

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT  
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 8, 2024



*James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.*

**The Lutheran Church of St. Mark**  
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# WELCOME TO ALL WHO HAVE COME TO WORSHIP THE LORD TODAY!

*Guests—please take a moment to fill out a guest card located in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. We would like to acknowledge your time with us and extend a friendly hand of hospitality.*

*Please **turn all cell phones off** or on vibrate before the worship service begins.*

*\*Stand as you are able, in body or spirit.*

*The responses of the people are printed in **bold**.*

## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

based on *Earth and all Stars*

### \*CONFESSION

We gather in the name of the Father, the †Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

*Kneel or sit.*

*Time for reflection and self-examination.*

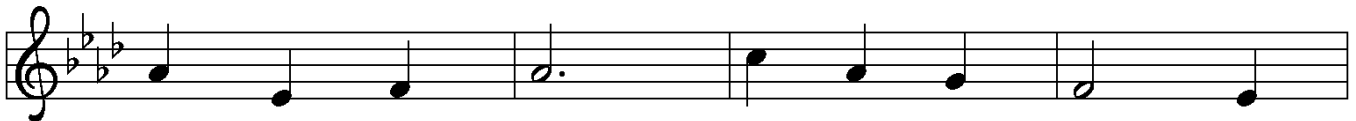
Eternal God our creator, **in you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our offenses and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, the †Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

### \*GATHERING HYMN

*Earth and All Stars!*

ELW 731



1	Earth	and	all	stars!	Loud	rush - ing	plan - ets!
2	Trum - pet	and	pipes!	Loud	clash - ing	cym - bals!	
3	En - gines	and	steel!	Loud	pound - ing	ham - mers!	
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!  
 Sing to the Lord a new song!  
 Sing to the Lord a new song!  
 Sing to the Lord a new song!  
 Sing to the Lord a new song!



Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing snow - storm!  
 Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming cel - los!  
 Lime - stone and beams! Loud build - ing work - ers!  
 Ath - lete and band! Loud cheer - ing peo - ple!  
 Daugh - ter and son! Loud pray - ing mem - bers!



Sing to the Lord a new song!  
 Sing to the Lord a new song!  
 Sing to the Lord a new song!  
 Sing to the Lord a new song!  
 Sing to the Lord a new song!

*Refrain*



God has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too sing prais - es with a new song!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926  
 Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987  
 Text and music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

**\*GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also, with you.**

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE

*Come Let Us*



- 1 Come, let us join our cheer - ful songs with an - gels round the throne;
- 2 “Wor - thy the Lamb that died,” they cry, “to be ex - alt - ed thus!”
- 3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re - ceive hon - or and pow’r di - vine;
- 4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name



ten thou-sand thou-sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.  
“Wor - thy the Lamb,” our lips re - ply, “for he was slain for us!”  
and bless-ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.  
of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also, with you.**

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. **Amen**

## WORD

### FIRST READING

ISAIAH 35:4-7A

*These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God’s vengeance on Edom, Israel’s age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles’ return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.*

A reading from Isaiah:

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.” <sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7a</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

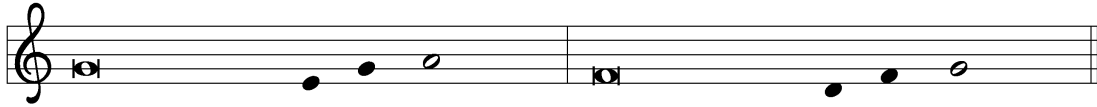
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*The refrain is sung by all at the beginning of the Psalm and then at each R.*

## Refrain



## Tone



<sup>1</sup>Hal- | lelujah!

Praise the Lord, | O my soul!

<sup>2</sup>**I will praise the Lord as long | as I live;**

**I will sing praises to my God while I | have my being.**

<sup>3</sup>Put not your | trust in rulers,  
in mortals in whom there | is no help.

<sup>4</sup>**When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth,  
and in that day | their thoughts perish. R**

<sup>5</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,  
whose hope is in the | Lord their God;

<sup>6</sup>**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;  
who keeps promis- | es forever;**

<sup>7</sup>who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to | those who hunger.  
The Lord sets the | captive free.

