Fifteenth Week after Pentecost September 28, 2025

Service Music: Setting 8
Proper 21 / Lectionary 26, Year C



Consideration of and care for those in need (especially those "at our gate," visible to us, of whom we are aware) is an essential component of good stewardship. It is in the sharing of wealth that we avoid the snare of wealth. It is the one whom death could not hold—who comes to us risen from the dead—who can free us from the death grip of greed.

WELCOME!

Guests, we are glad you have joined us today! If you would like to receive contact from the pastor or welcoming committee following this worship service, please fill out a card from the pew slot and put it in the offering plate.

Children's Church takes place during our worship service. The children are dismissed after *Blessing the Children* and brought back to their families after the *Prayers of Intercession*.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands at the invitation of the presider.

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **C: Amen.**

P: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

You may find a simple prayer helpful, such as: "Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, a sinner." or "Lord, you see all things. I open my heart to you."

P: Merciful God,

C: 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.

P: 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! **C: Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW 705 God of Grace and God of Glory



GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

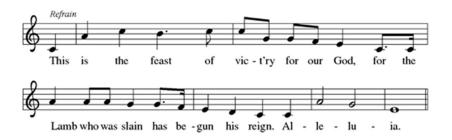
PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

This is the Feast

Congregational Refrain



Leader: 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.

Congregational Refrain

Leader: 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.

Congregational Refrain

The assembly is seated.

BLESSING THE CHILDREN

This little light of mine, I'm gonna' let it shine This little light of mine, I'm gonna' let it shine This little light of mine, I'm gonna' let it shine Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Children are dismissed for Children's Church.

WORD

FIRST READING: Amos 6:1a, 4-7

- ^{1a} Woe to those who are at ease in Zion and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria.
- ⁴ Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and lounge on their couches and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the stall,
- ⁵ who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David improvise on instruments of music,
- ⁶ who drink wine from bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!
- ⁷ Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

A: Word of God. Word of Life. C: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Psalm 146 (read responsively)

- ¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul!
- 2 I will praise the LORD as long as I live;I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
- ³ Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help.
- ⁴ When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.
- ⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God;
- ⁶ who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;

who keeps promises forever;

⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.

- ⁸ The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.
- ⁹ The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

⁶ Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it, ⁸ but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹ But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the

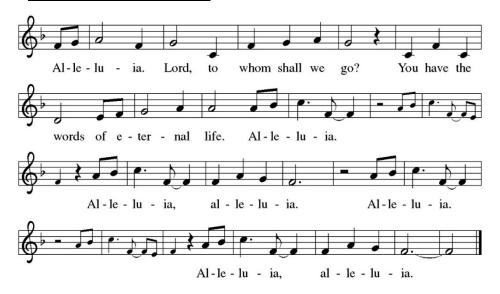
love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴ to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁶ It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷ As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life. A: Word of God. Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

The assembly rises in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

P: The holy gospel according to **St. Luke 16:19-31 C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ¹⁹ "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.' ²⁵ But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in

like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶ Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' ²⁷ He said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house ²⁸ for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' ²⁹ Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' ³⁰ He said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' ³¹ He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly rises in body or spirit to sing the Hymn of the Day.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 729 The Church of Christ in Every Age



APOSTLES' CREED

A: In prayer and devotion, we confess our faith with the whole church.

C: 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

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

A: We pray for the church, that it would remain faithful to the gospel, always striving to serve the needs of those who are oppressed and rejecting the complacency that may come from wealth.

God of grace, **C**: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for creation, that the nations work together to protect and restore the earth, preserving the beauty of the planet for future generations and honoring the gift of your creation. God of grace, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: We pray for those in positions of authority, that they govern with justice and compassion, recognizing the dignity of all people and working to promote peace and prosperity for all. We pray for the people of **Sudan and Gaza** who are starving to death. Bring them aid through your ministries. Make peace in places of conflict, especially **Ukraine**, **Iran**, **and the Holy Land**. We pray for the safety of first responders, those serving in the military, and those whose duty it is to protect others, especially **Anthony**, **Eli**, **Nathan**, **and Tyler**.

