

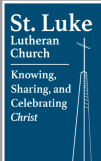
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 27, 2025

Welcome to 9:30 am Worship



Persistence in prayer is encouraged by Jesus and wins the attention of God when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus—is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God's own. "When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me."



ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

35 Wilson Ave., PO Box 338

Gilbertsville, PA 19525

610-367-9738 www.stlukegilbertsville.org

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JULY 27, 2025

PRELUDE

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

setting, John Carter; ©2005 Augsburg Fortress

GATHERING

TFF 242 Sweet Hour of Prayer

Text: William Walford, 1772-1850, alt.; Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 742 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820-1886; Music: Charles C. Converse, 1832-1918

OFFERING SONG

LS 97 O Come Lord Jesus, Be Our Guest

Text: traditional table prayer, adapt. Susan Briehl, © Augsburg Fortress; Music: Thomas Tallis

SENDING HYMN

ELW 543 Go, My Children, with My Blessing

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919-2008, alt. ©1983 Concordia Publishing
House: Music: Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

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St. Luke
Lutheran
Church

Knowing,
Sharing, and
Celebrating
Christ

Min. Bobbie Hoffman,
Synodical Approved Minister

Lincoln Noecker,
Director of Music

Valerie Schlegel
Dir. Handbell & Youth Choir

Marsha Staub,
Office Administrator

Executive Officers:

Leslie Romasco, President
John Bealer, Vice President
Pam Reifsnyder, Secretary
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John Bealer
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Vince Harris

Min. Bobbie Hoffman

Pete Huber
Dave Janzow
Scott Moyer
Bonnie Kuser
Pam Reifsnyder
Leslie Romasco
Tom Undercuffler
Joe Vendetti

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610-367-9738

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit Calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

During the prelude, please use this time to quietly allow God to open your heart to his blessed presence.

Please rise in body or spirit

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

you free us to love others,

but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.

You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,

but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.

**You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity,**

but we grow weary in doing what is right.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Do not give up on us.

Heal us, break our bonds,

and show us the path of life.

Amen.

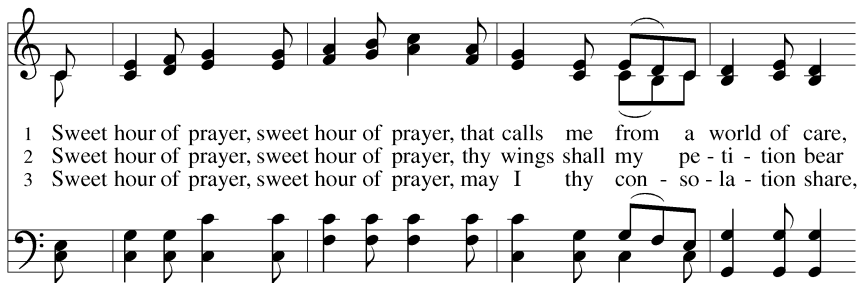
You belong to Christ Jesus
and you are God's children through faith.
In the cross of ✠ Christ,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.

Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Sweet Hour of Prayer

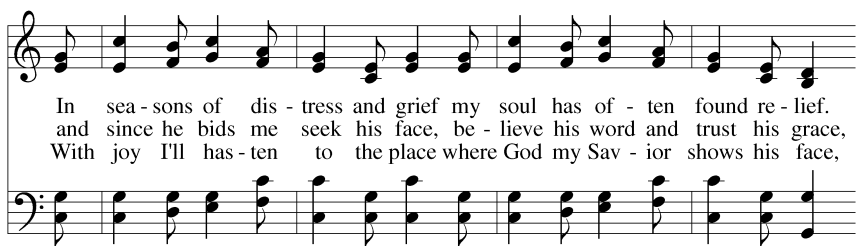
TFF 242



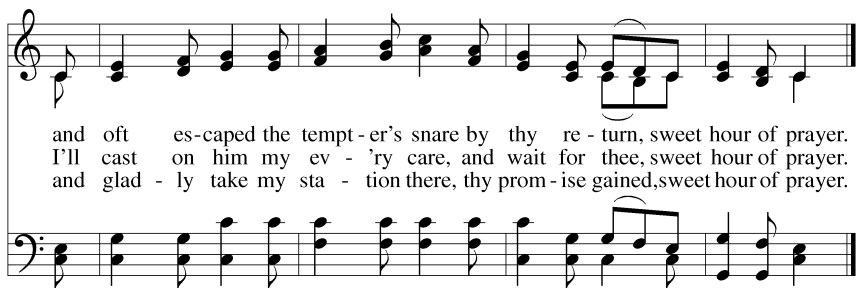
1 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, that calls me from a world of care,
2 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, thy wings shall my pe - ti - tion bear
3 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, may I thy con - so - la - tion share,



and bids me at my Fa - ther's throne make all my wants and wish-es known.
to him whose truth and faith-ful - ness en - gage the wait - ing soul to bless;
till from Mount Pis - gah's loft - y height I view my home and take my flight.



