

Right Where You



*Belong*  
Augustana

## Welcome!

Welcome to worship! We're glad you're here today. If you are visiting and would like to know more about Augustana, please find one of the volunteers or staff after worship. We'd be happy to meet you and answer your questions.

*Please remember to silence your cell phones.*

September 17, 2023 | 8:30 & 9:45 am

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

This morning, we read the story of Jesus' ancestral grandmother, Ruth. In the midst of tragedy and hardship, Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi, teach us about companionship and belonging to one another. When faced with a decision to stay or to leave, Ruth declares her unwavering loyalty to Naomi, saying, "Where you go, I will go, and where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God my God." The plight of these women reminds us that life often presents difficult decisions without a clear answer. In this story, Ruth steadfastly refuses to leave Naomi's side, declaring her unwavering commitment and love, setting the stage for their remarkable journey of faith and companionship.

### Prelude

*Romance*  
Trombone Ensemble

Georgi Sviridov  
arr. Doug Berg-Williams

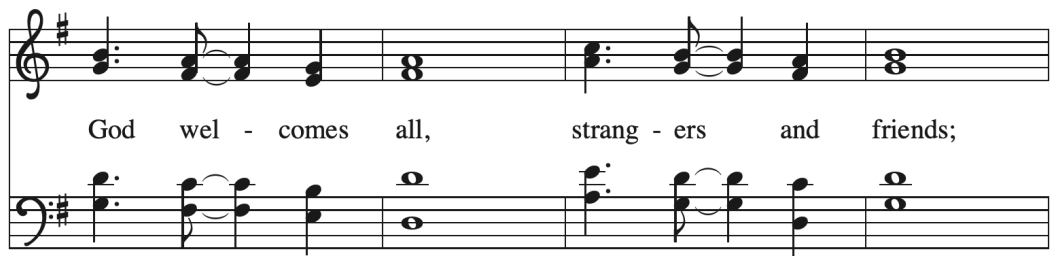
### Welcome

#### GATHERING

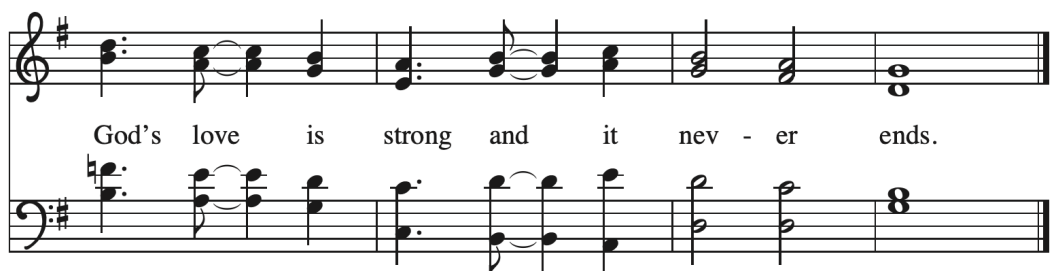
The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

*Sung twice*



God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;



God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

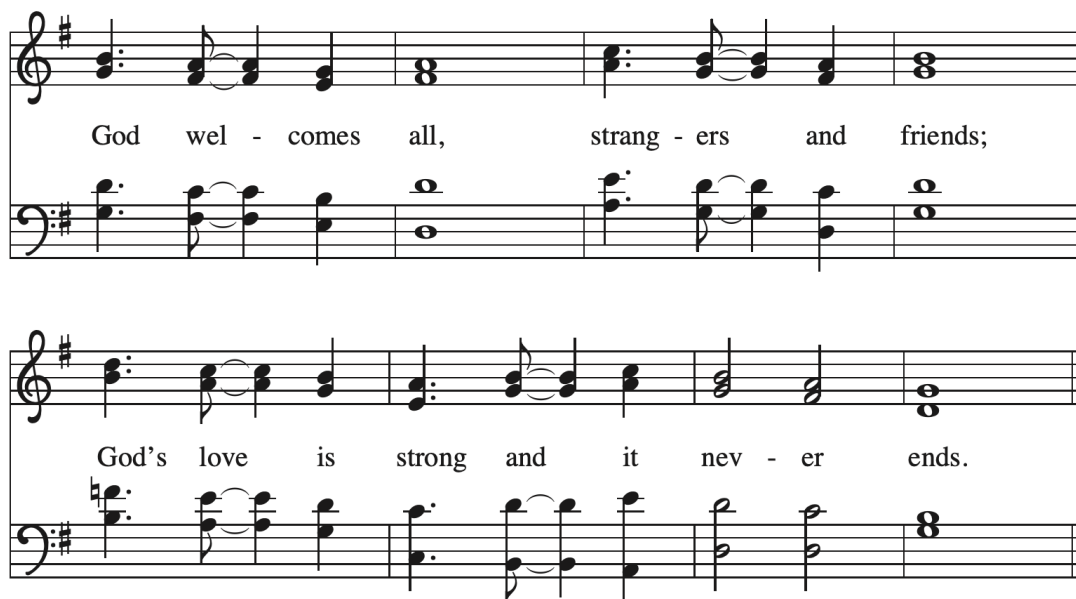
Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: AMEN THEMBA, South African traditional; transc. and arr. John L. Bell.

