

# On the Road with God



**Combined Worship and Summer Cookout  
Conclusion of Vacation Bible School**

Tree of Life Lutheran Church  
St. Paul's United Methodist Church

June 22, 2025 + 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

# **We Gather as God's People**

Leader in regular type, **congregation in bold type**

↑ means stand as you are able

## PRELUDE

*You can use this time for quiet reflection, prayer and preparation for worship.*

## WELCOME

### ↑ HYMN

### **"Come We that Love the Lord"**

**ELW #625**



- 1 Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;
- 2 Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God;
- 3 The hill of Zi - on yields a thou-sand sa - cred sweets
- 4 Then let our songs a - bound, and ev - 'ry tear be dry;



join in a song with sweet ac - cord, join in a song with  
but chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King, but chil - dren of the  
be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields, be - fore we reach the  
we're march - ing through Im - man - uel's ground, we're march - ing through Im -



sweet ac - cord and thus sur - round the throne, and thus sur-round the throne.  
heav'n-ly King may tell their joys a-broad, may tell their joys a - broad.  
heav'n-ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets, or walk the gold - en streets.  
man-uel's ground, to fair - er worlds on high, to fair - er worlds on high.

*Refrain*



We're march - ing to Zi - on, beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful Zi - on:



we're march - ing up - ward to Zi - on, the beau - ti - ful cit - y of God.

## ↑ APOSTOLIC 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.**

## ↑ SONG

### “Road Trip” (VBS Theme Song)

## ↑ DIALOGUE

We’re going on a journey!

**What should we bring along?**

The word of God to illumine our path.

**The light of Christ to show us the way.**

The gifts of the Spirit to share with those we meet.

**The love of God to be our compass and guide.**

## ↑ HYMN

### “I’m Going on a Journey”

ELW #446

♩ = ♩♩

1 I'm go-ing on a jour-ney, and I'm start-ing to - day. My  
head is wet, and I'm on my way. Christ's mark is on me;  
it's on you, too; it says he loves me, and he loves you, too!  
2 I'm be-com-ing this day a saint of God. It  
real-ly does-n't mat-ter what roads I trod. Wher-ev-er I go, God's

been there, too. God's love has touched me and will car-ry me through.

3 There are oth - er saints who have said a-men. They'll

keep me faith-ful to my jour-ney's end. A - long the way

I want to be the kind of per-son that God set free.

### ↑ DIALOGUE

But what if the journey gets hard?

**God is with us, wherever we go.**

What if we make wrong turns?

**God is with us, wherever we go.**

What if we feel lost and alone?

**God is with us, wherever we go.**

So wherever we go, we can always find joy.

**For God is with us, wherever we go!**

### ↑ PRAYER

Let us pray: O God and Father of all, you are our beginning and our end, and our refuge along the way. Throughout history, you have been with your people in all their journeys, assuring them that nothing can take your love away. Protect and guide us on all the roads we take. Make our ways safe and our homecomings joyful, and bring us at last to our heavenly home, where you dwell in glory with our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### ↑ SONG

**“On the Road with God” (VBS Song)**

## We Hear God's Word

### FIRST READING: Joshua 1:6-9

A reading from Joshua:

[The LORD said to Joshua:] <sup>6</sup>Be strong and courageous; for you shall put this people in possession of the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them. <sup>7</sup>Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. <sup>8</sup>This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. <sup>9</sup>I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

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

### PSALM: Psalm 139:7-18

<sup>7</sup>Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

**<sup>8</sup>If I ascend to heaven, you are there;  
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.**

<sup>9</sup>If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

**<sup>10</sup>even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.**

<sup>11</sup>If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
and the light around me become night,"

**<sup>12</sup>even the darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.**

<sup>13</sup>For it was you who formed my inward parts;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

**<sup>14</sup>I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.**

<sup>15</sup>My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret,  
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

