

Feast of St Francis



October 4, 2026



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.



a Reconciling in Christ
Congregation

Gathering

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

*Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our hope, our heart, our home.
Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end,

**we confess that we participate in systems
that perpetuate oppression and injustice.**

**We are often numb to the pain of the world around us,
resistant to change that costs us something,
and reluctant to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

**We sin against your good creation,
failing to be faithful stewards
of the land, the sea, and all their creatures.**

**Make your home among us once more, O God,
naming us beloved and opening our hearts
to do your will.**

Amen.

All you saints and sinners, this good news is for you: God knows you,
forgives you by the self-giving of ☩ Jesus Christ,
and frees you to love the world as you have been loved.

Creation's story will not end until mourning, crying, and pain are no
more.

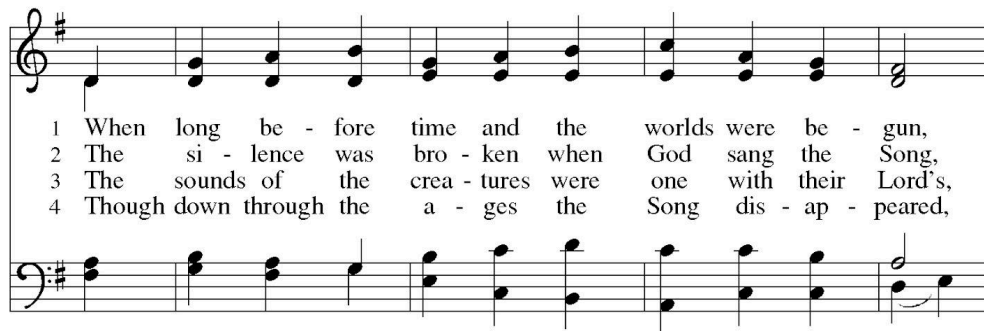
When everything else changes, God's love is steadfast and sure.

Nothing can ever separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our
Lord.

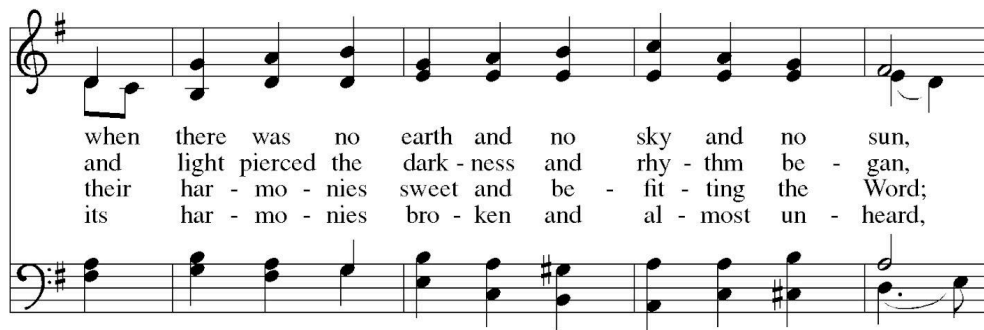
Amen.

***Gathering Hymn: When Long Before Time, vv 1-4**

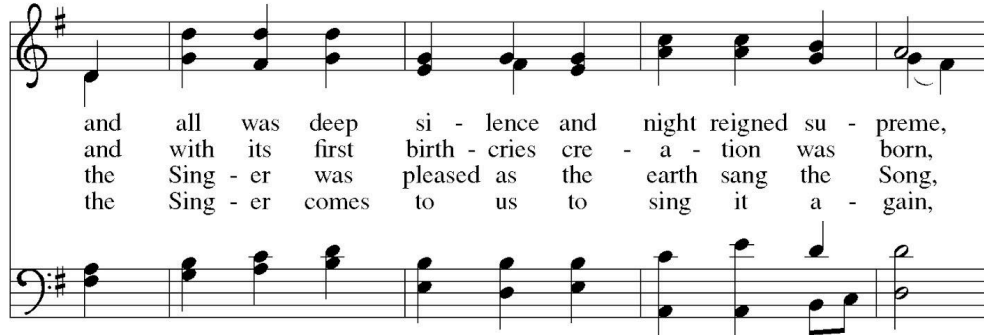
When Long before Time *The Singer and the Song*



