

God's work. Our hands.



September 7, 2025

## Welcome to Worship

September 7, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Halfway Creek Park

Bandshell

Halfway Creek Lutheran Church, Journey Lutheran Church, and  
Holmen Lutheran Church

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*You are invited to speak the **bold** text.*

PRELUDE

*"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"*

*"Let Us Worship God"*

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.*

**Response: Amen.**

*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! **Response: Amen.***

GATHERING SONG

*"Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"*

music on page 6

GREETING

**Response: And also with you.**

KYRIE

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Holy One, you stretch wide your tent that all may be welcomed in, and in Jesus you**

**Sunday, September 7—10:30 a.m.**

**stretched out your hands in expansive love for a weary and wounded world. Help us to reach out with your own wounded hands of love, that through us your life may be known in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

READING

Philemon 8-21

For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask. The Word of the Lord. **Response: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-lu-jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional

## GOSPEL

Luke 14:25-33

Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them, “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions. The Gospel of the Lord. **Response: Praise to you, O Christ!**

## SERMON

Pastor Kathryn Thompson

## HYMN OF THE DAY

“God’s Work, Our Hands”

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## CELEBRATION OF VOCATION & BLESSING OF HANDS FOR MINISTRY

We are called to proclaim the good news: **God is at work!**

This good news is not left in some history long ago or a place far away:

**God is at work in the world still today!**

In us and through us, God is glorified in our work. When we offer a helping hand, God is praised. When we share of our abundance, God is known in the world.

**God is at work in us!**

In our service today and in our daily lives, let us live out what God has called us to in baptism. **God is at work through our hands!**

*(Here the assembly may be seated. Individuals may take turns exchanging the following blessing with the person seated next to them and receive a blessing on the backs and palms of their hands.)*

*Signing a cross on the backs of the hands: “God bless your hands and your work,”*

*Signing a cross on the palms of the hands: “that through you God’s love may be known.” **Response: Amen.***

**3 Sunday, September 7—10:30 a.m.**

## 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

OFFERTORY

*"Build on a Rock"*

Choir Anthem

OFFERING SONG

"Take My Life, That I May Be" v. 1&2

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OFFERING PRAYER

**Response: Amen.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

*Trusting in his promise to be among us whenever we gather in his name, we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

*Gathered as your people, meeting in Jesus' name, and preparing ourselves to feast upon Jesus' very body and blood, we plead with all creation: **Come, Lord Jesus.***

*Send your Spirit upon this meal, the body and blood of Jesus, that we overflow with your selfless love. Turn us to face our neighbors, that by us and through us your love may be known in the world. Again, we beg: **Come, Holy Spirit.***

*All honor and praise and glory to you, God of creative, dirty hands, God of holy, wounded hands, God who strengthens and guides our hands, now and forever. **Amen.***

THE 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

COMMUNION HYMN

*"For Everyone Born"*  
*"How Beautiful"*

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POST COMMUNION BLESSING  
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION  
BLESSING

**Response: Amen.**  
**Response: Amen.**  
**Response: Amen.**

SENDING SONG

*"Make a Difference"*

lyrics below

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are God's hands at work in the world!  
**Response: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

*"We Are Marching in the Light of God"*

## *Make a Difference*

*Intro by worship leader*

You gave your life to make a difference  
You gave your life to make a change  
You welcomed all to your table  
You're telling us to do the same

*Chorus:*

I want my life to make a difference  
I want my life to make a change  
I want my life to do some good here  
I want my life to make a change

*Verse 1*

Working side by side no out or inside  
together we can make that change  
With a few or many with a lot or not any  
together we can make that change

*Chorus*

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*Verse 2*

Crossing the great divide  
Joy and peace will abide  
Together we can make that change  
Jesus is our peace  
All fighting will cease  
Together we can make that change  
*Chorus*

*Verse 3*

We're the citizens with the saints  
We're the sunshine and the rain  
We're joy with the pain  
We're the change.

You healed the sick and fed the poor  
You stilled the storm when it did pour  
through us you will do more  
You're the change!

*Chorus*

**5 Sunday, September 7—10:30 a.m.**

# God's work. Our hands. Sunday Music selections

## Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service



- 1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
- 2 Still your chil - dren wan-der home-less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;
- 3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal-ing light
- 4 Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer-cy's per - fect deed:  
still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.  
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up - on our quick-ened sight,  
to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;  
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,  
hope and health, good-will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.  
by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.  
stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.  
that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

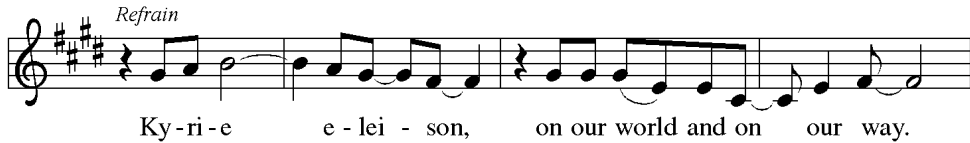
Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

