

The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

The Sunday of the Lilies of the Field
September 13, 2026



*Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns;
Yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?*

Theme of Today's Liturgy

In the face of daily life, the Christian cries out for the Lord to hear and save His servants (*Introit*). For we are confident that our Lord preserves us evermore by His help and goodness (*Collect*). That confidence is how we live and walk. It is a life and a walk in the Spirit of God who gives us the courage not to live from our fears and desires, but to live in faith toward God and fervent love toward each other (*Epistle*). For it is a confidence, not in what men or the government give but solely in what our Lord promises and gives and delivers (*Gradual*).

Guests

Welcome to the Divine Service! We are delighted to have you with us. If we can assist you in any way, please let us know. It is our prayer that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will strengthen and comfort you. Please note your attendance with us on the card in your pew and pass it towards the center aisle during the offering. You are welcome to join us in the social hall downstairs after the service for coffee and treats. We hope you will visit us again!

Our Belief and Practice Concerning the Lord's Supper

Luther once said, "The Sacrament is of little or no benefit to those who have no misfortune or anxiety or who do not sense their adversity." Knowing our sin and the clever, consistent assaults of the devil, we are thankful for the great blessings of this Sacrament. Because we care about the spiritual welfare of all who commune, we ask that guests who desire to commune speak with Pastor Gerike before the service.

A Special Welcome to Those with Young Children

You and your children are welcome here. Jesus knows that children tend to wiggle and squawk, so don't feel embarrassed by it. Feel free to sit toward the front where your children can see easily. Encourage them to chime in on their parts: *Amen! And with thy spirit! Lord, have mercy! Our Father!* Sing, say, and pray your parts as best you can; your children learn by your example. If you and your child must leave for a moment, there is a children's area downstairs underneath the narthex. Please know that while you are caring for your children, the rest of us rejoice in our Lord's words, "Let the little children come to Me...for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Lk 18:16). You and your children are a gift to the church, so we will do our best to smile, encourage, and help you.

Cover art: *Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath*, oil on copper by Daniel Vertangen (1601–1681).

The Divine Service

†-- congregation stands

"This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." (Gen 28:17)

The Preparation

Organ Prelude

Please STAND for the Processional Hymn when the chime rings three times.

† Processional Hymn 601

All Who Believe and Are Baptized

† Confession and Absolution

p. 184–85

LEFT-HAND COLUMN

Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments. Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?

The Service of the Word

† Introit

Psalm 86; antiphon: Psalm 86



BOW down Your ear, O LORD, and | hear me, *
my God, save Your servant that puts his | trust in You.
Be merciful unto me, | O Lord, *
for I will call daily up- | on You.
Comfort the soul of Your | servant, *
for unto You, O Lord, do I lift | up my soul.



Glo - ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

Bow down Your ear, O LORD, and | hear me, *
my God, save Your servant that puts his | trust in You.

Be merciful unto me, | O Lord, *
for I will call daily up- | on You.

† **Kyrie & Gloria in Excelsis** *pp. 186–89*

† **Salutation & Collect of the Day** *SUNG responses p. 189*

O Lord, we implore You, let Your continual pity cleanse and defend Your Church; and because she cannot continue in safety without Your aid, preserve her evermore by Your help and goodness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading

1 Kings 17:8–16

In those days the word of the LORD came to [Elijah], “Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.” And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” And she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die.” And Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth.’” And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD that He spoke by Elijah.

Gradual

Psalm 118



IT IS better to trust | in the LORD *
than to put any confidence | in man.
**It is better to trust | in the LORD *
than to put any confidence in | princes.**

Epistle

Galatians 5:25–6:10

Brethren, If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load. Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

† Alleluia Verse

Psalm 95

The congregation sings the threefold "Alleluia" before and after the Pastor sings the verse.



■ Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

COME, let us sing un- | to the LORD; *
let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our sal- | vation.

† Holy Gospel

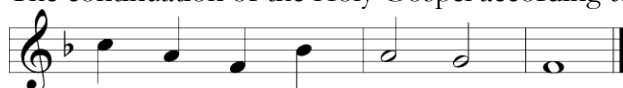
St. Matthew 6:24–34

The Lord be with you.



■ And with thy spir - it.

The continuation of the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.



G Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

✠ *At that time Jesus said:* “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

† **Nicene Creed** *p. 191/Inside back cover of hymnal*

Hymn of the Day 760 *What God Ordains Is Always Good*

Sermon

Offering/Organ Voluntary

*Please note your attendance on the card in your pew and pass to the center aisle.
You may use the QR code to support the ministry of this congregation.*



† **Offertory** *p. 192–93*

† Announcements & Prayer of the Church

After each petition: ...let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

At the conclusion: ... one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Service of the Sacrament of the Altar

The Liturgy of the Holy Communion follows on p. 194 ff.

Guests who have not previously received Holy Communion from Pastor Gerike are kindly asked to speak with him before approaching the altar for the first time.

