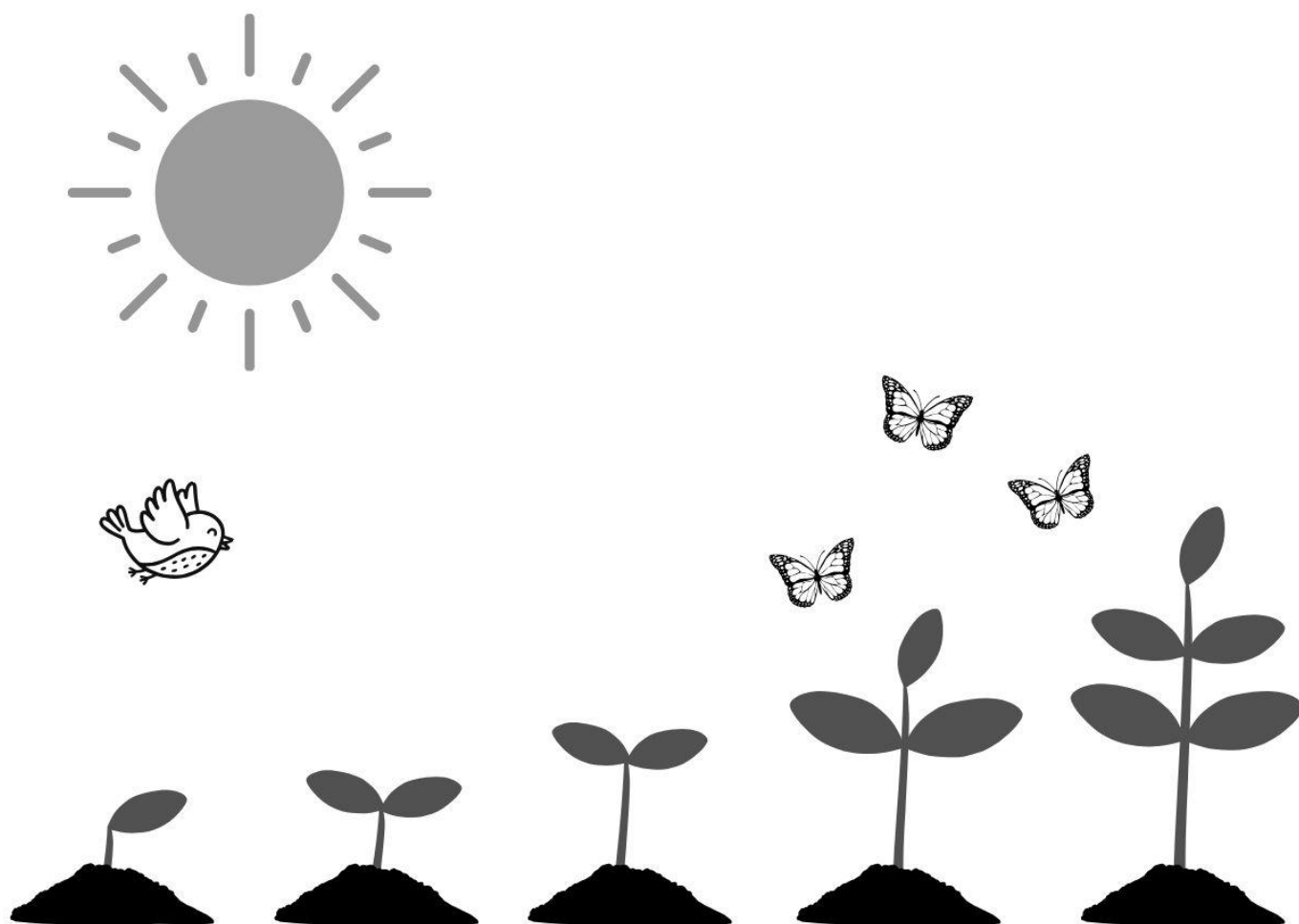




Growing Season
Joy in Christ Lutheran Church
Rev. Julie Wesley

*In the church calendar, **Ordinary Time** refers to the periods outside major liturgical seasons (like Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter). It is marked by the color green—representing spiritual growth and hope—and is focused on discipleship, learning Jesus's teachings, and applying faith to daily life.*

The second phase of Ordinary Time begins after Pentecost and runs through late fall, culminating on Christ the King Sunday just before the beginning of Advent. This constitutes nearly half of the calendar year. Rather than walking through the major narrative events of Jesus' life, Ordinary Time focuses on the teachings, miracles, and parables of Jesus, emphasizing what it means to follow Jesus in everyday life.

The readings we hear during Ordinary Time invite us to wonder about our lives of faith between the ordinary and the extraordinary, between what we expect of Jesus and his actual ministry. Evaluating our expectations may lead us to reflect on the “ordinary” work of the church.