<sup>8</sup>**The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who | are bowed  
down;**

**the Lord | loves the righteous. R**

<sup>9</sup>The Lord cares | for the stranger;  
the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup>**The Lord shall | reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah! R**

## SECOND READING

## JAMES 2:1-17

*Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.*

A reading from James:

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? <sup>2</sup>For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, <sup>3</sup>and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," <sup>4</sup>have you not made

distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup>Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup>But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? <sup>8</sup>You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. <sup>11</sup>For the one who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. <sup>12</sup>So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup>For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment. <sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup>So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

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

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

*In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophoenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.*

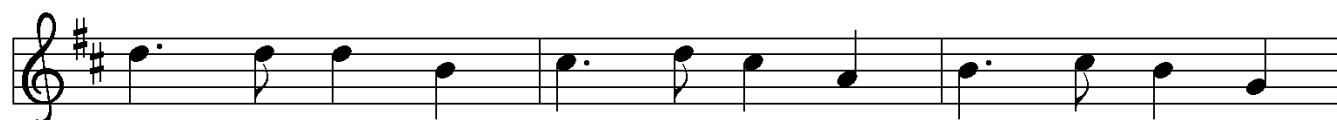
The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,<sup>25</sup> but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. <sup>26</sup>Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup>He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." <sup>28</sup>But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." <sup>29</sup>Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." <sup>30</sup>So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. <sup>31</sup>Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." <sup>35</sup>And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup>Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup>They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

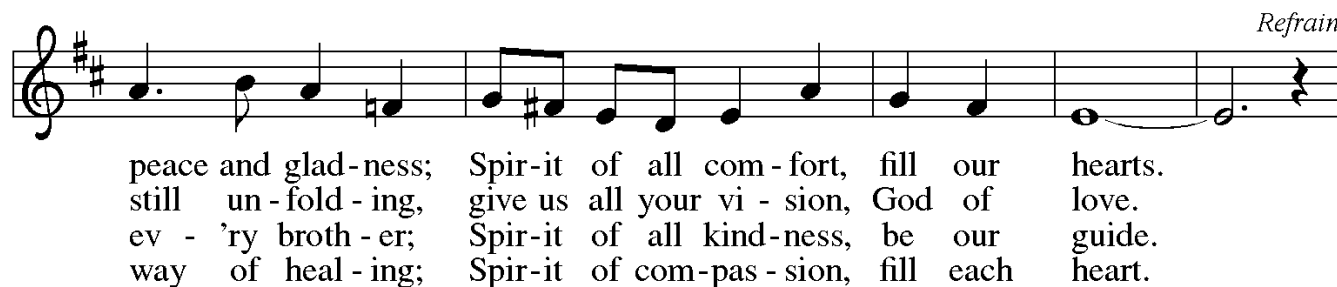
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## HOMILY





- 1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your
- 2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is
- 3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,
- 4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your



Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL, Marty Haugen

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## \*APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us his people through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess what we believe:

**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 OF THE PEOPLE

*The assisting minister prays the petition. The congregation responds to the petitions that end "Lord in your mercy with: "**hear our prayer.**" and those that end "O, God, we give you thanks" with: "**Thanks be to God**" The prayers conclude with the pastoral petition followed by a congregational "**Amen.**"*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O, God, we give you thanks. **Thanks be to God.**