God of grace, C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for people in any need, especially Amanda, Barry, Bert, Bev, Carol, Donna, Drew, Ed, Emmett, Frieda, Hattie, Jason, Jenn, Joseph, Karen & Ed, Konnor, LaVonne, Lynn, Mark, Michelle, Phil, Ruthann, Sandy, Sherry, Stan, Tami, Ted, and Wally. Give them your assurance and courage when the path forward is not clear. Liberate us from all that binds us, lift us up when we are bowed down, and show us your love. God of grace, C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for this congregation, that we would be strengthened to build a world where all can thrive. Guide us in building a community of mutual support.

God of grace, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: We pray for the families of the victims of gun violence. Give us and those in authority the will to do whatever it takes to affect change, especially for our children. Bring the solution to this plight in all its various forms closer to us today.

God of grace, C: receive our prayer.

A: We remember in thanksgiving the faithful departed, especially **Michael, Jerome, Francis, and Theodor,** whom we *commemorate this week. Inspire us by their example to love and serve our neighbors, and bring us to eternal life. God of grace, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. **C: Amen.**

The assembly rises to pass the Peace of Christ.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Greet one another by shaking hands with a word of Christ's peace.

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

OFFERING your offering may be placed in the plate as it is passed. We thank all who support God's ministry here and in the world.

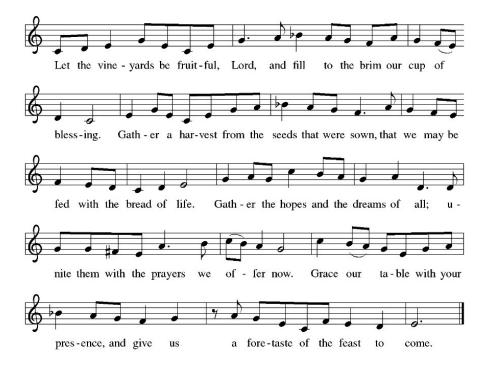
OFFERTORY: CHOIR

That Old Rugged Cross
Words by Don Besig & Nancy Price
Music by Don Besig

Stand as the offering is presented at the rail.

^{*}See announcement for commemorations.

<u>PRESENTATION OF GIFTS:</u> ELW 182 Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful



OFFERING PRAYER

A: 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. **C: Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

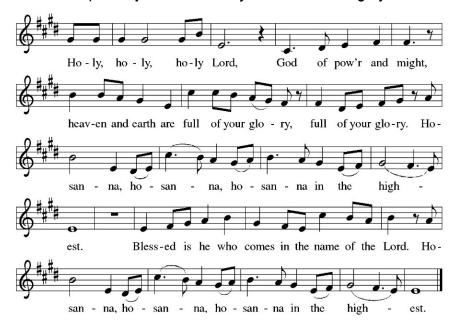
P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: 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: our Good Samaritan, who tends the wounds of body and spirit with the oil of consolation and the wine of hope; the Sun of righteousness, who raises us to life on his healing wings. 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:



P: O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty.

When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child; Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath, and the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

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.

P: Remembering his death, we cry out Amen. **C: Amen.**P: Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. **C: Amen.**P: Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. **C: Amen.**

P: O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.

P: O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.

P: O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.

P: O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

P: O God our strength and our song, you show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations. Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son, the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior, life in you, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

P. Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us.

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

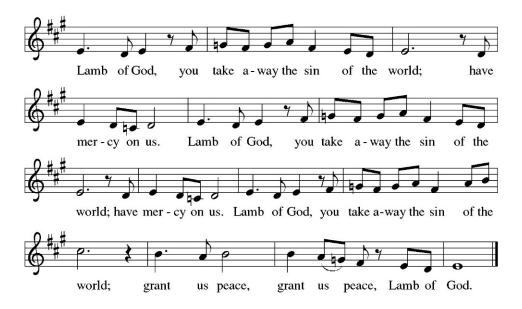
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy. All are welcome. **C: Thanks be to God.**

The assembly is seated.