The season offers a steady, uninterrupted rhythm for developing faithful habits, practicing prayer, and engaging in acts of service.

May our extraordinary God send the interrupting Spirit into our ordinary lives, our ordinary stories, and our ordinary church to ignite in us a renewed faith, a commitment to discipleship, and a burning desire to serve our neighbors. Amen.



Joy in Christ Lutheran Church acknowledges that indigenous peoples and nations, including the Osage, Quapaw, and Caddo, have stewarded through generations the lands and waterways of what is now Hot Springs Village and Central Arkansas. We honor and respect the enduring relationship that exists between these peoples and nations and this land.

In the name of the Father,
and of the ☩ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

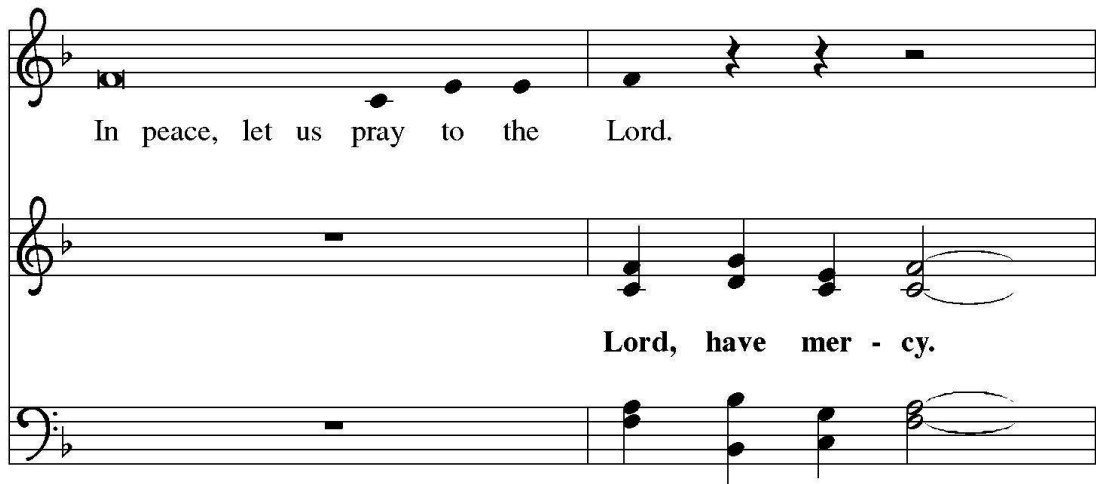
God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN (*Refer to the hymn board for hymn number*)

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.



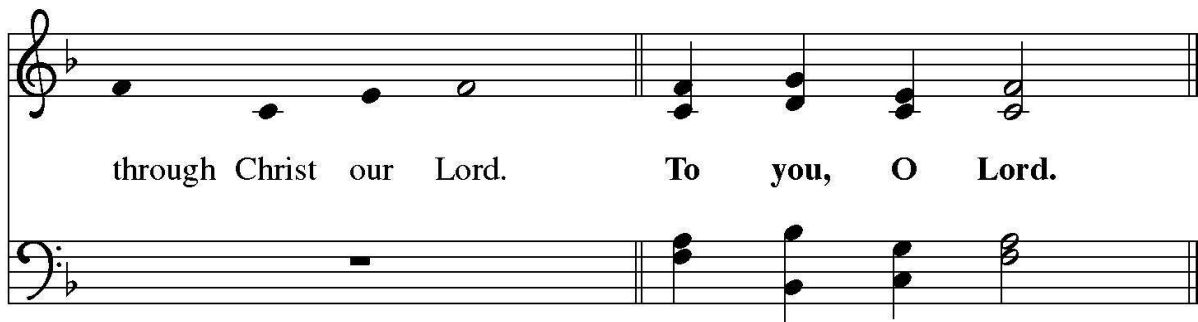
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

We commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to you,



(ELW p.149) This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Prayer of the Day *(see bulletin insert)*

The assembly is seated.

The readings *(see bulletin insert)*

The assembly rises in body or in spirit for the reading of the gospel.

(ELW p. 151) **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading

The holy gospel according to _____. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The reading

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly rises in body or in spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY *(Refer to the hymn board for the hymn number)*

With the whole church, let us confess our faith:

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten
of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things
were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was
incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and
was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the
scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the
Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his
kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the
Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who
has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and
apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

As we journey through the green days of Ordinary Time, let us bring our prayers before the Lord, asking for the grace to grow in faith, wisdom, and love.

