

*8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*  
*July 19, 2026*



***Lord of Love Lutheran Church (ELCA)***

***10405 Fort St., Omaha, NE 68134***

***“Celebrating and sharing God’s Love in a welcoming community of faith, while serving others”***

*Worship 9:00 a.m.*

***Bold type indicates Congregational responses.***

*\* Congregation please stand as you are comfortable*

***Introduction***

It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord’s table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

***Welcome to Lord of Love! We are the body of Christ, and we are not whole without you.***

**Visitors:** We’re so glad you’re here, and we’d love the opportunity to connect with you! Text WELCOME to 402-493-2946 so we can follow up with you.

**Nursery:** The nursery (just off the Narthex) is open during worship. Please know that children are always welcome in the Sanctuary for worship. Quiet toy bags are available from the ushers.

**Offering:** An offering plate is at the back of the Sanctuary, and gifts may be placed there. Children may put their offering in the noise jar during the offering song.

**Communion:** Everyone is welcome at communion. Gluten-free wafers are available by asking a communion server. In the communion trays, the wine is red and grape juice is white.

**Prayer Requests:** If you have a prayer request, you can text PRAY to 402-493-2946.

**Fellowship:** Donuts and coffee are available in the Narthex after worship. Please join us!

**Prelude:** “The Reign of God, like Farmer’s Field” .....arr. A.K. Organ and Marianne Kim

**Announcements**

**Ringling of the Bell**

**\*Gathering Song:** “Praise and Thanksgiving” ..... ELW 689

**\*Greeting**

P: 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.**

**\*Confession and Forgiveness**

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

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate God,

**we confess to you 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.**

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.

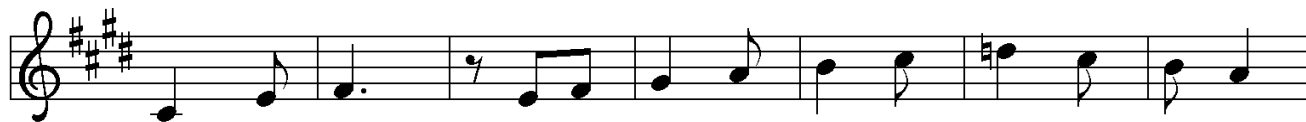
**Amen.**

# **\*Hymn of Praise**

*Refrain*



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

*Refrain*



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

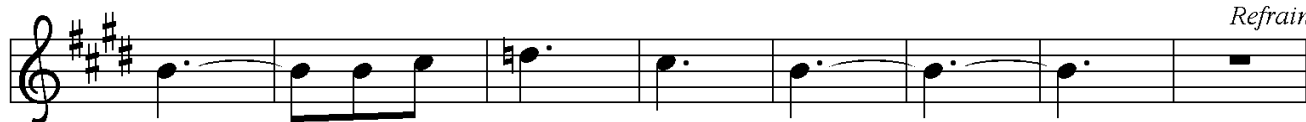


glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

*Refrain*



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

*Refrain*

## ***\*Prayer of the Day***

L: Let us pray.

**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.**

*Please be seated.*

## ***First Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8***

L: Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel,  
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:  
I am the first, and I am the last;  
besides me there is no god.  
Who is like me? Let them proclaim it;  
let them declare and set it forth before me.  
Who has announced from of old the things to come?  
Let them tell us what is yet to be.  
Do not fear or be afraid;  
have I not told you from of old and declared it?  
You are my witnesses!  
Is there any god besides me?  
There is no other rock; I know not one.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God**

## ***Second Reading: Romans 8:12-25***

L: So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not

hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**

*Congregation:*

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we  
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal  
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

