Moses and the Brass Serpent
ca. 17th Century

Sunday, September 14th
Holy Cross Sunday

Our Ministry Staff contacts are:

Rev. Emily Willhide: pastoremily@incarnationlutheran.com
Teresa Boykin; CDC Director: cdc@incarnationlutheran.com
Bonnie McDaniel; Parish Administrator: office@incarnationlutheran.com
Amy Kehl; Bookkeeper: bookkeeper@incarnationlutheran.com
Matthew Whitehouse; Organist: music@incarnationlutheran.com
Elliott Stewart; Handbell and Choir Director: choir@incarnationlutheran.com

Sunday School (all ages): 9:00 am
Nursery (ages 3 and under): 9:45 am- 11:15 am
Worship: Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
(10 a.m. Worship is also live streamed on Facebook.)
Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
3005 Devine Street, Columbia, SC 29205
Office: 803-256-2381
CDC: 803-661-6378
www.incarnationlutheran.com
www.facebook.com/IncarnationLutheranChurch

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Incarnation Lutheran Church
inspire renew empower

WELCOME TO INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH! We are a congregation of the South Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

This is Christ's church.
There is a place for you here.

We are a church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person, regardless of race, gender, orientation, ability or disability, socioeconomic status, or citizenship. We affirm that all people are beloved children of God and created in the image of God. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

WORSHIP

- We gather to worship God in community because we believe that in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ all things are made new, including us, and that God has brought us together for a purpose.
- Our worship language is drawn from scripture, and you may recognize many parts of it from your Bible.
- The worship bulletin includes our order of worship and will direct you to hymns/songs (located in our red hymnal), or to different parts of the liturgy (in the front half of the ELW). If you're not sure what something means, please ask a neighbor or an usher.
- During worship, there are directions to be seated or to stand as able. Please do what you are able and what makes you comfortable.

HOLY COMMUNION

We invite you to join with us in the sacrament of Holy Communion, as Jesus invites us all to the table. The Ushers will direct you to the front of the church to receive communion. Please take an empty communion glass from the trays at the front of the church. The innermost ring of glasses are pre-filled with grape juice for those who prefer juice to wine. There are discard trays by the side aisles. Gluten free wafers are also available. Children are welcome to participate when they and their families think they are ready, and after a conversation with the pastor. If you are unable to come forward, please indicate that to the Ushers, and the Pastor will bring communion to you in your pew.

CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN WORSHIP!

The whole church is blessed by the presence of children in worship, wiggle and all. They will learn to participate in church by watching you and the congregation as we stand, sit, pray, and sing together. Coloring pages, crayons, Quiet Mazes, and activity bags are available in the narthex to help them if they get a little restless. There is also a nursery located in our educational building next door, staffed with two qualified caregivers.

RESTROOMS

As you face the altar, the men's restrooms are through the door on the right side and down the hall. The women's restroom and an accessible family restroom are through the door on the left side. A diaper changing station is available in the family restroom.

LIVESTREAM

Worship is live-streamed on Facebook and can be found on Incarnation's Facebook page. A link is also available on our website: incarnationlutheran.com

ASSISTIVE LISTENING IS AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX

Please ask the Ushers for help if you have difficulty either in locating the devices or using them.

Welcome to Worship

INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

☩ Holy Cross Sunday • September 14th, 2025 ☩

Worship Notes: *• Our Lector is Ed Skinner • Our Crucifer is Jimmy McFarland • Our Worship Assistant is Maggie Murdock •*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens Incarnation Ringers

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *Please stand as able and face the back of the church.*
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