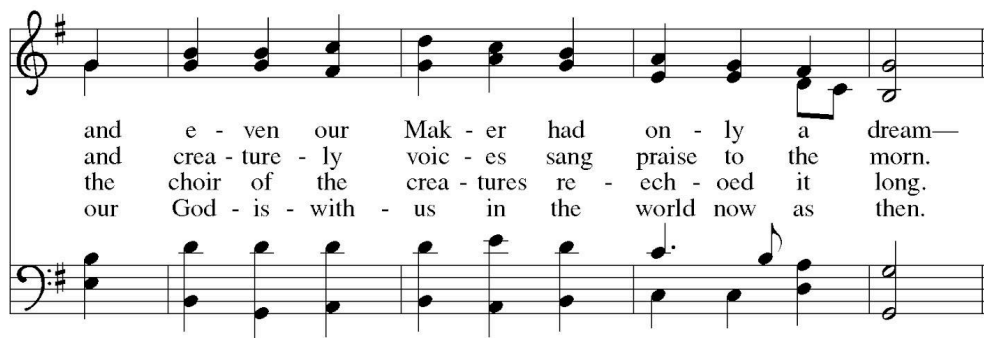
1 When long be - fore time and the worlds were be - gun,
2 The si - lence was bro - ken when God sang the Song,
3 The sounds of the crea - tures were one with their Lord's,
4 Though down through the a - ges the Song dis - ap - peared,



when there was no earth and no sky and no sun,
and light pierced the dark - ness and rhy - thm be - gan,
their har - mo - nies sweet and be - fit - ting the Word;
its har - mo - nies bro - ken and al - most un - heard,



and all was deep si - lence and night reigned su - preme,
and with its first birth - cries cre - a - tion was born,
the Sing - er was pleased as the earth sang the Song,
the Sing - er comes to us to sing it a - gain,



and e - ven our Mak - er had on - ly a dream—
and crea - ture - ly voic - es sang praise to the morn.
our choir of the crea - tures re - ech - oed it long.
our God - is - with - us in the world now as then.

Text: Peter W. A. Davison, b. 1936
Music: THE SINGER AND THE SONG, Peter W. A. Davison, b. 1936; arr. George Black, 1931–2003
Text and tune © Peter W. A. Davison, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Arr. © Estate of George Black.

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P: The grace ... with you all.

*Hymn of Praise



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* Prayer of the Day

First Reading: *from Genesis*

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

¹I lift up my eyes | to the hills;
from where is my | help to come?

²My help comes ¹from the Lord,

the maker of heav- | en and earth.

³The Lord will not let your ¹ foot be moved

nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.

**⁴Behold, the keep- | er of Israel
will neither slum- | ber nor sleep;**

⁵the Lord watches | over you;
the Lord is your shade at | your right hand;

**⁶the sun will not strike | you by day,
nor the | moon by night.**

⁷The Lord will preserve you | from all evil
and will | keep your life.

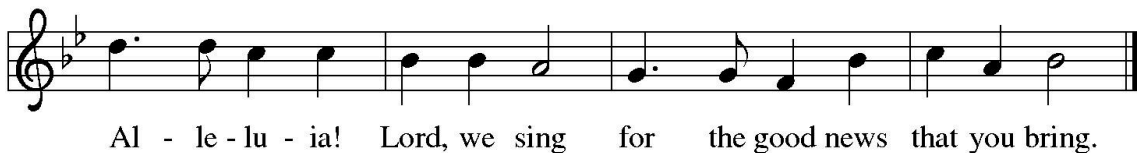
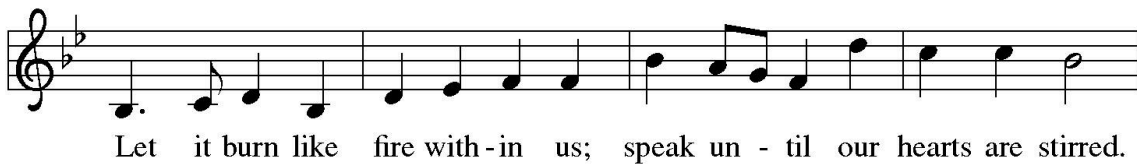
**⁸The Lord will watch over your going out and your |
coming in,
from this time forth for- | evermore.**

Second Reading: Galatians 6:14-18

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation



*Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30

The holy Gospel according to...

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day

All Creatures, Worship God Most High!



- 1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and
- 2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
- 3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the
- 4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row



sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor
grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,
throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in
grieve: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:
clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -
care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:
fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

- 5 And you, most gentle sister death,
waiting to hush our final breath:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
fair is the night that leads us home.
Alleluia.
- 6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia.