In sea - sons of dis - tress and grief my soul has of - ten found re - lief.
and since he bids me seek his face, be - lieve his word and trust his grace,
With joy I'll has - ten to the place where God my Sav - ior shows his face,



and oft es - caped the tempt - er's snare by thy re - turn, sweet hour of prayer.
I'll cast on him my ev - 'ry care, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.
and glad - ly take my sta - tion there, thy prom - ise gained, sweet hour of prayer.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and ever-living God,

**you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray,
and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve.**

Pour upon us your abundant mercy.

**Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience,
and give us those good things that come only through your Son,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

READING:

A reading from Genesis 18:20-32

²⁰Then the Lord said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know."

²²So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. ²³Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶And the Lord said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive

the whole place for their sake.” ²⁷ Abraham answered, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸ Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.” ²⁹ Again he spoke to him, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” ³⁰ Then he said, “Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.” ³¹ He said, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” ³² Then he said, “Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.” Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 138

- ¹ I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.
- ² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**
- ³ When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.
- ⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord,
when they have heard the words of your mouth.**
- ⁵ They will sing of the ways of the Lord,
that great is the glory of the Lord.
- ⁶ **The Lord is high, yet cares for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty from afar.**
- ⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your
right hand shall save me.
- ⁸ **You will make good your purpose for me;
O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the
works of your hands.**

Please rise in body or spirit

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

The holy gospel according to Luke 11:1-13

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ [Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."² So he said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

⁵ And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of

bread, ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' ⁷ And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹ "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? ¹³ If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

MESSAGE

Minister Bobbie Hoffman

Please rise in body or spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

ELW 742

CREED

Together, let us confess our faith using the words of 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.

The assembly is seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

Thank you Lord for all your blessings...
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Loving God, create in your church a desire for union with you in prayer.
Raise up leaders to teach Christ's devotion to prayer and model Christ's way of prayer, until all people experience prayerful intimacy with you.
God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Reveal to humanity the sacredness of all creation. With the breath of your Spirit, realign the balances of nature. Grant persistence in prayer and action for the sake of the earth, our common home. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Teach rulers of the earth to sing of your ways, caring for the lowly and having no preference for the powerful. Direct the heart of every person to seek your will on earth as in heaven. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

To all whose prayers are cries for help, give your good gifts, and satisfy their deepest needs. Gather them to your constant, loving presence, that they may rest in the confidence of life with you. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Center the ministries of this assembly on prayer and service. Guide our relationships in the wider community, being ready to assist those who seek help. Strengthen feeding, clothing, and housing ministries and community partnerships. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

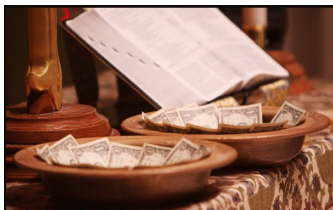
We give thanks for all who have gone before us. May we trust your steadfast love and continue in hope until we are united with all your saints. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

PEACE

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

Please rise in body or spirit.



OFFERING SONG

We present our offering to God during worship as sign of our gratitude for His goodness, mercy & generosity.



1 Oh, come, Lord Je - sus, be our guest, and
2 Oh, come, Lord Je - sus, be our guest, and
3 Oh, come, Lord Je - sus, be our guest, and
4 Oh, come, Lord Je - sus, be our guest, and



let your gifts to us be blest. Keep us for - ev - er
let your gifts to us be blest. Oh, may there be a
let your gifts to us be blest. Guide us a - long the
let your gifts to us be blest. Come deep with - in our



in your sight, and be our joy, our hearts' de - light.
good - ly share on ev - 'ry ta - ble ev - 'ry-where.
ser - vant's way, and lead us to your dawn-ing day.
hearts to dwell, that we may all your good-ness tell.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Creator God,

**in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good
and the harvest is plentiful.**

**Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth
and our labor,**

that we may work for the good of all;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

