



God's invitation into wholeheartedness means recognizing that God cares about the desires of my heart, even if that heart isn't perfect. It means understanding that God is concerned about the things that concern me. It means coming to terms, in yet another way, with the truth that God loves me.

(Rachel Held Evans, Wholehearted Faith, p. 140)

GATHER

PRELUDE

Morning Songs

arr. Paul Tate

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+GATHERING SONG

Rise Up and Sing!

DATH 7

Leader

Congregation

O God, o - pen my lips, and my
mouth will de - clare your praise.

1 Rise up and sing! Bring in the morn - ing;
2 Rise up, good friends! Now is the hour;
3 Rise with the world, curled up a - wait - ing

dawn is a - born - ing, day has be - gun.
 sun - light will show - er hope for the day.
 end to the hat - ing, day full of grace.

Raise the glad sound! A - round us are break - ing
 Rise from your sleep, and keep your dreams with you.
 Rise up in song! The long night is end - ing;

skies that are wak - ing light of the sun.
 Let the light kiss you soft on your way.
 now God is send - ing peace to this place.

Last time to Coda ⊕

⊕ *Coda*
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

+CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

ONE: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ⊕ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

MANY: AMEN

ONE: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: 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.

MANY: AMEN

ONE: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection

ONE: Gracious God,

MANY: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

ONE: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthens you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

MANY: AMEN

WORD

+PRAYER OF THE DAY

ONE: O God of love,

MANY: it surprises us still, and again, that your love is given freely and fully for us. There are so many reasons why you shouldn't love us. Still, your love arrives each day as an invitation into a way of life we long for. Yet even our longing is not ours, but your love's movement in us. Thank you, O LORD, for a kind of love that meets us not only on our best days, but also on our worst. Thank you for the ways you meet us when our hearts feel deflated. Thank you for the ways you meet us in the depths of our desires. Thank you for making your home with us. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1: 18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

ONE: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

MANY: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Paul Lutter

+PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ONE: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, the world, and for all who are in need.

Silence

ONE: The story of your birth in Matthew's Gospel, Lord Jesus, does not begin with celebration. There are no parties to attend. The announcement of your coming into the world is met with fear. Even more surprising, the one who embodies fear in this story is Joseph. Oh, Matthew's Gospel reveals Joseph's reasons. It's a marvel how you sent an angel to reveal how much greater is your love than Joseph's fear. *She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus*, the angel said. *He will save his people from their sins.* You have saved your people from our sins -- again and again and again. We thank you for coming all the way down to us in order to love us that much. Continue to set us free by your love. Continue to invite us in, to love, to trust, to forgive and rest in your mercy. Lord, in your mercy,

MANY: hear our prayer.

ONE: Continue to help us find rest in these last weeks of summer, O God. Help us to release the things around which our hands cling too tightly so that they can rest fully in your hands. In the space of rest and relaxation, open again our eyes and hearts and lives to the sway of your Spirit. Continue to call us, gather us, enlighten and sanctify us around your Word and sacraments, so that even our imaginations for what you are up to in our midst are set loose. In these late summer days, surprise us by your Spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

MANY: hear our prayer.

ONE: O God of healing and hope, we pray for those who are broken in body, mind, or spirit. We ask you to enter into those places in their lives in which healing is desperately needed. Be at work through the care of doctors and nurses. Watch over researchers who seek new ways to bring healing and hope for illnesses for which there seems no answers and no hope. Sit alongside family members and friends who wait and watch for healing to settle in and for joy to return once more. Make your home with us once more, O God. We pray for those whom we name before you in silence or aloud... We give you thanks, O God, that among the ways we call on you, you have shown us how committed you are to our healing and restoration. Lord, in your mercy,

MANY: hear our prayer.

ONE: We pray God, for the mission and ministry of Peace Lutheran Church. We thank you for the many ways, known and unknown, that you are among us and at work through us. We thank you for our Council and committees, our workgroups and for those who seek to live out your grace and care each and every day. Continue to strengthen and embolden us, O God, in our witness to your love in the world and in your Church. We ask for you to continue to lead and guide us as we seek to follow your call to be your people at this time and in this place. Continue to lead and guide the ministry and mission of the Minneapolis Synod and the wider ELCA. Give us hope, O God. Continue to give us life. Continue to make your home with us. Lord, in your mercy,

MANY: hear our prayer.