**<sup>16</sup>Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.  
In your book were written all the days that were formed for me,  
when none of them as yet existed.**

<sup>17</sup>How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

**<sup>18</sup>I try to count them — they are more than the sand;  
I come to the end — I am still with you.**

## **SECOND READING: Romans 8:31-39**

A reading from Romans:

<sup>31</sup>What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

<sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

## **↑ SONG**

**"Wherever You Go" (VBS Song)**

## **↑ GOSPEL: Luke 19:1-10**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus] entered Jericho and was passing through it. <sup>2</sup>A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. <sup>3</sup>He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. <sup>4</sup>So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. <sup>5</sup>When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." <sup>6</sup>So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. <sup>7</sup>All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner."

<sup>8</sup>Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." <sup>9</sup>Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup>For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## ↑ HYMN

## “My Life Flows On in Endless Song”

ELW #763



- 1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
- 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
- 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
- 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.  
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?  
 What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.  
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

*Refrain*

No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

## ↑ APOSTLES' CREED

We do not travel alone on our journey with God. Christians throughout the world and throughout all time are with us. And so, gathered with Christians everywhere, we state what we believe, in the words of the ancient Apostles' Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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;  
and descended into hell.

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 INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the Church, for those in need, and all our fellow travelers on the road of life. *A brief silence.*

O Lord, you are with us wherever we go. Continue to be with the Church around the world, and help Christians everywhere to walk in your ways. Break down the barriers that keep us apart, make us strong and courageous when we are afraid, and bring new people to walk with us on your Way. God of the journey... **Hear our prayer.**

All your works are wonderful. Thank you for the beauty of the world that we see during our travels. Help us to be good caretakers of the earth and of everything that lives upon it. God of the journey... **Hear our prayer.**

You call us to support one-another on the journey. Let all people and all nations know your freedom, justice and peace. Bring security and peace to Israel and Iran, and be with the people of Minnesota in the aftermath of political violence. Support and guide police officers, firefighters, bus drivers, traffic planners, construction workers, those who labor at roadside restaurants and service stations, and everyone who works to keep our travels safe and enjoyable. God of the journey... **Hear our prayer.**

You come into our homes and our lives. Be with the poor, the homeless, the sick, the sad, and anyone whose journey is rough. Watch over all who are traveling today. Send your love to everyone we name now... *Time for personal petitions.* God of the journey... **Hear our prayer.**

You make churches like Tree of Life and St. Paul's to refresh and strengthen us on life's journey. Thank you for all the participants and volunteers at Vacation Bible School this year. Help everyone in both our congregations to know the power of your love, and to love others as you have loved us. God of the journey... **Hear our prayer.**

Your Son came to seek out the lost and bring salvation to all. We give you thanks for those who traveled the path of faith before us: Abraham and Sarah, the Israelites in the desert, Mary and Joseph, Zacchaeus and the disciples, Paul and the apostles, and all whom we knew on earth and who are now at home with you. Help us follow their example in our earthly journey, and sustain us with the sure hope of our eternal destination. God of the journey... **Hear our prayer.**

We lift up these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us wherever we go; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## ↑ PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*You may share peace with those around you through a wave, handshake or greeting.*

