

September 6, 2026
15th Sunday after Pentecost



Leading Worship Today:

Preacher: Brian Entz

Lay Leader: Larry Janski

Accompanist: Ralph Johansen

*Please read along with all **Bold** text
All are invited to stand when there is an **

Larger Print: Please see an usher if you would like larger print hymns.

Prayground: We have a Kids Corner for young kids on the front left side (by the stained glass windows). Kids and their adults are more than welcome to sit in that area during the service where there are coloring pages and puzzle books to engage young minds and hands in worship.

PRELUDE

"I Need Thee Every Hour"

Neil Harmon

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Heaven enough for me would be the world as I know it, but redeemed of our abuse of it
and one another. -Wendell Berry*

We are put on earth for a little space that we may learn to bear the beams of love. -William Blake

GATHERING

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

from Psalm 92

It is a good thing to give thanks to God

and to sing praises to your Name, O Most High;

To tell of your loving kindness early in the morning

and of your faithfulness in the night season;

For you have made me glad by your acts, O God,

and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.

***OPENING HYMN**

#366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Let us confess to our God, for the Lord is just in every way and kind in all God's doings.

The Lord is near to all who call on God, to all who call on God in truth.

Eternal God, our judge and redeemer, we confess that we have tried to hide from you, for we have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves, and apart from you. We have turned from our neighbors and refused to bear the burdens of others. We have ignored the pain of the world, and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed.

In your great mercy forgive our sins and free us from selfishness, that we may choose your will and obey your commandments; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

As water is poured into the font remember your baptism and that in these waters your sins are forgiven and you are named as one of God's beloved and joined to Christ forever.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Do not fear, says God, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name and you are mine. Receive this good news, In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and set free!

Thanks be to God, Alleluia!

***RESPONSE**

#581 The Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Therefore, since we have been made righteous through Christ's faithfulness, we have peace with God. Let us also share peace with one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

*The people may exchange with their neighbors, by words or gesture,
signs of peace and reconciliation.*

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God, our Creator, as we open the scriptures today, speak to us as you spoke at the dawn of creation. By your grace help us to respond to your voice as the light did when it broke forth out of the darkness. All this we ask in Jesus' name, Amen.

FIRST READING

Psalm 149

Praise the LORD!

Sing to the LORD a new song,
his praise in the assembly of the faithful.

² Let Israel be glad in its Maker;
let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.

³ Let them praise his name with dancing,
making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.

⁴ For the LORD takes pleasure in his people;
he adorns the humble with victory.

⁵ Let the faithful exult in glory;
let them sing for joy on their couches.

⁶ Let the high praises of God be in their throats
and two-edged swords in their hands,

⁷to execute vengeance on the nations
and punishment on the peoples,
⁸to bind their kings with fetters
and their nobles with chains of iron,
⁹to execute on them the judgment decreed.

This is glory for all his faithful ones.
Praise the LORD!

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Matthew 18:15-20

"If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*HYMN

#377 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

THIRD READING

Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Pastor Brian Entz

RESPONDING TO THE WORD



*"Let us present ourselves to God
as those who have been delivered from death to life."
To contribute to our mission and ministry online, please scan the QR code.*

***DOXOLOGY**

#606 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostle's 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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We join with Christians far and near to worship God the Creator, praying for the earth and for all in need, responding to each petition with the words, "Your mercy is great."

A brief silence.

O God of mystery, mercy, and might, for the church we pray:
that churches around the globe collaborate in care for the earth,
and that all the baptized nurture a zeal for the wellbeing of creation.
Hear us, O God, source of life and ground of our being:
Your mercy is great.

For the earth we pray:
that this bounteous creation receive continued divine blessing,
that the air be wholesome, that the waters be plentiful and clean,
that the land be treasured, and that animals be protected.

Grant that what on earth has been despoiled will be healed.

Hear us, O God, our creator:

Your mercy is great.

For the nations we pray:

that farmers, herders, foragers, fishers, and grocers provide the food humans need,

that legislators strive in all things for the common good,

and that science and technology lead us toward more responsible ways to live.

Hear us, O God, our stronghold:

Your mercy is great.

For our country we pray:

that national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges be safeguarded,

that all natural resources benefit the whole population,

and that our children learn respect for nature.

Hear us, O God, our guardian:

Your mercy is great.