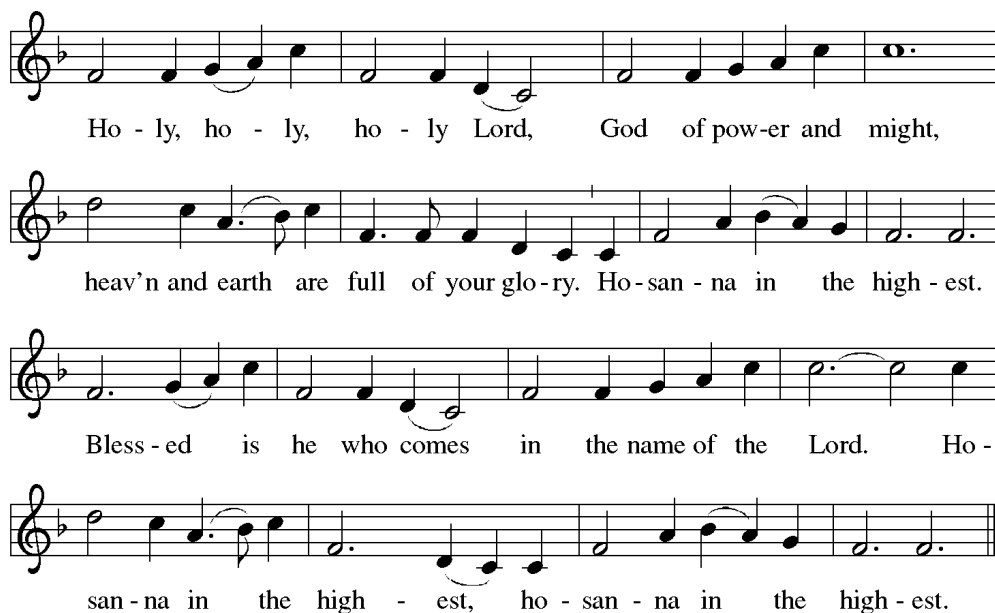
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.
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:



HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

All are welcome to the table. If you will be coming to the altar for communion, please follow the ushers' instructions. Those who are choosing to stay in the pew, using the prefilled cups, and those who need to have the pastor bring the elements to them should wait for instructions from the pastor. Children are most welcome to accompany their parents to the altar for a blessing.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

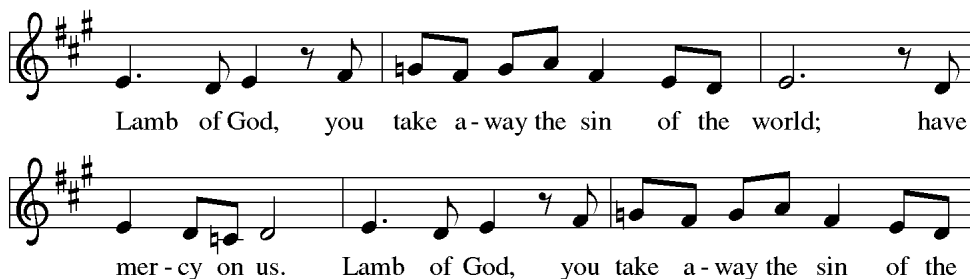
Give us today our daily bread.

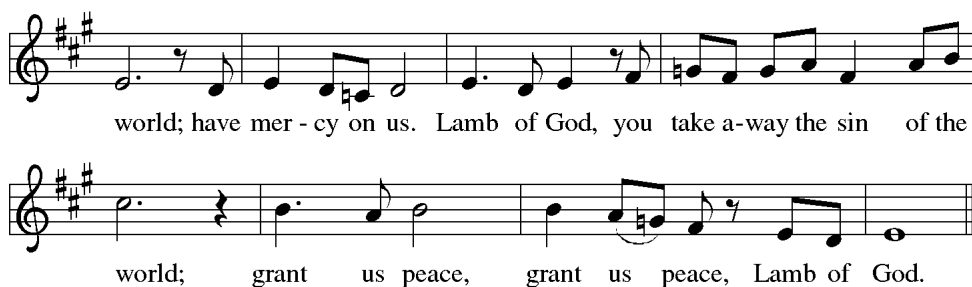
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.

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.

COMMUNION SONG





The assembly is seated.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The kingdom of God is set before you.
Eat and rejoice.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen**
The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen**

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Mothering God,
you gathered us to your table
and we drank deeply of your grace.
Send us out by your Spirit
to love our neighbors as ourselves
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Please rise in body and spirit.

BLESSING

The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit
✠ bless you and give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

ELW 543

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