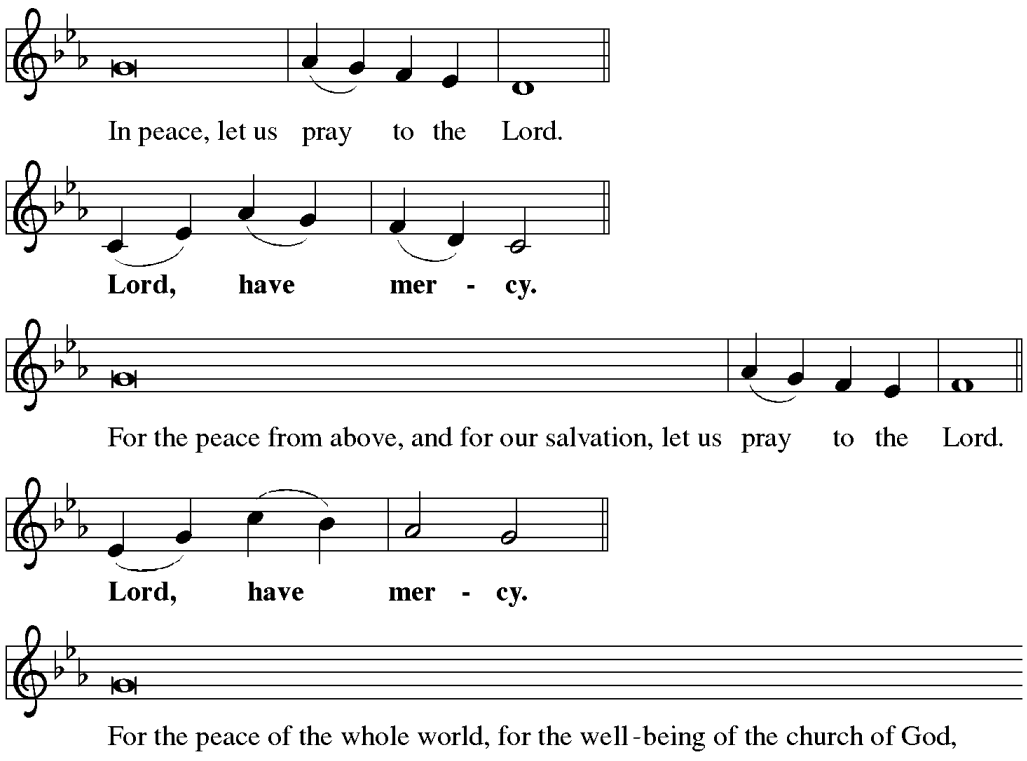
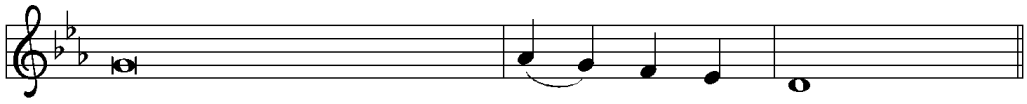
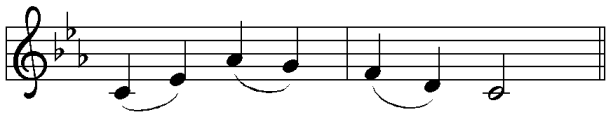
Merciful and loving God, **we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.**

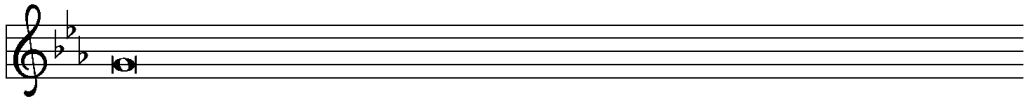
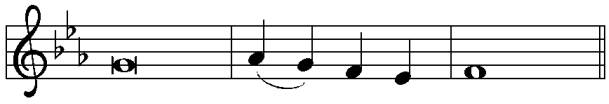
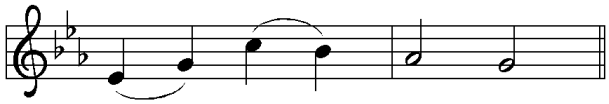
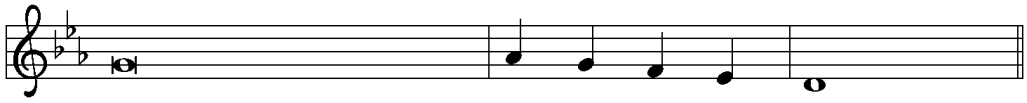
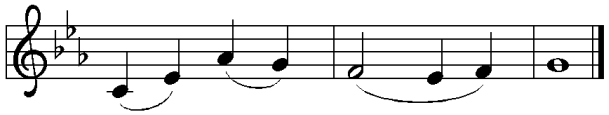
Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven! **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 623 Rock of Ages
TOPLADY