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L: Welcome to this place: where we gather as God's people:  
**C: where curious children and wise elders sit side by side;**  
 L: where God makes us a new creation,  
**C: where we hear the voice of Jesus call us to truth and freedom,**  
 L: where the Spirit leads us to abundant life,  
**C: where whoever you are or wherever you come from,**  
**you are right where you belong.**

*Sung once*



God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;  
 God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

L: Welcome to this place, where all is made ready by God:  
**C: where we bring our hunger and find nourishment,**  
 L: where we bring our mistakes and find forgiveness,  
**C: where we speak our fears and find hope,**  
 L: where we name our brokenness and find healing,  
**C: where we bring our whole selves and find we are right where we belong.**  
**Amen.**

**Opening Hymn**

*Rise, O Sun of Righteousness*

ELW #657

**Apostolic Greeting**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**C: And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

L: God of Compassion,

**C: in a world often divided by differences, help us see the beauty in our connections.**

**Teach us to cherish one another. May we have the courage to be like Ruth, offering our support and companionship, and like Naomi, who accepted that love with gratitude. Let our actions be a testament to the power of presence and community, reflecting your divine love to those we encounter. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

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**WORD**

God speaks to us through scripture, preaching, and song

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**Anthem**

8:30

*Day by Day*

arr. Andy Jacob

Callie Judnick, soloist

Commissioned in celebration of Alta Egbers’s 100<sup>th</sup> birthday

9:45

*The Prayer of Saint Francis*

Rene Clausen

Senior Choir

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

**Reading**

Ruth 1:1-18

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband. Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back each of you to your mother’s house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.” Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.” But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters. Why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying?”

No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me.” Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her. So she said, “Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” But Ruth said,

“Do not press me to leave you,  
to turn back from following you!  
Where you go, I will go;  
where you lodge, I will lodge;  
your people shall be my people  
and your God my God.  
Where you die, I will die,  
and there will I be buried.  
May the Lord do thus to me,  
and more as well,  
if even death parts me from you!”

When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated.*

**Sermon**

*Belonging Begins With... Showing Up for Each Other*  
Deacon Stephanie Anderson

*After the organ introduction, please rise in body or spirit.*

**Hymn of the Day**

*Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

ELW #656

**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.**

**Installation of Deaconess Claire Schoepp**

## Prayers of the People

Each petition concludes:

L: Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Please be seated.

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### MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

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## Offering

8:30 am

“Andante religioso” from *Sonata III*

Felix Mendelssohn

9:45 am

*Day by Day*

arr. Andy Jacob

Callie Judnick, soloist

Commissioned in celebration of Alta Egbers’s 100<sup>th</sup> birthday

Please rise in body or spirit.

## Offertory

### *O Sing to the Lord*

Today’s offertory is a traditional Brazilian setting of selected verses from Psalm 98. It was translated from Portuguese into English by Gerhard Cartford. Cartford worked closely with the national Lutheran liturgical commissions in Brazil and Argentina, helping to produce provisional worship books in each of the countries. He brought many of these hymns back to the United States which helped broaden the diversity of the Church’s song in this country.

1 Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.  
2 So dance for our God, and blow all the trum - pets.

Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.  
So dance for our God, and blow all the trum - pets.

Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.  
So dance for our God, and blow all the trum - pets.

Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.  
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

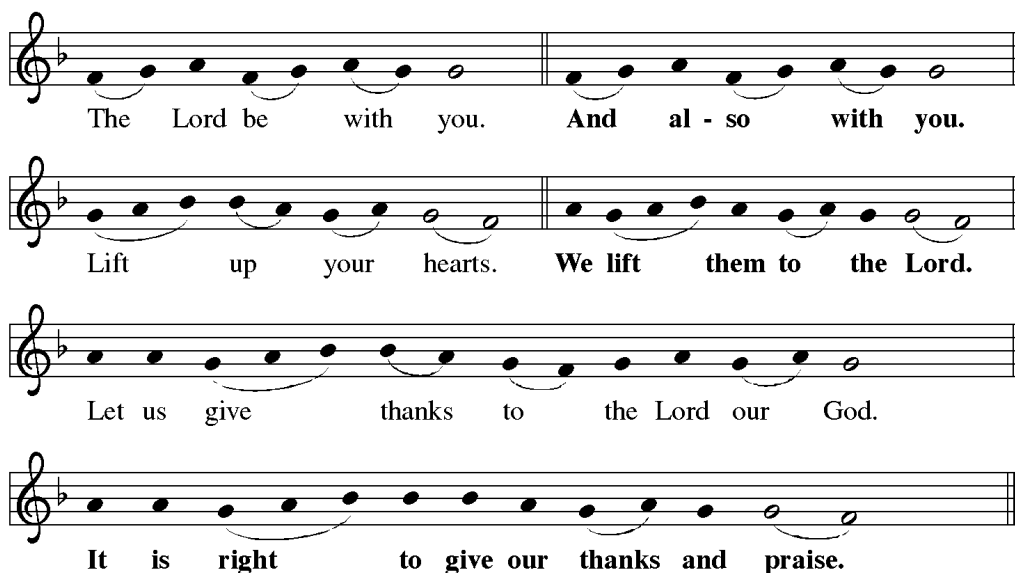
Text: Brazilian folk song; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923, Spanish and English  
Music: CANTAD AL SEÑOR: Brazilian folk tune  
Text © Gerhard Cartford, admin. Augsburg Fortress

### Offering Prayer

L: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

C: Amen.

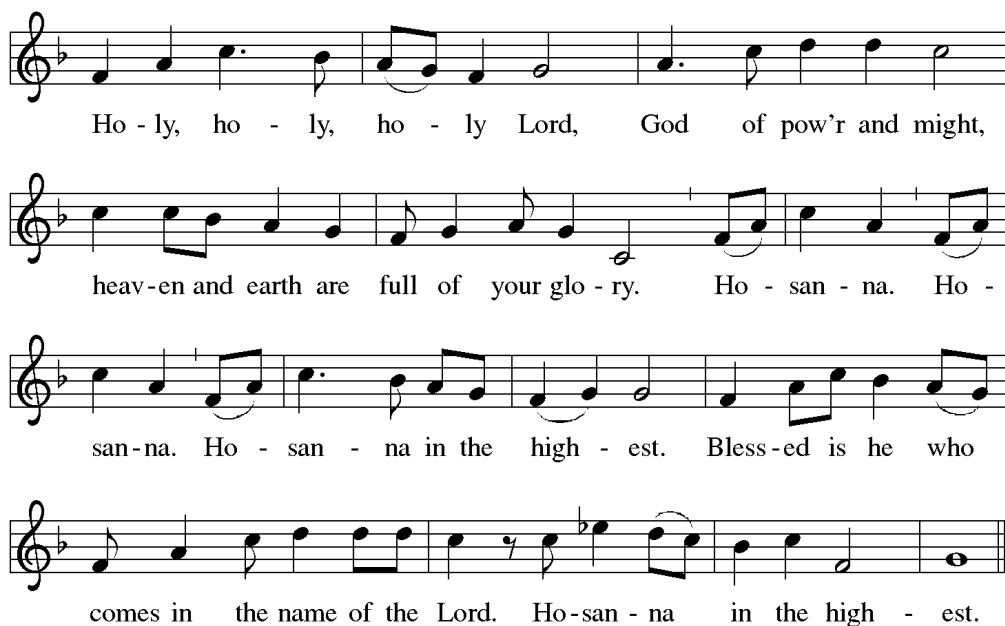
### The Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