ONE: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Christ our Lord.

MANY: Amen.

+SHARING OF THE PEACE

ONE: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always.

MANY: And also with you.

ONE: Share a sign of peace with those around you.

+APOSTLES' CREED

ONE: With the whole church, let us confess our faith in the Triune God.

**MANY: 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 Christ rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and 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**

MEAL

OFFERING

Cantabile

Christopher Uehlein, OSB

+OFFERTORY PRAYER

ONE: God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine.

MANY: Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. AMEN

+GREAT THANKSGIVING

ONE: The Lord be with you.

MANY: And also with you.

ONE: Lift up your hearts.

MANY: We lift them to the Lord.

ONE: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

MANY: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

+WORDS OF INSTITUTION

+PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT US

ONE: Invited into the abundant life of faith, let us pray together,

**MANY: 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**

WELCOME TO THE TABLE

HOLY COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION *Let Us Break Bread Together* ELW 471, Afr. Am.

COMMUNION BLESSING

SEND

+BENEDICTION

ONE: Let us pray together the Prayer of Good Courage. O God,

MANY: you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

+SENDING SONG *Joy to the World* ELW 267

+DISMISSAL

ONE: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

MANY: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE *Trumpet Tune in D* David N Johnson

Acknowledgements:

The confession and forgiveness is adapted from several versions in the ELW, used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license #SBL14294.

ELW

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Serving today:

Preacher

Organist & Pianist

Cantor

Greeter

Usher

Lector

Offering Counters

Zoom & Livestream Coordinators

Rev. Paul Lutter

Anne Phillips

David Jopke

Michael Sorenson

Randy Berg

David Kleppe

Dean Renstrom

Steve Johnson, Peter Leppa, Scott Rusten,

Bob Samuelson & Jason Tofteland



PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEEK OF AUGUST 21, 2022

TODAY

9am worship with Holy Communion

Families are encouraged to have their children in worship, but the nursery is available if needed. It will be open but not staffed; please plan to supervise your own children inside.

PEACE RETREAT 2022 - REGISTER NOW

Luther Crest Bible Camp, Alexandria, MN
Fun, fellowship and renewal for all ages!

- September 16-18, 2022
- Sign up deadline Friday, September 2
- Cost: \$150 per adult, \$125 per child grades K-12, Free for kids age 5 and under
- *Registration forms available at the info desk.*
- *See your Saturday e-News for links to the form and to pay online.*

SIGN UP NOW FOR YOGADEVOTION

The fall schedule is now posted for registration. The first session of fall classes will be held for 8 weeks starting September 12 through October 31, 2022.

See your Saturday e-News for registration link and the 2022-2023 class schedules.

The summer preaching series is based on the book Wholehearted.

For this series we are reading Rachel Held Evans' book, *Wholehearted Faith*. What she shows through her writing – and her life – is what it means to recover a sense of wholeheartedness, and what it looks like. This book is powerful and gracious, and allows us to hear an invitation into wholeheartedness, once again.

Please join us this summer for this journey back into wholeheartedness. The book is available on Amazon or your favorite bookstore. Pastor Paul has a couple of copies in his office if you are interested.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR FUTURE JOURNEY TOGETHER EVENTS:

- **Wednesday, August 31, 6 pm:** Five-a-Day to Grow God's Way
- **Wednesday, September 28, 6 pm:** Four More for Growth Galore

Events will continue the last Wednesday of the month through the 2022-2023 year. If you'd like to help volunteer for this event, contact Jenny at: jjklutter@gmail.com.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Help at Your Door, a non-profit based in Golden Valley, seeks mission-driven individuals to fill staff roles in finance, administration, communications and direct service. If you have a heart for seniors and would love to work somewhere you can make a real difference, please visit their website to learn more and apply:

<https://helpatyourdoor.org/career-opportunities/>