

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 26, 2026
9:30 AM

The **Kingdom of Heaven**

*is like a merchant in search of fine
Pearls...*



Matthew 13:45, NRSV

Jesus famously teaches, “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21), and Jesus knows a treasure when He sees one. Listen to the Readings in worship today. From the days of the Old Testament onward, the Lord has clearly declared how He vastly treasures His people. The Son of God gives up everything to reclaim you as His treasured possession. And it is purely His love for you that gives you true value and limitless worth. Since His treasure is His people, you can be sure His heart remains with His people too, as He visits us here with the priceless goodness of His Word and Sacrament.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

Stand

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

C Amen.

P Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Romans 8:31–32

P You are a people holy to the Lord your God.

C We confess our unholy thoughts, words, and actions.

Silence for personal reflection.

P Almighty God,

C we have not lived up to our calling as Your treasured possession. Our desires are selfish and our love is shallow. We have turned aside from doing good and chosen to treasure things of creation rather than our Creator. In our sinful state we are vulnerable to the devil, death, and darkness. And so we seek Your mercy. We surrender to Your loving kindness in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

P “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

C “He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?”

P Indeed, the mercy of almighty God is displayed in the giving of His Son, Jesus, to die for you, and for His sake God forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the X Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen. Thanks be to God!

Stand

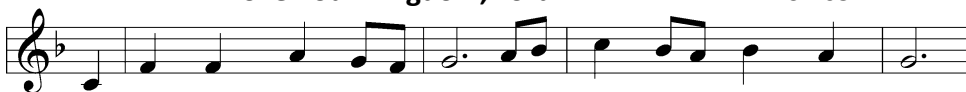
SHARING OF THE PEACE *Share a greeting of peace with those around you.*

SERVICE OF THE WORD

HYMN

“I Love Your Kingdom, Lord”

LSB 651



1 I love Your king - dom, Lord, The place of Your a - bode,
2 Be - yond my high - est joy I prize its heav'n - ly ways,
3 I love Your Church, O God, Your saints in ev - 'ry land,
4 For them my tears shall fall; For them my prayers as - cend;
5 Sure as Your truth shall last, To Zi - on shall be giv'n



The Church our blest Re-deem-er saved With His own pre-cious blood.
Its sweet com-mu-nion, sol-emn vows, Its hymns of love and praise.
Dear as the ap-ple of Your eye And grav-en on Your hand.
For them my cares and toils be giv'n Till toils and cares shall end.
The bright-est glo-ries earth can yield And bright-er bliss of heav'n.

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



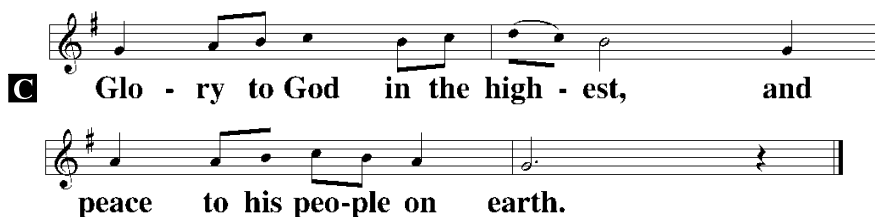
(Congregation sings Refrain after each verse)

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)*

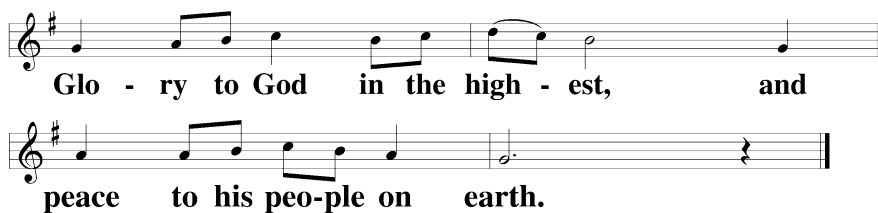
(congregation sings Refrain after each verse as shown)



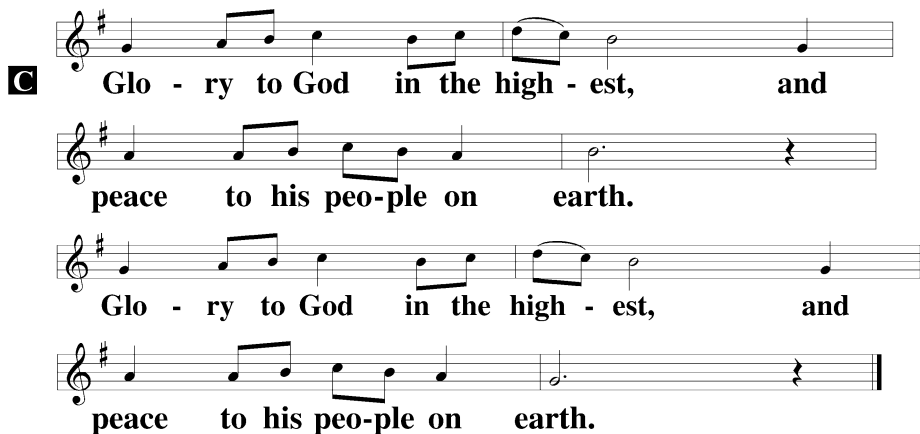
Verses *(sung by soloist or choir or pastor)*

