

**Sunday, September 21, 2025**  
**Fifteenth Week of Pentecost**  
**Liturgy from Sundays and Seasons 2025 – ELW Setting # 8**



### **INTRODUCTION FOR THE DAY**

*As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. “Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all.” Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God’s gracious favor we have everything we need.*

### **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **RINGING OF THE CHIMES**

### **GATHERING**

*Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.*

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.  
**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful and loving God,  
**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.**



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!  
**Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn: ELW #715 “Christ Be Our Light”**

### **Apostolic 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.**

## Prayer Of The Day

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated as the children come forward.*

## Children's Time

### THE WORD

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

*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.*

<sup>4</sup> Hear this, you who trample on the needy,  
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,  
<sup>5</sup> 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?  
We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier  
and practice deceit with false balances,  
<sup>6</sup> buying the poor for silver  
and the needy for a pair of sandals  
and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

<sup>7</sup> The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:  
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

#### Psalm: Psalm 113 (Read Responsively)

*The LORD lifts up the poor from the ashes. (Ps. 113:7)*

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD;  
praise the name of the LORD.  
<sup>2</sup> **Let the name of the LORD be blessed,  
from this time forth for evermore.**  
<sup>3</sup> From the rising of the sun to its going down  
let the name of the LORD be praised.  
<sup>4</sup> **The LORD is high above all nations;  
God's glory above the heavens.**  
<sup>5</sup> Who is like the LORD our God,  
who sits enthroned on high,  
<sup>6</sup> **but stoops to behold  
the heavens and the earth?**  
<sup>7</sup> The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust  
and lifts up the poor from the ashes,  
<sup>8</sup> **enthroning them with the rulers,  
with the rulers of the people.**



<sup>9</sup> The LORD makes the woman of a childless house to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

## Special Music “Though the Earth Shall Change” Chancel Choir

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

*The pastoral epistles offer 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.*

<sup>1</sup> First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup> This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup> For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

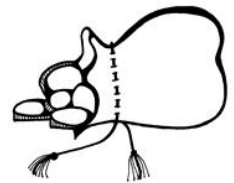
Christ Jesus, himself human,

<sup>6</sup> who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time. <sup>7</sup> For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.*



### Gospel Acclamation – ELW Setting # 8 – S 188

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

The Gospel according to St. Luke, the 16<sup>th</sup> Chapter, beginning at the 1<sup>st</sup> verse. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

*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.*

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. <sup>2</sup> So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ <sup>3</sup> Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup> I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ <sup>5</sup> So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ <sup>6</sup> He answered, ‘A

hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' <sup>7</sup> Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' <sup>8</sup> And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. <sup>9</sup> And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

<sup>10</sup> "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. <sup>11</sup> If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup> No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

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

*Please be seated.*

**Sermon**

**Pastor Dean Willich**

*Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.*

**Hymn of the Day: ELW #710 "Let Streams of Living Justice"**

**The Apostles' Creed**

**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 Intercession**

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

*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 those we say aloud or hold in our heart (A brief silence)*. 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.**

Gracious God, we give thanks for the saints who now join the heavenly chorus in praising your name. Lift us up from the dust of grief and remind us of your promise of new life. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

**Pastor:** 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 Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say, "Peace be with you" or similar words. The assembly is seated.*

**Offering** – Collection of our offerings.

*Song during offering – Music Only – ELW #692 "We Are an Offering"*

*Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.*

### **Offering Prayer**

Let us pray, together.

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.**



## THE MEAL

### 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.**

### PROPER PREFACE

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;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
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:



### Sanctus: Holy, Holy, Holy – ELW Setting # 8 – S 190

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

### The Words of Institution

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.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and 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**

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy. Come.

*Please be seated and wait to come forward for Holy Communion after the singing of The Lamb of God song.*

### **Lamb of God – ELW Setting # 8 – S 191**

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

### **Hymn During Communion: ELW #712 “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”**

## Blessing after Communion

*After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands. The presiding minister may say a table blessing; the assembly responds Amen.*

## Prayer after Communion

Let us pray, together.

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.  
Amen.

## Sending Blessing

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.  
Amen.



## Sending Song: ELW #623 "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

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### Today's Lay Leaders

**Lector:** Sandy Young

**Ushers:** Craig & Tania Beyler

**Communion Assistant:** Sandy Ringwall

**Altar Guild:** Deanna Posig

**Music & Worship Coordinator:** Barb Regent

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