

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 30 & 31, 2025

AS WE GATHER

Finding one's right place in each setting can be a challenge of life in any society. In Bible times, it was important not only that people had seats in the right location; it was equally important that they sat down in the right sequence. The social guideline was this: at a session of study, precedence is to be given to wisdom; in reclining at a feast, to age. Jesus was a close observer of the earthly society in which He lived, including observing who sat where at a banquet table. He saw firsthand how limiting and restrictive some tables were when people were excluded from the feast. Contrasting those earthly tables, His description of the heavenly banquet was inclusive and expansive. He said to His followers, "Many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 8:11). By faith, we look forward to that wonderful banquet. But anywhere that we can be at the Lord's Table is the right place to be for us—including here and now!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN "Just as I Am, without One Plea" *LSB* 570, vv. 1-5

(Please stand)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,

Psalms 149:1-3

People: His praise in the assembly of the godly!

Pastor: Let Israel be glad in his Maker;

People: let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!

Pastor: Let them praise His name with dancing, making melody to Him with tambourine and lyre!

People: For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He adorns the humble with salvation.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: It is good and right that we should make confession of our sins. The section on confession in Luther's catechism instructs us with these words:

"Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven." Humble yourselves, then, before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

People: **O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities. I have offended You and justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. By thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. But, for the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite person. Forgive me all of my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.**

Pastor: God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: As you believe, so let it be. I give you good news today! God has heard your confession and He promises that your sins are forgiven and forgotten. As a called and ordained servant Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

(Please sit)

HYMN OF PRAISE "To God Be the Glory" v. 2

2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

Fanny Crosby, Public domain

SUMMER SAINT CELEBRATION:

Pastor: Although there are many saintly people remembered by name on the church's list of feasts and festivals and roster of commemorations, there are countless men and women of faith whose names have been lost through the centuries. The text writers or the composers of many of the hymns we love to sing are unknown. We do not know who are the gifted craftsmen and women responsible for much of the beautiful Christ-honoring sacred art and architecture of ages gone by. Yet their work for the Lord certainly merits our respect and appreciation. We would like to remember just one of these saints who gave us hymns that give glory and honor to our great God. Today we remember the author of a hymn we have sung many times and count as a favorite: John Newton. Although he wrote many hymns, we would like to sing this hymn now in honor of the many unsung saints who have given us the opportunity to lift our voices in song and praise to God.

HYMN OF CELEBRATION "Amazing Grace" vv. 1,2,4,5

1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound!
That sav'd a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears reliev'd;
How precious did that grace appear,
The hour I first believ'd!

4. The Lord has promis'd good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

5. Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease;
I shall possess, within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.

John Newton, Public domain

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray together:

People: O Lord of grace and mercy, teach us to follow the example of Your Son and live in true humility. Help us to avoid ungodly pride in what we do, but remember that our actions should always give glory and honor to You, our Lord and our Redeemer. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, and the Holy Spirit who gives us the power to live as you want us to live. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Proverbs 25:2–10* (Guidelines for a blessed life)

²It is the glory of God to conceal things,
but the glory of kings is to search things out.
³As the heavens for height, and the earth for depth,
so the heart of kings is unsearchable.
⁴Take away the dross from the silver,
and the smith has material for a vessel;
⁵take away the wicked from the presence of the king,
and his throne will be established in righteousness.
⁶Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great,
⁷for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.
What your eyes have seen
⁸do not hastily bring into court,
for what will you do in the end,
when your neighbor puts you to shame?
⁹Argue your case with your neighbor himself,
and do not reveal another's secret,
¹⁰lest he who hears you bring shame upon you,
and your ill repute have no end.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Hebrews 13:1–17* (Living in God-pleasing ways)

¹Let brotherly love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be

undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. ⁵Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."
⁶So we can confidently say,
"The Lord is my helper; I will not fear;
what can man do to me?" (*continued...*)

⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ⁹Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. ¹⁰We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. ¹¹For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. ¹²So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. ¹³Therefore let us go to him

outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. ¹⁴For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. ¹⁵Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

¹⁷Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN FOR THE GOSPEL LESSON

“Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service” *LSB 848*

(Verse 1 – All sing, Verse 2 – East side sing, Verse 3 – West side sing, Verse 4 – All Sing)

(Please stand)

VERSE *Luke 14:11*

People: Alleluia. Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 14:12-24*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourteenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹²He said also to the man who had invited him, “When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. ¹³But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

¹⁵When one of those who reclined at table with him heard these things, he said to him, “Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!”

¹⁶But he said to him, “A man once gave a great banquet and invited many. ¹⁷And at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’ ¹⁸But they all alike began to make excuses. *(continued...)*

The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused.' ¹⁹And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.' ²⁰And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' ²¹So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.' ²²And the servant

said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' ²³And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.' ²⁴For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.'"

