



# **STRIVE TO ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW DOOR**

**LUKE 13:22-30**

## **ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**August 24, 2025 – 10:30 a.m.**  
*Worship with Holy Communion*

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL**  
2415 Silas Creek Parkway  
Winston-Salem, NC 27103  
336-725-1651  
[www.stjohnswns.com](http://www.stjohnswns.com)

**St. John's Mission: To help one more person get to Heaven  
by pointing them to Jesus Christ.**

*"Be Still and know that I am God." We greatly enjoy our Sunday morning times to catch-up with each other in fellowship and conversation, both before and after worship. The worship service begins with the playing of the Prelude. Once the prelude begins, please be seated, stop conversing, and prepare your heart for worship. Thank you. Please silence all devices. If at any point you need to or prefer to sit, please feel free to do so.*

**Prelude: "Nocturne, Op. 72, No. 1"**

Frederic Chopin

## **Welcome**

## **Announcements**

*(Stand)*

**Opening Hymn: #813 "Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng"**

## **Invocation, Confession, and Absolution**

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

**C: Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## Kyrie

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** 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.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



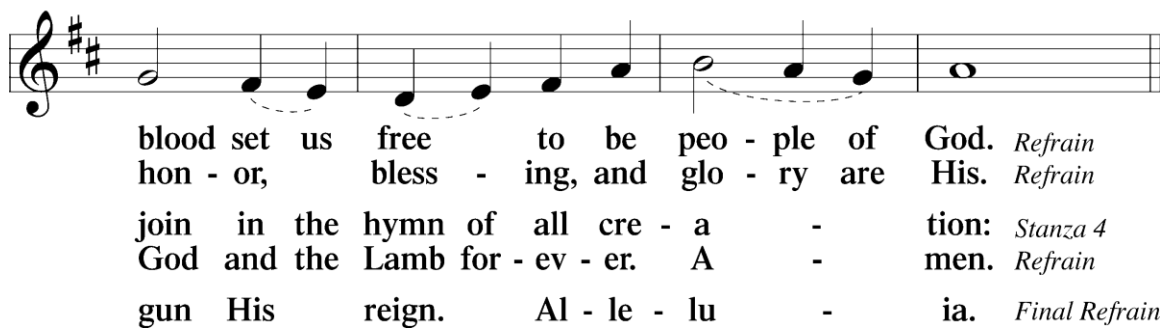
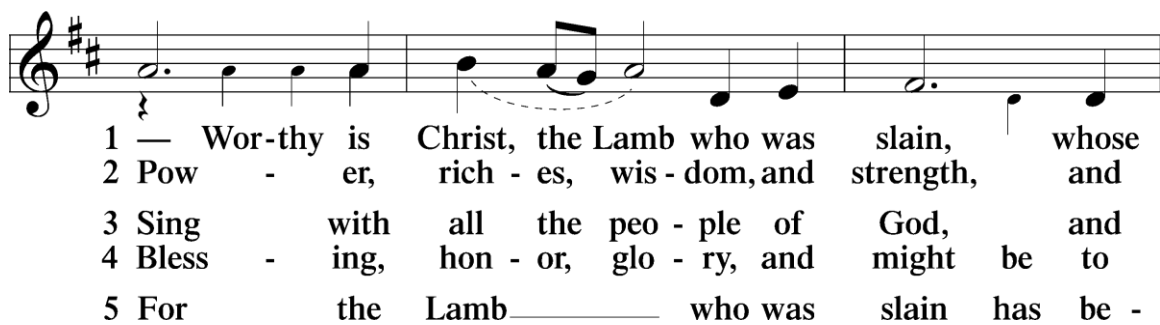
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



**C** A - men.

## This Is the Feast



## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.



**P** Let us pray.

O Lord, You have called us to enter Your kingdom through the narrow door. Guide us by Your Word and Spirit, and lead us now and always into the feast of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



*(Be Seated)*

### **Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 66:18-23**

<sup>18</sup> “For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory, <sup>19</sup> and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands far away, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations. <sup>20</sup> And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the Lord, on horses and in chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the Lord, just as the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the Lord. <sup>21</sup> And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites, says the Lord.

<sup>22</sup> “For as the new heavens and the new earth  
that I make  
shall remain before me, says the Lord,  
so shall your offspring and your name remain.