Come, for Christ invites you. Communion today will be distributed at the altar rail (please stand or kneel, as you are comfortable), the ushers will direct you forward to receive the bread (which is gluten-free) and cup either wine (red) or grape juice (white).

Lamb of God

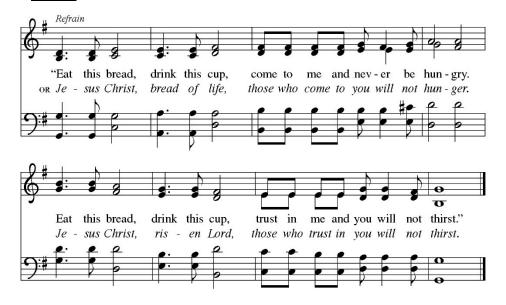


COMMUNION HYMNS

HYMN ELW 838 Beautiful Savior (favorite)



HYMN ELW 472 Eat This Bread



The assembly rises in body or spirit at the invitation of the presiding minister.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in eternal life. **C: Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: 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. **C: Amen**

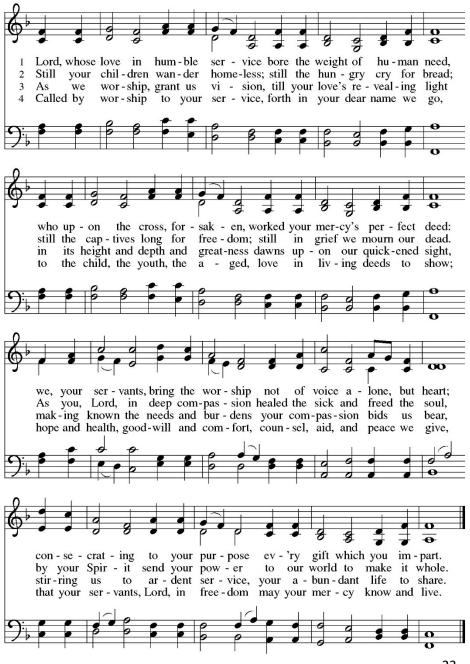
SENDING

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

SENDING BLESSING

P: 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. **C: Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW 712 Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service



AFFIRMATION OF CHRISTIAN VOCATION

P: Siblings in Christ, both your work and your rest are in God. Will you pattern your life on the Lord Jesus Christ in gratitude to God and service to others, all the days of your life?

C: I will, and I ask God to help me.

P: Go in peace. Do not lose heart. C: Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance last week:

Saturday 20

Sunday 76 YouTube 2

Birthdays this week:

9/28 Amanda Southwell 10/1 Cameron Puetz

10/2 Frieda Houldsworth

There are no anniversaries this week.

The flowers today are given by Frieda Houldsworth for her 100th Birthday!

<u>Today!</u>—Live Nativity meeting after the service in the conference room.

<u>Today!</u>—1:00PM Frieda Houldsworth's 100th Birthday Party!

<u>Halloween Candy Donations</u> – Our annual Trunk or Treat is coming up, so if you're able to donate Halloween candy please leave it in the Narthex!

<u>Altar Guild</u>—The Altar Guild is looking for more members to join their team! If you're interested in joining the Altar Guild, contact the church office at (563)355-4161; stjamesbett@gmail.com.

We livestream our services on YouTube each week to help us worship together and stay connected even when we are not at full health or out of town!

YouTube Link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzjngGF4g_QWtn_I2SqpL5Q

COMMEMORATIONS

Michael and All Angels Monday, September 29, 2025

Michael the archangel, captain of the heavenly hosts, is remembered on this day along with the other angels and archangels. The word "angel" means messenger, and in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, these beings have a fully spiritual nature and no physical body.

