GOD: Come Now, You Blessed



Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947
Music: MATTHEW 25, Emily R. Brink, b. 1940
Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.
Music © 1994 Faith Alive Christian Resources

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COMMUNION HYMN: What Feast of Love (See Page 14)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN: Let All Things Now Living (See Page 15)

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near.
Gather, Give, Grow and **Go with God!**

POSTLUDE

BLESSING OF THE PETS

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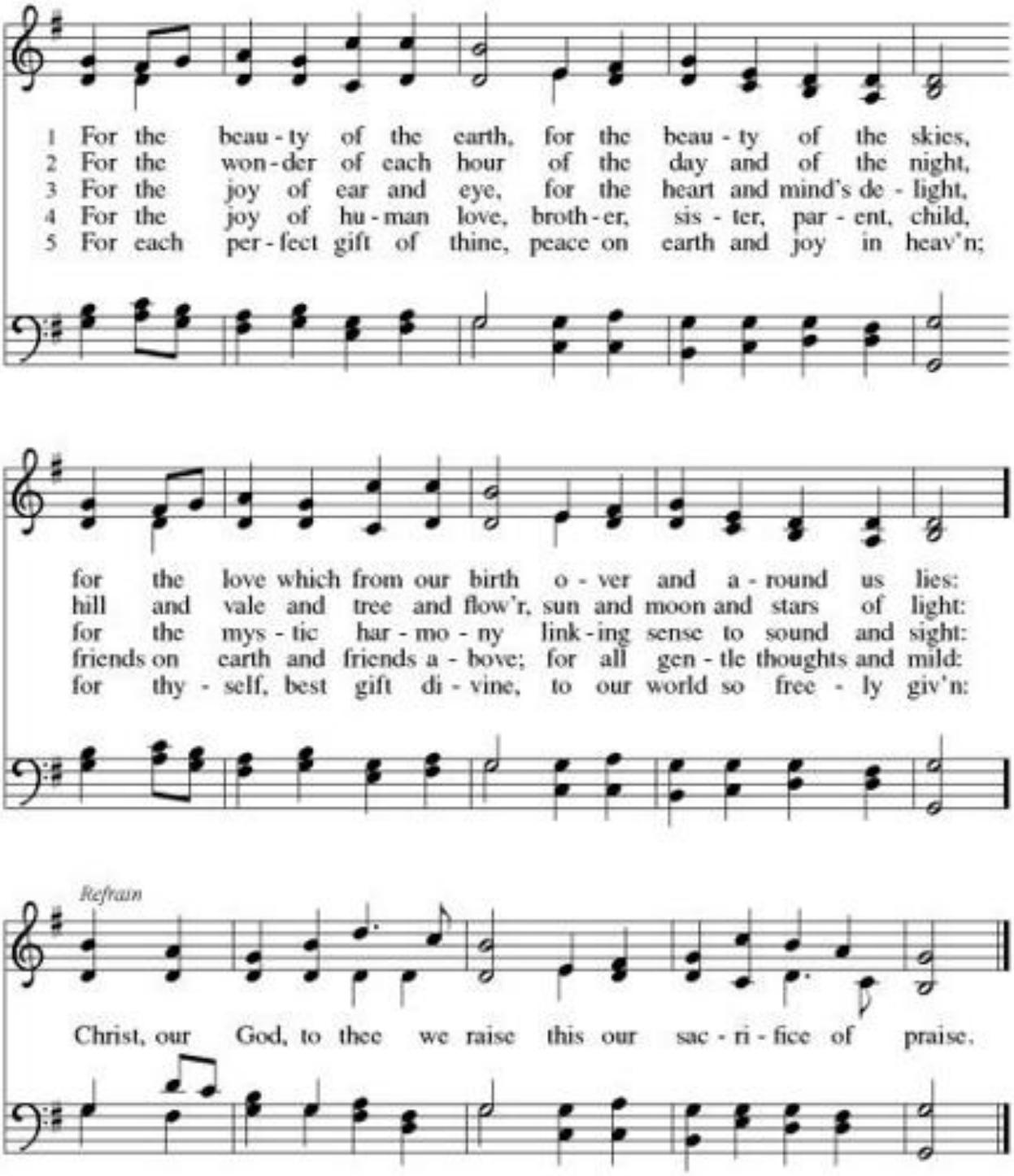
Some liturgy adapted from © Presbyterian Outlook.

