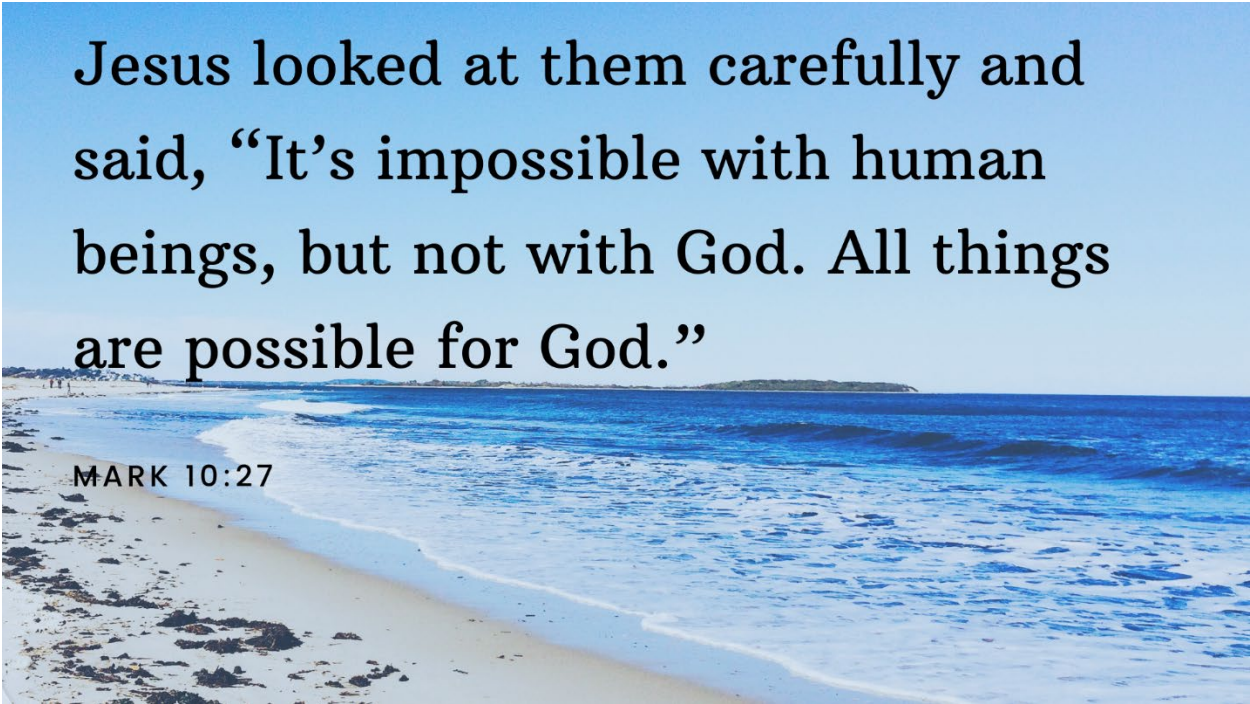


Faith Lutheran Church Andover, MA

*May each person feel **invited** to this community,
equipped to use their gifts to the Glory of God,
and **sent** to serve.*

Sunday, September 17, 10:00 AM



Jesus looked at them carefully and said, “It’s impossible with human beings, but not with God. All things are possible for God.”

MARK 10:27

Please know that we record or live-stream worship services from our church in order to reach out to those who are unable to attend in person, or who wish to participate in our services remotely. We share the recorded or live-streamed services with the general public on YouTube and other internet sites. If you would prefer not to be on camera, please sit in the back two rows and ask an usher for the pastor to distribute communion to you from your seat.

**To all who join us in worship online or in person,
you are welcome here!**

We invite you to share the sacrament of holy communion with us. If you are worshipping online, please prepare by having a piece of bread or cracker and a cup of wine, grape juice, or water at your side. If you are worshipping in person, you will be invited to come forward around the communion table to receive the sacrament.

“Busy bags” are available for all non-school-aged children to help keep them occupied during worship. These are hanging on the back of the last pew, so please help yourself to one on your way into the service. Kindly return to the same location when the service is over.

Please share your **prayer requests** either by writing them on the paper on the podium at the entrance to the worship space or by emailing them to prayers@faith-andover.org.

If you would like to be added to our weekly email list, which shares upcoming events and activities, sign up on our website: www.faith-andover.org.

For **pastoral care needs or to chat**, contact Pastor Jen at 978-806-8255 or email jen@faith-andover.org or drop in at Caffè Nero in Andover on Wednesdays between 10:00 AM and Noon.

