



**15th Sunday after Pentecost  
September 13, 2020**

## THE SERVICE at 11:00 a.m.

**Bold type** = congregational response

### – A TIME OF PREPARATION –

#### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Andante tranquilo

Felix Mendelssohn

#### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Faithful God,

**C: have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves.**

**We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.**

**We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.**

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P: God hears the cries of all who call out in need,  
and through his death and resurrection,  
Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness  
to do God's work in the world.

**C: Amen.**



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and  
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are  
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion  
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er  
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in  
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in  
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -  
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.  
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.  
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.  
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

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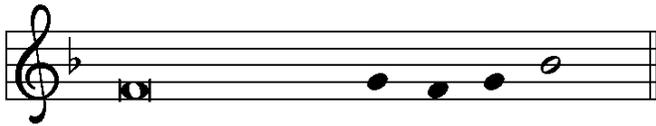
– LITURGY OF THE WORD –

\*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.**

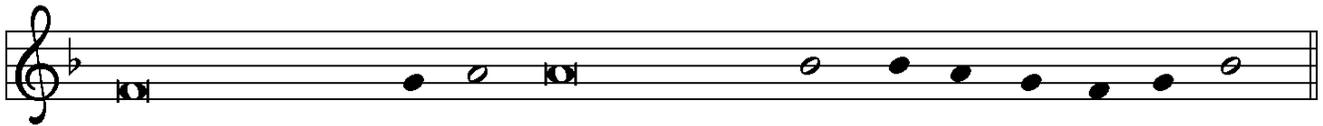
\*KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



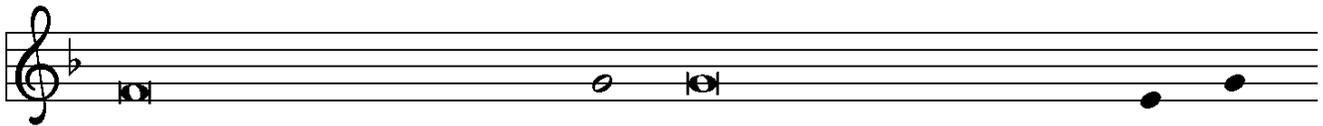
Lord, have mer - cy.



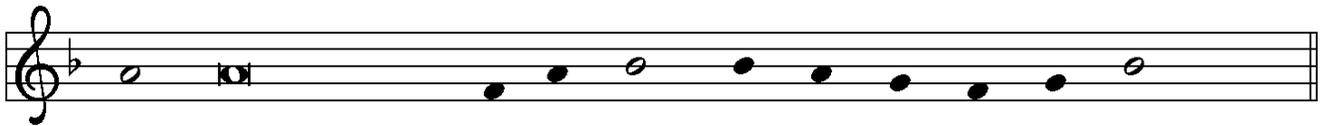
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



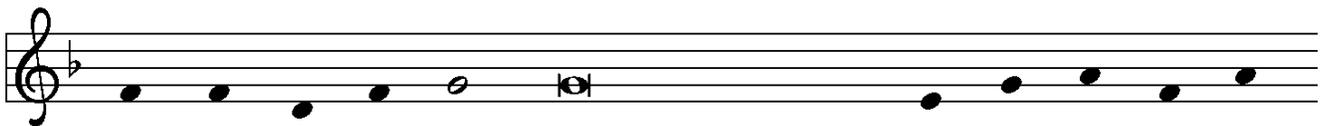
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of



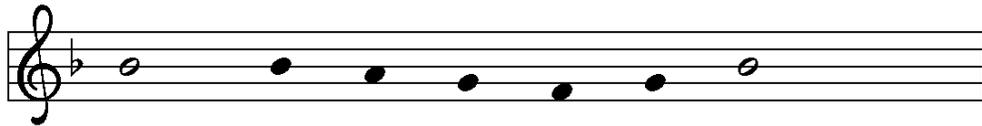
God, and for the uni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



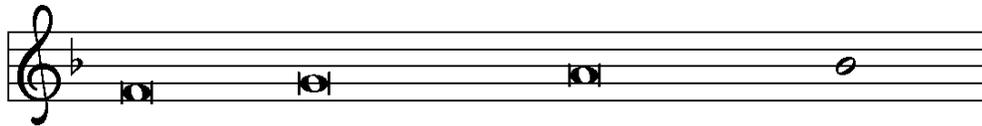
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gracious Lord.



**A - men.**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE** *sing three times*



*He - le - lu - yan, he - le - lu - yan; he - le, he - le - lu - yan.*  
*Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah; hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.*



*He - le - lu - yan, he - le - lu - yan; he - le, he - le - lu - yan.*  
*Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah; hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.*

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON

Genesis 50:15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>"Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves."

<sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way Joseph reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 103:8-13



<sup>8</sup>LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;

<sup>9</sup>**you will not al- | ways accuse us,**  
**nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.**

<sup>10</sup>You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,  
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.

