

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 7, 2025

Welcome to 9:30 am Worship

Thirteenth Sunday after *Pentecost*

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.



ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

PRELUDE

Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus

setting, Michael Costello; ©2008 Birnamwood Publications

GATHERING

ACS 1000 God's Work, Our Hands

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954, ©2019 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress;
Music: David N. Johnson, 1922–1987, ©1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 798 Will You Come and Follow Me

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949, ©1987 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications; Music: Scottish traditional

OFFERING SONG

Create in Me (ELW 186)

SENDING HYMN

ELW 772 Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.; Music: William H. Havergal, 1793-1870

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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

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John Bealer, Vice President
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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.

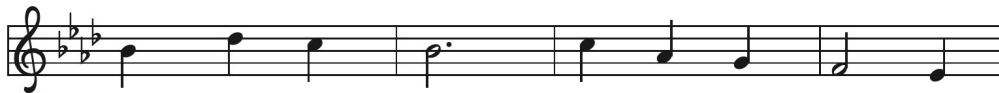
Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.
You who were lost have been found.
In the name of † Jesus, your sins are forgiven!
Amen.



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

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

Direct us, O Lord God,

in all our doings with your continual help,

that in all our works, begun, continued,

and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name;

and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life,

through 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 Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵ “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰ loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land

that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 1

- ¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
- ² **Their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**
- ³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due
season, with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.
- ⁴ **It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**
- ⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
- ⁶ **For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

Please rise in body or spirit

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

The holy gospel according to Luke 14:25-33

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

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

Will You Come and Follow Me

ELW 798



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.

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

A brief silence.

We pray for the church to follow in your ways, that it may be a witness to your love for all people. Help us choose all that is life-giving and confront the forces of death. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for creation, that it may be cherished and nurtured. Sustain farmlands, animals, and waters; restore places affected by calamities; and shield coastlands from rising seas. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for those in authority. Grant them wisdom to govern justly and compassion to care for the marginalized. Equip them for actions that further the common good. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for those who are sick, hungry, unhoused, or lonely. May they find healing through your love and the care of those around them. Lead us to be your hands and feet in the world. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for this congregation, that we may be united in love and faith. Refresh our hearts in Christ, and deepen our support of one another. We pray that our sharing of faith may transform lives. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We thank you for those who have died and now dwell with the saints. Surround them with your divine mercy, that they find peace and rest in your loving embrace. 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

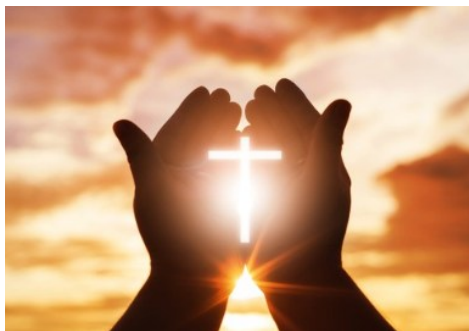
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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

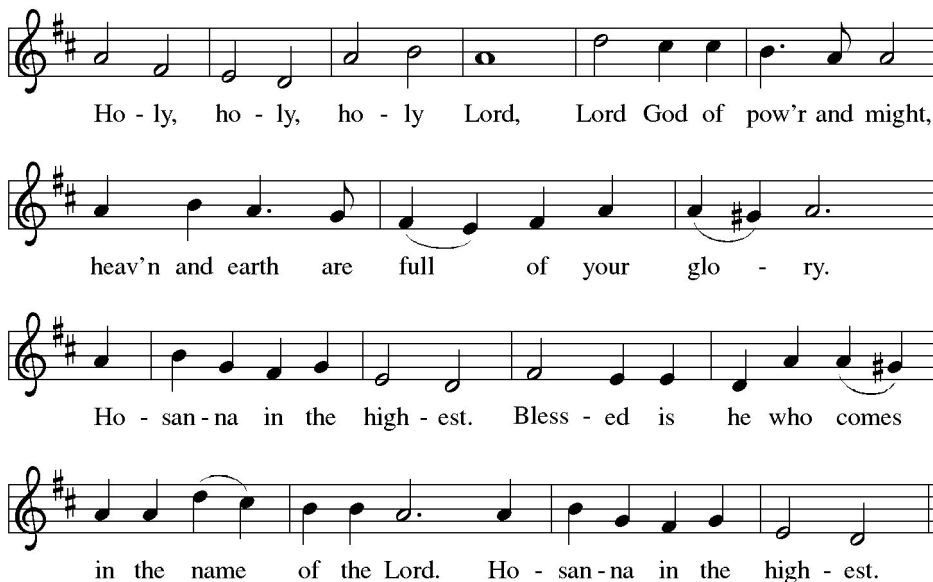
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 *Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways* **ELW 772**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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