We use **Facebook** and **Instagram**. Find us @Faith.Andover and @faithandover.

Welcome!

We pray this time enriches your spiritual life.



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE Improvisations on today's music
[arr. by Ingrid Marstaller]

WELCOME

The assembly stands as able.

GATHERING SONG Rise up and Praise Him [Rock of Ages]

GREETING WITH PEACE

"What is something that's made you laugh recently?"

CALL TO WORSHIP

In this holy ordinary place,
with these holy ordinary people,
ALL: God appears.

In this holy ordinary time,
in this holy ordinary life,
ALL: God does amazing, unexpected things.

In our holy ordinary hospitality,
in our holy ordinary laughter,
**ALL: God catches us unawares,
and provides the impossible.**

KYRIE Kyrie eleison, W&P 81

Refrain

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, ev - 'ry day.

Last time



1 For peace in the world, for the
2 That we may live out your im -
3 For peace in our hearts, for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you



health of the church, for the u - ni - ty of all;
passioned re - sponse to the hun - gry and the poor;
peace in our homes, for friends and fam - i - ly;
cen - ter our lives in the wa - ter and the word;



for this ho - ly house, for all who wor - ship and praise,
that we may live out . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,
for life and for love, . . . for our work and our play,
that you nour - ish our souls . . . with your bo - dy and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Text and music: Larry Olson
Text and music © 1989 Dakota Road Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress

OPENING PRAYER

God of promise, Abraham scoffed and Sarah laughed when they were told of your plans for them and their family. Yet you remained faithful to your promise, and gave them a son, Isaac. Help us to trust in your promises for our lives, and to live according to your will.

ALL: Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING.....Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7

A reading from Genesis.

¹The LORD appeared to Abraham at the oaks of Mamre while he sat at the entrance of his tent in the day’s heat. ²He looked up and suddenly saw three men standing near him. As soon as he saw them, he ran from his tent entrance to greet them and bowed deeply. ³He said, “Sirs, if you would be so kind, don’t just pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought so you may wash your feet and refresh yourselves under the tree. ⁵Let me offer you a little bread so you will feel stronger, and after that you may leave your servant and go on your way—since you have visited your servant.” They responded, “Fine. Do just as you have said.” ⁶So Abraham hurried to Sarah at his tent and said, “Hurry! Knead three seahs of the finest flour and make some baked goods!” ⁷Abraham ran to the cattle, took a healthy young calf, and gave it to a young servant, who prepared it quickly. ⁸Then Abraham took butter, milk, and the calf that had been prepared, put the food in front of them, and stood under the tree near them as they ate. ⁹They said to him, “Where’s your wife Sarah?” And he said, “Right here in the tent.” ¹⁰Then one of the men said, “I will definitely return to you about this time next year. Then your wife Sarah will have a son!” Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. ¹¹Now Abraham and Sarah were both very old. Sarah was no longer menstruating. ¹²So Sarah laughed to herself, thinking, I’m no longer able to have children and my husband’s old. ¹³The LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Me give birth? At my age?’ ¹⁴Is anything too difficult for the LORD? When I return to you about this time next year, Sarah will have a son.” ¹⁵Sarah lied and said, “I didn’t laugh,” because she was frightened. But he said, “No, you laughed.”

¹The LORD was attentive to Sarah just as he had said, and the LORD carried out just what he had promised her. ²She became pregnant and gave birth to a son for Abraham when he was old, at the very time God had told him. ³Abraham named his son—the one Sarah bore him—Isaac. ⁴Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old just as God had commanded him. ⁵Abraham was 100 years old when his son Isaac was born. ⁶Sarah said, “God has given me laughter. Everyone who hears about it will laugh with me.” ⁷She said, “Who could have told Abraham that Sarah would nurse sons? But now I’ve given birth to a son when he was old!”

Word of God, word of life.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE.....Jacob Benoy

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Gracious God, we lift to you today, these students.

They stand here ready to receive your blessings and they commit themselves to study and learning in the school year ahead. We ask your blessing on each of them.

Further, we ask your blessing on their backpacks. They will hold the school work of each student and will be carried from home to school and back again. As these students carry their backpacks, may they be reminded of the love and care of this congregation that surrounds them each school day.

We pray as well for the teachers and administrators in our schools. May they also be sustained by your blessing. May they be reminded that this congregation embraces their call to teaching and learning and surrounds them with love and care as well.