Into your hands... Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## MEAL

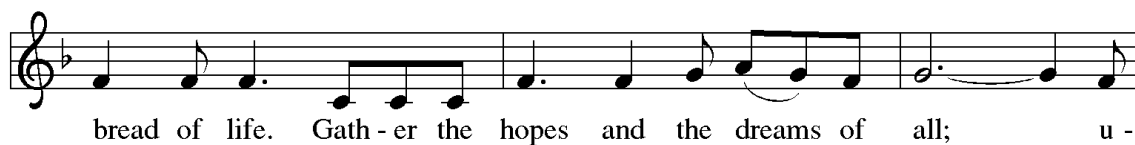
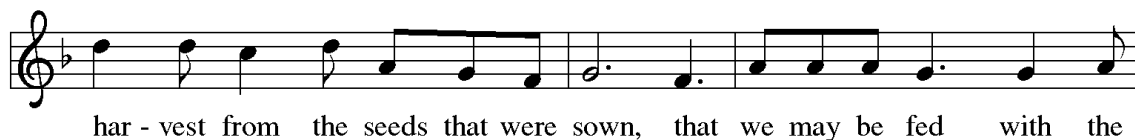
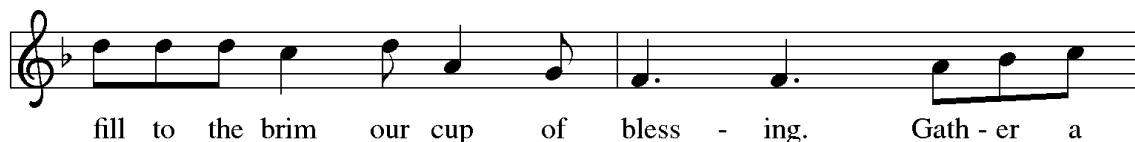
### \*THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also, with you.**

### OFFERTORY MUSIC

#### \*SUNG OFFERTORY

*Let the Vineyards be Fruitful*



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: *Liturgy of Joy*, James M. Capers, b. 1948

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress and music © 1993 Augsburg Fortress.

## \*THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen

## \*PREFACE DIALOGUE

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.**

## \*PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed ... unending hymn:

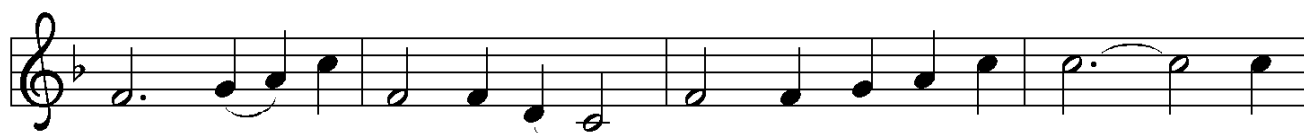
## \*SANCTUS



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.

## \*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God... now and forever.  
**Amen**

## \*THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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**

## \*COMMUNION INVITATION

The Lord has prepared a place for you. Come taste and see that the Lord is good. **The Lord is good, indeed.**

## ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

*All are welcome to partake of the Holy Sacrament. Inform the pastor if you need a **gluten-free host**. Grape juice is available in the center rings of the wine tray. Children or adults who do not or choose not to partake of the sacrament today may come forward and receive a blessing. Please indicate you would like a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest in the form of an X.*

## COMMUNION HYMNS

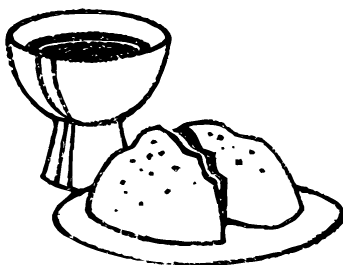
### *Lamb of God*



- 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.



The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "If we live, we live to the Lord. If we die, we die to the Lord. So then, wheth-er we live or wheth-er we die, we are the Lord's." There are two triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a bracket) over the notes for "wheth-er" in the second and third lines of music.

Text: Rolf Vegdahl, b. 1955, based on Romans 14:8, Psalm 103  
Music: IF WE LIVE, Rolf Vegdahl  
Music © 2009, 2016 Augsburg Fortress

## PRAYER IN THE ABSENCE OF COMMUNION

*For those on zoom or not receiving the sacrament.*

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the bread of life and the cup of salvation. I believe that you are truly present in the sacrament of Holy Communion. I am baptized into your death and resurrection. I seek you daily and worship and adore you. Since I cannot receive you in the eucharistic bread and wine, I pray that you continue to come into my heart and soul, as you always have, through Confession and Forgiveness, through the proclamation of your holy Word, and through the prayers of your people; that I may remain united to you by your all-powerful and ever-present Holy Spirit. Let me receive you and be nourished by your abundant grace. Be for me the manna in my wilderness, the bread of angels for my very human journey through time, a foretaste of the heavenly banquet, and solace in the hour of my death. I pray all this, trusting that you are my life, my peace, and my everlasting joy. Amen