**\*Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

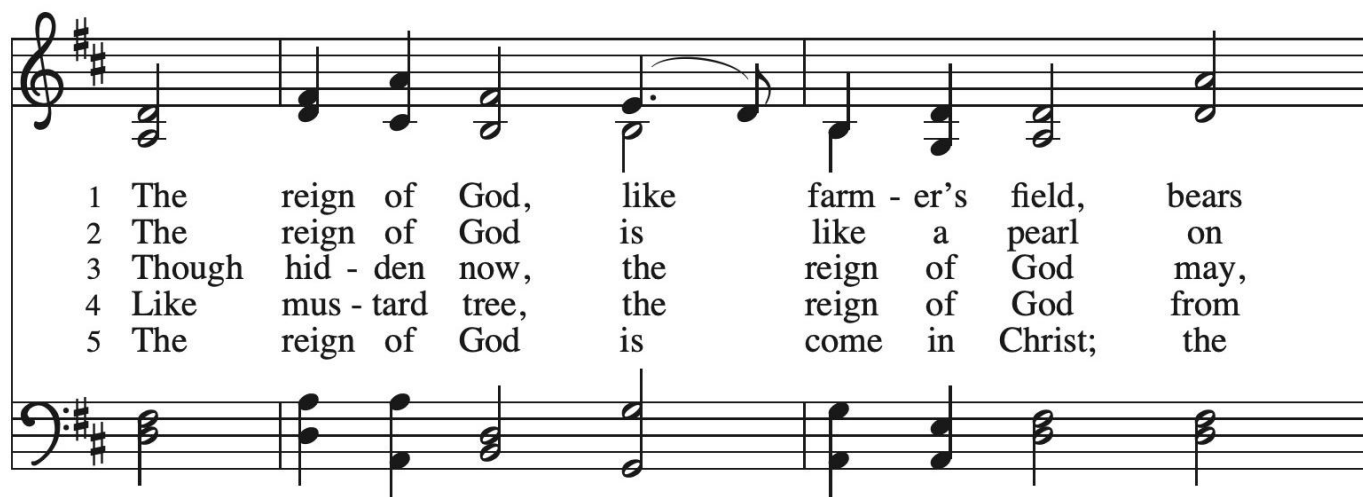
The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

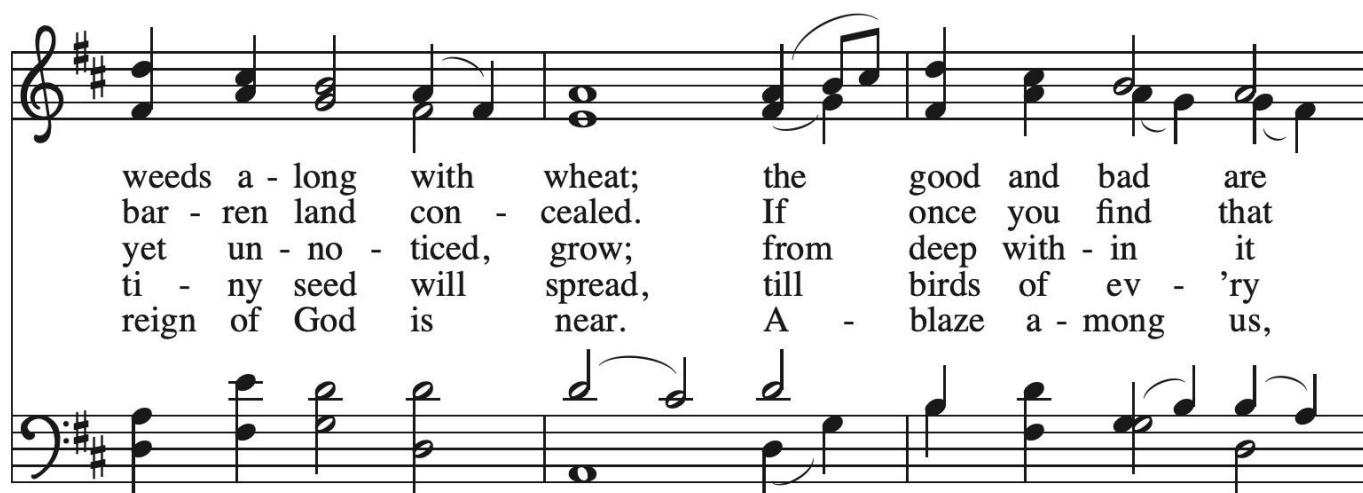
## Children's Christmas in July Collection Time