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

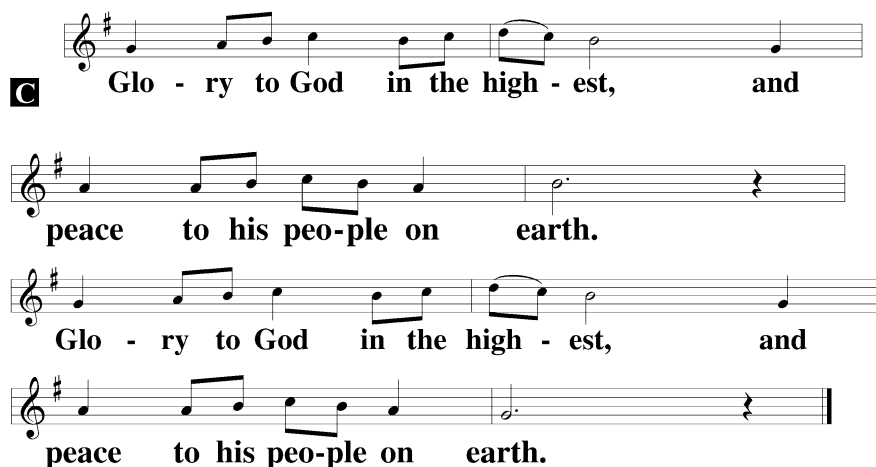




2. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.



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 God, your ears are open always to the prayers of your servants. Open our hearts and minds to you, that we may live in harmony with your will and receive the gifts of your Spirit; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C** Amen.

Sit

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

FIRST LESSON *Deuteronomy 7:6–9*

CEV

R Moses said, ' Israel, you are the chosen people of the Lord your God. There are many nations on this earth, but he chose only Israel to be his very own. You were the weakest of all nations, but the Lord chose you because he loves you and because he had made a promise to your ancestors. Then with his mighty arm, he rescued you from the king of Egypt, who had made you his slaves. You know that the Lord your God is the only true God. So love him and obey his commands, and he will faithfully keep his agreement with you and your descendants for a thousand generations. '

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

SECOND LESSON *Romans 8:28-39*

NIV

For several chapters in his letter to the Romans, Paul argues that justification by faith produces a life in the Spirit superior to any legal obedience that might be attained through human effort. Now, in the final words of this chapter, his exuberance for this spiritual life leads to a confident hymn in praise of Christ's love.

R 'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither

death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

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 44.

C **Glory be to You, O Lord.**

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

P "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth." Jesus said to them, "Have you understood all these things?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He said to them, "Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old.'" NKJV

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

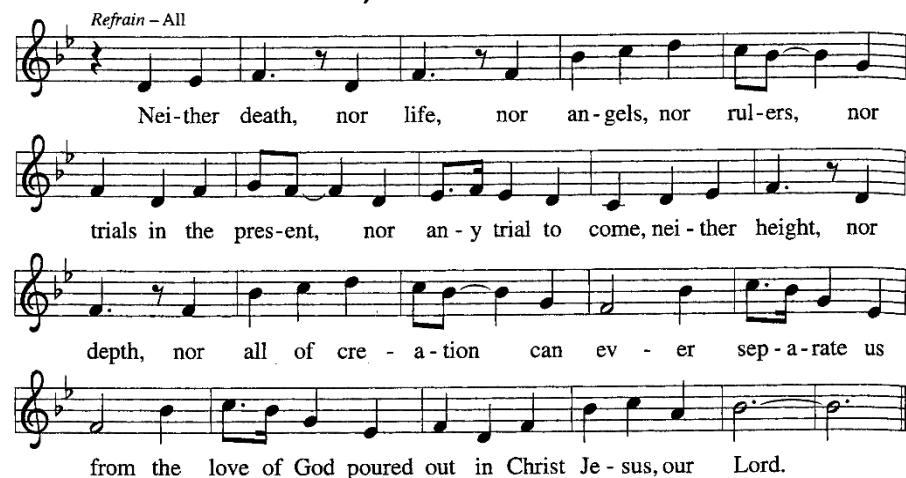
MESSAGE

Stand

HYMN "Neither Death, Nor Life"

ELW 622

Refrain - All



Nei-ther death, nor life, nor an-gels, nor rul-ers, nor
trials in the pres-ent, nor an-y trial to come, nei-ther height, nor
depth, nor all of cre - a - tion can ev - er sep - a - rate us
from the love of God poured out in Christ Je - sus, our Lord.

