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***HOPE is called by God to look beyond ourselves. We walk together in faith, treasuring all people and sharing with them the love, hope, and acceptance that is in Christ”.***

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Sunday, September 12, 2021  
Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost  
God’s Work, Our Hands Kick-Off Sunday!

<b>WELCOME</b>
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**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Blessed be the † holy Trinity, one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and salvation.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God’s mercy and forgiveness.

**Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.**

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty,  
you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring,  
you are the fire of rebirth.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams.  
Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow.  
Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you.  
You are the fountain of resurrection.

Praise to you for your saving waters:  
Noah and the animals survive the flood,  
Hagar discovers your well.  
The Israelites escape through the sea,  
and they drink from your gushing rock.  
Naaman washes his leprosy away,  
and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

At this font, holy God, we pray:

**Praise to you for the water of baptism  
and for the Word that saves us in this water.  
Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation.  
Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears.  
Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us.**

Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you all  
**And also with you**

*We share a sign of Christ’s peace with one another in our gathered spaces  
and digitally with those who on our heart this morning*

## Morning Has Broken



1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing;  
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en,  
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing,



black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird.  
 like the first dew - fall on the first grass.  
 born of the one light E - den saw play!



Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!  
 Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,  
 Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry morn - ing,



Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!  
 sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.  
 God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune

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<b>GREETING</b>
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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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God, our Creator, as we reflect on the mystery of our fragile planet, we celebrate the wonders of Earth as our home. Help us to discern how we have polluted our planet and to empathize with the groaning of creation beneath us. Teach us to sense the presence of God pulsing through Earth as a living sanctuary. Teach us to love Earth as our home. In the name of Christ, the Word of God, who is the creative impulse in all creation. Amen.

## WORD

### **The First Reading from the book of Genesis 1:1-25**

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights - the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night - and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. El Se - ñor re - su - ci - tó.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ is ris - en, ris 'n in - deed.

The musical score consists of two systems. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff. The first system contains the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system contains the next two lines. The music features a steady rhythm with eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests.

### The Holy Gospel According to John 1:1-14

#### Glory to you ,O Lord

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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

**Children's Message**

**Pastor Annie**

**Sermon**

**Pastor Annie**

Light Dawns on a Weary World



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to  
 2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find  
 3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a  
 bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a  
 lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.  
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.  
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.



*Refrain*  
 The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953  
 Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951  
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**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Trusting God at work in and among us, we raise our hearts and voices in prayer for the needs of the world.

*A brief silence*

For your work in the church, we give thanks. Plant and tend relationships among faith communities, both ecumenical and interfaith, that in faithful listening, speech, and action, our hands work to bear fruit for the sake of all in need. God of grace, we pray,

**hear us when we call.**

For your work in creation, we give thanks. Sustain peoples and places affected by climate change, ecological devastation, and natural disasters, especially those in Haiti and those impacted by Hurricane Ida. Prosper the work of creation-care ministries locally and globally, that with our minds and hearts opened, our hands work to lovingly care for the earth. God of life, we pray,

**hear us when we call.**

For your work among the nations, we give thanks. Direct leaders in paths of honest service, that both their words and actions are carried out on behalf of those whom they serve. Help us to tend to our neighbor and not only look out for our best interests. We pray especially for those impacted by decisions in Afghanistan. God of righteousness, we pray,

**hear us when we call.**

For your work in places of need, we give thanks. Sustain all who are wearied by unemployment or lack of adequate food or housing, that we advocate for relief and just policy. Bring healing to all who are sick through the skillful hands and compassionate hearts of physicians, nurses, therapists and caregivers. We pray especially for those battling Covid-19, those on our prayer list, and those we name before you now either aloud or in the silence of our hearts... God of restoration, we pray,

**hear us when we call.**

For your work in our neighborhoods, towns, and cities, we give thanks. Guide our common life together so that children, youth, and adults of all ages flourish. Teach us to listen attentively to our neighbors, that any new endeavors consider those who may be left out or under served. God of wisdom, we pray,

**hear us when we call.**

For your work in this worshiping community, we give thanks. Bless our service creation care projects today and all our service efforts throughout the year. Foster deeper connections among those who serve and a spirit of accompaniment as we work alongside those in our community. Strengthen our faith, that we trust God moving in and among us. God of love, we pray,

**hear us when we call.**

For your work among those who came before us, we give thanks. We remember those who have died and are held forever in your loving hands. Hold us in your presence now and always. God of heaven and earth,

**hear us when we call.**

Receive these and all our prayers, Gracious God. We pray in the name of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

<b>OFFERING</b>
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Your gifts enable our ministry to continue especially as we gather in multiple ways during this season! Here are ways to share God's abundance:

GIVE ONLINE: <http://www.hopelutheranrf.com/giveonline/>

Give by Text to: 833-961-2156. Learn how [here](#).