Sermon ..... Rev. Becky Sells

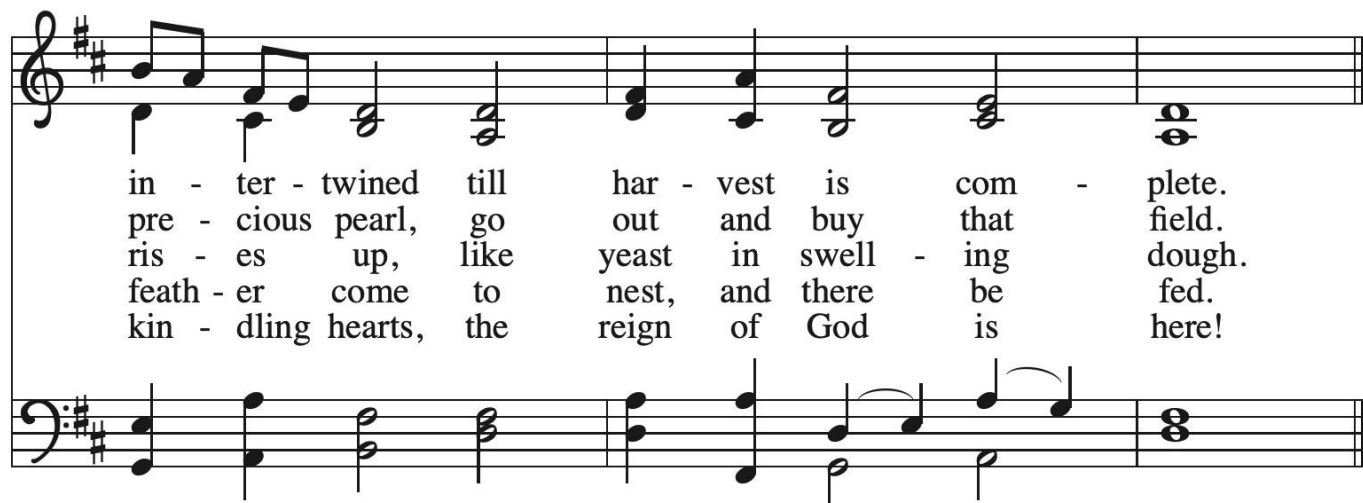
Hymn of the Day: "The Reign of God, Like a Farmer's Field" ..... ACS 952



1 The reign of God, like farm - er's field, bears  
2 The reign of God is like a pearl on  
3 Though hid - den now, the reign of God may,  
4 Like mus - tard tree, the reign of God from  
5 The reign of God is come in Christ; the



weeds a - long with wheat; the good and bad are  
bar - ren land con - cealed. If once you find that  
yet un - no - ticed, grow; from deep with - in it  
ti - ny seed will spread, till birds of ev - 'ry  
reign of God is near. A - blaze a - mong us,



in - ter - twined till har - vest is com - plete.  
pre - cious pearl, go out and buy that field.  
ris - es up, like yeast in swell - ing dough.  
feath - er come to nest, and there be fed.  
kin - dling hearts, the reign of God is here!

### ***\*The Apostles' Creed***

L: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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.**

### ***\*Prayers of Intercession***

L: 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.*

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.**

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.**

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.**

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 especially pray for those on our prayer list and those whose names and needs we lift up now... God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