<sup>23</sup> From new moon to new moon,  
and from Sabbath to Sabbath,  
all flesh shall come to worship before me,  
declares the Lord.

**P:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle: Hebrews 12:4-29

- <sup>4</sup> In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. <sup>5</sup> And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. <sup>6</sup> For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."
- <sup>7</sup> It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? <sup>8</sup> If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. <sup>9</sup> Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? <sup>10</sup> For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. <sup>11</sup> For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.
- <sup>12</sup> Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, <sup>13</sup> and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. <sup>14</sup> Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. <sup>15</sup> See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; <sup>16</sup> that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. <sup>17</sup> For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.
- <sup>18</sup> For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest <sup>19</sup> and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. <sup>20</sup> For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." <sup>21</sup> Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear." <sup>22</sup> But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, <sup>23</sup> and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup> and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

<sup>25</sup> See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. <sup>26</sup> At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” <sup>27</sup> This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. <sup>28</sup> Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, <sup>29</sup> for our God is a consuming fire.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Stand)*

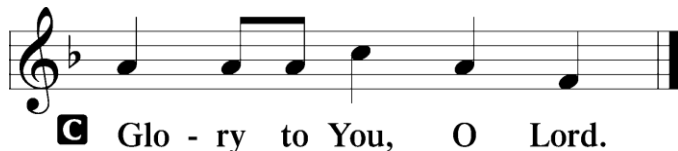
### Alleluia and Verse



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### Holy Gospel: Luke 13:22-30

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.



Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>22</sup> He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. <sup>23</sup> And someone said to him, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?” And he said to them, <sup>24</sup> “Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. <sup>25</sup> When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ <sup>26</sup> Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ <sup>27</sup> But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!’ <sup>28</sup> In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you

yourselves cast out. <sup>29</sup> And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. <sup>30</sup> And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*(Be Seated)*

### **Children's Message**

*(Pew Pad Distribution)*

**Hymn of the Day: #563 “Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”**

*(Pew Pad Collection)*

### **Sermon**

*(Stand)*

### **The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence, He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **Prayer of the Church**

P: .... Lord, in your mercy,

**ALL: Hear our prayer.**

*(Be Seated)*

**Offering and Offertory: “Adagio, K. 356”**

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart



(Stand)

## Offertory



**C** What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to  
me? I will of-fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv-ing and will  
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-  
va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the  
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru-sa-lem.

## Passing of the Peace

### TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER.

St. Paul wrote, "Let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup". Ask yourself: Am I sorry for my sins? Do I believe that Jesus died for my sins? Am I resolved, by the work of the Holy Spirit, to use the power of Christ which is offered in this Sacrament, to amend my sinful life? St. Paul also wrote, "He who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself, if he does not judge the body rightly". Do you believe that you receive the TRUE/REAL BODY AND BLOOD of Christ in, under and with the bread and wine for the full pardon of sins? (Please use pages 329-330 in the front of your hymn book to examine yourself.) Children are invited forward to receive a blessing.

† Service of the Sacrament †

## Preface

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so 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 Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus



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



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. 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.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**P:** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end.

Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**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 Words of Our Lord**

**P:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

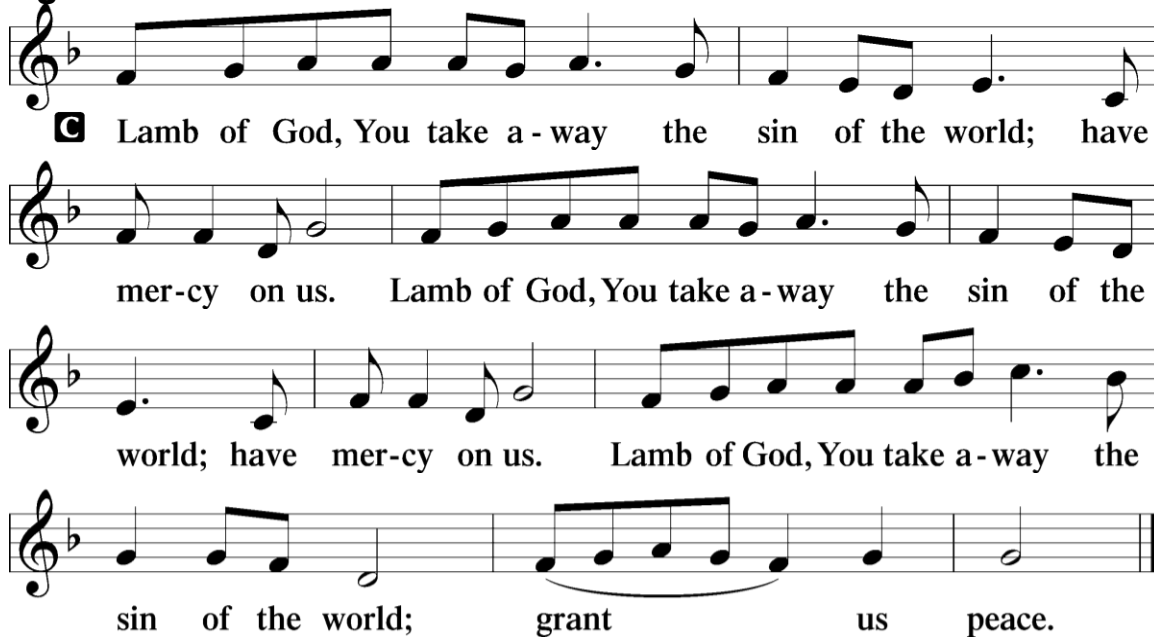
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### **The Peace of Our Lord**

