

Sunday Worship Service – September 7, 2025
13th Sunday after Pentecost

Words of Welcome by Pastor

Land Acknowledgement & Welcome Statement

Confession & Forgiveness*

Jesus Christ, giver of love and peace, we are grateful for your vision of humankind – a vision that embraces all, leaving none behind. You call us your family, even when we do not recognize this truth. Forgive us when we look down on others, failing to see them as your precious children. Forgive us when kinship is not a priority in our lives. Open our hearts to everyone in your family, that they may become our family, too. In your name we pray. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness*

The blessings of grace and peace are ours. Forgiveness and peace are ours in the name of + God our maker, Jesus Christ our savior, and the Holy Spirit, our advocate and comforter. Amen!

#880 Gathering Hymn “*O God beyond All Praising*”

1. O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
 and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
 for we can only wonder at every gift you send,
 at blessings without number and mercies without end:
 we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
 we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

2. The flower of earthly splendor in time must surely die,
 its fragile bloom surrender to you, the Lord most high;
 but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown -
 though small in mortal stature, to heaven's garden grown:
 for Christ, your gift from heaven, from death has set us free,
 and we through him are given the final victory.

3. Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
 that we who know your favor may serve you as our king;
 and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
 we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:

**to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.**

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.**

p.187 **Canticle of Praise “This is the Feast”**

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

1. **Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.
Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.**

Refrain

2. **Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

Refrain

Prayer of the Day*

*God of love, we are all part of your family, sharing in your vision and work.
We give you thanks for the many ways you have loved and blessed us,
encouraged and renewed us. We thank you for the times we have
experienced joy, and for the knowledge that you love and accept us.
We bring our joy and gratitude to you today as we sing our thanksgiving
and praise. Amen.*

(please be seated)

First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

*In the reading from Deuteronomy, Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are
about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, Moses
lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying
the Lord; or choose death by following other gods.*

A reading from Deuteronomy chapter 30:

“See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity.

If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in God's ways, and observing God's 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. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, 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. 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, loving the Lord your God, obeying God, and holding fast to God, 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.**

Second Reading: Philemon 1-21

The letter to Philemon is the shortest of Paul's letters, consisting of 25 verses. The reading this morning consists of 21 of those verses. We hear that Onesimus, a new Christian and a man enslaved by Philemon, has helped Paul, who is in prison. Paul writes this letter to his friend Philemon to encourage him to receive Onesimus, upon his return, as a sibling in Christ.

A reading from Paul's letter to Philemon:

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To our beloved coworker Philemon, to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my friend.

For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command

you to do the right thing, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an ambassador and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose parent I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, no longer as a subordinate but as more, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome Onesimus as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, my friend, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

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

p.188 **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Reading: Luke 14:25-33

In the gospel from Luke, Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 14th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Large crowds were traveling with Jesus. Turning to them, Jesus said, “Whoever comes to me and doesn’t hate father and mother, your loved ones and siblings—yes, even one’s own life—cannot be my disciple.

Whoever doesn't carry their own cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

"If one of you wanted to build a tower, wouldn't you first sit down and calculate the cost, to determine whether you have enough money to complete it? Otherwise, when you have laid the foundation but couldn't finish the tower, all who see it will begin to belittle you. They will say, 'Here's the person who began construction and couldn't complete it!'

Or if the leaders of one country were going to declare war against another country without first sitting down to consider whether, with an army of ten thousand, they could win against them with twenty thousand?

If they couldn't, they would send a representative to discuss terms of peace while the enemy was still a long way off. In the same way, none of you who are unwilling to give up all of your possessions can be my disciple.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

#798 Hymn of the Day *"Will You Come and Follow Me"* (v.1-2, 4-5)

1. **"Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"**
2. **"Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r in you and you in me?"**
4. **"Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"**
5. **Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

Apostles' Creed (*inside back cover of hymn book*)

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 and 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 Intercession**

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need. Prayer petitions will end with "God of grace" and the congregation is invited to respond by saying: "**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 entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always! **And also with you!**

Offering and Offering Prayer

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.**

p.190 Great Thanksgiving

L 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.

It is a right, good and joyful thing, always and everywhere,
to give thanks to you.

As you gave our ancestors in faith food and water in the desert,
even when they turned away from you,
you have promised to free us from all divisions and to give us eternal life.
And so with your creatures on earth and all the heavenly chorus,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**p.190 Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and holy is Jesus, your anointed one,
who invites us to place our trust in you, rather than in earthly treasures.

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, Jesus took the cup,
 Gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the covenant in my blood,
 Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, and on these gifts of bread and wine.
 May they remind us that we are one in Christ,
 no longer divided by race or country or any other earthly sign.
 For all these gifts, we give our thanks and praise. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**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 *(for online worshippers)*

Communion Distribution

We believe that Jesus is the true host of the Lord's Supper and that Jesus invites all and welcomes all to this meal of forgiveness and grace where we receive Christ's presence in the bread and the wine or grape juice. We believe that Christ is present in the bread and wine, just as Jesus is present in and among each and everyone of us. Therefore, we practice an open communion table at Bread of Life Which means that if it is your desire to receive holy communion, we believe the Holy Spirit has placed that desire in your heart

and it is Jesus who calls you and invites you.

We offer bread and gluten free bread.

If you wish to receive gluten free bread, just let me know.

We also offer wine and grape juice.

The wine is red and the grape juice is white.

At this time, I will invite our communion assistants and usher forward as we prepare for communion distribution.

For anyone with mobility challenges,

we will commune you in your place at the end.

Commune assistants, then assistant communes pastor.

p.191 ***Lamb of God***

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

#486 Communion Hymn “*God Extends an Invitation*”

God extends an invitation to the table of creation,

where there's wine and light and bread.

Here we gather in thanksgiving and we offer all our living.

Here the feast of life is spread; here the feast of life is spread. (*repeat*)

Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion**

O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and called us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our gifts with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Announcements

Blessing*

May the God whose hands have made us,
whose grace has saved us,

and whose Son walks with us,
lead us forward to share joy with the world,
in the name of the + Creator, the Savior, and the Comforter. Amen.

#660 Sending Hymn “Lift High the Cross” (v.1,3-4)

Refrain: **Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

1. **Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. (Refrain)**
3. **O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou has promised, draw us all to thee. (Refrain)**
4. **So shall our song of triumph ever be;
praise to the Crucified for victory! (Refrain)**

Sending

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sources:

Bible passages (except where otherwise indicated) from

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (NRSVUE) adapted for inclusive language.

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