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

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.**

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.**

**\*Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

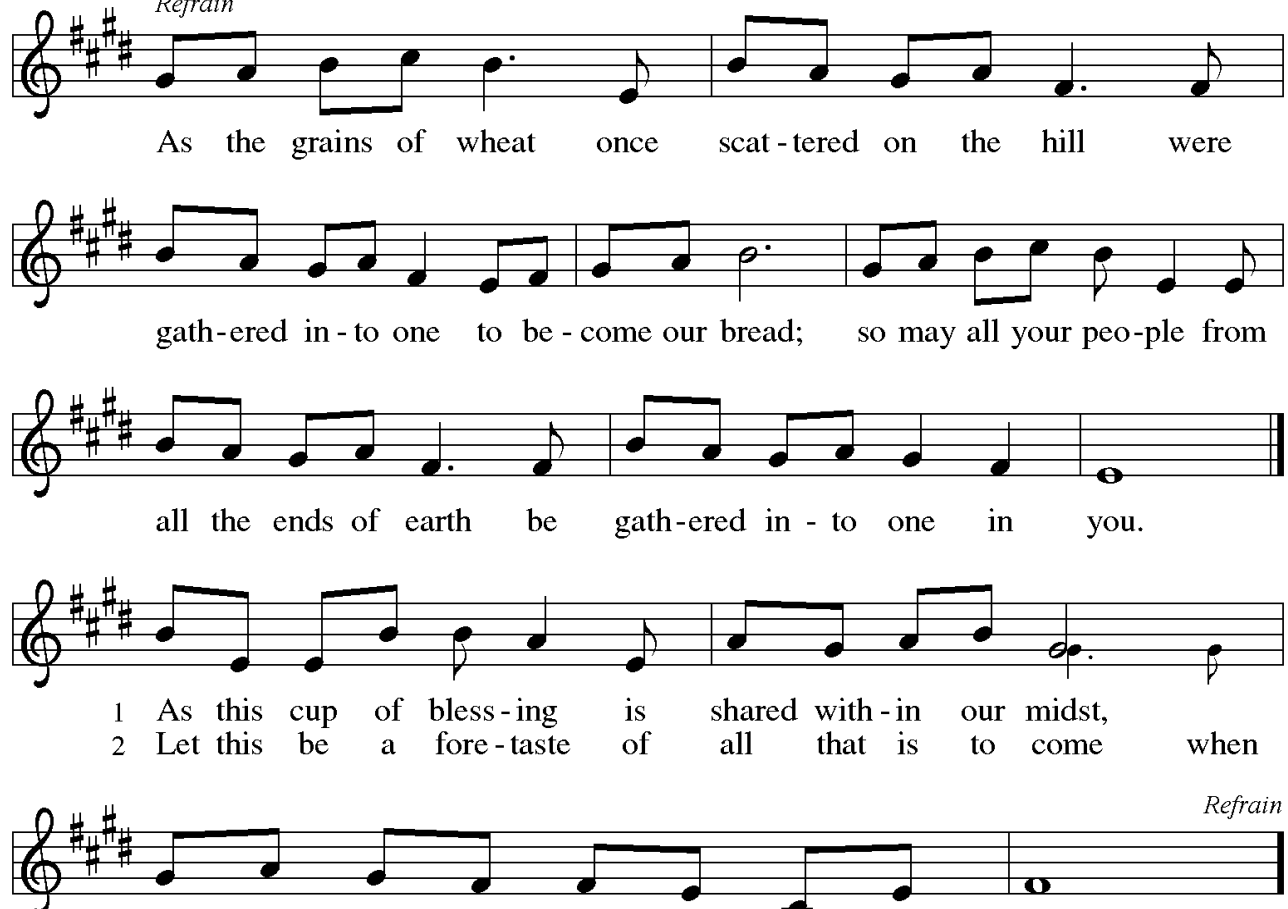
*Please share signs of peace with one another. Please be seated.*

## Offering

Gifts may be placed in the offering plate located in the back of the sanctuary or given electronically at [www.lord-of-love.org](http://www.lord-of-love.org). Children may come forward to put their offering in the noise jar during this song.

Communion servers, please come forward during the 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,  
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

*Refrain*

may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

## \*Offertory Prayer

P: Let us pray.

Merciful God, everything in heaven and earth belongs to you. We joyfully release what you have entrusted to us. May these gifts be signs of our whole lives returned to you, dedicated to the healing and unity of all creation, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

## \*The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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***

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***\*Words of Institution***

P: 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.

***\*The Lord's Prayer***

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

## Communion Invitation

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good. All are welcome at the table of the Lord.

## Lamb of God



1. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
2. Lamb of God, you break the chains of ha - tred and fear;
3. Lamb of God, you are the way of jus - tice and peace:
4. Lamb of God, you are the way of mer - cy and love:



