

Sunday - September 20, 2026
17th Sunday after Pentecost



OUR MISSION: God calls us to live and share the amazing love and grace of Jesus Christ with all people.

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church. Christ Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation that welcomes all. May God bless us in Word and Sacrament, music and community in our worship today. The service is complete in this bulletin. The spoken responses are bolded text.

We acknowledge that our building of worship is built upon the territory of xučyun (Huichin), the unceded land stewarded by the Ohlone people who speak to their Creator and loved ones in the language of Chochenyo.

INTRODUCTION

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.**

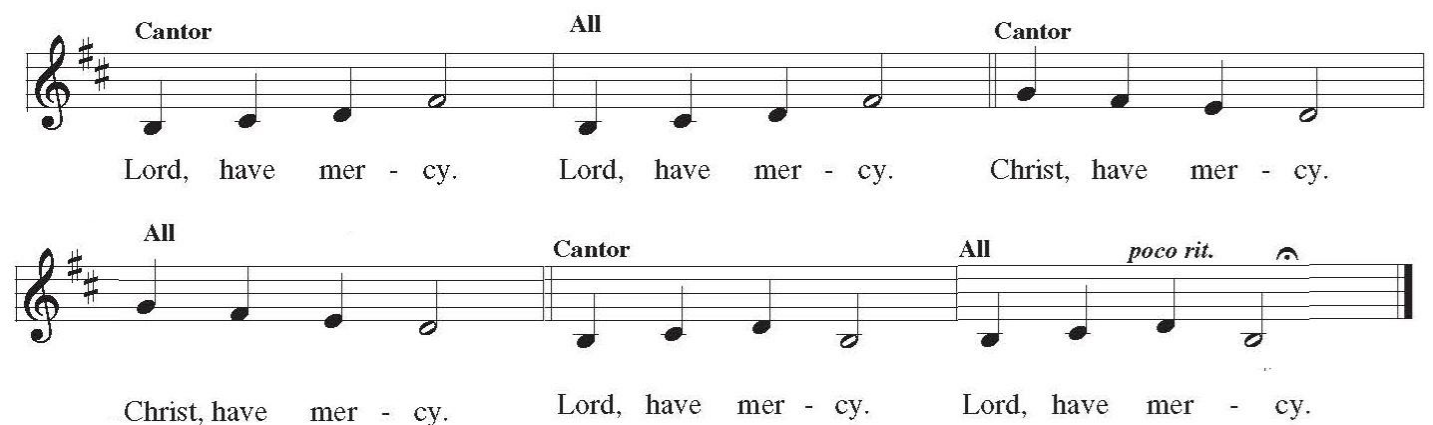
Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: *City Called Heaven*



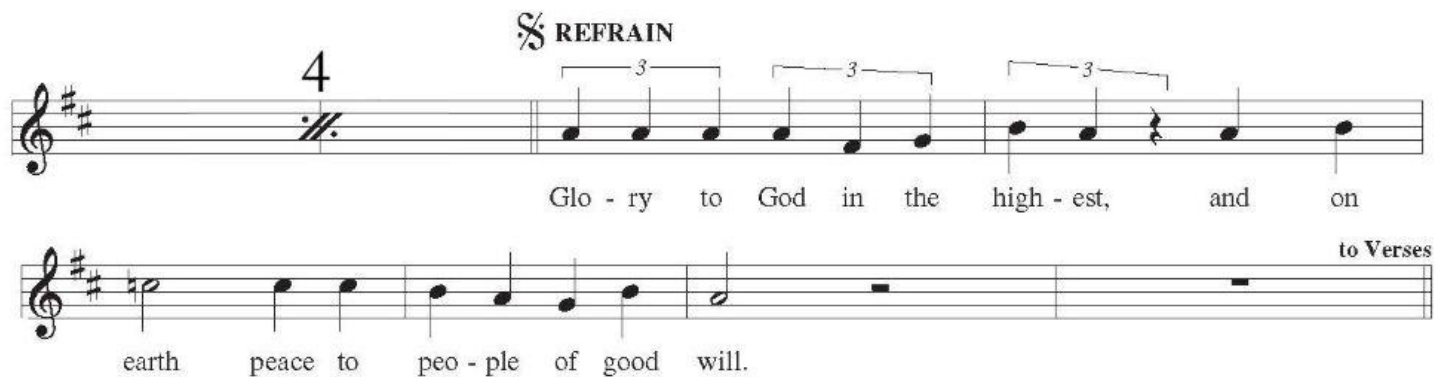
I am a pil - grim, a pil - grim of sor - row, I'm
Some - times I'm tossed, Lord, and some - times I feel low, Lord,
In the dark - est of nights, I find my way, though the
left in this wide world, this wide world a - lone!
Some - times I don't know which way I can roam.
road may be long, and the jour - ney un - known,
Ain't got no hope, got no hope for to - mor - row. I'm
But I've heard that there's a ci - ty called hea - ven. I've
I'll keep on walk - ing down this pil - grim's road. I've
try - ing to make it, make hea - ven my home.
start - ed to make it, make hea - ven my home.
start - ed to make it, make hea - ven my home.