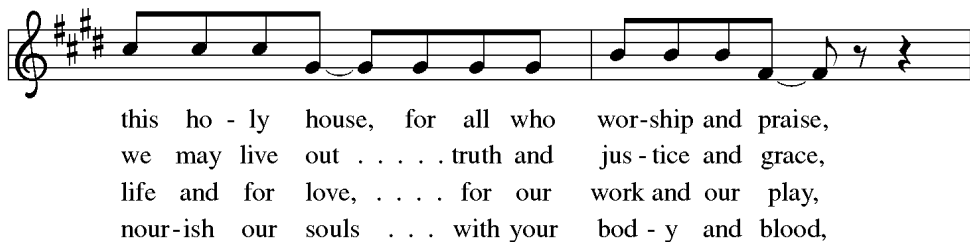
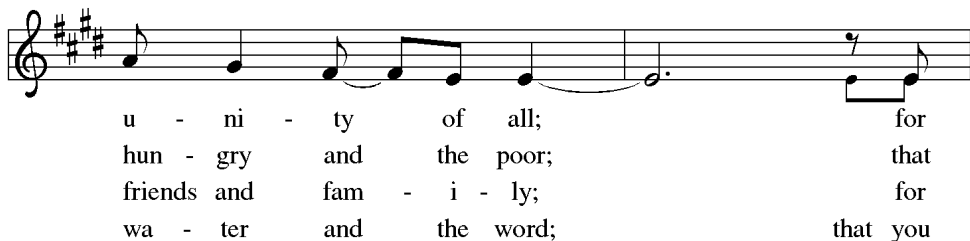
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# Kyrie



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



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**7 Sunday, September 7—10:30 a.m.**

# 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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Music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress



# Take My Life, That I May Be

## *Refrain*

Take my life, that I may be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

1

Take my hands and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet and let them be  
*swift and beautiful for thee.*

## *Refrain*

2

Take my silver and my gold,  
not a mite would I withhold;  
take my intellect and use  
ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

## *Refrain*

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## HOW BEAUTIFUL

How beautiful the hands that served  
The wine and the bread and the children  
of earth

How beautiful the feet that walked  
The long dusty roads and the hill to the  
cross

How beautiful, how beautiful  
How beautiful is the body of Christ

How beautiful the heart that bled  
That took all my sin and bore it instead  
How beautiful the tender eyes  
That chose to forgive and never despise

How beautiful, how beautiful  
How beautiful is the body of Christ

And as He laid down His life  
We offer this sacrifice

That we will live just as he died  
Willing to pay the price  
Willing to pay the price

How beautiful the feet that bring  
The sound of good news and the love  
of the King

How beautiful the hands that serve  
The wine and the bread and the children  
of earth

How beautiful, how beautiful  
How beautiful is the body of Christ

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## For Everyone Born

For everyone born, a place at the table,  
for everyone born, clean water and bread,  
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,  
for everyone born, a star overhead.

### **Refrain**

And God will delight when we are creators  
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight when we are creators  
of justice, justice and joy!

For woman and man, a place at the table,  
revising the roles, deciding the share,  
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,  
for woman and man, a system that's fair. **Refrain**

For young and for old, a place at the table,  
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,  
for young and for old, the right to belong. **Refrain**

For just and unjust, a place at the table,  
abuser, abused, with need to forgive,  
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,  
for just and unjust, a new way to live. **Refrain**

For everyone born, a place at the table,  
to live without fear, and simply to be,  
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,  
for everyone born, the right to be free. **Refrain**

Words: Shirley Erena Murray, 1931– ; Sp. tr. John Glaser, 1961– ; Fr. tr. Ervelyne Bernard, 1973–

Music: Brian Mann, 1979–Words © 1998 Hope Publishing Company

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# **God's work. Our hands. Sunday**

## **Schedule**

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Service Project—Lutheran World Relief personal care kits

11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Lunch

**Worship Leaders:** Patti Happel, Synod Authorized Minister,  
Pastor Luci Sesvold, Pastor Matt Toso,  
Pastor Kathryn Thompson

**Worship Accompanist:** Lynn Wegner

## **Thank You**

Thank you to the singers and musicians from Halfway Creek and Holmen Lutheran for leading us in song today. We thank Halfway Creek Lutheran Church for leading worship and providing morning treats, Holmen Lutheran for planning our service project, Journey Lutheran for providing the meal, Pastor Kathryn Thompson for being our guest preacher, and everyone who helped plan, set-up and clean-up to make the day a huge success.

We thank Deb Welander and the Combined Choir members and a big thanks to pianist, Bonnie Tolvstad, for accompanying the choir!

We extend a huge thank you to Patti Happel, Pastor Matt Toso and Pastor Luci Sesvold for planning this God's work. Our hands. combined service! Thank you for bringing us all together!

***Enjoy this time doing God's work and celebrating our time together.***

***God bless you today and always!***

**11 Sunday, September 7—10:30 a.m.**



www.halfwaycreek.org  
608-526-3701

# Halfway Creek

LUTHERAN CHURCH

W6016 County Rd. W  
Holmen, WI 54636

*Reach out and share Christ with all.*



Whoever you are,  
however you come, you are welcome here!

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