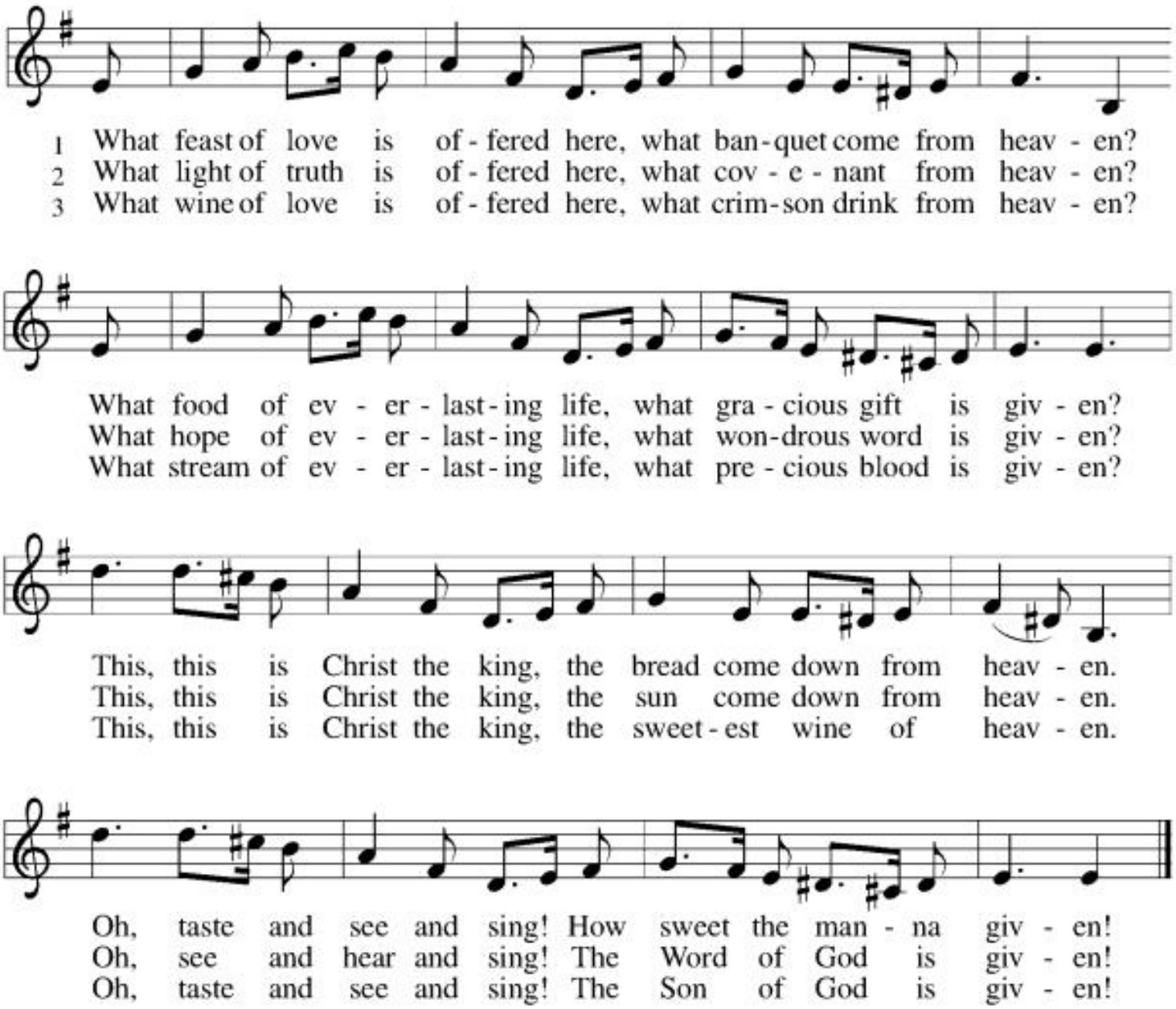
Please remember these people in your prayers.
There are ***Prayer Cards*** in the Narthex between the nametags and the pews. If you have a prayer request, please complete the form and place it *in* the offering plate or the office mailbox. Your prayer will then be added to the prayer list for **3 weeks.** If you wish to have the person's name included longer, you must notify the church office in writing on a prayer card or by email. Please be sure to let us know when a person can be removed from the prayer list as well. If any questions, please contact Aymee in the office.