Jerome, translator, teacher, died 420 Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Jerome was a biblical scholar and translator, but rather than translating the original Hebrew and Greek scriptures into classical Latin, he worked in the commonly-spoken Latin of the day, creating a version called the Vulgate.

Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, died 1226 Saturday, October 4, 2025

Born into the family of a wealthy merchant, Francis gave up his inheritance to serve poor people. He formed the Order of Friars Minor (called Franciscans), who took on poverty and the task of preaching "using words if necessary." Francis had a spirit of gratitude for all of God's creation.

Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society, died 1864 Saturday, October 4, 2025

Fliedner helped to bring about a revival of the ministry of deaconesses among Lutherans. He was influenced in this by Moravian deaconesses he had met. The motherhouse he founded in Kaiserswerth, Germany, inspired many around the world to take up this ministry.

Worship Assistants

September 28	9:00 AM Worship
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Presider Bryce Hewlett, SAM

Assisting Minister Tom Sladky
Reader Jason Forari

Acolytes Rilynne and Carter

Organist: Linda Gross

Ushers Ron Mekalson & Kelly

Crooks

YouTube Assistant Deb Crooks

Altar Guild Ellen Hogbin & Mary M.

Counters Mary Meumann

Prayers for Healing and Support

Congregational Members

Ed Arp, Lynn Chamberlain, Bev Chappen, Sherry Germanio, Sandy Henry, Frieda Houldsworth, Bert Leder, LaVonne Mienke, Mark Peters

Family and Friends

Amanda (friend of Melissa), Barry (cousin of Ellen Hogbin),
Carol (friend of Joleen & Erik Bakken), Donna (Ed Arp's sister),
Drew (Pat Larson's friend), Emmett (friend of Diana Worley),
Hattie (Frieda's sister), Jason (Lynn Chamberlain & Sherry
Germanio's son), Jenn (family of Bryce/Kim & Gary/Eunice),
Joseph (friend of Bryce & Kim), Karen and Ed (Shirley's Aunt
and Uncle).

Konnor (Bert Leder's grandson), Mark (friend of Jason Forari),
Michelle (friend of Joleen & Erik Bakken), Phil (Steve Miller and Pat Sorensen's brother), Ruthann (Justina's mom), Stan (relative of Frtiz Voss), Tami (family of Maggie Bayliss), Ted (Ellen Hogbin's father-in-law), Wally (Frieda's nephew)

Those Whose Duty it is to Protect Others

Anthony Karasek (Judy Larson's great nephew)
CPT Eli Smith (Jerry and Myrna Mattly's grandson)
Nathan Pearson USAF (Jenna & Kane Schmidt's friend)
Tyler, First Responder (Family of Pat Larson)

If you have anyone who needs to be taken off or added, please notify the church office.

October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9/28 9AM Worship 10AM Live Nativity Mtg. 1PM Frieda's	9/29	9/30	1 6-8PM Food Pantry 6PM Confirmati on class	9-11AM Food Pantry	3	4 NO Saturday Service
5 9AM Worship Rally Day!	6	7 6PM Christian Ed. Mtg.	8 9:30AM Finance Mtg. 5:30-6:30 Choir Practice	9 9-11AM Food Pantry 11AM Service at BHCC	10	11 5PM Saturday Service
9AM Worship 10AM Stakeholder s Mtg.	13 Columbus Day	14	15 6-8PM Food Pantry 6PM Confirmati on Class	16 9-11AM Food Pantry 11:30 GANG 2PM Bingo @ BETT	17	18 5PM Saturday Service
19 9AM Worship 10AM Open Church	20	21 1PM Sarah Circle	22 6-8PM Food Pantry	23 9-11AM Food Pantry 11AM Service at	24	25 5PM Saturday Service
26 9AM Worship	27 Blood Drive 2:30- 5:30PM	28 12-4PM Quilting	29 6-8PM Food Pantry 6PM Confirmati	30 9-11AM Food Pantry	31 Halloween	11/1 5PM Saturday Service