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.**

KYRIE: s98





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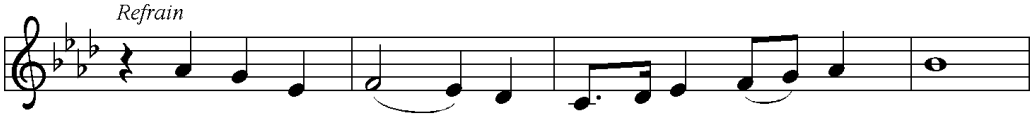
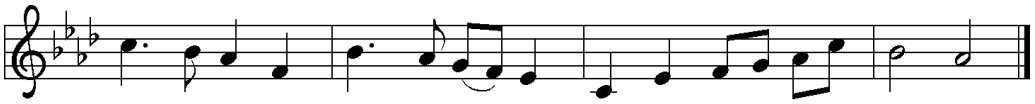
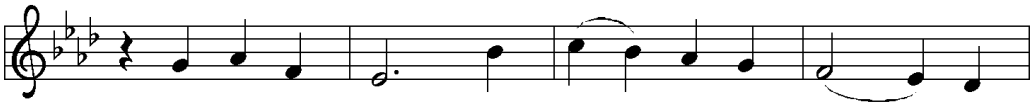
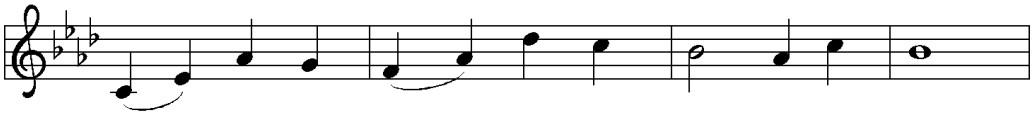
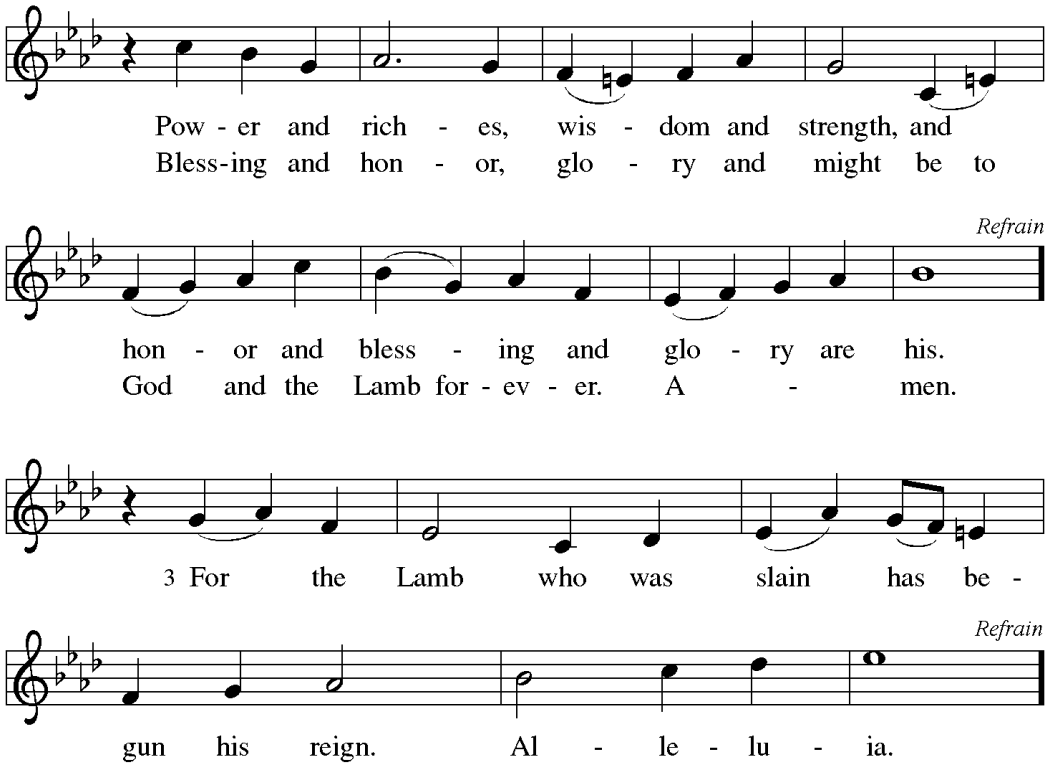