For the universal church, that we may be nurtured by God's Word and grow deep roots in God's love. We pray for our presiding bishop, our bishop, our pastor, and our lay leaders **that our ministries may flourish, bearing abundant fruit in every good work.**

For our community and our nation, that we may grow in patience, understanding, and compassion for one another. Guide our local leaders in Hot Springs Village and across the nation **to cultivate environments where all people can thrive and live in peace.**

For those who are experiencing seasons of drought in their own lives—those facing illness, grief, or financial hardship, *especially*...and those we now name aloud or in our hearts. (*Pause*) May they feel the gentle, renewing presence of the Holy Spirit, and **may our community be a source of support and encouragement to them.**

For our families and homes, that they may be gardens of grace. Help us to nurture our relationships with intentional care, **speaking truth in love so that we may all grow in Christ.**

For ourselves, that we may slow down, pay attention to the present moment, and allow the seeds of your truth to take root in the soil of our hearts. **Give us the courage to embrace the changes and pruning required for true spiritual maturity.**

Gracious and loving God, accept these prayers and the silent intentions of our hearts. Continue to work within us, equipping us with the wisdom and endurance to live lives that reflect your goodness. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

The assembly is seated.

The work of this congregation is made possible by individuals like you. Because the church receives no outside operating support, your generosity truly sustains our mission and ministries. Your tax-deductible offering gift will be received with joy and thanksgiving in any of the following ways:



*As the plate is passed. • By scanning the QR code at the right. • By mail at a later time
Thank you for your generosity.*

*To use the QR code, open your cell phone or tablet camera and hold it over the shape.
Tap the link or small box that appears and you will be taken to our secure donation page.*

*The assembly rises in body or in spirit.
(ELW 184)*

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the
bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers
we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the
feast to come.**

Let us pray.

Generous God, we thank you for the resources you have entrusted to us. As we return these tithes and offerings, we pray that you will multiply them. Use these gifts to grow your church, spread your love into the wider world, and accomplish with them more than we could ever ask or imagine. **Amen.**

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, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. From sunrise to sunset this day is holy, for Christ has risen from the tomb and scattered the darkness of death with light that will not fade. This day the risen Lord walks with your gathered people, unfolds for us your word, and makes himself known in the breaking of the bread. And though the night will overtake this day you summon us to live in endless light, the never-ceasing sabbath of the Lord. 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:

(ELW p. 153)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy God, mighty and merciful, your people praise you, saying:
Your mercy endures forever. **Your mercy endures forever.**

By your promise you bound yourself to earth and all its creatures, granting them life and calling them to flourish, setting the sign of your bow in the clouds, the colors of your love and faithfulness.

Your mercy endures forever. **Your mercy endures forever.**

By your promise you bound yourself to your people of old, blessing them with family outnumbering the stars and calling them to be a blessing to others, showing them steadfast love in every generation and calling them to be a light to the nations.

Your mercy endures forever. **Your mercy endures forever.**

By your promise you joined us to Jesus, your Beloved, grafting us into your living Vine, and calling us to bear the fruit of your self-giving love.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember his life laid down and lifted up as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and these gifts of bread and wine. Bless us to be a blessing. Make us a sign of your faithfulness. Send us to tend and cherish the earth and to serve the world with mercy and love.

With all the saints in light, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, through Christ Jesus, in your Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us sing the words Jesus taught us:

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,

Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we

for-give those who sin a- gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al

and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,

and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

The table has been prepared, as Jesus commanded, and we are invited to the meal.

Come to the table –

Like Peter, with more enthusiasm than resolve,

Like James and John, dismayed by the priorities of God's reign.

Come to the table –

Like Martha, hosting and leading with confidence,

Like Mary, full of love and grief.

Come to the table –

Like Judas, disillusioned and rebellious,

Like Mary Magdalene, faithful to the end.

Come to the table –

Jesus offers the bread and the cup.

Come to the table of Christ!

The assembly is seated.

(ELW p.154)

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

*The Lutheran Church confesses the real presence of Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine. Jesus is the host of our meal together and invites all to receive the sacrament. The body of Christ is given **for you**. The blood of Christ is shed **for you**.*

We will commune by intinction: dip the host into the chalice before consuming both elements together. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. One chalice contains red wine, the other, non-alcoholic white grape juice.

Once all have communed, the assembly rises in body or spirit.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

(ELW 207)

**Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell ev'ryone what God has done.
Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your promises and lead your people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN *(Refer to the hymn board for the hymn number)*

Go into the world with the mind of Christ. Go into the world to be the hands of Christ. Go into the world filled with the love of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Mark your calendar for these
 *upcoming events* 

Feast of Creation

first weekend of September

God's Work, Our Hands

second weekend of September

Worship in the Park

Cortez Pavilion

fourth weekend of September



*Listen to the word that God has spoken,
listen to the One who is close at hand,
listen to the voice that began creation,
listen even if you don't understand.*