L: It is indeed right our duty and our joy... and join their unending hymn:

### Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

*The Sanctus (Latin for "Holy"), a cosmic hymn to the glory of God, expresses our joyful praise in union with all creation and with the people of God in every time and place. As we come to the table, we are reminded that Christ welcomes all to this banquet.*

## Words of Institution

*We are using the modern translation of the Lord's Prayer. Praying a slight variation helps us be more aware of what we are praying to God for, and remembering the ways God saves and delivers us.*

*The "Agnus Dei" or "Lamb of God" has been a prayer used as part of the Communion liturgy since at least the 12th century. It is based on John 1:29, in which John the Baptist, upon seeing Jesus, proclaims "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"*

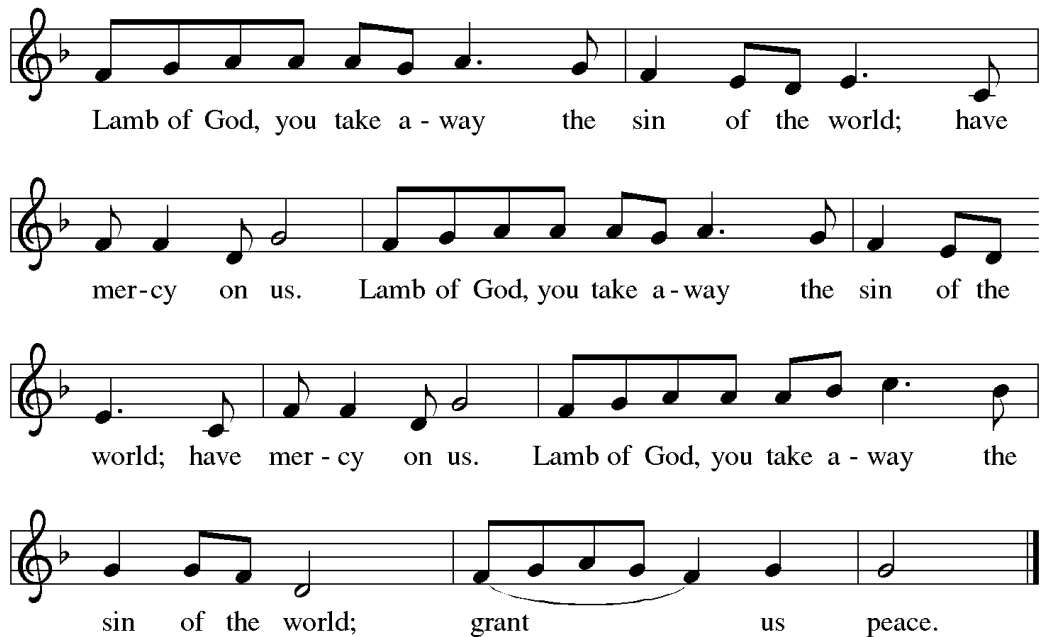
## Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## Distribution

### Agnus Dei



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## Hymn

*Around You, O Lord Jesus*

ELW #468

## Post Communion Blessing and Prayer

L: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

L: Gracious God, we give you thanks that you have revealed yourself to us in the breaking of this bread, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to give ourselves away as bread for the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

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**SENDING**

The Holy Spirit sends us into the world

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**Blessing for Deb Ost, traveling to visit Lutheran Mideast Development sites in Turkey**

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

**Benediction**

L: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

In the name of the Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn**

*To Be Your Presence*

ELW #546

**Sending**

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

*Cherubim and Saraphim*

Doug Berg-Williams

Trombone Ensemble

*Intentional hospitality is important to helping people find that Augustana is "Right Where They Belong." It takes practice and may require you to step outside your comfort zone, but give it a try. Introduce yourself to someone this morning. It can be as simple as saying, "I'm so glad you're here. What are your plans for the rest of the day?"*

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**SERVING TODAY**

Preacher: Deacon Stephanie Anderson

Liturgist: Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner

Organist: Andy Jacob

Senior Choir Director: Kathy Andrews

Readers: 8:30 am - Wendy Haavisto

9:45 am - Bill Eisenmann

Trombone Ensemble:

Jim Andrews, Doug Berg-Williams, Leon Dill,

John Metcalfe, Marie Olson, Gary Zielinski

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