## \*SACRAMENTAL BLESSING

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

## \*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask.  
As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with  
your own life. In your name we pray. Amen

## SENDING

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

## \*BLESSING

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in  
the knowledge and love of God, and his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. And may the  
blessing of almighty God, the Father, the † Son, and Holy Spirit, come down on you and  
remain with you forever. **Amen**

## \*SENDING HYMN

*For the Wholeness of the Earth*

ACS 1067



1 We lift this prayer for the whole-ness of the earth. We lift this  
2 We turn our lives to the whole-ness of the earth. We turn our  
3 Give thanks to God for the whole-ness of the earth. Give thanks to



prayer for the whole-ness of the earth. We lift this prayer for the  
lives to the whole-ness of the earth. We turn our lives to the  
God for the whole-ness of the earth. Give thanks to God for the



whole-ness of the earth. Can you feel it ris - ing in you?  
whole-ness of the earth. Can you feel it spin - ning in you?  
whole-ness of the earth. Can you feel it ris - ing in you?

Text: Bret Hesla, b. 1957

Music: WHOLENESS OF THE EARTH, Bret Hesla

Text and music © 2017 Bret Hesla, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Love and serve your neighbor. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*Voluntary*

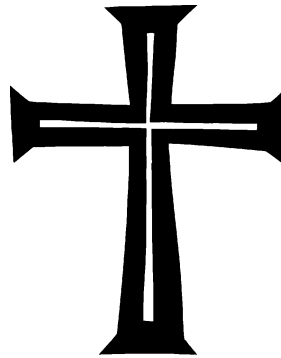
Today's altar flowers are sponsored by Martin Smith in thanksgiving for successful surgeries and in honor of my grandparents.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **St. Mark Members: Please join us for an important congregation gathering, following worship today, in the fellowship area.**
- Please join us via Zoom for weekday prayer offices Tuesdays at 9:00am and Wednesdays at 7:00pm.
- **Next Sunday, September 15 is Appreciation Sunday.** We will give thanks to God and to those in the congregation who have so faithfully shared their many gifts through the programs, ministries and committees. This means YOU so please come.
- Join us for **Cuatro Puntos and Ameen Mokdad in concert at St. Mark on Thursday, September 19, 7:00pm.** *Sounds of the Silk Road.* Please register so we know how many people to expect: Ticket link: [www.cuatropuntos.org](http://www.cuatropuntos.org) or <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sounds-of-the-silk-road-tickets-981646269417?aff=oddtcreator>. **Please also sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex to bring food for the reception following the concert.**
- **The next Lunch Bunch is on Thursday, September 19 at 12:30pm:** Cotton Hollow Kitchen, 840 Main Street, South Glastonbury. Please contact Elaine by September 13 if you plan to attend: 860-432-4488 or [eauger0311@gmail.com](mailto:eauger0311@gmail.com).
- **Save the date for our annual Joint Worship & Fellowship in JB Williams Park on Sunday, September 22.** Join members from St. Mark and from St. James' & St. Lukes' Episcopal churches for worship at **11:00am**, followed by a build-a-grinder luncheon. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex and bring a non-perishable item for the Glastonbury Food Pantry. Please note **that there will be no worship at St. Mark that day.**
- **The mowing team this week is Deb & Mark G.**

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR:

Sunday, September 8	9:00am	Service of Word and Sacrament followed by Congregation Gathering & Coffee Hour sponsored by Dottie's Team
Monday, September 9	4:00pm	Property Committee Meeting
Tuesday, September 10	9:00am	Matins via Zoom
Wednesday, September 11	7:00pm	Vespers via Zoom
Sunday, September 15	9:00am	Appreciation Sunday Service of Word and Sacrament followed by Coffee Hour sponsored by Godfellas



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Lutheran Church  
in America



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