

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 16, 2026

MISSION STATEMENT

To reflect God's love through caring service to our church, the community, and the world.

WELCOME STATEMENT

We welcome and encourage the full participation of all people, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, age, ability, appearance, or anything else that threatens to divide us. We have all been claimed as God's children, and all are welcome here.

"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

-Galatians 3:28

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Presiding Minister—Pastor Anne Andert

Organist/Choir Director—Cheryl Licary

AV Assistant—Grant Dusso

Acolyte—Jacob Wallendal

Assisting Minister—Russ Albert

Communion Assistants—Betty Johnston and Terry Amundson

Communion Prep—Cindy Blair

Lector—Jon Goiffon

Greeters—Richard and Mary Lou Lokken

Ushers—Bill Frisbee, Skip Rath,

Nancy Schmidt, and Mark Sorenson

“Chose carefully what you behold.

Whatever holds our gaze eventually begins shaping our soul.

Fear does this. So does anger, envy, beauty, compassion.

So does Christ.”

Rev. Allison Burns-LaGreca

GATHERING

*For personal prayer, you may find it helpful to turn to pages 72-87
(in the front of the hymnal).*

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

With "noisy offering" for Kids Against Hunger.

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

Congregation: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

C: 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.

P: 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.

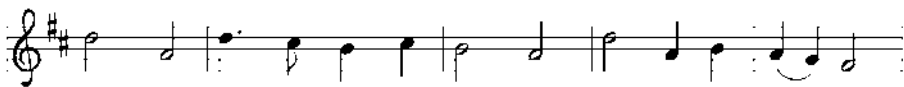
C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Lord God, We Praise You—ELW 558



1 Lord God, we praise you, now the night is o - ver, ac - tive and
2 Mon - arch of all things, fit us for your man - sions; ban - ish our
3 All - ho - ly Fa - ther, Son, and e - qual Spir - it, Trin - i - ty



watch - ful, stand - ing here be - fore you; sing - ing, we of - fer
weak - ness, health and whole - ness send - ing; bring us to heav - en.
bless - ed, send us your sal - va - tion; yours is the glo - ry,



prayer and med - i - ta - tion; thus we a - dore you,
where your saints u - nit - ed joy with - out end - ing,
gleam - ing and re - sound - ing through all ere - a - tion.

Text: ant. Gregory I, 540-604; tr. composite

Music: CHRISTI SANCTORUM, Paris *Antiphoner*, 1681

Public domain

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: Let us pray. God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

L: A reading from Isaiah.

¹ Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come and my deliverance be revealed. ⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it and hold fast my covenant—⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. ⁸ Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel: I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 67

L: We read Psalm 67 responsively:

¹ May God be merciful to us and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.

² **Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**

³ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

⁴ **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the
peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**

⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

⁶ **The earth has brought forth its increase;
God, our own God, has blessed us.**

⁷ May God give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah—ELW 172



GOSPEL: Matthew 15:10-28

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 15th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁰ [Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: ¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" ¹³ He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." ¹⁶ Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile." ²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is

your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Class is in Session

Pastor Anne Andert

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Children are invited forward, wearing their backpacks; also educators, school workers, and all who carry a bag or briefcase to work. Select a small remembrance of your faith when you come forward that you can hang on your backpack, bag, or briefcase.

P: Today we mark a new beginning. A new school year is starting, full of opportunities to learn, to grow, and to serve. We gather to see God's blessings on all who learn, teach, and work in our schools.

C: We lift up our students, our educators, and our families as they step into this new season.

P: Good and gracious God, you are the source of all wisdom and knowledge. You walk with us in every transition. We bring before you these backpacks, briefcases, and bags. They hold the tools of daily discovery, but they also carry our hopes, our dreams, and sometimes our worries.

C: We asked for your presence to fill these classrooms, hallways, and homes.

P: Bless the students who carry these bags. Grant them curious minds, sharp focus, and open hearts. When the work is hard, give them perseverance. When they feel isolated, surround them with true friends. Teach them to see value in themselves and in every classmate they meet.

C: Remind them that they are loved, valued, and never alone.

P: Bless the teachers, administrators, counselors, professors, and support staff. Fill them with patience, creative insight, and energy. Grant them the stamina to guide those in their care, and let them know that their dedication shapes our collective future.