Those who are home bound:
Arlene Matuszewski Fran Koski Arlene Giese
Edwin Kazik (Father of Karie Peters) Ron & Diana Sefcik
Yvonne Virtues (Mother of Pat Virtues)
Donna Ward (Sister of Lorna Koch)
Bud & Ann Wardecke (Parents of Barb Dorn)
John & Shirley Tramontin (Parents of Tess Smith)

Those who are ill/recovering/ have special needs or concerns:
Ron Koch Doris Fleck Joe Kozlovsky John Demney
Susan (Cahoon) Olson Marie Zirbel Meyer (Aunt of Janet Francies)
Mark Heisel (Friend of Greg & Tammy Yager) Al Reimer (Friend of Pam Giese)
Mike Killian (Friend of Tim & Karie Peters) Jason Heider (Son of Janet Heider)
Peggy Foltz (Sister of Beth Wentz) Erin Culbertson (Friend of Doris Fleck)
Kerry Pranica (Friend of Doris Fleck) Brian Giese (Brother of Pam Giese)
Helen Mohan (Daughter of Tess Smith)
Ashley Rogers (Friend of Tim & Karie Peters)
Mike & Carmen Peters (Parents of Tim Peters)
Carla Hedtke (Mother of Shellie Virtues)
Kelly Havlik Lacera (Friend of Desiree Kozlovsky)
Nick Carter (Friend of Duayne & Pat Rosenberg)
Sharon Hanson (Sister/Sister-in-law of Doug & Helen Malueg)
Sophia Franda (Granddaughter of Dawn Demeny)
Dave Hansen (Nephew of Doug & Helen Malueg)
Chris Johnson (Brother-in-law of Tammy Yager)

Those who are serving in the Military:
Gage Boyd- Air Force (Grandson of Tracey & Pamela Krumrei)
Alex Culbertson-Wisconsin National Guard (Grandson of Dave & Ginny Burkart)
Sam Cooper-Captain, Army Reserves (Son of Jerry & Michelle Cooper)

For the Beauty of the Earth

Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

What Feast of Love

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.
Text © 1993 Delores Dufner OSB. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