KYRIE



Cantor All Cantor
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.
All Cantor All *poco rit.*
Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

GLORY TO GOD



4
REFRAIN
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and on to Verses
earth peace to peo - ple of good will.

VERSE 1

1. We praise you, we bless you, we a - dore you,

1. we glo - ri - fy you, we give you thanks for your great

1. glo - ry, Lord God, heav - en - ly

1. King, O God, al - might - y Fa - ther.

§ REFRAIN

VERSE 2

2. Lord Je - sus Christ, On - ly Be - got - ten Son,

2. Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther,

2. you take a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on

2. us; you take a - way the

2. sins of the world, re - ceive our prayer;

2. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa -

2. ther, have mer - cy on us.

§ REFRAIN

VERSE 3

3. For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One,

3. you a-lone are the Lord,

3. you a-lone are the Most High,

3. Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it, in the

3. glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

§ REFRAIN

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10-4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Nineveh] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 145:1-8



1. I will ex - alt you, God my King, for - ev - er — praise, for -
2. As par - ents to their child - ren tell how al - ways God does
3. Be - liev - ers trust and pray and prove the glor - ies — of your

ev - er sing all glo - ry — to your treas - ured name: all
all things well, so I de - light to med - i - tate how
might - y love: our streets shall sing, our cit - ies bloom, your

praise, all — love, our hearts pro - claim, all praise, all — love our hearts pro -
just you are, how good, how great, how just you are, how good how
ev - er - last - ing king - dom come, your ev - er - last - ing king - dom

claim!
great.
come!

4. In every promise God keeps faith;
you raise us, LORD, from sin and death:
you help the strugglers in the race-
redeemed, sustained, and crowned by grace,
redeemed, sustained, and crowned by grace.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

1st time: Cantor after: All

Cantor *f* Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu -

(All) *f* ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia.

God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might have eternal life

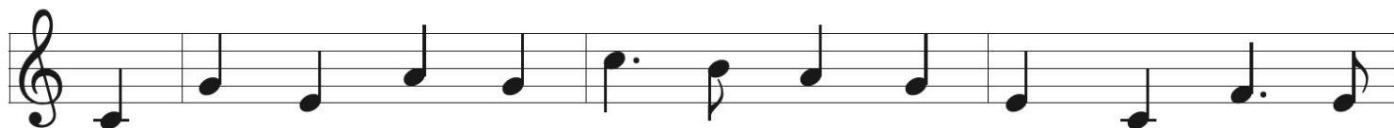
GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O God.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON: Pr. Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero

HYMN OF THE DAY- SGCW 67 "So Great a Cloud of Witnesses"



1 So great a cloud of wit - ness - es sur - rounds us as we
 2 Con - sid - er him who knew our frame, who, for the joy be -
 3 To Si - nai's mount we have not come, to dark - ness, storm, nor
 4 O righ - teous God, con - sum - ing Fire, re - fine our faith! Our



run the race, that we may share Christ's ho - li - ness and
 fore him set, en - dured the cross, de - spised the shame, and
 blaz - ing fire, but to God's home, Je - ru - sa - lem, and
 wrongs re - dress! O Spir - it, come! Our hearts in - spire to



live in joy be - fore God's face. Sin clings so close - ly
 reigns with God in glo - ry yet. Then let us lift our
 to the an - gel - ic, fes - tal choir; to Je - sus Christ, whose
 strive for peace and ho - li - ness! O Christ, our Source and



to our lives we lack the for - ti - tude to run.
 droop - ing hands and strength - en now our weak - ened limbs!
 blood was shed, to all who claim his prom - ise sure.
 Goal a - lone, lead us, by grace, through per - 'lous days



Fling off the weight that slows our strides! We must en -
 Do not lose cour - age! Un - der - stand: those whom God
 Do not re - fuse the liv - ing Head! With ho - ly
 un - til, at last, be - fore your throne we give you



dure as did God's Son!
 loves, God dis - ci - plines.
 awe, give thanks! A - dore!
 hon - or, end - less praise.