C: Protect them, encourage them, and sustain them in their vital work.

P: Bless the parents, guardians, and caretakers who pack lunch boxes, check homework, and offer comforting words at the end of long days. Give them wisdom, deep patience, and peace as they support their children.

C: Strengthen our families to be safe spaces of love and grace.

P: We now bless these backpacks, bags, and briefcases and all who carry them. May these bags be light on your shoulders, and may the joy of learning be deep in your hearts. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, go forth in peace to love and serve.

C: Amen.

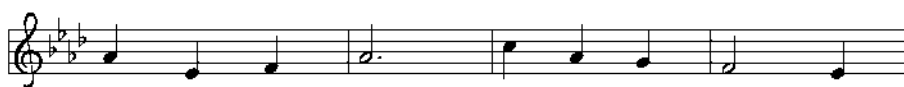
P: Go out into your schools and workplaces with courage, kindness, and hope.

C: Thanks be to God!

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Earth and All Stars—ELW 731



1 Earth and all stars!	Loud rush - ing plan - ets!
4 Class-rooms and labs!	Loud boil - ing test tubes!
5 Knowl-edge and truth!	Loud sound-ing wis - dom!



Sing to the Lord a new song!



Hail, wind, and rain!	Loud blow - ing snow - storm!
Ath - letic and band!	Loud cheer - ing peo - ple!
Daugh-ter and son!	Loud pray - ing mem - bers!



Sing to the Lord a new song!



God has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too sing prais - es with a new song!

Text: Herbert J. Brokering, b. 1926

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922-1987

Text and music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

APOSTLES' CREED

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**C: 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.**

You may be seated for the prayers.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

A: Good and gracious God, we pray for all who are preparing to return to school or continue in their workplace. May our worship and gathering here be a place of renewal and inspiration for everyone, whatever chapter of life we are in. For you said, "Maintain justice, and do what is right." (Isaiah 56:5)

C: Let this place be a house of prayer for all people. (Isaiah 56:7)

A: God of mystery and majesty, we pray for ourselves and those who lead in church or society, that we would not be guilty of holding so firmly to your law, that we disregard your will for our lives. For you said, "Maintain justice, and do what is right."

C: Let this place be a house of prayer for all people.

A: God of creation, we pray for all you have created, that you make us faithful and wise stewards of your wondrous and majestic work; to defend the natural world against carelessness and destruction. We pray that you would safeguard endangered species and their habitats against fires and storms and the carelessness and greed of humanity. For you said, "Maintain justice, and do what is right."

C: Let this place be a house of prayer for all people.

A: God of justice, we pray for the nations of the world and all in authority, that they heed the cry of the outcast and ensure care for the most vulnerable. Give wisdom to leaders of countries, congregations, and communities, that they lead and serve justly. For you said, "Maintain justice, and do what is right."

C: Let this place be a house of prayer for all people.

A: We pray for this congregation, for visitors and those new to this faith community, that all may recognize the presence of Christ in each new face. Draw this community together in love and strengthen it in unwavering faith. We pray for the heart of the pastor that, even now, you are preparing to accompany this congregation.

For you said, "Maintain justice, and do what is right."

C: Let this place be a house of prayer for all people.

P: We pray for all who are lovely, grieving, or struggling with chronic pain, that they find comfort, community, and hope. Send relief to all who struggle with illness of any kind, that your hand of healing may rest on each one. We name before you those whom we know to be struggling, and pray for your healing. For you said, "Let it be done just as you believed it would." (Matthew 8:13)

C: Let this place be a house of prayer for all people. (Isaiah 56:7)

P: Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the strong name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

MEAL

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: and also with you.

*Please greet one another, as you feel comfortable, using these or similar words: **Peace be with you.***

Please be seated.

OFFERING

For online giving, simply scan QR code:

Offering is received as ushers pass the plate down each row. As we sing the Offertory, ushers bring offering forward.



Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING

As the Grains of Wheat

REFRAIN

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when
may we share the pres-ence of your love.
all cre-a-tion shares this feast with you.

