

## **Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

September 21, 2025 10 A.M. Worship

Celebrating the Risen Christ through Acts of Love, Care and Justice

## THEME OF THE DAY (YEAR C)

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. "Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all." Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God's gracious favor we have everything we need. (Lectionary 25)

**PRELUDE** 

Touch the Earth Lightly

Jim Loeffler

#### **TOLLING THE WORSHIP HOUR**

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity,  $\oplus$  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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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  $\oplus$  Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

Amen.



Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926 Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731–1776 Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press.

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#### **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.

### **HYMN OF PRAISE**

## "Glory to God"





#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with You.

And also with you.

Let us pray... God among us,

we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# WORD

FIRST READING Amos 8:4-7 Pew Bible, pg. 749

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

<sup>4</sup> Hear this, you who trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, <sup>5</sup> saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale?

We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier and practice deceit with

false balances, <sup>6</sup> buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

<sup>7</sup> The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

The cantor introduces the refrain. All repeat immediately and where indicated by "R."



Psalm 113:7
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## (sung responsively)

- <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants <sup>|</sup> of the LORD; praise the name <sup>|</sup> of the LORD.
  - <sup>2</sup> Let the name of the | LORD be blessed, from this time forth for- | evermore.
  - <sup>3</sup> From the rising of the sun to its <sup>1</sup> going down let the name of the <sup>1</sup> LORD be praised.
  - <sup>4</sup> The LORD is high a- <sup>1</sup> bove all nations; God's glory a- <sup>1</sup> bove the heavens. R
  - Who is like the I LORD our God, who sits en-I throned on high,
  - <sup>6</sup> but stoops <sup>|</sup> to behold the heavens <sup>|</sup> and the earth?
  - <sup>7</sup> The LORD takes up the weak out <sup>I</sup> of the dust and lifts up the poor <sup>I</sup> from the ashes,
  - <sup>8</sup> enthroning them | with the rulers, with the rulers | of the people.
  - <sup>9</sup> The LORD makes the woman of a <sup>1</sup> childless house to be a joyful mother of children. <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! **R**

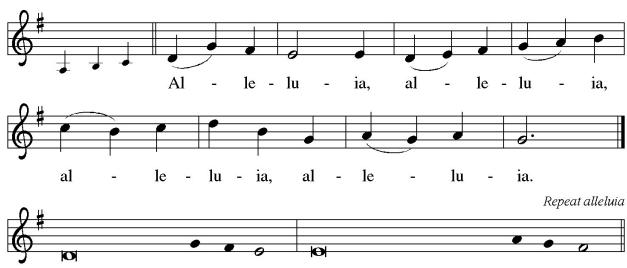
The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

<sup>1</sup> First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup> This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup> For

there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human,

<sup>6</sup> who gave himself a ransom for all —this was attested at the right time. <sup>7</sup> For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

## **ALLELUIA VERSE** (ALL sing)



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter-nal life.

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, chapter 16 **Glory to you, O Lord.** 

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. <sup>2</sup> So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup> I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' 5 So. summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' <sup>6</sup> He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' <sup>7</sup> Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take

your bill and make it eighty.' <sup>8</sup> And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. <sup>9</sup> And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

10 "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. 11 If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? 12 And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? 13 No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

The Gospel of Our Lord! **Praise to you, O Christ.** 



Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915-2006

Music: RUSTINGTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918
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#### PROFESSION OF FAITH — 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 THE PEOPLE

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

(after each petition) God of grace, receive our prayer.

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

#### PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We share the peace of Christ with one another.

# MEAL

## **GATHERING OF GIFTS**

(Sounds of Joy)

Song of Assurance

Arnold B. Sherman

Scan here to give online.

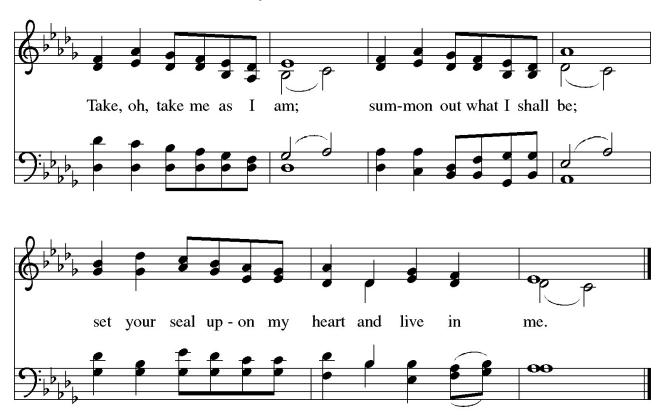
You may also make your offering via US mail, or at: give.rlcplano.org,



#### **SETTING THE TABLE**

## Take, Oh Take Me As I Am

#### **ELW #814**



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell

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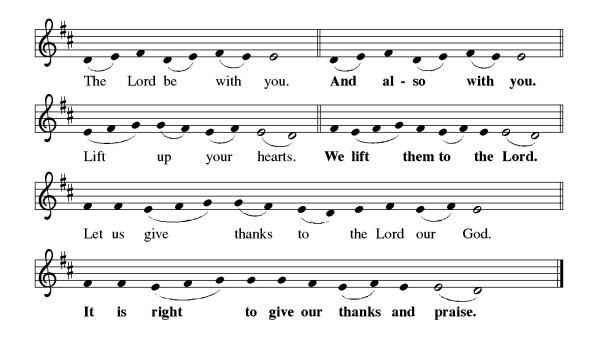
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#### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray...Lord of the harvest,