THE APOSTLES' 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 INTERCESSION

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good news and our anger at your generosity to others. Nourish us by your grace to be witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Guide scientists and researchers studying responses to the climate crisis so that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your great goodness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Show employers the benefits of equal pay standards for all their employees. Reconcile conflicts between employees. Fill places of employment with camaraderie, and bring an end to employment disparity. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need especially pray for Karen, Fred, George G., Maryann H., Evie D., Diane, Carla, Laurie & John P., Scott F., and Pr. Sharon, and those we name at this time. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of others in the community. Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors with our time and talents. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

I invite you, the people of God gathered here, to offer your prayers at this time, spoken aloud, in silence, or typed in the livestream chat.

Comfort us with the promise of the resurrection as we remember all our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

MUSIC AT THE OFFERING- Choir Anthem - "Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel"

Didn't my Lord deliver Daniel?

Then why not every man?

He delivered Daniel from the lion's den,

Jonah from the belly of the whale,

And the Hebrew children from the fiery furnace,

then why not every man?

I set my foot on the Gospel ship,

And the ship began to sail,

It landed me over on Canaan's shore,

And I'll never come back no more!

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

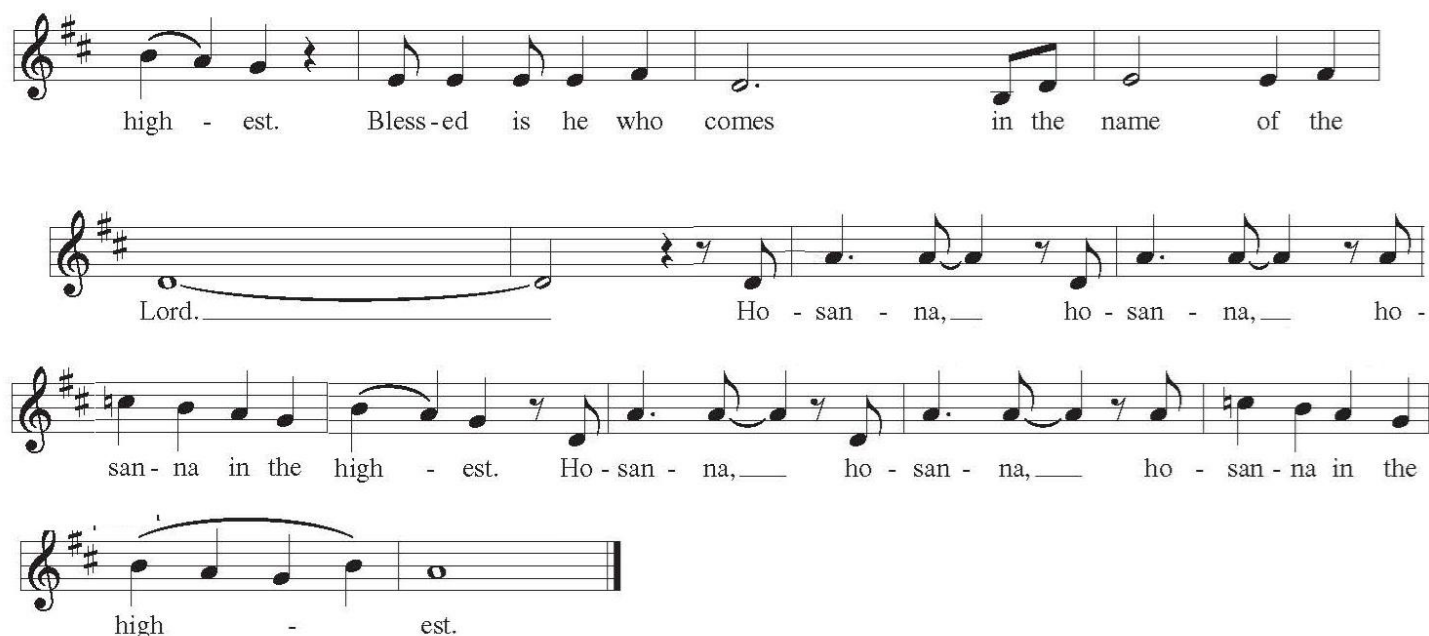
HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God, Lord God, Lord God of

