

# Advent Lutheran Church (E.L.C.A.)

1416 Vernon Road. LaGrange, GA 30240. 706-882-0130.

## August 23, 2026 – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*(Gathering music, church announcements, lighting of candles,  
and words of welcome may precede the following liturgy.)*

*(Please stand)*

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

C: **Amen.**

P: 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 name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*(Please kneel if you are able).*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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 loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

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!**

*(Please stand to sing the Hymn of Praise)*

Kyrie:



In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - be - ing



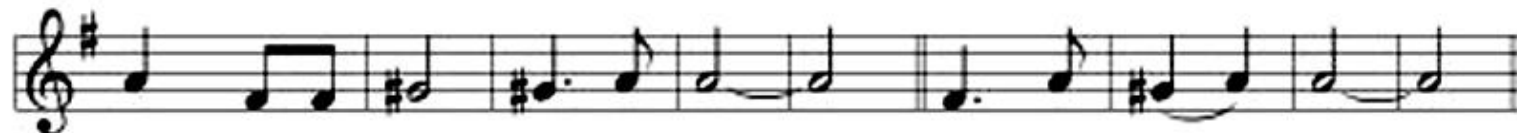
of the church of God, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us



pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor-ship and



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



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

# Hymn of Praise:



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God: You take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer-cy on us. You are seat-ed at the right hand of the



Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For you a -



lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



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

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray: O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*(Please be seated for today's readings.)*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah:

<sup>1</sup> Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,  
you who seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn  
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

<sup>2</sup> Look to Abraham your father  
and to Sarah, who bore you,  
for he was but one when I called him,  
but I blessed him and made him many.

<sup>3</sup> For the LORD will comfort Zion;  
he will comfort all her waste places  
and will make her wilderness like Eden,  
her desert like the garden of the LORD;  
joy and gladness will be found in her,  
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

<sup>4</sup> Listen to me, my people,  
and give heed to me, my nation,  
for a teaching will go out from me  
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

<sup>5</sup> I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;  
my salvation has gone out,  
and my arms will rule the peoples;  
the coastlands wait for me,  
and for my arm they hope.

<sup>6</sup> Lift up your eyes to the heavens  
and look at the earth beneath,  
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,  
the earth will wear out like a garment,  
and those who live on it will die like gnats,  
but my salvation will be forever,  
and my deliverance will never be ended. (51:1-6).

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Let us read from Psalm 138 responsively.

<sup>1</sup> I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I will sing your praise.

<sup>2</sup> **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;  
for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**

<sup>3</sup> When I called, you answered me;  
you increased my strength within me.

<sup>4</sup> **All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD,  
when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

<sup>5</sup> They will sing of the ways of the LORD,  
that great is the glory of the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> **The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly,  
perceiving the haughty from afar.**

<sup>7</sup> Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;  
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

<sup>8</sup> **You will make good your purpose for me;  
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.**

A reading from the Book of Romans:

<sup>1</sup> I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

<sup>3</sup> For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup> For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup> We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup> ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup> the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. (12:1-8).

The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

*(Please stand to sing the gospel "Alleluia".)*



A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” <sup>14</sup> And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” <sup>15</sup> He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” <sup>20</sup> Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. (16:13-20).

The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Please be seated.)*

THE SERMON

*(Please stand to sing the hymn of the day.)*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: “Baptized in Water” ELW 456**

**THE BAPTISM OF JOHN PATRICK CARR**

## Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord. He 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.

[Assisting minister (AM):] With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation [...] Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

[Presiding minister (PM):] The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*(We share greetings of God's peace, and we offer our gifts to God.)*

*(Please stand to sing the offertory response.)*



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; un-ite them with the prayers we of - fer now.

Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

[AM:] Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving

[PM:] The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Sanctus:** Holy, Holy, Holy...

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, \_\_\_\_\_

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. \_\_\_\_\_ Ho - san - na in \_\_\_\_\_ the high - est.

Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. \_\_\_\_\_ Ho - san - na in \_\_\_\_\_ the

high - est. Ho - san - na in \_\_\_\_\_ the high - est! \_\_\_\_\_

O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life. When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child; When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom. Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath, and the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

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.

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen. **Amen.**

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. **Amen.**

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. **Amen.**

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.

O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.

O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.

O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly,

O God our strength and our song, you show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations. Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son, the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior, life in you, now and forever.