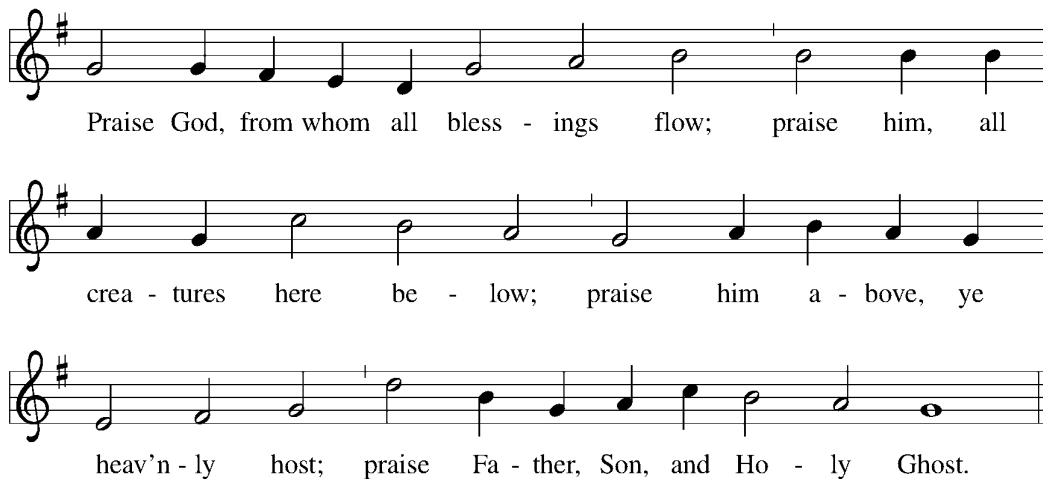
## We Share God's Holy Meal

## OFFERING

*Today's offering will support the Our Daily Bread feeding ministry in Middletown.*

## ↑ OFFERTORY

**ELW #884**



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all  
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye  
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

## ↑ PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

As we prepare to share God's holy meal, let us confess those times when we have failed to live as God's holy people:

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not always stayed true to the path you have set before us. We have made wrong turns and followed roads of selfishness, callousness, hostility, apathy and immorality. Forgive us all our sins of thought, word and deed. Forgive us the wrongs we have done and the good we have left undone. Turn us back to you, and help us follow the true Way. Amen.**

Hear the Good News: While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. God forgives you all your sin, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Journey with God as new people. **Amen.**

## ↑ EUCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful Father, through our Savior Jesus Christ. On this day, he overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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.

Send now your Holy Spirit upon this holy meal, and upon all who share it. May it be an assurance that you are with us wherever we go, and that we will one day share your everlasting feast with all the saints in light.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

## ↑ LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your Kingdom, and teach us always 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 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

The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please follow the directions of the usher to receive Communion.*

*Wine and white grape juice are in the individual cups.*

*Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*

*The ELCA and United Methodist Church are in full communion. Additionally, we believe that all Christians baptized into God's family are welcome to God's Holy Supper. If you prefer a blessing, please cross your arms when at the front of the line.*

## COMMUNION HYMN

### "Let Us Break Bread Together"

**ELW #471**

- 1 Let us break bread together on our knees;  
let us break bread together on our knees.

#### *Refrain*

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.

- 2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;  
let us drink wine together on our knees. *Refrain*
- 3 Let us praise God together on our knees;  
let us praise God together on our knees. *Refrain*

## COMMUNION HYMN

### "Come To The Table Of Mercy"

**ELW #481**

Come to the table of mercy, prepared with the wine and the bread.  
All who are hungry and thirsty, come, and your souls will be fed.  
Come at the Lord's invitation; receive from his nail-scarred hand.  
Eat of the bread of salvation; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray together: **Holy Lord, you gathered us to your table, and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**God Sends Us in Mission**

**↑ MEAL GRACE**

**↑ BENEDICTION**

The Lord watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore. In the name of the Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**↑ HYMN**

**“Go Now in Peace”**

**UMH #665**

The musical score is written for a 2/2 time signature. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system has a treble staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a bass staff. The treble staff contains the melody, with a repeat sign and first/second endings marked with circled numbers 1 and 2. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics 'Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love of' are written below the first system. The second system continues the melody and accompaniment, with the lyrics 'God sur-round you ev-ery-where, ev-ery-where you may go.' The piece concludes with a 'Fine' marking and a fermata over the final note. The tempo/style marking 'Keyboard, handbells, and/or Orff instruments' is placed between the staves of the first system.

*May be sung as a canon*

**↑ DISMISSAL**

**Go in peace; serve the Lord!  
Thanks be to God!**

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