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226; tr. composite
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623
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*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

... hear us, O God,

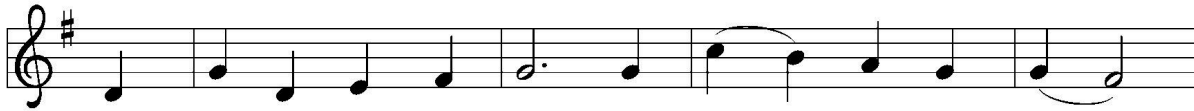
C: your mercy is great.

*Peace

Meal

*Offertory

We Give Thee but Thine Own



- 1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
- 2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
- 3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
- 4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ - like thing.
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.

Music: HEATH, L. Mason and G. Webb, *Cantica Lauda*, 1850

*Offering Prayer

*Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

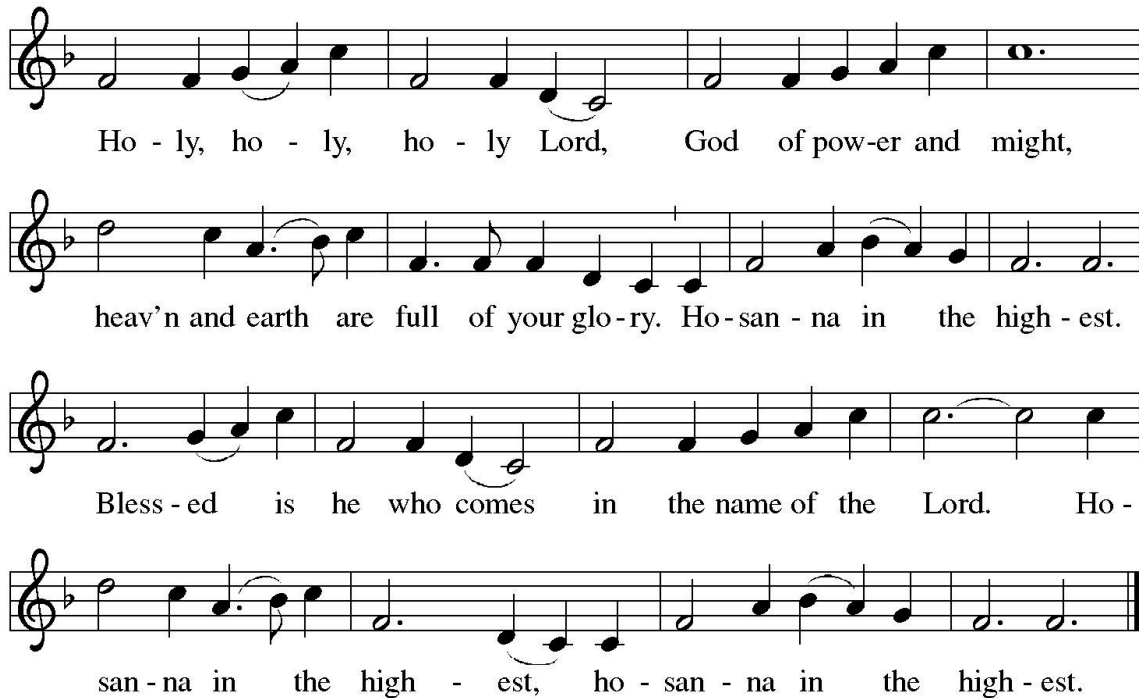
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right... join their unending hymn:

*Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Eucharistic Prayer

*Lord's Prayer

**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



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Communion Hymn

All Things Bright and Beautiful



All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,



all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all.



- 1 Each lit - tle flow'r that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
2 The pur - ple-head - ed moun-tains, the riv - er run - ning by,
3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas-ant sum - mer sun,
4 God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell



God made their glow-ing col - ors, God made their ti - ny wings.
the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky.
the ripe fruits in the gar - den, God made them ev - 'ry one.
how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

*Post-communion prayer

Sending

*Blessing

*Sending hymn: When Long Before Time, vv 5-6

The Light has returned as it came once before,
the Song of the Lord is our own song once more,
so let us all sing with one heart and one voice
the Song of the Singer in whom we rejoice.

To you, God the Singer, our voices we raise,
to you, Song Incarnate, we give all our praise,
to you, Holy Spirit, our life and our breath,
be glory for ever, through life and through death.

*Dismissal

Go in peace. Flourish with creation!

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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