



Epiphany Lutheran Church
2375 GA Hwy 20 SE, Conyers, GA 30013
(770) 483-6222
www.conyerselc.org

September 13, 2026 – 10:00 AM

16th Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME VISITORS! We welcome all who believe in Jesus Christ to the Lord's Supper as we partake in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup. For those who would prefer, grape juice is available in the center ring of each serving tray. If you do not wish to receive communion you are invited to come forward for a blessing. God's forgiveness and love is for everyone.

We are honored that you are with us today and we ask everyone to please sign the *Friendship Register* in each pew. Visitors are asked to also complete a *Visitors Card* from the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. Again, Welcome!

***Invites the congregation to stand.**

HOLY COMMUNION – *Setting 4*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

***Confession and Forgiveness**

[P] Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

[C] Amen.

[P] Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

[P] Compassionate God,

[C] we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

[P] Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✙ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

[C] Amen.

***Gathering Hymn:** *“Ten Thousand Reasons”* ACS #1097

*As the hymn begins, the congregation turns toward the entrance
to face the processional cross.*

Refrain

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
wor-ship his ho - ly name. Sing like nev - er be-fore,
O my soul; I'll wor - ship your ho - ly name.

1 The sun comes up, it's a new day dawn-ing;
2 You're rich in love, and you're slow to an - ger. Your
3 And on that day when my strength is fail-ing, the

... it's time to sing your song a - gain. What - ev - er may
name . . is . . great, and your heart is kind. For all . . your
end . . draws near, and my time has come; . . still, my

pass, and what - ev - er lies be - fore me, let me be
good-ness, I will keep . . on . . sing-ing— ten thou-sand
soul will sing your praise un - end-ing— ten thou-sand

Refrain

sing - ing when the eve - ning comes.
rea - sons for my heart to find.
years and then for - ev - er - more!

Text: Matt Redman, b. 1974, and Jonas Myrin, b. 1982
Music: Matt Redman and Jonas Myrin
Text and music © 2011 Thankyou Music / Atlas Mountain Songs / worshiptogether.com Songs / sixsteps Music, admin. CapitolCMGPublishing.com

TEN THOUSAND REASONS
Irregular

The language in the refrain may be adapted to correspond with Psalm 103 in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*: "... worship God's holy name."

***Greeting**

[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.

***The Kyrie**

ELW, Page 147

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

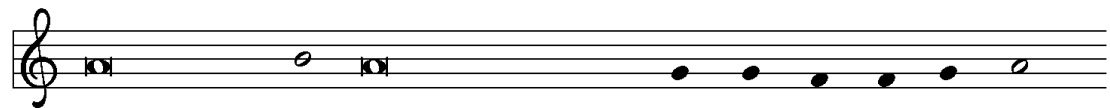
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

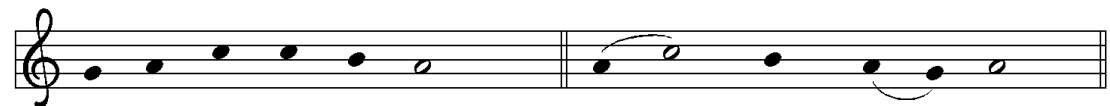
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

*Hymn of Praise

ELW Page 149

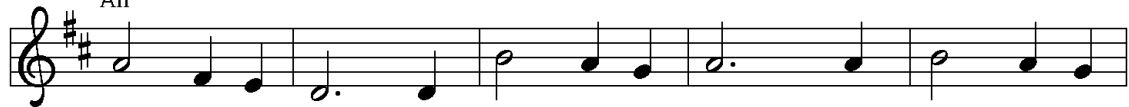
Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*The Prayer of the Day

[P] The Lord be with you.

[C] And also with you.

[P] Let us pray...

[C] Amen

Insert

Children's Message

Pastor David Armstrong-Reiner

Children’s Church (*Children are invited to the Fellowship Hall for further worship/education.*)

The First Lesson: *Genesis 50:15-21* *Insert*
[L] The Word of the Lord.
[C] **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: *103:[1-7] 8-13; refrain, Ps. 103:8* *Insert*
*(Congregation sings verses in **bold** print only.)*

The Second Lesson: *Romans 14:1-12* *Insert*
[L] The Word of the Lord.
[C] **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation:

ELW, Page 151

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

***The Gospel:** [P] The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 18th chapter.
[C] **Glory to you, O Lord.**
Matthew 18:21-35 *Insert*
[P] The Gospel of the Lord.
[C] **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon Pastor David Armstrong-Reiner

***Hymn of the Day:** *“I Come with Joy”* ELW #482

***The Apostle’s Creed** ELW, Page 105

**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.**

***The Prayers** *Insert*
After each portion of the prayers:
[A] Hear us, O God.
[C] **Your mercy is great.**

***The Peace** is shared by all.
[P] The peace of the Lord be with you always.
[C] **And also with you.**
*The ministers and congregation greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words: **Peace be with you.***

The Offering

Offertory:

“How Beautiful Heaven Must Be”
Words by: Don Holcomb - Music by: Leighton Pyatt
Leighton Pyatt & Tim Lohr, Guitarists

V1: Big clouds roll up, and I’m so glad, because it’s going to rain.
But time goes by, and the clouds disappear, and I think that wish was in vain.
But I see the beautiful trees.
The snow-topped mountains, and the deep dark placid seas.
And I ask, is this all for me?
How beautiful Heaven must be.

V2: You see folks in distress and pain, crying out the blues.
And I sit and wonder why, but I am not in their shoes.
If you see someone needing help, and all others are on the run.
If you step in and lend a hand, the Lord with his gracious smile will say
“Well done my Friend. Well Done.”

V3: To bear the cross as Jesus did, and live his life in vain.
But for me to live in Christ, and carry his cross is a gain.
Because I know,
How beautiful Heaven must be.
How beautiful Heaven must be.
Big clouds roll up, and I’m so glad, because it’s going to rain.

*The Offertory Hymn *“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”* ELW #182

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

*Offering Prayer

[A] Let us pray together.

[C] God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

Amen.

***The Great Thanksgiving**

ELW, Page 152

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

[P] It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

[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.

[C] 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.

The Communion *(Please follow the instructions of the ushers in coming to receive communion.)*

"Lamb of God"

ELW, Page 154

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn: “*Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil*” ELW #721 (2x)
“*Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life*” ELW #719

***Post-Communion Blessing**

***Post-Communion Prayer**

[A] Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

[C] **Amen.**

***Benediction (Blessing)**

[P] God bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that we may live deep within our hearts.

God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that we may work for justice, freedom and peace.

God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.

And God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in this world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.

The God of all grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

[C] **Amen.**

***Recessional Hymn:** “*Canticle of the Turning*” ELW #723

As the cross is carried out during the singing of the hymn, the congregation turns to face the cross.

***Dismissal**

[All] **Follow Christ, Live Faithfully, Serve All. Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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