Refrain
Refrain

Text music: Mark Hamer © 1999 GIA Publications, Inc.
Permission to reproduce granted by permission of GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Receive who you are;
Become what you've received:
The body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive Communion. The bread is given first, then select either a small cup of red wine or white grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available; please ask the server. Empty cups are placed in the basket. Children may come forward for a blessing.

Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING ✝

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray... Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING

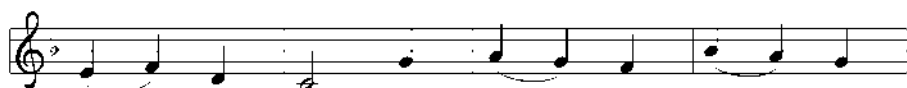
BENEDICTION ✚

SENDING HYMN

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Shine—ELW 551



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in
2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the
3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter
4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings
bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to
joy like seed and, all our days, to
to pro - claim, God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim,
share a dream and help the blind to sec.
cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.
pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, o.s.b. b. 1939

Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

Text © 1993 Delores Dufner, admin. OCP Publications. All rights reserved

Used by permission of OneLicense #A-703661

DISMISSAL

A: People of God, go in peace,

C: **to do justice,**
love kindness,
and to walk humbly with our God. (*Micah 6:8*)

POSTLUDE



Weekly Calendar

Sunday	August 16	9:30am 10:30am 1:00pm	Worship w/Blessing of the Backpacks Coffee Hour Televised Worship (Ch. 992)
Monday	August 17	8:30am	Sewing Bee
Wednesday	August 19	9:00am 5:00pm	Men's Group (<i>Riverside Terrace</i>) Televised Worship (Ch. 992)
Thursday	August 20	4:00pm 5:30pm 6:00pm	WELCA Board Personnel (Zoom) OA
Sunday	August 23	8:30am 9:30am 10:30am 1:00pm	Choir Worship Coffee Hour Televised Worship (Ch. 992)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. T-SHIRTS

If you would like to purchase a t-shirt please see the sign up sheet in the Commons, orders and payment due **TODAY!**

KRINGLE FOR KIDS

In an effort to raise money for our Kids Against Hunger event we are selling Kringle from Racine Kringle during coffee hour. Place your order today—the cost for one kringle for \$13 or two for \$25.

FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL

Will be held **Friday, October 16 and Saturday, October 17** this year! It's time to start collecting all those household treasures and jewelry (no clothing, please) for our annual sale!

WORSHIP SERVICES ARE LIVESTREAMED

Catch Sunday services (9:30 am) on YouTube.
Links and bulletins: oursaviorsbeloitwi.org/worship.

Acknowledgments: Image: *Crumbs of Love* by Michael Cook. All rights reserved. Portions of the liturgy are reprinting by permission of the artist. www.hallowed-art.co.uk under Augsburg Fortress License—#13465-L, CCLI—License #2679134, and OneLicense.net—#A-703661.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church will occasionally take photographs and video of church activities, which may be used online, and in digital and print materials. Additionally, worship services are recorded, livestreamed, and broadcast on a weekly basis. By participating, authorization to publish any such photo or video is granted to Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT OUR SAVIOR'S

It is a joy to have you join us for worship. Wherever you are from, wherever you are in life or on your faith journey, we are glad you are here. Please fill out a Yellow Slip for attendance and prayer requests.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

We have large print bulletins and hearing enhancers for anyone who may need them, please see an usher for assistance.

STAY CONNECTED

749 Bluff Street, Beloit, WI 53511
(608) 362-0716
office@oursaviorsbeloitwi.org

SCRIPTURE

You may want to prepare for next Sunday by studying the scriptures.

- Isaiah 51:1-6
- Psalm 138
- Romans 12:1-8
- Matthew 16:13-20



www.oursaviorsbeloitwi.org



@OSLCBeloit



@oursaviorsbeloit

ONLINE GIVING ►



God's work.
Our hands.

SEPTEMBER 13

Let's work together to
package 15,000 meals!



Kids Against Hunger.

ROCK COUNTY ROTARY, INC.
Local people making a world of difference.

Kids Against Hunger is a cooperative effort of the Beloit,
Edgerton, and Janesville Rotary Clubs.

