

# FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 21, 2025

Welcome to 9:30 am Worship



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.



## ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**SEPTEMBER 21, 2025**

**PRELUDE**

**Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart**

(text, ELW 750, verse 2) setting, Michael Costello ©2008 Birnamwood Publications

**GATHERING**

**ELW 695 As Saints of Old**

Text: Frank von Christierson, 1900-1996, alt., ©1961, Ren.1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company; Music:  
English folk tune, arr.  
Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**ELW 686 We Give Thee but Thine Own**

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.; Music: L. Mason and G. Webb, Cantic Lauda, 1850

**OFFERING SONG**

**Create in Me (ELW 186)**

**SENDING HYMN**

**ACS 1048 Founded on Faith**

Text/Music: Paul D. Weber, b. 1949, ©2017 Paul D. Weber, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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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  
Scott Moyer, Treasurer

**Congregational Council:**

John Bealer  
Donna Biehl  
Michael Ferraro  
David Girtan  
Vince Harris

Min. Bobbie Hoffman  
Pete Huber  
Scott Moyer  
Bonnie Kuser  
Pam Reifsnyder  
Leslie Romasco  
Tom Undercuffler  
Joe Vendetti

stlukegilbertsville.org  
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**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ 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 ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!  
**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

***As Saints of Old***

***ELW 695***

## **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**

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**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **WORD**

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

## **READING:**

A reading from Amos 8:4-7

<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."

Word of God, word of life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

***Please rise in body or spirit***

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## **GOSPEL**

The holy gospel according to Luke 16:1-13

**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.' <sup>3</sup> 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.' <sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> "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. <sup>11</sup> If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup> 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 the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## MESSAGE

**“Developing Initiative”**

**Rev. Dr. Tyson Frey**

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

**We Give Thee but Thine Own**

**ELW 686**

## 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

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

*A brief silence.*

O God, teach your church to act in solidarity with the poor, frustrating the efforts of those who trample on the needy and practicing justice in our own life and community. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Almighty Creator, we pray for an end to the misuse of the earth and its resources, that all people may benefit from your abundant gifts and that our stewardship of creation would be marked by justice and sustainability. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Holy One, embolden elected leaders to pursue policies of economic justice for the benefit of all, especially those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. Persuade them by your example of generosity and compassion. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, we pray for all facing illness, those near death, or those grieving the loss of loved ones. May they find comfort and strength in your love. Prepare us to surround them with your healing care. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of love, motivate our congregation to enact economic justice through tangible action, prioritizing the needs of our community and sharing resources generously through our outreach and justice ministries. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Gracious God, we give thanks for the saints who now join the heavenly chorus in praising your name. Lift us up from the dust of grief and remind us of your promise of new life. 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.**

*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.*



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.



## MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

### OFFERING 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.**

### 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,

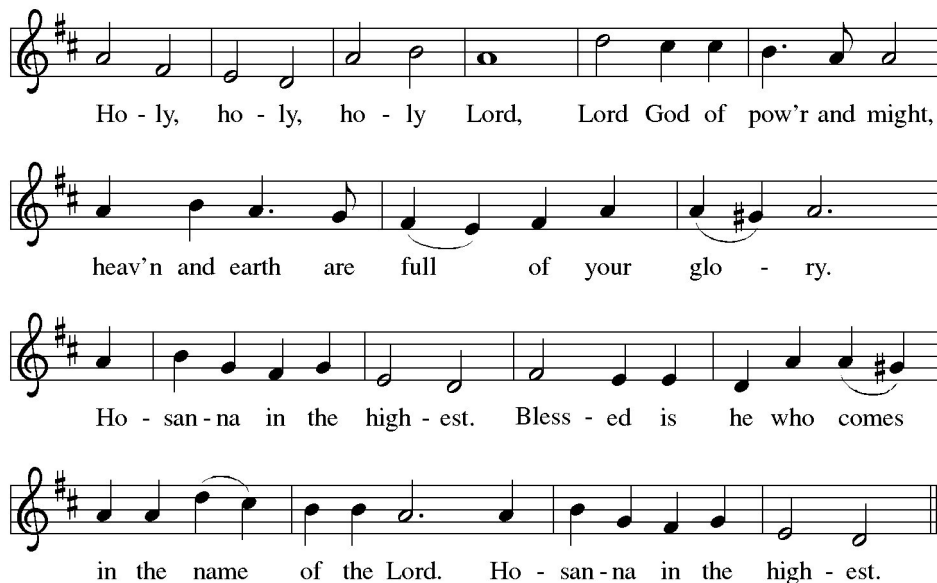
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,

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, Lord God of pow'r 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.

## 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



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, grant us peace.

*The assembly is seated.*

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.

Come to this meal of mercy.

## **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.

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.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



## SENDING

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

*Please rise in body and spirit.*

## BLESSING

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.**

## SENDING HYMN

## Founded on Faith

ACS 1048



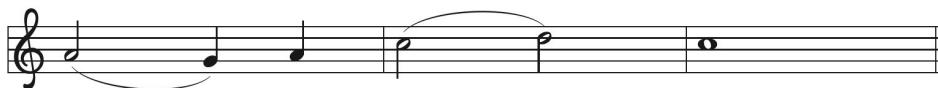
1 Found - ed on faith, the church— a - live by grace—  
2 Your cross, O Christ, re - news our life each day.  
3 E - quipped by prayer, we live the Spir - it's call.  
4 Grow - ing in grace for God's cre - at - ed earth,  
5 Found - ed on faith, called forth, em - pow'ed to serve,



pro - claims the gos - pel here and ev - 'ry place.  
Bap - tized in you, we learn and teach and pray.  
Em - pow'ed to serve with gifts, both great and small,  
we yearn for jus - tice, peace, and hu - man worth;  
we share God's end - less love with - out re - serve.



The word of God re - sounds through time and space:  
Fed by your love, with thank - ful hearts, we say:  
we bring the liv - ing hope of God to all.  
a world re - stored; a faith - ful, car - ing church.  
Then let us shout a - loud the liv - ing Word!



Al - le - lu - ia!

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