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, **your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.** *Please be seated.*

WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4b-9

[From Mount Hor the Israelites set out,] 4b but the people became discouraged on the way. 5 The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." 6 Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. 7 The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. 8 And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." 9 So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

PSALM 98:1-4 *Read responsively*

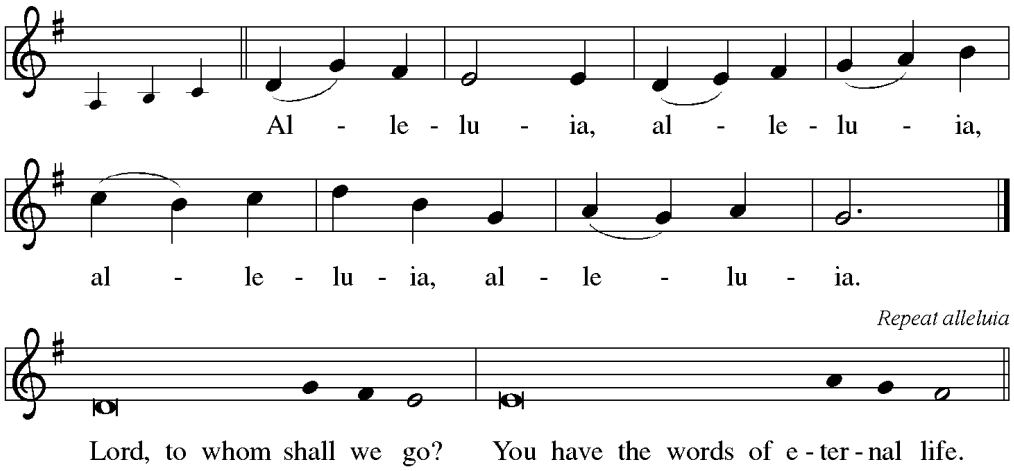
1 Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.
2 **O LORD, you have made known your victory,**
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.
3 You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

4 **Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;**
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24
18 The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it
is the power of God. 19 For it is written,
"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."
20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God
made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God
through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who
believe. 22 For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23 but we proclaim Christ crucified, a
stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, 24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and
Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: s102



GOSPEL: John 3:13-17, 19 *Please stand as able.*
Before the Reading: The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] 13 "No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of
Man. 14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted
up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.
16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not
perish but may have eternal life.
17 "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world
might be saved through him."
19 And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather
than light because their deeds were evil.

After the Reading: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** *Please be seated.*

SERMON Pastor Emily Willhide

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 323 God Loved the World
ROCKINGHAM OLD

THE APOSTLES' CREED
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.

