

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 2026

9:30 AM

“You are my witnesses.

Is there any

GOD

besides me?

No, there is

no other

ROCK;

I know not one.”

ISAIAH 44:8, NIV

The parable in today's gospel reading sets forth what we may experience every day: evil coexists with the good. The conclusion to the parable--the weeds will be burned--seems simple, except for this: the one who speaks gives his life over to death, that God's mercy for all people may be revealed and that God's power to bring good out of evil may be known. Is it possible that even weeds and thorns will be transformed into beautiful flowers and lush vines?

Here is each Christian's mission: to speak and to act with mercy and justice in a world that knows too well the presence of evil.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

Stand

[P] In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

[C] Amen.

Stand

WORDS OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

[P] If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Let us confess our sin to God who is faithful and just and who has promised to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/ Remain Standing

[P] Most merciful God, **[C]** Have mercy on us.

[C] We confess to you that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not trusted you with our whole heart; we have not loved one another in deed and in truth. In your compassion forgive our sin and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our light and our truth. Amen.

[P] With joy, I proclaim to you that Almighty God, rich in mercy, abundant in love, forgives you all your sin and grants you newness of life in Jesus Christ.

[C] Thanks be to God!

Stand

SHARING OF THE PEACE *Share a greeting of peace with those around you.*

SERVICE OF THE WORD

HYMN

“O Worship the King”

LSB 804



1 O wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove.
 2 O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
 3 This earth, with its store of won - ders un - told,
 4 Thy boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?



O grate - ful - ly sing His pow'r and His love;
 Whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space;
 Al - might - y, Thy pow'r hath found - ed of old,
 It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,



Our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
 His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,
 Es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,
 It streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,



Pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.
 And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.
 And round it hath cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
 And sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.

5 Frail children of dust
 and feeble as frail,
 In Thee do we trust,
 nor find Thee to fail.
 Thy mercies, how tender,
 how firm to the end,
 Our maker, defender,
 redeemer, and friend!

6 O measureless Might,
 ineffable Love,
 While angels delight
 to hymn Thee above,
 Thy humbler creation,
 though feeble their lays,
 With true adoration
 shall sing to Thy praise.

Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt.

Tune: William Croft, 1678–1727

Text and tune: Public domain

[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.

C Kyrie Refrain



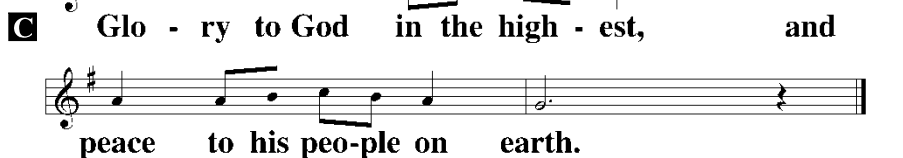
(Congregation sings Refrain after each verse)

Kyrie Verses *(soloist or choir or pastor):*

1. Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's Kingdom.
2. You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness.
3. You will come in glory with salvation for your people.

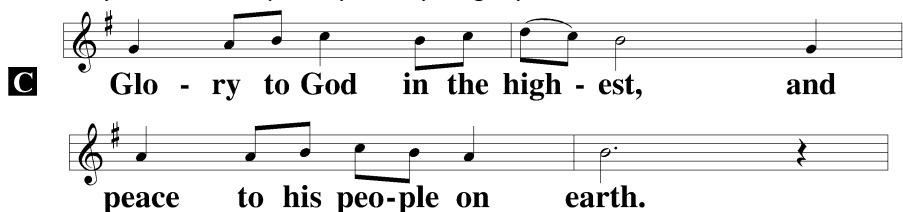
GLORIA Refrain *(pastor sings the first half of Refrain)*

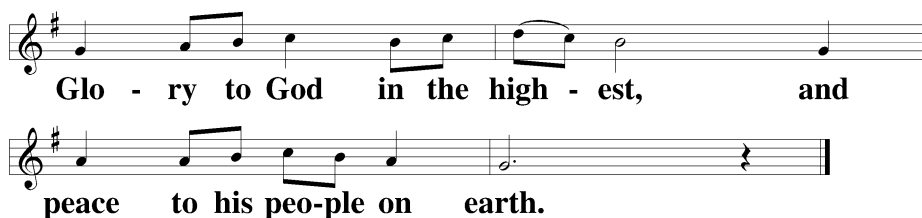
(congregation sings Refrain after each verse as shown)