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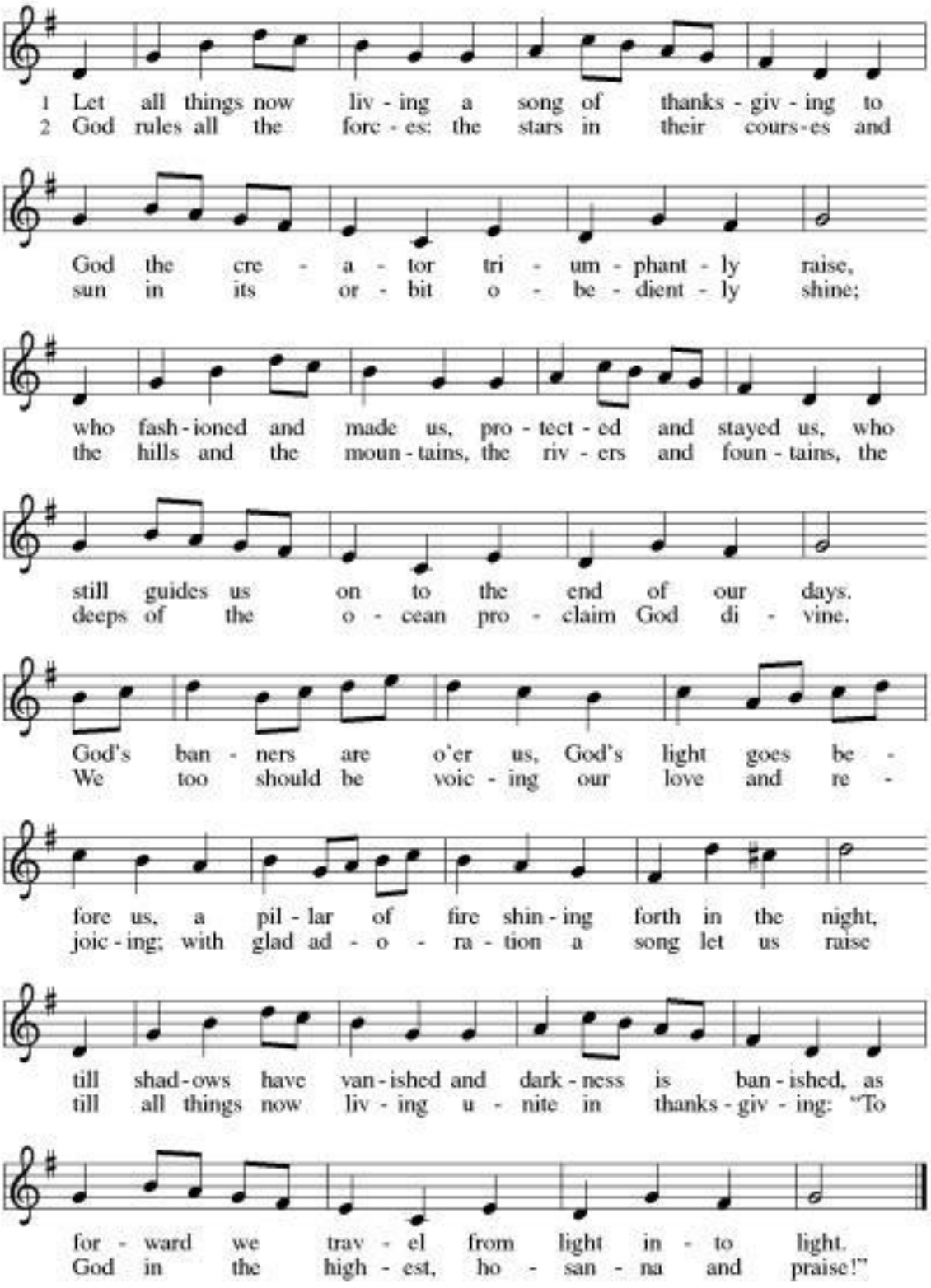
Let All Things Now Living

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892–1980, alt.
Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune
Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company.

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This Week at St. John's			
Sun, Sept 13	**Mon, Sept 14**	**Tues, Sept 15**	**Wed, Sept 16**
9:00am, Outdoor Worship, Blessing of the Pets **10:15am,** Fellowship		***OFFICE CLOSED***	***OFFICE CLOSED***
Thurs, Sept 17	**Fri, Sept 18**	**Sat, Sept 19**	**Sun, Sept 20**
OFFICE CLOSED	***OFFICE CLOSED***	**6:00pm,** AA Mtg	**9:00am,** Worship **RALLY SUNDAY!!** **10:15am,** Fellowship, Faith Finders!, LYO Bible Study, WELCA Meeting

	Sunday September 13th	*Sunday September 20th*
Welcome Center	**Nancy Valentine**	**Pat Rosenberg**
Communion Assistants	***Needed***	***Needed***
Communion Steward	**Ginny Burkart**	**Nancy Gleffe**
Greeters	***2 Needed***	***2 Needed***
Technology Team	**Doug Malueg**	***Needed***
Scripture Readers	**Lauri Cahoon-Draus**	***Needed***
Scrip Volunteers	**Steve & Angie Larsen**	**Steve & Angie Larsen**
Offering Counters	**Barb Dorn** **Rob & Nancy Gleffe**	**Barb Dorn** **Dave & Ginny Burkart**
Ushers	**Andy Dorn** **John Warren** **Fran Miller**	**Tracey Krumrei** **Pat& Shellie Virtues**