We pray in the name of Jesus whom we seek to follow day by day.

ALL: Amen.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATIONAlleluia! Lord and Savior, ELW S205a



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.

GOSPEL READING.....Mark 10:27

The holy gospel according to Mark.

ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus looked at them carefully and said, “It’s impossible with human beings, but not with God. All things are possible for God.”

The gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON..... Rev. Jeanette D. Leisk

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAYGod, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens, ELW 771

APOSTLES' CREED

Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**ALL: 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.**

PRAYERS

We live toward your promise, O God,
yet in this in-between it can be hard to see.

We hold in your presence all your people who are waiting...
waiting for news, waiting for tests, waiting for medical care,
waiting for the right moment, waiting for justice, waiting for healing,
waiting for love, waiting for joy, waiting for you. Lord, in your mercy.

ALL: Hear our prayer.

We especially lift up those who have given up hope,
who no longer wait with anticipation,
who are resigned to the way things are. Lord, in your mercy.

ALL: Hear our prayer

And we remember those who grieve,
especially for what could have been, but can no longer be. Lord, in your mercy.

ALL: Hear our prayer.

You continually do things we didn't see coming, O God.
We hold in your presence those who laugh —
whose joy bubbles over and spreads,
those who feel they have to hide their happiness,
and those who are afraid of having their doubt found out.
May your grace and humor take us all by surprise. Lord, in your mercy.
ALL: Hear our prayer.

You turn up when we least expect it, O God.
Strangers and "others",
in the heat of the day and the middle of the night,
in our sacred spaces and at our own front doors,
when we are prepared and when we are not at our best.
We give thanks for all those who have been touched by the ministry
of this congregation over the past 60 years.
Lord, in your mercy.
ALL: Hear our prayer.

We hold in your presence
all those who are in special need of prayer, for friends and family of Arlene Wilson, former
member of Faith who died in Florida this week, for Paul for healing, Chris and Amie, Joan,
Jonathan, Roland, John, Ed, Andrew and his parents, Laine and Drew, Rohr Family, Ken, Phil,
and James.
Lord, in your mercy.
ALL: Hear our prayer.

We lift up today our concerns and celebrations...

Remember your people, O God,
And fill us with your love that hopes and bears all things.
We ask in Jesus' name.
ALL: Amen.

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

RECEIVING OF OFFERINGS

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Gifts
may be made with cash, check, or online <https://tinyurl.com/fnem2ht6>*



OFFERTORY Indescribable

OFFERING PRAYER

The assembly stands as able.

God of power, God of plenty,
all things belong to you.
We bring your gifts to the table,
that all might be fed.
Form us into the body of your Beloved,
Jesus Christ, our Savior.

ALL: Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

You appear, O God,

**ALL: and we confess that we do not always look up to see,
nor do we spring into action in welcome.**

You appear, O God,

**ALL: and we confess that we do not always engage the conversation,
and when we do, we often dismiss what we hear.**

You appear, O God,

ALL: and we confess that our assumptions hold us back.

We scorn the idea you could do a new thing.

Forgive us, Lord God.

**Make us open enough to welcome the stranger,
bold enough to be honest in community,
responsive enough to embrace the wonders you are doing,
even now.**

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.

God's compassion is beyond compare.

In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.

In ✝ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

ALL: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

The preface is a prayer spoken by the presiding minister to introduce the thanksgiving – we might think of it as saying grace before the meal.

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 God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS..... Holy Is the Lord [Rock of Ages]

*Holy is the Lord. Holy is the Lord. As we bow before your throne,
Majesty and honor to you alone. Majesty and honor to you alone.*

*Worthy are you, Lord. Worthy are you, Lord. Sweet Lamb of God, the chosen One.
Our lives we gladly lay before your throne. Our lives we gladly lay before your throne.*

*No longer will we give our hearts to the things of this world
For a debt of love we will offer to you.
We look for the day when every knee will bow.
We will join with the angels around your throne, and we will sing!*

Holy is the Lord. Holy is the Lord. Holy is the Lord. Holy is the Lord.

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WORDS OF INSTITUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**ALL: 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

Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome to the table for holy communion.

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

At this time, those gathered at home may share the elements of bread and wine that you have at your home communion table.

Those gathered in person will be invited to come forward at the direction of an usher and kneel or stand around the communion table. You will be given a wafer (gluten-free are also available) by the pastor, which you may then consume. An assisting minister will invite you to take a pre-filled cup of white wine or red grape juice, which you may then consume before returning to your seat.