HYMN: ELW 751 (Sung before and after intercessory prayers) O Lord, Hear My Prayer
HEAR MY PRAYER

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
Each petition concludes "*God of grace."* We respond: "**Receive our prayer."**

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

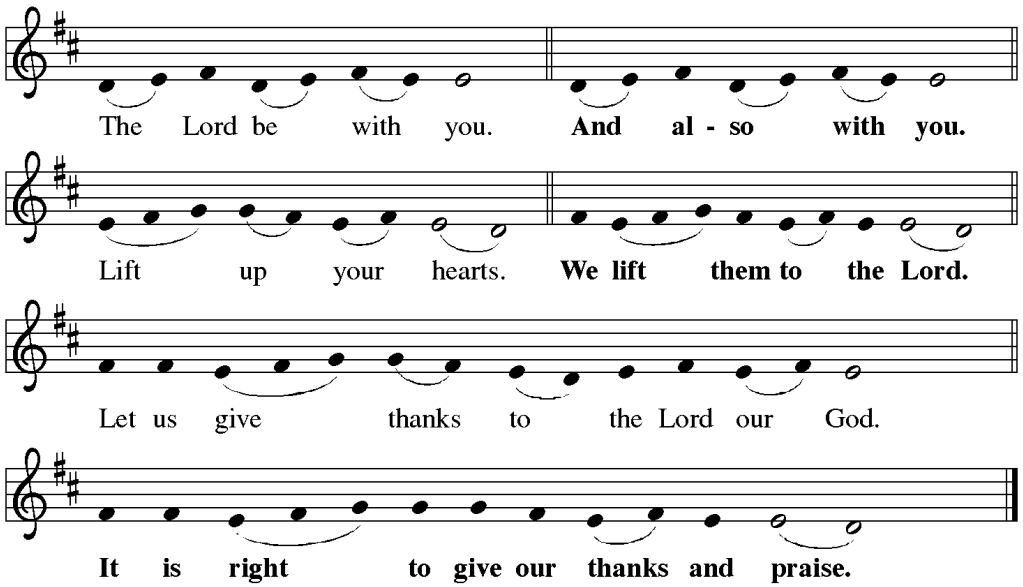
MEAL
The offering plate will be passed throughout the Congregation for those not using online giving.

ANTHEM: Amazing Grace Incarnation Ringers

OFFERTORY HYMN: ELW 184 Let the Vineyards be Fruitful

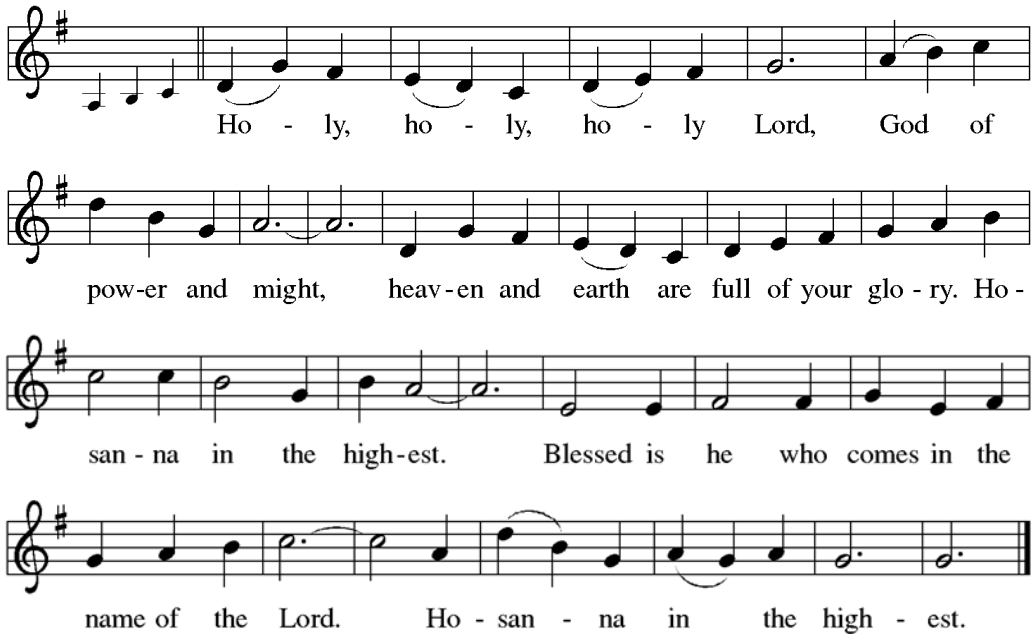
OFFERING PRAYER
Let us pray.
Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING: s107