hosts. Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

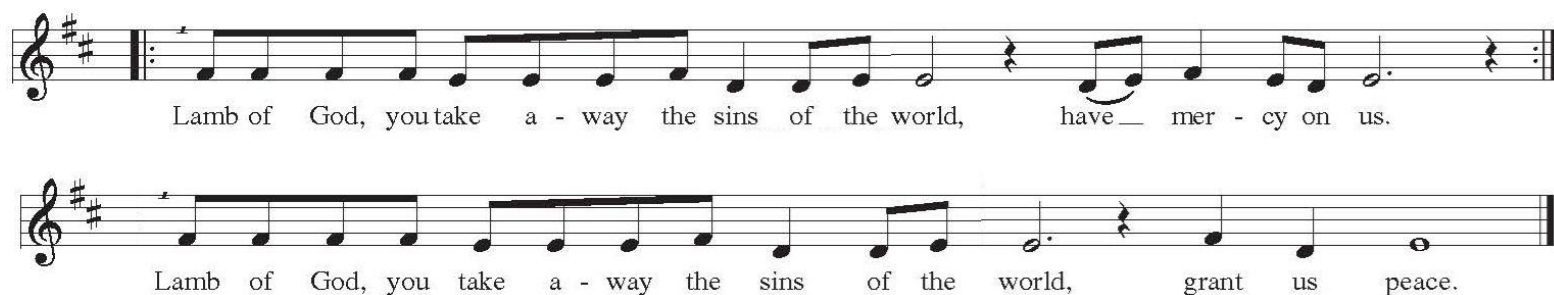
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the

high - est. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the



Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us. **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.**

LAMB OF GOD



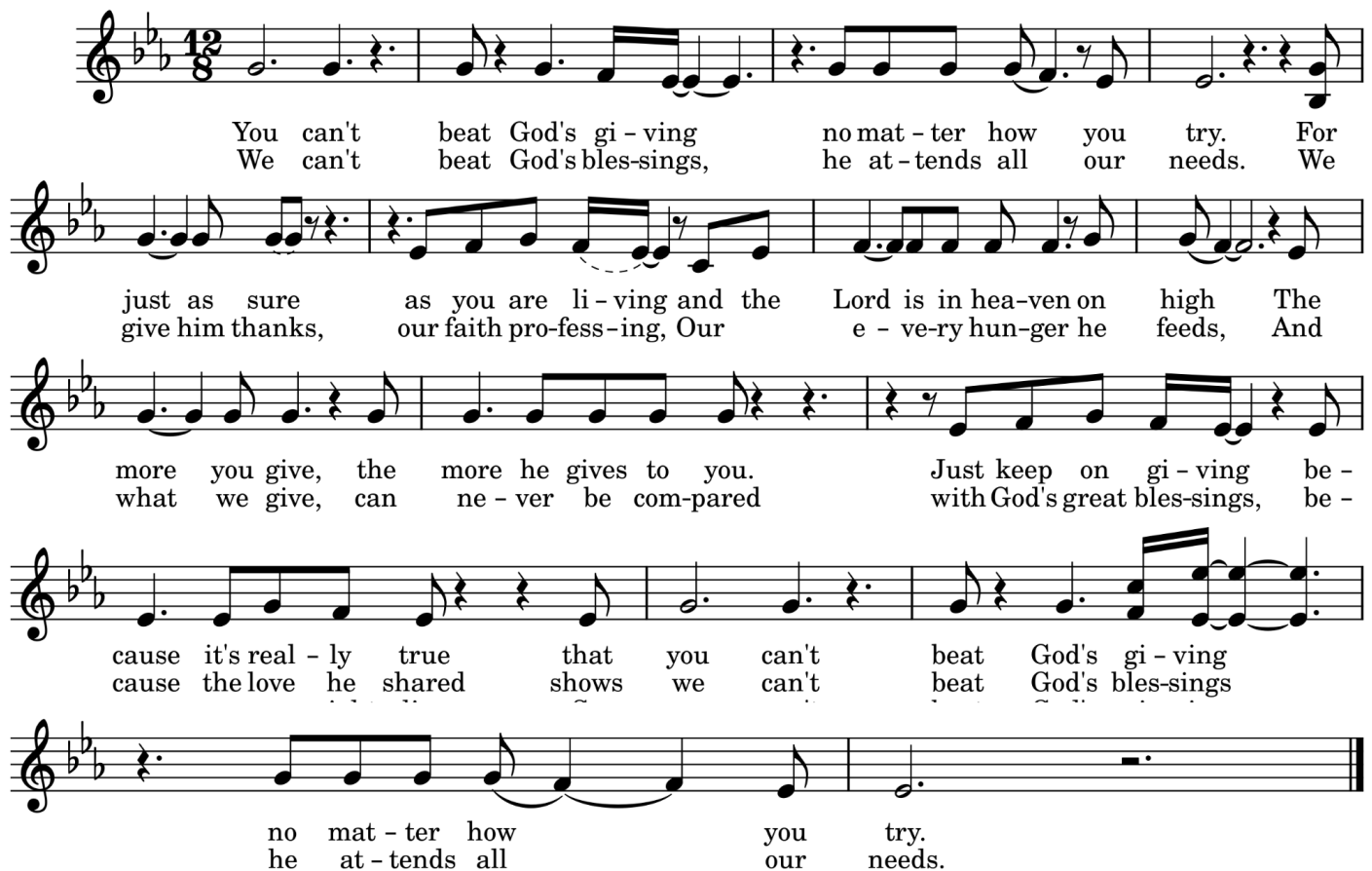
COMMUNION HYMN- ELW 659: Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