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen.**

## Agnus Dei



☐ 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.

*(Be Seated)*

## Distribution of Holy Communion by Continuous Line

(Gluten Free wafers available upon request)

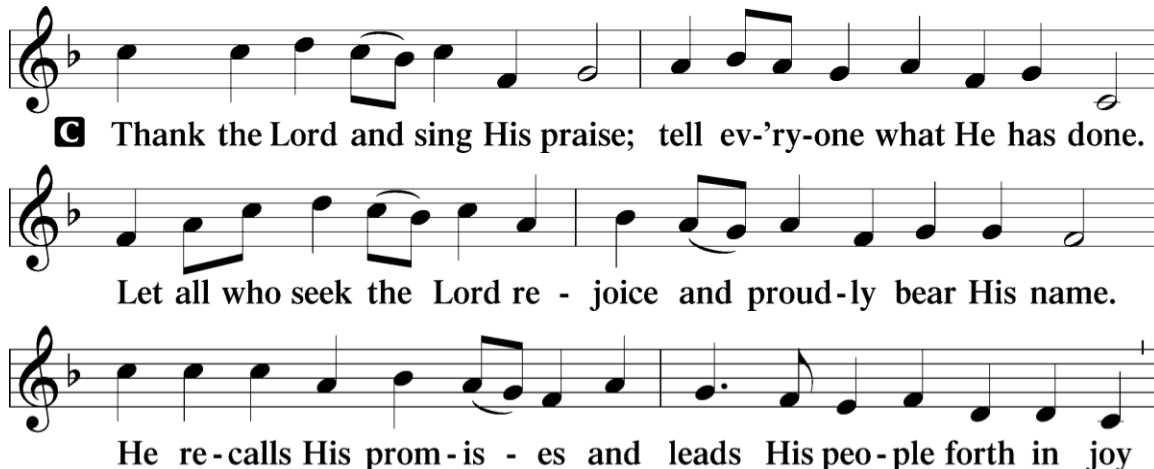
**Distribution Hymns: #672 “Jerusalem, the Golden”**  
**#509 “Christ Is Surely Coming”**

*(Please Stand)*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

**C: Amen.**

## Thank the Lord



☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.  
He re-calls His prom - is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

### Post-Communion Collect

P: Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

### Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

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



A - men.

Closing Hymn: #669 “Come, We that Love the Lord”

Postlude: “Marion”

set by Flor Peeters

**Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God by Don & Clare Adamick in thanks for over 60 years of marriage.

**Worship Assistants:** 8:30am – Andy Witner; 10:30am – *Liturgical Asst.*- Nathan Kottlowski; *Host 1*- Pr. Vangen; *Host 2*: Don Henderson; *Tray 1* – Fred Black, *Tray 2* – Rod Anderson; *Common Cup/ GF Wafer* – Nathan Kottlowski; *Runner* – Avery Burch

**Lector:** 8:30am – Judy Meisinger; 10:30am – Cheryl Wulfert

**Ushers:** 10:30am – Fred & Stephanie Black, Gary Brake, Brandon Plyler

**Altar Guild for August:** Jackie Downey, Martha Musser, Sued and Ted Frake

**Crisis Control Item for August:** Toilet Paper – 102bs. was collected for the month of July. Thank you for your donations! **September: Instant Grits & Oatmeal**

## Common Cup Procedure

***If you normally receive the regular host from the pastor, and would like an individual cup (as we have been doing):***

After receiving the regular host from the pastor, continue the same side that you came up, and take from the tray closest to you. Then you can continue around to your pew.