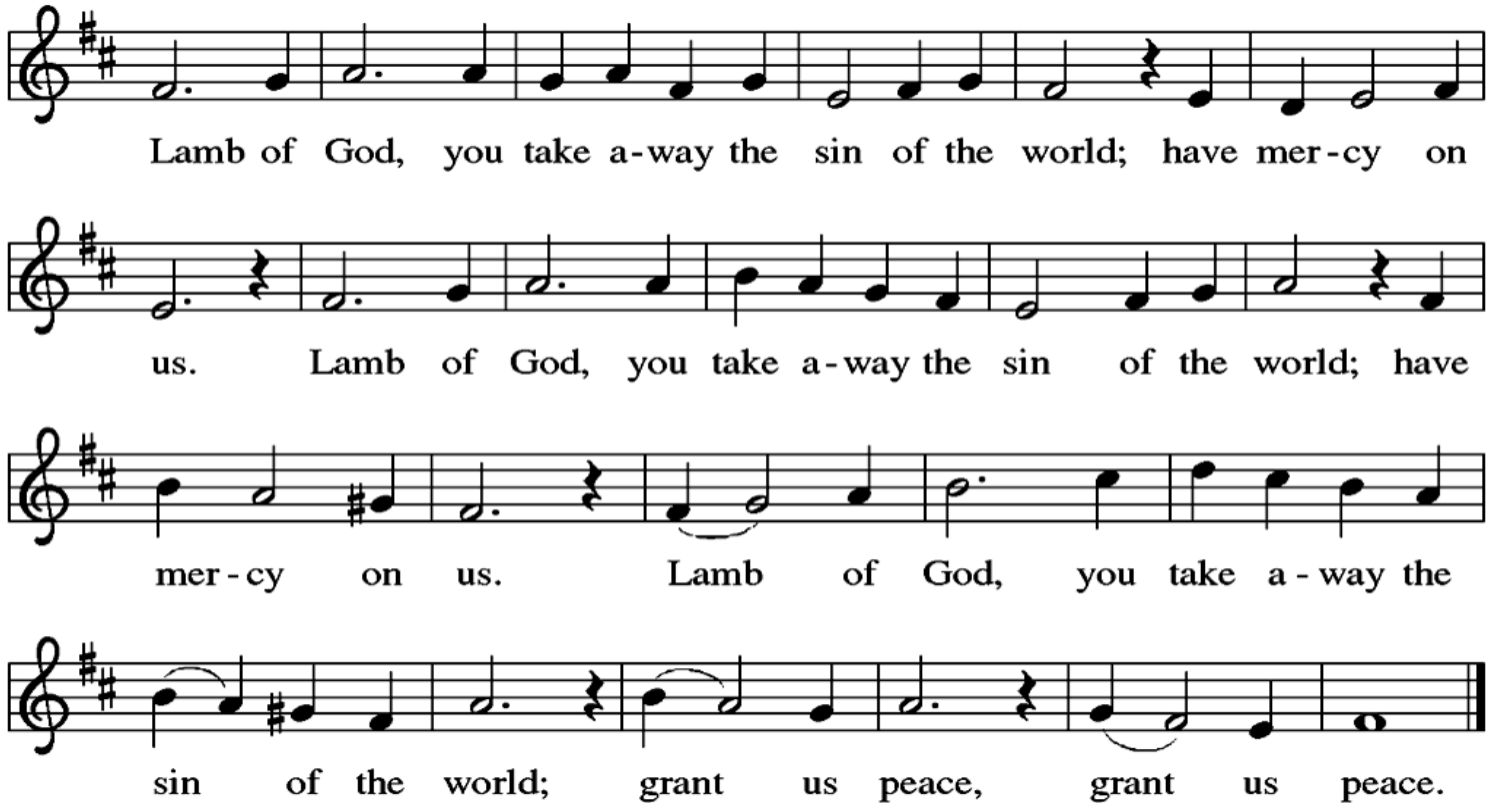
C: **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

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

**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.

**Agnes Dei:** Lamb of God



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.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready at this the table of Jesus Christ. The table is prepared for those who love Him, and for those who long to love Him more.

So, come—you have much faith, and you who have little; you who have been here often, and you who have not been for a long time or ever before; you who have tried to follow, and you who have failed. Come, because Christ Himself invites you to meet Him here, in person.

## COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*(Please stand)*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

[AM:] God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

[PM:] The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN: "Lift High the Cross" ELW 660

[AM:] Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

*(We gather for food and fellowship.)*

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Today's scripture readings are appointed by the *Revised Common Lectionary*, an ecumenical resource first published in 1992 and summarized in pages 18-53 of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, 2006. For more information about the *Revised Common Lectionary*, please visit [lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/faq/](http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/faq/)

Today's communion preface is composed based upon the lectionary readings.

All other material is from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.