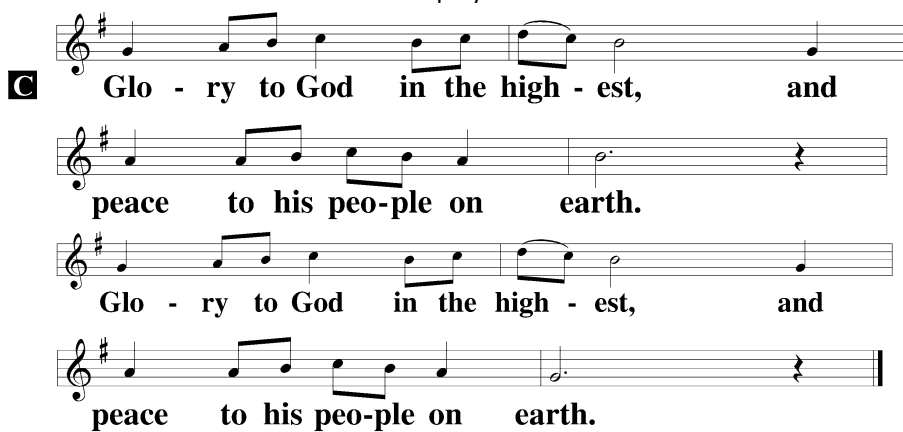
Verses *(sung by soloist or choir or pastor)*

1. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

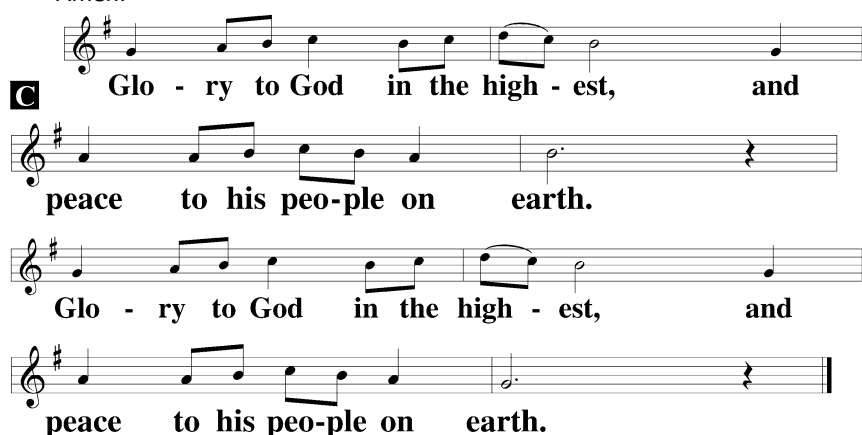




2. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.



3. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P O Lord, pour out upon us the spirit to think and do what is right, that we, who cannot even exist without you, may have the strength to live according to your will; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C** Amen.

Children are invited to the Fireside Lounge for the Children's Lesson.

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 44:6-8

NIV

R "I am Israel's King. I set them free.
I am the Lord who rules over all.
So listen to what I am saying.
I am the first and the last.
I am the one and only God.
Who is like me? Let him come forward and speak boldly.
Let him tell me everything that has happened
since I created my people long ago.
And let him tell me what has not happened yet.
Let him announce ahead of time what is going to take place.
Do not tremble with fear. Do not be afraid.
Didn't I announce everything that has happened?
Didn't I tell you about it long ago?
You are my witnesses. Is there any other God but me?
No! There is no other Rock. I do not know even one."

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON Romans 8:18-27

NIV

R I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that[h] the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.

R This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (Stand and sing twice; leader may also ask it to be sung in canon)

C

1. Al - le - lu - ia, 2. Al - le - lu - ia, 3. Al - le - lu - ia!

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 13, beginning at verse 24.

C Glory be to You, O Lord.

Jesus has just told his disciples the famous parable of the sower, which compares different responses to the word to different kinds of soil in which a seed is planted. Now he tells a second parable about sowing to illustrate the co-existence of good and evil in our world.

P Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. “The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’““An enemy did this,’ he replied.“The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’ ““No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.”“

Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.” He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. “As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

NTEF

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** Praise be to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES' 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 Spirit
 born of the virgin Mary.
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended into hell.
 The third day He rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven,
 and sits at the right hand of God,
 the Father Almighty.
 From thence He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

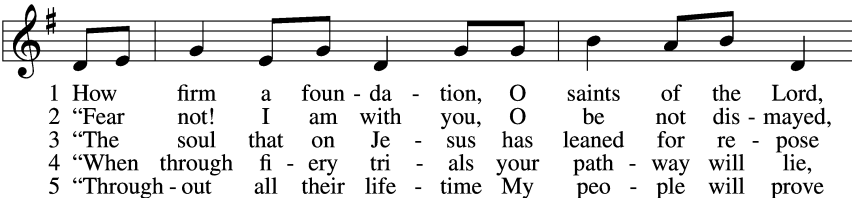
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sit

MESSAGE

Stand

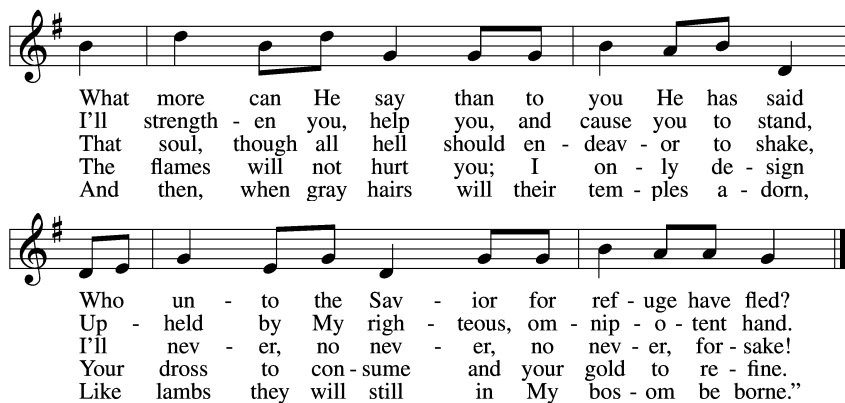
HYMN "How Firm a Foundation" LSB 728



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not! I am with you, O be not dis - mayed,
3 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose
4 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way will lie,
5 "Through - out all their life - time My peo - ple will prove



Is laid for your faith in His ex - cel - lent Word!
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I will not, I will not, de - sert to his foes;
My grace, all - suf - fi - cient, will be your sup - ply.
My sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can He say than to you He has said
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,
 The flames will not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign,
 And then, when gray hairs will their tem - ples a - dorn,

Who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 Up - held by My righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
 I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er, for - sake!
 Your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.
 Like lambs they will still in My bos - om be borne."

Text: A Selection of Hymns, 1787, London, alt.
 Tune: Genuine Church Music, 1832, Winchester
 Text and tune: Public domain

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Other prayers are inserted here. Each petition ends with "Lord, in your mercy," to which the congregation responds, "hear our prayer." The prayers conclude:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVICE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

OFFERING

You may contribute online using the QR code or place a gift in the offering plate at the door along with the interest sheet.



Stand

P Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up

to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give God

thanks and praise.

P It is our duty and delight...
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

introduction: 3 notes

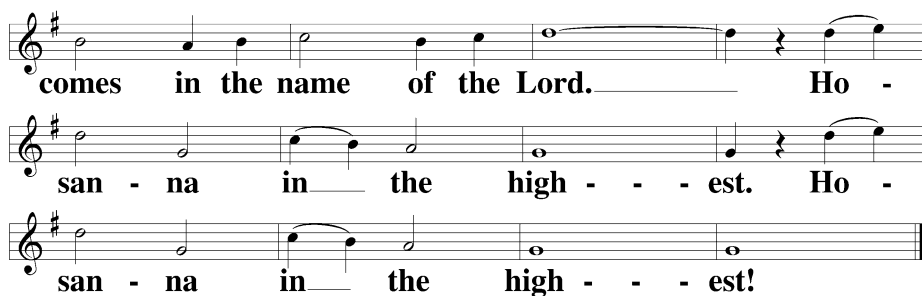
C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly

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



WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

[P] Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

[P] In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

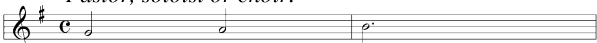
LORD'S PRAYER

Recognizing that the church, and this congregation, are comprised of people from many cultures, languages, and backgrounds, please speak this prayer in the language or version closest to your heart.