have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Communion

**Distribution Music:** "Morning Has Broken".....arr. Pethel

## \*Post-Communion Prayer

P: 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.**

## \*Benediction

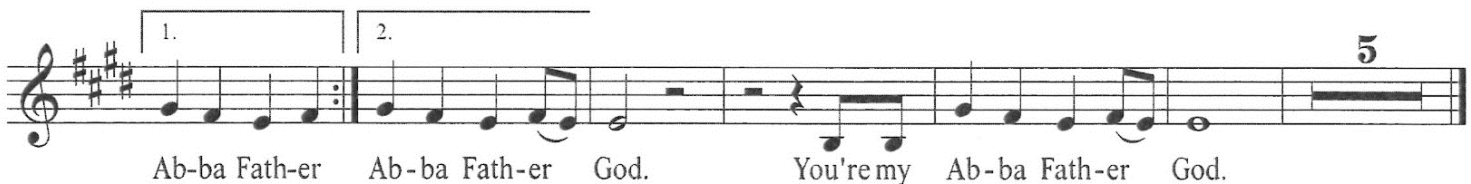
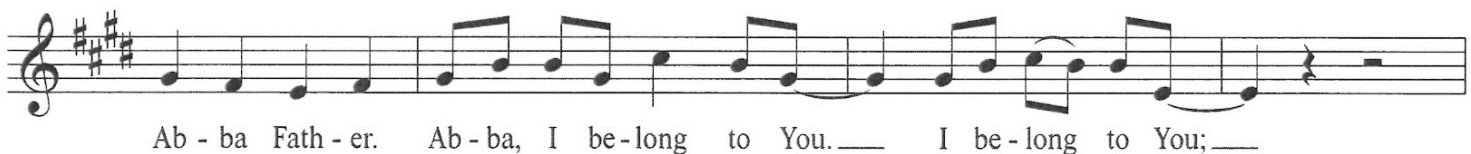
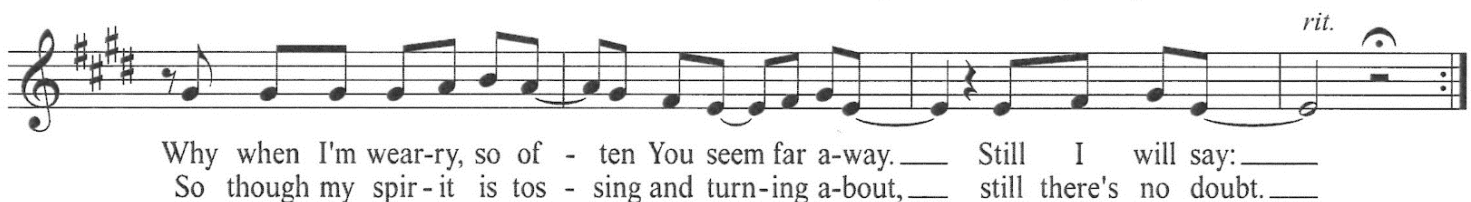
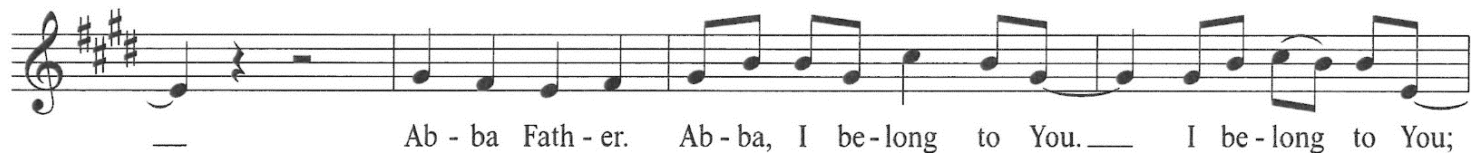
P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**

**Sending Hymn: "Abba I Belong to You" .....** written by Peder Eide and Bob Stromberg



**\*Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

***Ringling of the Bell***

**Postlude: "Bright Lights"** ..... Forcannon

*The Reign of God Like Farmer's Field*

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: DUNLAP'S CREEK, Samuel McFarland, fl. 1816; arr. *With One Voice*, 1995

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## **FAITH PARTNERS ARTICLE**

### Chronic diseases – COPD

COPD is a progressive lung disease that damages the air sacs, making it difficult to breathe. It primarily encompasses two main conditions: emphysema and chronic bronchitis.

#### Symptoms:

- Shortness of breath: Often noticeable during physical activity.
- Chronic cough: A daily cough that often produces thick mucus.
- Wheezing: A whistling sound when breathing.
- Chest tightness: A feeling of heaviness or constriction.

Causes or risk factors: smoking or irritants.

Diagnosis: Typically diagnosed using a breathing test called spirometry.

#### Treatment:

- Lifestyle changes: Quitting smoking is the most crucial step.
- Medications: Inhaled bronchodilators and steroids to open airways and reduce inflammation.
- Therapies: Pulmonary rehabilitation programs to improve breathing techniques and physical endurance.