Give by Mobile App: Search "GivePlus Church" on Apple or Android devices and follow instructions

MAIL YOUR OFFERING: HOPE Lutheran, 3337 Kingsbarn Ave., River Falls, WI 54022

*During this time the Pastor sets the table for Eucharist. You are invited to help set the table in your own space making sure your bread/crackers, wine/fruit juice is ready and poured. Pastor will give further instructions.*

## For the Fruit of All Creation



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.  
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional

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## OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance,

**you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so early; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

<b>COMMUNING TOGETHER</b>
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*As many of us make the faithful choice to worship safely from home in care of our neighbor, we acknowledge that this time is unprecedented. As Lutherans we confess that it is necessary to be gathered together as the body of Christ to celebrate this Holy Meal. So, in this time we trust that Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, is faithfully present with us across time and space to unite us from our many tables into one body with Him. We acknowledge this is an extraordinary way to celebrate the Eucharist in an extraordinary time and, in hope, we commit to our joyful return to one table together when it is safe to do so.*

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **LORDS 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.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Special Music**

**By Rebecca Seevers**

### **POST COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER**

Lord of life,

**We thank you for the meal we have celebrated with you and we pray that through your body and blood we may be healed and become agents of healing for Earth. Amen.**

<b>SENDING</b>
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### **ANNOUNCEMENTS & GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS INSTRUCTIONS**

#### **SENDING FOR MISSION**

Today we give thanks to God and seek God's blessing as we embark on projects which care for creation.

Let us pray.

**Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You made the whole earth for your glory; all creation praises you. We lift our voices to join the songs of heaven and earth in thanksgiving for the many blessings you have given us. Renew in us the commitment to use our gifts in the service of others, and especially of those in need. Let us be your hands to care for all of creation: to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, comfort the weary and outcast, welcome the stranger, care for the earth, and be loving neighbors to all people.**

To you, O God, be glory and honor through your Son, Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in your church and in the world, now and forever. **Amen.**

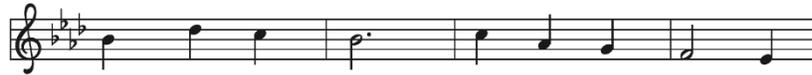
God's Work, Our Hands



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,  
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,  
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,  
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,  
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,  
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,  
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,  
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,  
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,  
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.  
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.  
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.  
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,  
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
 Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922-1987  
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*Please join us for our GWOH service day projects, followed by a closing meal together.  
 The final benediction & sending will happen at the end of our meal together!*

**Postlude**

**Special thanks to today's worship leaders:**

**Pianist:** Phil Klacan

**Assisting Minister:** Karen Rodewald

**Reader:** Michael Stang

**Ushers:** Michael Stang & \_\_\_\_\_

**Communion Prep:** Michael Stang

**Communion Assistants:** Michael Stang & \_\_\_\_\_

**A/V Support:** Ryan Brill, Don Leisz

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

<b>Looking Ahead at HOPE</b>	
Monday September 13 <sup>th</sup>	1:00 – Congregational Life Ministry Meeting 7:00 – Worship Ministry Meeting
Tuesday September 14 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 – Coffee & Faithful Conversation 6:30 – Executive Ministry Meeting
Wednesday September 15 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 – Wednesday Night Worship 6:30 – Faith Adventures 6:30 – Confirmation
Friday September 16 <sup>th</sup>	All Day – Pastor’s Sabbath
Sunday September 19 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 – Sunday Worship

**Please lift up the following people in prayer**

Vernie Hagestuen and family (Nancy Sailer’s Aunt & family)  
 Teajai Schmidt (Boock family friend)  
 Linda Hidding (Nancy Sailer’s cousin)  
 Jean Loudon and Family  
 Mary Thompson and Family  
 Tom Roycraft (Father of Emily Roycraft & Grant Klacan’s future father-in-law)  
 Katie Drablos (cousin of Linda Jacobson)  
 Steve Kaste  
 Rev. Sarah Mayer-Flatt (Friend of Pastor Annie)  
 Dave Hallquist (Friend of Bill Montgomery)  
 Kris Miner (Friend of Faye Perkins)  
 Barb Grubba (friend of Naomi & Jerry Brandt)  
 Lee Hill (friend of Naomi & Jerry Brandt)  
 Duane Hall (friend of the Brohaughs)  
 Judy Karshbaum  
 Susan Traynor (Friend of Kathy Scott)  
 Gary Siebold  
 Oak and Kirsten Reile (Nancy Sailer’s Cousin)  
 David Hendrickson  
 Jim and Ila June Pratt  
 Jerry Brandt  
 Jon Boyce  
 Jay and Jeri Jorgenson (friends of the Bohnerts)  
 Marilyn & Fred Schmidt (Relatives of the Boocks)  
 Steve & Beth Pugh (friends of Karen & Jeff Rodewald)  
 Rod Cina (son of Mary Solum)

**Farm Fresh Eggs!** - Help support our youth going to the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in July, 2022.

Eggs are raised at Jeff & Karen Rodewald's with a suggested donation of \$3/dozen. They are located just inside the church with a donation jug sitting next to them. 100% of your donation will go to help defray expenses in sending our youth to this amazing event!

**Wednesdays at HOPE to Resume September 15** - We look forward to joining together once again on Wednesday evenings for worship, Faith Adventures, & Confirmation! Our year will begin with an outdoor S'mores Worship and Fellowship Event on Wednesday, September 15th!

**Annual AAUW Book Sale** – The AAUW Book Sale is the last three weeks of October - Thursdays (10-7), Fridays (10-7) and Saturdays (10-4) at the former Global Made, 126 N. Main. You can bring donations to Family Fresh and Dick's Market in River Falls and Country Market in Hudson after September 1<sup>st</sup>. Drop off large quantities at the sale site on Wednesdays (4 to 6) and Saturdays (10 to 12) - September 1<sup>st</sup> through October 9th. Proceeds will be used for scholarships.  
*Thank you for your support.*

**WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS!** - If you are interested in helping to make our Sunday LIVESTREAM worship possible, we'd love to incorporate your gifts! The A/V team is especially in need of some more willing learners! Readers, ushers, communion prep, and other jobs will be needed in the coming weeks!  
Check out [THIS GOOGLE DOC](#) to sign-up to help!