Verses-(Praise team only)

Dwell in the one who raised Christ from the dead;
Though your body shall die, in Christ you shall rise
Through the Spirit who brings you to life. *Refrain*

All who are led by the Spirit shall live
As children of God, and heirs with Christ Jesus,
God's adopted and chosen and loved. *Refrain*

All of the suff'ring we now must endure
Is nothing to the glory so soon to be revealed
When creation itself is set free. *Refrain*

All of creation awaits the new birth,
The fullness of redemption, through labor pains of love,
And so we wait in patience and hope. *Refrain*

Who can separate us from the love of Christ?
Will hardship or distress, persecution or famine,
Or nakedness or peril or sword? *Refrain*

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.**

Sit

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.

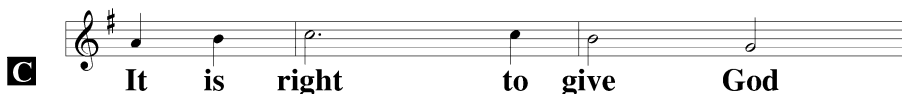
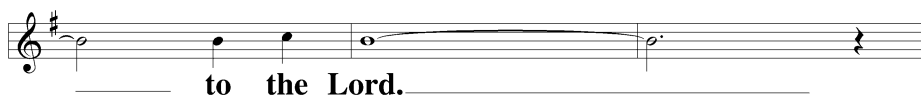
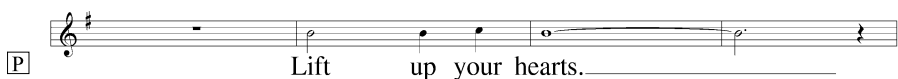
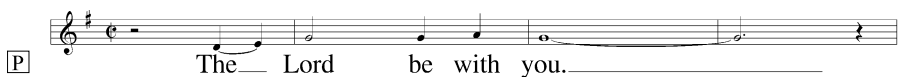


Stand

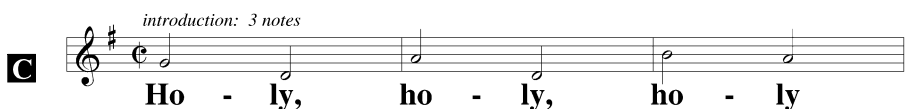
P Let us pray. Merciful Father,

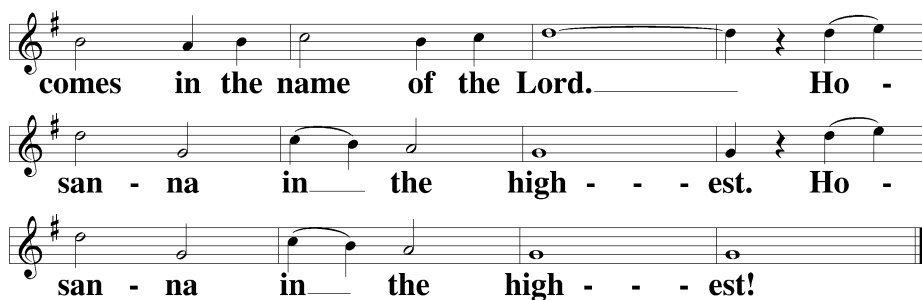
C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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





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.

(interlude is played during these measures) (after 1st verse, go to beginning for 2nd verse)
(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 "In Thee Is Gladness" **LSB 818**

1 In Thee is glad - ness A - mid all sad - ness, Je - sus,
2 Since He is ours, _____ We fear no pow - ers, Not of
sun - shine of my heart. By Thee are giv - en The gifts of
earth nor sin nor death. He sees and bless - es In worst dis -

heav - en, Thou the true Re - deem - er art. Our souls Thou
tress - es; He can change them with a breath. Where - fore the
wak - est, Our bonds Thou break - est; Who trusts Thee sure - ly Has built se -
sto - ry Tell of His glo - ry With hearts and voic - es; All heav'n re -
cure - ly; He stands for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! Our hearts are
joic - es In Him for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! We shout for
pin - ing To see Thy shin - ing, Dy - ing or liv - ing
glad - ness, Tri - umph o'er sad - ness, Love Him and praise Him
To Thee are cleav - ing; Naught can us sev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!
And still shall raise Him Glad hymns for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

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.

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

"The Church's One Foundation"

LSB 644



1 The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der The world sees her op - pressed,
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her war
 5 Yet she on earth has u - nion With God, the Three in One,



She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.
 Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
 By schisms rent a - sun - der, By her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more
 And mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion With those whose rest is won.



From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;
 One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,
 Yet saints their watch are keep - ing; Their cry goes up, "How long?"
 Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,
 O bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by Your grace



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
 And to one hope she press - es With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 And soon the night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.
 And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.
 That we, like saints be - fore us, May see You face to face.

Text and 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.

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"Christ- Students- Community Coming Together"

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