

**Sunday Worship Service – September 21, 2025**  
**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
***Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book – Holy Communion Setting 7***

**Words of Welcome**

**Land Acknowledgement & Welcome Statement**

**Introduction to the Theme of the Bible Readings\***

Stewardship is the natural focus of today's readings.  
 Jesus tells us the perplexing parable of the dishonest manager.  
 We are reminded that it is important how we manage the many gifts  
 God has given us, such as our time, talents, and treasures.

**Confession & Forgiveness\***

Healing God,  
**forgive us when we squander your gifts and misuse our talents.**  
**Forgive us when we protect our self-interests**  
**and neglect the needs of the world.**  
**Forgive us when we act cleverly for our personal gain,**  
**and refuse to use our energies to help others.**  
**Return us to you, Holy One, and heal our hearts with your wisdom and**  
**love. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

**Words of Forgiveness\***

God meets us in our need and heals our failings.  
 Rejoice and be glad because we are forgiven  
 in the name of the + Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

**#423 Gathering Hymn "*Shall We Gather at the River*"**

1. **Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,  
 with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?**

Refrain: **Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
 gather with the saints at the river  
 that flows by the throne of God.**

2. **On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,  
 we will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day. (Refrain)**
3. **Ere we reach the shining river, lay we ev'ry burden down;**

**grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown. (Refrain)**

4. **Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease;  
soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace. (Refrain)**

### **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.175 **Kyrie**

**Lord, have mercy on us; O Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy on us; O Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy on us; O Christ, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy on us; O Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy on us; O Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy on us; O Lord, have mercy.  
O Lord, have mercy.**

### p.176 **Canticle of Praise "Gloria"**

**Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!  
Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!  
And on earth peace to God's people. Glory to God.  
And on earth peace to God's people. Glory to God.**

### **Prayer of the Day\***

*Generous God, welcome us into your household, that we may bathe in the light of your grace. Inspire us with your word, that we may rejoice in the glory of your ways. Strengthen us with your Spirit, that we may go forth to serve you, with passion and purpose, in all that we say, and in all that we do. Amen.*

### **First Reading: Amos 8:4-7**

*In the reading from Amos, we hear that Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.*

A reading from Amos chapter 8:

Hear this, you who trample on the needy and destroy the poor of the land, 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, make the ephah smaller, enlarge the shekel, and deceive with false balances, in order to buy the needy for silver and the helpless for sandals, and sell garbage as grain?"  
The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob:  
Surely I will never forget what they have done.

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

### **Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7**

*The reading from the pastoral epistle from 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy offers insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.*

A reading from 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter:

First of all, then, I ask that requests, prayers, petitions, and thanksgiving be made for all people. Pray for kings and everyone who is in authority so that we can live a quiet and peaceful life in complete godliness and dignity. This is right and it pleases God our savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. There is one God and one mediator between God and humanity, the human Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a payment to set all people free. This was a testimony that was given at the right time. I was appointed to be a preacher and apostle of this testimony—I'm telling the truth and I'm not lying!  
I'm a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

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

### **p.179 Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel Reading: Luke 16:1-13**

*In the gospel reading from Luke, Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.*

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus also said to the disciples, “There was a wealthy landowner who, having received reports of a household manager mismanaging the property, summoned the manager and said, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give me a report of your administration because you can no longer serve as my manager.’

“The household manager thought, ‘What will I do now that my employer is firing me? I’m not strong enough to dig and too proud to beg. I know what I’ll do so that, when I am removed from my management position, people will welcome me into their houses.

“One by one, the manager sent for each of the landowner’s debtors.

The manager said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my employer?’

The debtor replied, ‘A hundred jars of olive oil.’

The manager said, ‘Take your contract, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’

Then the manager said to another, ‘How much do you owe?’

The answer came, ‘One thousand bushels of wheat.’

The manager said, ‘Take your contract and write eight hundred.’

“Upon hearing this, the landowner commended the dishonest manager for acting cleverly. People who belong to this world are more clever in dealing with their peers than are people who belong to the light. I tell you, use worldly wealth to make friends for yourselves so that when it’s gone, you will be welcomed into the eternal homes.

“Whoever is faithful with little is also faithful with much, and the one who is dishonest with little is also dishonest with much. If you haven’t been faithful with worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?

If you haven't been faithful with someone else's property, who will give you your own? No household servant can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be loyal to the one and have contempt for the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

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

## Sermon

### #583 Hymn of the Day *"Take My Life, That I May Be"*

*Refrain*      **Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

1.      **Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.**
2.      **Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;  
take my intellect, and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.**
3.      **Take my voice and let me sing always, only for my King;  
take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.**
4.      **Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.**

### **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.*

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 (*especially*).  
 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.**

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.180 **Great Thanksgiving**

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.181 **Holy, holy, holy Lord God, God of might and power; holy is the Lord.**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God, God of might and power; holy is the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.**

**Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.**

**Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

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**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:  
**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**

p.182 ***Lamb of God***

**O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
 have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.  
 O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
 grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.  
 have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.  
 O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
 Grant us your peace, grant us your peace.**

### **#491 Communion Hymn "Come Let Us Eat"**



1. Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,  
Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.  
Our Lord's body let us take together,  
Our Lord's body let us take together.
2. Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,  
Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.  
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together,  
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together.
3. In Jesus' presence now we meet and rest,  
In Jesus' presence now we meet and rest.  
In the presence of our Lord we gather,  
In the presence of our Lord we gather.
4. Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty Word,  
Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty Word.  
Jesus risen will bring in the Kingdom,  
Jesus risen will bring in the Kingdom.

### **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.

### **Becca: Summary of National Convention & CLAY**

### **Announcements**

#### **Blessing\***

Go in peace  
Go in love  
Go in faithfulness to serve God in all that you say  
And in all that you do.  
In the name of the + Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter. Amen.

### **#823 Sending Hymn *"Praise the Lord! O Heavens"***

- 1. Praise the Lord! O heav'ns, adore him;  
praise him, angels, in the height; sun and moon, rejoice before him;  
praise him, gleaming stars and light.  
Praise the Lord, for he has spoken; worlds his mighty voice obeyed;  
laws which never shall be broken for their guidance he has made.**
  
- 2. Praise the Lord, for he is gracious; never shall his promise fail.  
God has made his saints victorious; sin and death shall not prevail.  
Praise the God of our salvation; hosts on high, his pow'r proclaim;  
heav'n and earth, and all creation, laud and magnify his name!**

### **Sending**

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

### **Sources:**

Bible passages (except where otherwise indicated) from Common English Bible (CEB).

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<https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/TextsAndResources/2025-09-21/0#texts>