**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.**

LAMB OF GOD

Pastor, soloist or choir:



P

1) Lamb of God,
2) Prince of Peace,

Congregation:

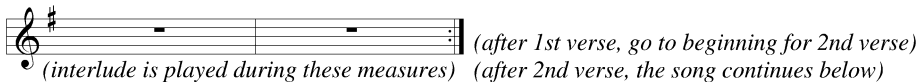


C

you take a - way the sin of the
you take a - way the sin of the



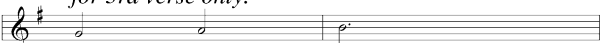
world: have mer - cy on us.
world: have mer - cy on us.



(after 1st verse, go to beginning for 2nd verse)
(interlude is played during these measures) (after 2nd verse, the song continues below)

Pastor, soloist or choir:

for 3rd verse only:



P

3) Lamb of God,

Congregation:



C

you take a - way the sin of the world:



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Sit

THE DISTRIBUTION You are invited to approach the altar to receive communion elements along with an individual cup of wine or grape juice. Gluten-free available.

HYMN

“I Come O Savior to Thy Table”

LW 242

1 I come, O Sav - ior, to your ta - ble, For weak and wea - ry
2 Rest - less am I and heav - y la - den, With sin my soul is
3 Your heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That I, a sin - ner,
4 In hope I come to your high ta - ble, Your tes - ta - ment of

is my soul; You, Bread of Life, a-lone are
sore op-pressed; Re-ceive me gra-cious-ly, and
come to you; I, Lord, to your sure mer-cy am
deep-est love; For by its grace I now am

Refrain

a-ble To sat-is-fy and make me whole.
glad-den My heart that here is now your guest.
turn-ing, My an-cient bond of faith re-new. Lord, may your
a-ble To know the heart of God a-bove.

bod-y and your blood Be for my soul the high-est good!

5 What greater gift can I inherit?
It is faith's bonded solid base;
It is the strength of heart and spirit,
The covenant of hope and grace. *Refrain*

6 Your body crucified, O Savior,
Your blood which once for me was shed,
These are my life and strength forever,
By them my hungry soul is fed. *Refrain*

*Text: Friedrich C. Heyder, 1677-1754; tr: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Tune: Ms., Municipal Library, Leipzig, 1756*

ICH STERBE TÄGLICH
98 98 and refrain

POST COMMUNION PRAYER AND BLESSING

P Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son’s body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns, with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Stand

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **C** Amen.

P Go in peace; serve the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

HYMN “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” LSB 809



1 Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest,
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,
There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee.
Sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove;
Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;
Thou chang - est not: Thy com - pas - sions, they fail not;
Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,
As Thou hast been, Thou for - ev - er wilt be.
To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!
Refrain
Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness!



Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960

Tune: William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

Text: Public domain

Tune: Public domain

POSTLUDE

----- *The liturgy is ended; let the service begin* -----

***A note about the lessons**

The Second (Epistle) Lesson for the summer will be taken from Paul's letter to the Romans. Each Sunday we will be reading another selection of the letter, ending with chapter 14 on September 13.

The New Revised Standard Version is our usual translation for Scripture reading in worship. In the weeks ahead, however, we will use other versions and translations to highlight selected passages. No English Bible version is 'perfect' - though they all strive to be faithful to the original. Using a variety of translations will help us get a different perspective on what the original Greek text is trying to convey.

Our Confession about Communion

1. Holy Communion is a divinely instituted act in which Jesus Christ gives His true (real) body and blood under the forms of bread and wine. We thus hold that the bread and wine are not mere symbols of Jesus' body and blood. When we receive the bread and wine, we receive in fact the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

2. We believe that Communion is a celebration of this forgiveness which comes to us through faith as we eat and drink. In communion we remember our Lord's passion and death, His resurrection and ascension, and the promise of His coming again. Communion is truly the Gospel made visible and is offered for those who "hunger and thirst after righteousness."

3. We believe that as we eat and drink this Supper we are strengthened in our faith in Jesus Christ and in our love for one another.

Therefore, we invite to the Lord's Table all who:

a. has been instructed in the meaning of Communion; have been baptized in the name of the Triune God; have received Jesus Christ as their own personal and living Savior and Lord and concur in our confession.

b. is not living in open rebellion against the Word of God, and do not hold willful and persistent form of hatred, resentment or anger against any other person.

Those who have questions about communion are welcome to talk to one of the Pastors.

Music by Marty Haugen from *Ritual Song*, © GIA Publications, Inc .The propers of the service from "Words for Worship" (CD), © 2005 by Augsburg Fortress. CCLI #1534397; One License A-703166.



"Christ- Students- Community Coming Together"

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