PREFACE
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY: S108



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

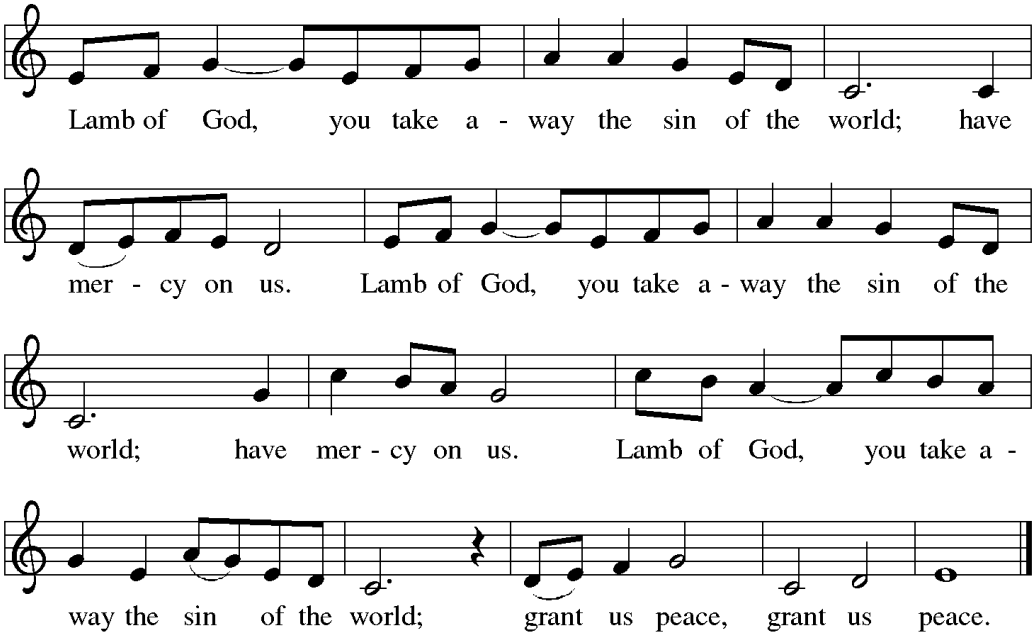
LORD'S PRAYER
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy. **Thanks be to God.**

Please be seated.

COMMUNION - *We invite you to join with us in the sacrament of Holy Communion, as Jesus invites us all to the table. Please take an empty communion glass from the trays at the front of the church. The innermost ring of glasses are pre-filled with grape juice for those who prefer juice to wine. There are discard trays by the side aisles. Please follow the directions of the Ushers.*

LAMB OF GOD: S112



COMMUNION HYMNS: ELW 335 Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross
NEAR THE CROSS

ELW 471 Let Us Break Bread Together
BREAK BREAD TOGETHER

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

SENDING

CLOSING LITANY
From the cross, Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them'
May we carry your redeeming word to the world.

From the Cross, Jesus said, 'Mother, here is your son...'
May we embody your love to all people

From the Cross, Jesus said, 'Into your hands I commit my spirit.'
May we live and move grounded in your presence.