For those in need we pray:

that humankind be sheltered from pandemic and from extreme weather,

and that all who are sick or suffering receive medical attention and communal support.

Give heed to those whose names we call out to you, especially...

Hear us, O God, our healer and heart of the universe:

Your mercy is great.

We praise you

for all believers who have lived and died in communion with the earth.

Grant that in your good time we join with all your creatures in your presence forever.

Hear us, O God, the beginning and the end:

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, O God, our maker and keeper, we commend ourselves and your whole creation,

trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Who taught us to pray...

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

SENDING

*CLOSING HYMN

#744 Arise, Your Light Is Come!

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*Loving all People, Living our Faith, and Following Jesus*WORSHIP NOTES

The Call to Worship is taken from Psalm 92 in the St. Helena Psalter, © 2004 by the Order of St. Helena.

The Prayers of the People are taken from Sundays and Seasons, © 2026 Augsburg Fortress.

All other liturgy comes/is adapted from the Book of Common Worship (2018) or is written in house.

#366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling | Charles Wesley, 1747, alt., Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831, alt., Public domain

#377 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light | Kathleen Thomerson, 1966, Kathleen Thomerson, 1966, Text © 1970, 1975

CelebrationMusic © 1970, 1975 Celebration

#744 Arise, Your Light Is Come! | Ruth Duck, 1974, William H. Walker, 1894, Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BPC Adult Choir (Gr. 9 and up): Everyone is invited to come and lift their voice in song - No previous experience necessary! Questions see Mike Agre or any choir member.

Date: Rehearsals begin Wed, Sept 2nd

Time: 7:00 pm in the BPC Sanctuary

Street Party of Hope: Join us at the Street Party of Hope for an evening of connection, healing, and inspiration. Sign up to help staff our booth outside the office.

Date: September 10th

Time: 4pm - 8pm

Location: Downtown Buffalo at the corner of 1st Avenue S, & 1st Street S.

Meal Kit Building: Join us as we work together to bring food to our neighbors.

Ways You Can Donate:

- Food: Sign up to buy specific food for the meal kits (indicate on sign up sheet how many items you will bring)
- Time: Help fill Meal Kits on September 12th from 9am - 11am.
- Money: For kit supplies - Door slot in the BPC office (Please place cash in envelope for Neighbors Feeding Neighbors. Please make checks out to BPC with Neighbors Feeding Neighbors in the memo)

Please have all donated items to BPC by September 10th

Women of Faith: We are taking a break and are tentatively resuming September 17th.

Watercolor Event: Join us for a fun and relaxing afternoon of watercolor painting and fellowship! Please sign up outside the BPC office.

Date: September 19th

Time: 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Immigration Aid Collection: Thank you for your on-going support for our immigrant neighbors. Now, we have an opportunity to support our neighbors who are able to return to work, but are in need of assistance with food. We are looking for **donations of vegetable / cooking oil and Maseca corn flour**. Donations can be dropped off in the bin outside Fellowship Hall. Thank you for being a blessing to so many in our community!

Today September 6	9:30am: Worship 10:30am: Coffee & Fellowship
Monday September 7	6:30pm: Prayer Shawl Group
Tuesday September 8	9:00am: Crafty Ladies 9:00am: Guy's Breakfast 1:00pm: Finance Committee 5:00pm: Missions Committee
Wednesday September 9	7:00pm: Choir Rehearsal
Thursday September 10	7:30am: People of Faith 4:00pm: Street Party of Hope
Saturday September 12	9:00am: Meal Kit Packing
Sunday September 13	9:30am: Worship 10:30am: CCC Field Notes for Wilderness Conversation

How Can We Pray for You?

Scan the QR code to submit prayer requests:



Along with the blue prayer request cards found in the pews you can also submit prayer requests on the BPC website. Scan this QR Code with your smartphone to be taken directly to the prayer request form. All prayer requests go directly to Pastor Brian.

Scan the QR code to submit prayer requests.