Communicants may receive the Body of Christ either in the hand or directly in the mouth. Those who receive the Blood of Christ from the chalice are encouraged to take the bottom of the chalice with a hand to help guide it to their mouths.

Communicants are invited to pray the following before receiving the Sacrament:

O Lord, I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof;
but speak only Your Word, and my soul will be healed.

What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?
I will take the Cup of Salvation and call upon the Name of the Lord.

Distribution Hymns

631	<i>Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face</i>
725	<i>Children of the Heavenly Father</i>
732	<i>All Depends on Our Possessing</i>
750	<i>If You But Trust in God to Guide Thee</i>
709	<i>The King of Love My Shepherd Is</i>

† Dismissal

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul unto life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

Amen.

† **Nunc Dimittis** *and the remainder of the service on p. 199 and following*

† **Hymn** 818 *In Thee Is Gladness*

Organ Postlude

“Blessed are those who dwell in Your house, ever singing Your praise!” (Psalm 84:4)

This Week’s Calendar

Today (9/13)	THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY Sunday School & Bible Class 8:45 am Divine Service 10:00 am Brat Lunch after church Board of Christian Education meeting after church Children’s choir after church Youth Catechesis 4:00 pm
Wednesday (9/16)	Matins 10:00 am Vespers 6:30 pm Book Group 7:00 pm
Thursday (9/17)	Adult Choir 6:30 pm
Next Sunday (9/20)	THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY Sunday School & Bible Class 8:45 am Divine Service 10:00 am Board of Elders meeting after church Children’s choir after church

TODAY'S NOTICES

Book Group will discuss chapters 2 & 3 (pages 33–54) of *The Saving Truth: Doctrine for Laypeople* on Wednesday.

The Board of Social ministries will be offering a **brat lunch** after church instead of the regular coffee hour today.

All confirmed young adults (single or married) are invited to a time of prayer, instruction, fellowship, and a meal at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Louisville, NE on Sunday, October 11, from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm. There is a nominal cost. For more information and to register, see the flyer and registration forms on the narthex bulletin board. Registration is required for all attendees.

The **church office secretary hours have changed**, 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

Cans for Flowers: Many thanks to everyone who continue to bring pop cans in for recycling. To date, another \$80 was earned towards service flowers. Please contact Rich Marunda for any questions.

Zion Lutheran Church invites all women to a **Women's Retreat, "Rest for Your Soul", on Saturday, September 26**, from 8:30–12:00 pm. The cost is \$5. Pick up a flyer on the narthex table for more information and for registration instructions.

Prayer Requests: *Work with churches in:* Bolivia, the Congo & Burundi; *Persecuted Christians in:* Syria; *Missions:* Rev. Daniel & Kathy Conrad, David & Valerie Federwitz, Lutherans For Life, the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society & Lutheran Theological Seminary in Novosibirsk, South Asia Lutheran Mission; *Peace in the world:* the Middle East, South Sudan, & Ukraine; *Homebound:* Char Emmanuel, Pat Helmke, Norma Kelly, Jean Schwalm; *Expectant mothers:* Jill Raak, Amanda Warner, Lydia Blank; *All others in need:* Dick Chappell, Theodore Feavel, Paul Luedeman, Amanda Jansky, Nancy Goesch, Jeremy Long, Jim Bygrave, Tim Lonergan, Brock Boss, Shirley Gibbs, Jolene Whirrett, Merk Volejnik, Lanette Insinger



MT. CALVARY

LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

www.mountcalvary-lcms.org

The Reverend Andrew Gerike, Pastor
pastor@mountcalvary-lcms.org
Study Hours: Tues–Fri 8:30a.m.–12:00 p.m.
afternoons by appointment

Ms. Melissa Kern, Secretary
office@mountcalvary-lcms.org
402-551-0244
Mon thru Fri 3:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

Service Schedule: The Divine Service with Holy Communion is offered every Sunday and on holy days as announced. Matins and Vespers are prayed on Wednesdays at 10:00 am and 6:30 pm.

Receiving Communion: We care about the spiritual welfare of all who commune at the Lord's Table. If you are a guest and desire to commune, please speak to Pastor Gerike before the service.

Christian Education is taught each Sunday morning at 8:45. **Adults** meet in the church basement; **Sunday School** for ages 3-12 meets in the Admin/Education building classrooms.

The Sick and Homebound are visited regularly by the pastor. Please contact the Church Office if you know of any parishioner in need of pastoral visitation. **Pastoral Consultation** based on the Holy Scriptures is available from the pastor by appointment

SERVING TODAY

Organist – Timothy Schreiber

Altar Care – Diane Krebs & Paula Rasmuss

Counters – Rich Marunda & Rich Ogden

Ushers – Nathaniel Kemper, Bob Vondrasek, Ben Grindstaff, Jasiah Morgan

Elder – Rich Marunda

Trustee – Jasiah Morgan