BLESSING
The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: ELW 855 Crown Him with Many Crowns
DIADEMATA

DISMISSAL
Go in peace. Love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: This Day God's Son Triumphs, BWV 630 J.S. Bach

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship for coffee time.

God's Work Our Hands – September 7, 2025

We are one of over 8,500 congregations participating in "God's work. Our hands." Across the country, thousands of members will work to make a positive change in our communities, build and deepen relationships and share God's love. Join us as we do God's work with our hands! Our congregation will be engaging in service work right here in our community with two opportunities for service.

1. On September 28th, we will write cards to our veterans to express our appreciation.
2. Beginning September 8th, we invite you to volunteer at Columbia Animal Services and record your hours. Opportunities for service include dog walking, cat socialization, and working adoption events. You can pick up a release form in our office or find them online at https://animalservices.columbiasc.gov/volunteer/

Incarnation Lutheran Church

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adult and Children's Sunday School: 9:00 am
Nursery (Ages 3 and under): 9:45-11:15
Worship: 10:00 am
Office Hours: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm M-F
3005 Devine Street, Columbia, SC 29205 • (803) 256-2381

Prayer List

Current Concerns: The Family of Theresa Yaussy, The Family of Shirley Thompson, The Lamb Family, The Snyder Family, Erica Heinz, Fitz Medlin, Carson McCoy, Welda McCullough, Ken Gehler, Bill Lamb, all homebound and caregivers.

Continuing Concerns: The Poteau Family, Cheryl Wooten, Peter Lovaas, Walter Lindler, Elliott Milliken, Joe DeMichael, Mary Rivers, Chip Schuster, Grady Lindler

Military: Cory Gleason, Daniel Scruggs, Hilary Compton (Kim Yerrick's niece), Tyler Owens (Kim Yerrick's nephew), Christopher McFarland (Jimmy and Kathy McFarland's Son), James McFarland (Jimmy and Kathy McFarland's Grandson).

Attendance on 9/7/25: 78

This is the site to volunteer for the festival and setup/teardown:

https://ofestcola.ivolunteer.com/

This is the site for cashiers -- this is for church members only:

https://ofestcola.ivolunteer.com/volunteer_event_005

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, September 16th:
10:00 am Quilting Group
Wednesday, September 17th:
6:00 pm Handbell Practice
7:00 pm Choir Practice
Sunday, September 21st:
9:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am Worship
11:30 am Confirmation
Tuesday, September 23rd:
10:00 am Quiliting Group
6:30 pm CDC Board Meeting

Giving to ILC:

Please consider giving to Incarnation Lutheran Church's ministries and projects.

SCAN ME

Do you want to join Incarnation? If so, please contact the office at office@incarnationlutheran.com so that we can gather your contact information and reach out to you.

Oktoberfest Save the Dates!

- Sunday, Oct 5 - unload the Sysco truck and storage pods, organize the pantry
- Wednesday, Oct 8 and Thursday, Oct 9 - lots of hands needed to help decorate the tents and set up tables - dinner provided!
- October 10-12 - Oktoberfest!
- Monday, Oct 13 - help clean up
- Sunday, Oct 19 - reload the storage pods and final clean out of Fellowship Hall

What can you do?
Recruit a team of 5-10 volunteers for a meal shift
Find sponsorships -- See Sarah Sawicki for details
Email at sarahsawicki@gmail.com

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO PLUG-IN AT ILC AND CONTRIBUTE?

We are looking for folks interested in serving on our Faith Formation Committee and our Long Range Planning Committee.

The Faith Formation Committee supports the Faith Formation Minister and helps with planning classes and events, while the Long Range Planning Committee helps us identify goals and plans for the next few years.

If you are interested in either, please speak to Pastor Emily or Mimi Fisher.

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION

Confirmation Orientation will be on September 21st, immediately following coffee hour, in the Youth Room (upstairs). This meeting is important for both parents and youth, so please be there if possible.

Confirmation Begins the week of Sept. 28th.