BPC Prayer List:

- Rich Dahl
- Christy Wood
- Dennis Stanley, fighting cancer
- Anne Marie Wille, Bonnie Morek's daughter
- Dennis Sletten, friend of Diane
- Sherry Sletten, friend of Diane
- Lois Lindstrom
- Madree
- Jim, Elaine Thole's brother, following a diagnosis
- Donna, a friend of Lana Kopplin, who has cancer
- Shannon, Virginia's former daughter-in-law
- Erva Hance
- Barb and Tom Stone
- Rochelle Tandrian, Angela's daughter
- Brittany Daniels
- John and Charlotte Collins
- Cassie & Bryce Taylor, grandson of Lanny and Shirley Taylor
- Louise Markve
- Don Eddy
- Joseph Wille, Bonnie Morek's grandson
- Windi Willette
- Tony
- Allen, father of Jennifer Glauvitz
- The Grady Family (friends of Theresa) upon the loss of their father
- Dennis, Kate, Alicia, & Dan Vanderheiden (Del's family)
- Gloria & Daniel Elliott (Bonnie Morek's brother's wife)
- Nancy Grittman
- Sandy Anderson and family following Steve Anderson's death
- Marcy, Peggy Hunter's sister-in-law

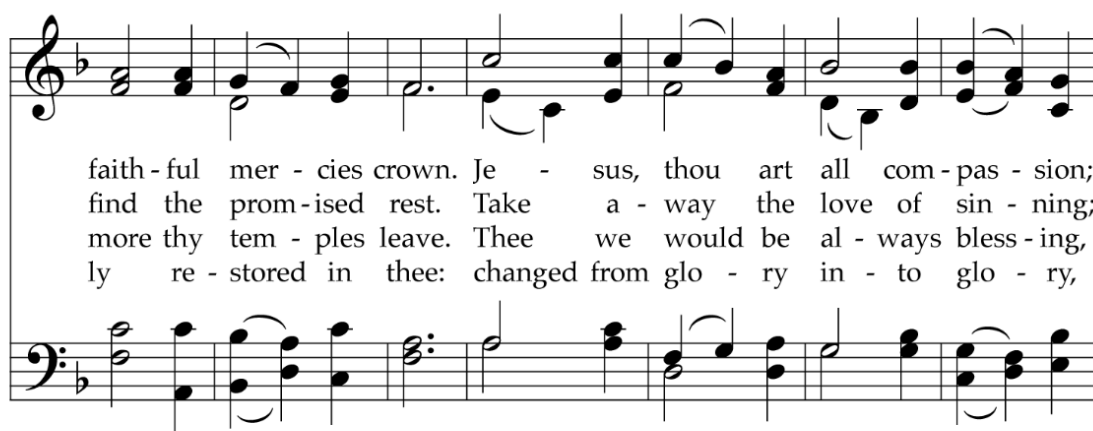
366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to
 2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion;
 find the prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

This text and this tune occur in almost all English-language hymnals (though not always together). The transforming power of love motivates the unending praise of the life to come, and this fine Welsh tune (whose name means “delightful”) gives us a foretaste of endless song.

377 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

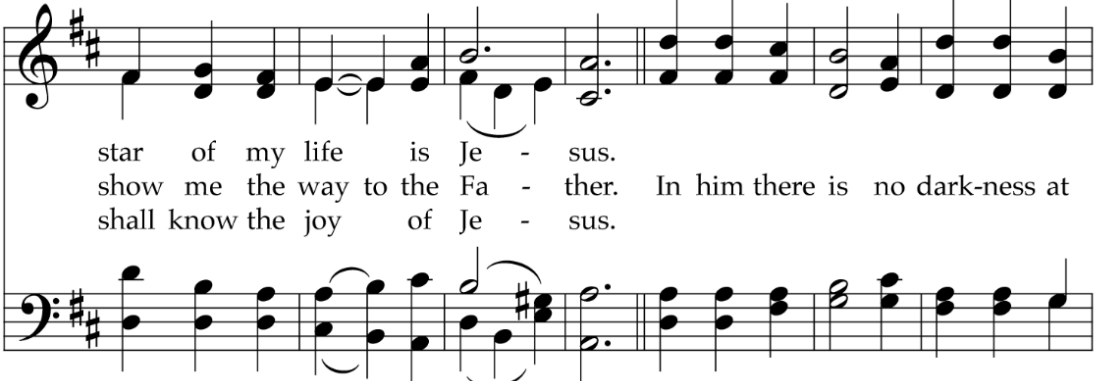


1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to fol - low
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God. I want to look at
3 I'm look-ing for the com - ing of Christ. I want to be with



Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The
Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ-teous-ness, shine on my path, and
Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