If you prefer to stay at your seat and have the pastor bring you communion, please let an usher know.

COMMUNION..... O Lamb of God, ELW S208



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 SONGAmazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone) [Rock of Ages]

The assembly stands as able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Blessed be your name, O God,
for we have feasted on your Word,
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.
Strengthened by this food,
send us to gather the world to your banquet,
where none are left out and all are satisfied.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

REMEMBRANCE of 60 YEARS – Dan Thoren

BLESSING

As we have been blessed, go from this place to be a blessing to others. We pray in the name of God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit.
ALL: Amen.

SENDING HYMN..... Go, My Children, with My Blessing, ELW 543

The assembly is seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



Acknowledgements

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Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, Prayers, and Blessing adapted with permission from BibleWorm by Rev.
Teri Peterson.

PRAYER LIST

for friends and family of Arlene Wilson,
for Paul Muller, brother of Lynn Wong and son of Mary Ellen Muller for healing
for Chris and Amie Kearney and family,
for Joan Lambiaso, Jonathan Armstrong, Roland Jacobson, John Pollard,
Ed Karp for healing,
for Kate Robinson's nephew Andrew and his parents, Laine and Drew,
for the Rohr family, especially Ken,
for Phil Liaboe and James Lino.

We are a praying congregation. In order to keep our prayer list current,
please let us know of any additions or changes by email to prayers@faith-andover.org.
We will pray in worship for 3 weeks, unless you tell us otherwise.

Assisting in Worship Today

Presider/Preacher: Rev. Jeanette D. Leisk

Assisting Minister: Tanya Hayward

Reader: Caroline Kettner

Acolytes: Aurora Rice and Meghan Sullivan

Director of Handbell Ministries: Abby Schoppe

Praise Band Leader: Ingrid Marstaller

Praise Band Members include:

James Ball, Greg Bird, Bill Hartzell, Brian Scanlon, Dave Schweizer,

Tammy Skwierczynski, Rebecca Zammuto

Altar Care: Caroline D'Agostino, Suzanne Neuman

Worship Technology: Isaac Almy, John Breiland, Bill Mark Langdell, Glen Whiteneck

Rise up and Praise Him

Verse: Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;
Let the people of God sing his praise all over the land.
Everyone in the valley, come, and lift your voice;
All those on the mountaintop be glad and shout for joy.

Chorus: Rise up and praise him, he deserves our love;
Rise up and praise him, worship the Holy One.
With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your might,
Rise up and praise him.

Verse: Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;
Let the people of God sing his praise all over the land.
Everyone in the valley, come, and lift your voice;
All those on the mountaintop be glad and shout for joy.

Chorus: Rise up and praise him, he deserves our love;
Rise up and praise him, worship the Holy One.
With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your might,
Rise up and praise him.

Chorus: Rise up and praise him, he deserves our love;
Rise up and praise him, worship the Holy One.
With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your might,
Rise up and praise him.

Chorus: Rise up and praise him, he deserves our love;
Rise up and praise him, worship the Holy One.
With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your might,
Rise up and praise him.
Rise up and praise him.
Rise up and praise him.
Rise up and praise him.

God Who Stretched the Spangled HeavensELW 771



1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi - nite in time and place,
2 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the child-hood of our race;
3 As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it chal-lenge us a - new:



flung the suns in burn-ing ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space:
known the ec - sta - sy of wing-ing through un - trav-eled realms of space;
chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - 'ring you.



we, your chil - dren in your like-ness, share in - ven - tive pow'rs with you;
probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield-ing un - i - mag - ined pow'r,
May our dreams prove rich with prom-ise; each en-deav-or well be - gun;



great Cre - a - tor, still cre - at - ing, show us what we yet may do.
fac - ing us with life's de - struc - tion or our most tri - um - phant hour.
great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

Text: Catherine Cameron, b. 1927

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Amazing grace! - how sweet the sound -
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now I'm found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

My chains are gone. I've been set free,
My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy rains,
Unending love, amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me;
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

My chains are gone. I've been set free,
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy rains,
Unending love, amazing grace.

My chains are gone. I've been set free,
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy rains,
Unending love, amazing grace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine.
But God, who called me here below,
Will be forever mine,
Will be forever mine.
You are forever mine.

Words & music by Chris Tomlin, John Newton & Louie Giglio
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Go, My Children, with My Blessing.....ELW 543



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.