1 Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.

2 We are pilgrims on a journey,
we are trav'lers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

3 I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.
4 I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.
5 Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.

SENDING HYMN-You Can't Beat God's Giving



You can't beat God's gi - ving no mat - ter how you try. For
We can't beat God's bles-sings, he at - tends all our needs. We

just as sure as you are li - ving and the Lord is in hea - ven on high The
give him thanks, our faith pro-fess-ing, Our e - ve-ry hun-ger he feeds, And

more you give, the more he gives to you. Just keep on gi - ving be -
what we give, can ne - ver be com-pared with God's great bles-sings, be -

cause it's real - ly true that you can't beat God's gi - ving
cause the love he shared shows we can't beat God's bles-sings

no mat - ter how you try.
he at - tends all our needs.

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 4- Pet Blessings

October 17- Garage Sale

Bible Study every Sunday at 11:15 w/ Pastor Kyle (via zoom when he is away)

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP

PRESIDING/PREACHING

Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero
(510) 480-1476

kyle@christlutheranelcerrito.org

MINISTER OF MUSIC & LITURGY

Daniel Alley

GUITARS: George Fosselius

DRUMS: Dominic Moisant

LECTOR: Dee A.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT: Elsa-Jennie

COFFEE HOUR:

This Week at CLC

Today

9 AM Choir Rehearsal

10 AM CLC Worship

11:15 Bible Study

1:30 PM Greater Love Worship

Monday

9 AM- 3:00 PM Senior Center

7 PM- 8:30 PM The Scouts

Tuesday

10 AM-3:00PM- WCCAE Respite Care

4:30-6:30 PM CCCT

7 PM Lady AA Meeting

Wednesday

4:30-6:30 PM CCCT

Thursday

4:30-6:30 PM CCCT

7 PM Handbell Rehearsal

Friday

4:30-6:30 PM CCCT

Saturday

6 PM Millennium AA Meeting

Next Sunday

9AM Choir Rehearsal

10 AM CLC Worship

11:15 Bible Study

1:30 PM Greater Love Worship

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR:

Diane L.
Lysle P.
Mike S.
The Vale Community
Robin & Wendy
George F.
Jimmy D.
Vince

Laurie P.
Carolina S.
Karen H.
Fred W.
Chad B.
TJ B.
Carla L.
Mark

Chris
Phil C.
Scott F.
Christine H.L.
Thelma & Mike G.
John Z.
Pr. Sharon

DON'T FORGET YOUR OFFERING

Thank you for your continued financial support of Christ Lutheran. It is very much appreciated. Options for giving include bringing offerings in person, mailing checks, or giving electronically with Tithely. For the latter, simply click the "Giving" tab on the church website. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Amy Tieku at 510-290-2125

WORSHIP FROM HOME Livestream: [Facebook.com/clec.org](https://facebook.com/clec.org). Bulletins can be found at christlutheranelcerrito.org/bulletins Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-709536