Refrain



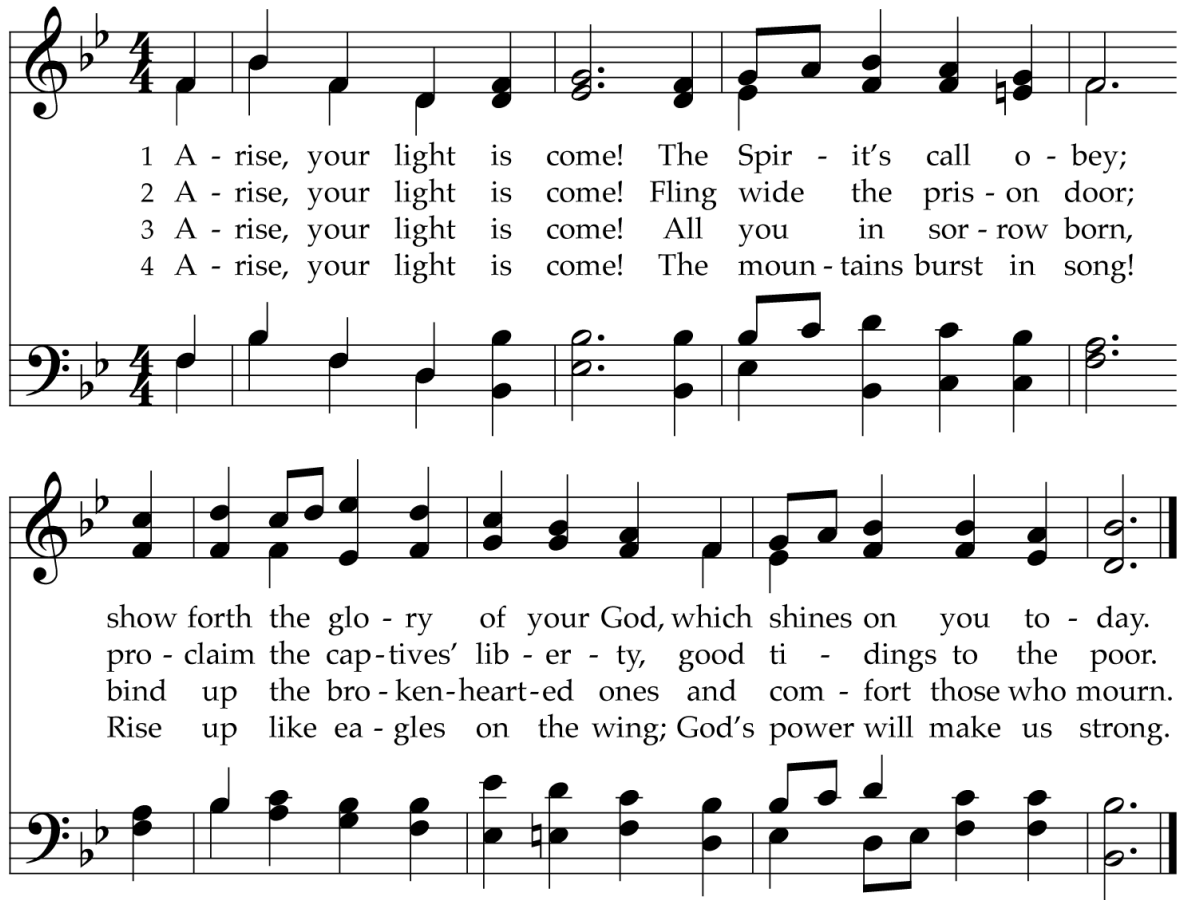
star of my life is Je - sus.
show me the way to the Fa - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at
shall know the joy of Je - sus.



all. The night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the

The author-composer of this unrhymed hymn regards it as a meditation and prayer deeply rooted in many scriptures, most connected with the theme of light: Genesis 1:17; Psalm 139:12; Isaiah 60:19; Malachi 4:2; John 14:8; Ephesians 5:8; Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 John 1:5; Revelation 21:23.

744 Arise, Your Light Is Come!



1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God, which shines on you to - day.
 pro - claim the cap - tives' lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.
 bind up the bro - ken-heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

Echoing imagery from Isaiah 61:1–2 and other passages, this text was created as an inclusive-language alternative to an older hymn using this late 19th-century tune. Because it is a song of encouragement rather than a song of praise, it is not directed to God but to people.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1974
 MUSIC: William H. Walter, 1894
 Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

FESTAL SONG
 SM
 (this tune in a lower key, 815)