<sup>11</sup>**For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,**  
**so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.**

<sup>12</sup>As far as the east is | from the west,  
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.

<sup>13</sup>**As a father has compassion | for his children,**  
**so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD.**

## SECOND LESSON

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

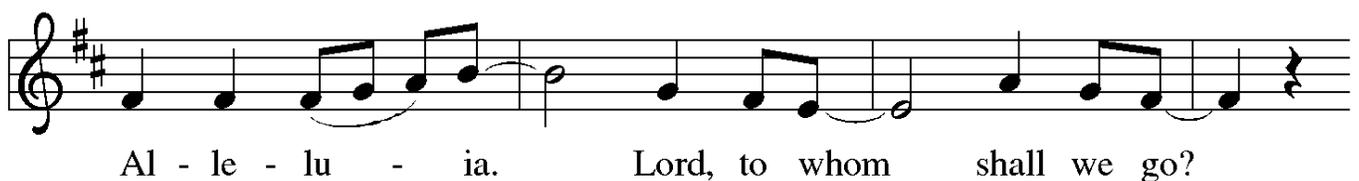
<sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." <sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus replied, "Not seven times, I tell you, seventy times seven.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with the slaves. At the outset of the reckoning, one who owed ten thousand talents was brought before the ruler; and, as the slave could not pay, he was ordered to be sold— along with his wife and children and all their possessions— so that payment could be made. So the slave knelt before the ruler, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' Out of pity for the slave, the ruler released him and forgave the debt.

But that same slave, upon leaving, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing that one by the throat, the forgiven slave said, 'Pay what you owe!' The other slave fell down and pleaded, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But the request was refused, and the first slave went and threw the second one into prison until the debt would be paid. When all the other slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to the ruler all that had taken place. The ruler summoned the first slave and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your debtor, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger the ruler handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

P: The Gospel of Our Lord!

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**



- 1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,” you taught us, Lord, to pray;  
 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart.  
 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:  
 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.  
 that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?  
 how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!  
 then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

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### – RESPONSES TO THE WORD –

#### \*APOSTLES' CREED

A: Let us confess our faith.

**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.**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen the faith of our congregation through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. We give you thanks for those who teach and lead these ministries. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Make your ways known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. Heal the sick, especially Bruce, Carole, Tim, Roger, Paula, Erica, Bev, Liz, Audrey, JoAnne, Deborah, and Casey-Marie. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

[Click here](#) to visit the St. Thomas website and click the green Give button to provide your offering digitally. Offerings may also be mailed to our address found on the last page of this bulletin.

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

A: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

**– LITURGY OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST –**

**\*THE 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.**

**\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

A: Let us pray as our Lord has taught us.

**C: 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.**

**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION:**

P: Come to the banquet table where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

## Let the Broken Ones Be Healed

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It begins in 3/4 time and changes to 4/4 time in the second measure of the second line. The lyrics are: "Let the bro - ken ones be healed. Let the lost be found and fed. Let the grace of God roll on, roll on. Let the ri - ver rise and spread. Step in - to the stream with me! Let God's gra - cious pur-pose be. Let God's gra - cious pur-pose be. Let the be." The score includes a repeat sign with first and second endings.

Let the bro - ken ones be healed. Let the  
lost be found and fed. Let the grace of God roll on, roll on.  
Let the ri - ver rise and spread. Step in - to the stream with me! Let God's  
gra - cious pur-pose be. Let God's gra - cious pur-pose be. Let the be.

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**\*EUCHARISTIC BLESSING**

**C: Amen.**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**A:** We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**P:** Mothering God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

**C: Amen.**



- 1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and  
 2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and  
 3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the  
 4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row



- sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor  
 grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,  
 throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in  
 grieve: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



- bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:  
 clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -  
 care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:  
 fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



- lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

- 5 And you, most gentle sister death,  
 waiting to hush our final breath: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,  
 fair is the night that leads us home.  
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,  
 and worship God with humble heart: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 All creatures, bless the Father, Son,  
 and Holy Spirit, Three in One:  
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**\*DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*POSTLUDE**      Our Father, God in Heaven Above      Johann Sebastian Bach

\*\*\*

*We depart in peace to continue our worship in lives of witness  
to Christ's love in work, play, service, and care for creation.*

**MINISTERS SERVING TODAY:** Doug Bauder; David and Mark Rohlfing; Tim and Noah Smith; Sam and Andrew Eichmiller; Tom and Abe Sinn; Mike, Jacob, and Joshua Powell.

**The altar flowers** are given to the glory of God by Lynn & Ute Coyne in celebration of their 49<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and by Kent & Barb Unger in celebration of their 53<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary and Barb's birthday.

**We are a Christ-centered community that lives, shares and  
celebrates God's grace with all people!**

**ST. THOMAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Katie Gardiner, Adult Choir Director  
Melissa de Graaf, Children's Choir Director

in covenant with

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