***If you normally receive the regular host from the pastor and would like the Common Cup:***

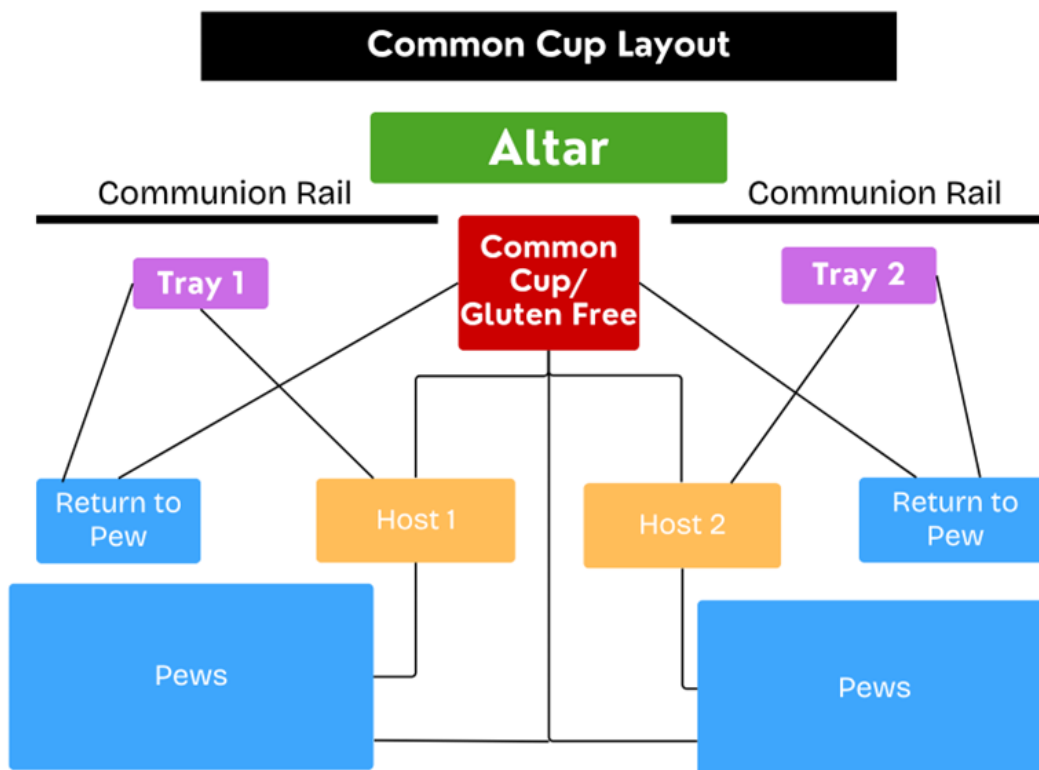
After receiving the regular host from the pastor, continue forward up the center aisle. And the center Elder will be there to offer the Common cup. Once you have received from the common cup, please exit to the side you came up on, back to your pew.

***If you normally receive the gluten free host from the pastor and would like an individual cup (as you have been doing):***

After receiving the gluten free host from the Center Elder, turn to the side which you came up and receive the individual cup before continuing around to your pew.

***If you normally receive the gluten free host from the pastor, and would like the Common Cup:***

Come up the middle of the center aisle, letting the elder know that you would like both the gluten free host and the common cup, then partake first the gluten free host and then the common cup. Before returning to the side aisle of the side of the church you originally came from.







***Our Sunday Worship*** - Services are at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.  
*Adult Bible Class and Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m.*

**Pastor Tyson Labuhn**

**Tiffany Banks, Principal**

**Michael Zeoli, Director of Music for Contemporary Worship**

**Frances Burmeister, Director of Music for Traditional Worship**

***A Great Place to Grow in Christ***

*As a part of our outreach ministry, we have a  
Preschool/Pre-K program and Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.  
All programs/grades have full-time care available.*

*Church Office Hours Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.*