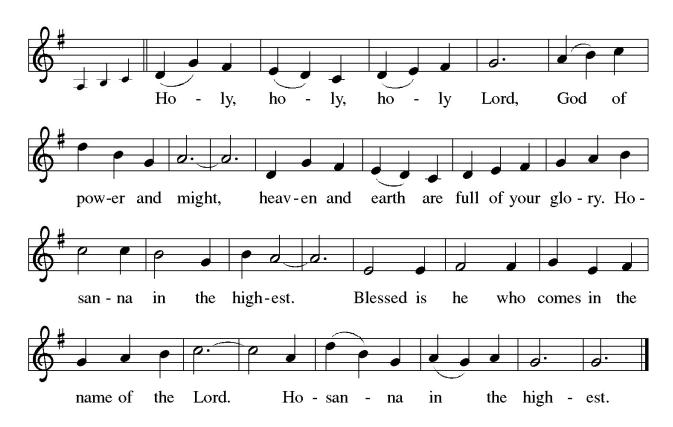
we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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

## **SANCTUS**

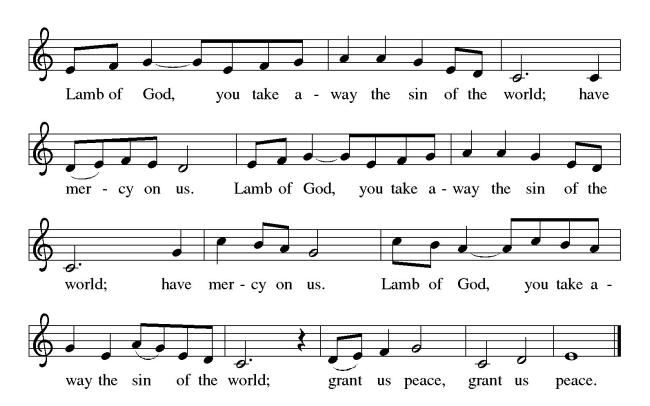


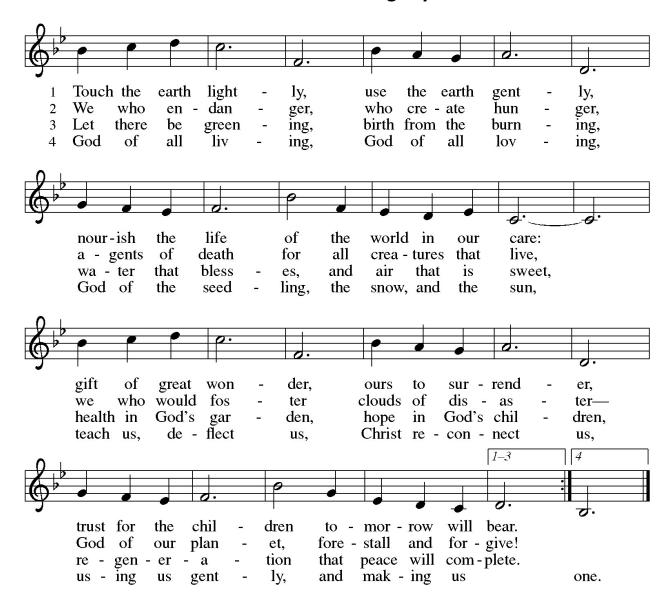
#### THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

## THE LORD'S PRAYER (contemporary text)

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.

#### **LAMB OF GOD**





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#### TABLE BLESSING

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray...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

#### **BENEDICTION**

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.** 

#### Rise Up, O Saints of God! **ELW #669** SENDING HYMN Rise O saints of God! vain am - bi - tions up, From turn; en - gulfs earth's frame; Speak out, saints of God! O De - spair Rise up, O saints of God! The king-dom's task em - brace; Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain; paths which Christ has Com - mit your hearts to seek the trod; Christ rose tri - um-phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn. heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro-claim. jus - tice larg - er place. re - dress sin's cru - el con - se-quence; give stretch forth your hand of heal-ing now, with love the weak sus - tain. quick-ened by the Spir-it's pow'r, rise O saints of God! up,

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936 Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893 Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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#### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.







#### **Ministers**

Pastor [ext. 115] Office Administrator [ext. 110]

Director of Children's Ministry and Education [Ext 116]

Director of Youth Ministry [ext. 118] Director of Worship & Music [ext. 114] Rev. William Jon Irons [pastorbill@rlcplano.org]

Misti Retan [misti@rlcplano.org] Betsy Boyd [betsy@rlcplano.org] Ann Loeffler [ann@rlcplano.org] Jim Loeffler [jim@rlcplano.org]

#### **Volunteer Staff & Leadership**

Council President Council Vice President Council Secretary Council Treasurer Liaison for Worship Liaison for Witness Liaison for Learn Liaison for Serve Liaison for Ancillary Ministries

Liaison for Support / Facility Supervision

**Butterflier Editor (Newsletter)** 

School Supply Project

AM's & Acolyte Coordinator

Altar Guild & Flowers

Bruce Fisher [brucewfisher@gmail.com] Kathy Barrett- [kwbarret@verizon.net]

Beth Smith [fraubeth@att.net] David Frost [fros@Raytheon.com] Amy Gebrian [a4704g@verizon.net]

Marylou Boardman [g777879@yahoo.com] Katherine Bandy [kmbmilton@gmail.com]

Sharon Bosse [lemonade@GTE.net] Sallie Diamond [dithr@aol.com]

Mark Waterman [mvwaterman@sbcglobal.net]

Rita Fischer [nygiantfan2@verizon.net] info@theschoolsupplyproject.org

Lynn Waterman [joyfullynn@sbcglobal.net]

Jan Frum [jlfrum@verizon.net]

WiFi — RLC\_Guest1

Password — AofLCJ1919

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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