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

(Please sit)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *The Rev. Peter Gueldner*

HYMN OF THE DAY "Brothers and Sisters in Christ" (sts. 1,3)

1. Sing Alleluia! Amen! Let your prayers and your praises ascend,
 Lift up your voices and sing to our Lord God,
 our Savior and King!
 Here brought together by grace, we are gathered as friends in this place,

Refrain:

And assembled as one, in the name of the Son,
 lifting hearts, lifting hands,
 Celebrating as friends, and proclaiming the Lord;
 all our praises afford,
 We are brothers and sisters in Christ.

3. Lord, teach us how to proclaim all Your goodness,
 Your love and Your name!
 Lord, teach us how to forgive, and in love, teach us Lord, how to live.
 Raising our voices in song, help us tell all the world we
 belong: **Refrain**

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SERMON "A SENDING CHURCH" (Text: Acts 13:1-3)

The Rev. Peter Gueldner

(Please stand)

CATECHISM ***The Third Article***

Pastor: Together we say the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed.

People: **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: God, our Savior, wants all people to come to know the truth. Let us pray for ourselves and for the church everywhere. The church is the gathering of God's people. As a family of God, we gather to hear Your Word, to receive Your forgiveness and to share in the sacrament of the Altar. We thank you for the faithful pastors who are our shepherds and teachers. Give them guidance and strength to always remember their called mission to preach and teach Your Word in its truth and purity. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We pray for all of our public servants. Help them to promote justice and the common good for all of the people in our country, that all may live in peace and prosperity. Bless our farmers with a bountiful harvest, and bless all business owners that they may work to promote justice and the good of all of their employees. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We pray for the homeless and the hungry, for the physically and mentally ill, the aged and the infirm. Help us to cherish these people as Your dear children. Help us to see their needs and work to help them. In our own congregation, we remember those who are ill and have requested our prayers: (especially....).], Give us humility that we may find joy in service to all people in every situation. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Thank you for the missionaries who go all over the world to bring Your message of salvation and for all Christian aid workers. Guard and protect them that their work would be unhindered and be a continuing source of blessings. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: We give thanks for the faithful examples set by those whose earthly journeys are complete and whose witness to Christ still inspires us. Give us humble hearts to follow their examples and always see ways to show Your love to those around us.

People: Be merciful, Lord God, and hear our prayers; grant Your Holy Spirit to plead for us and guide Your church into all truth and holiness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Hear us as we pray the prayer that You have taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

People: 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.

(Please sit)

TITHES AND OFFERING *Instrumental*

(Please stand)

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

HYMN TO PREPARE FOR HOLY COMMUNION

“Feed Thy Children, God Most Holy” *LSB 774, v. 1*

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and proper that we should give thanks to You, Lord our God, for You continually strengthen us with Your abiding presence and promise to receive our prayers and petitions. Continue to bless Your people in Your holy church that we may know the truth that is found in Christ alone and find joy in humble service in His name. Hear now, the Words of our Lord, spoken at the time of the Last Supper:

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always. Welcome to the Lord’s table.

People: **Amen.**

(Please sit)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” *LSB 425, sts. 1-4*

“Jesus Loves Me” *LSB 588, sts. 1-2*

“I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb” *LSB 740, sts. 1-3*

(Please stand)

COMMUNION DISMISSAL

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.

People: **Amen**

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank You for having fed us with Your life-giving food. Grant that we will ever follow our Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks with our lives so that we may bring glory to You and service to those around us. When our earthly journey is completed, grant us life with You and with the saints in light eternal. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our blessed Savior and Redeemer.

People: **Amen.**

(Please sit)

SUMMER SAINT HYMN INTRODUCTION

Pastor: Remembering once again John Newton the author of the hymn we sang at the beginning of our service, we ask that you sing this hymn now, another of his familiar hymns:

HYMN OF CELEBRATION “Glorious Things of You Are Spoken”

LSB 648, sts. 1 & 4

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN “I’ll Fly Away” sts. 1-2

1. Some glad morn-ing when this life is ov-er_ , I'll fly a-way.

To a home on God's ce-les-tial shore, I'll fly a-way.

I'll fly a-way, O glo-ry, I'll fly a-way.

When I die, hal-le-lu-jah, by and by, Oh_ I'll fly a-way.

2. Just a few more wear-y days and then_ , I'll fly a-way.

To a land where joy shall nev-er end, I'll fly a way.

I'll fly a way, O glo-ry, I'll fly a-way.

When I die, hal-le-lu-jah, by and by, Oh_ I'll fly a-way.

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* * * **TO GOD BE THE GLORY** * * *

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Rally Day is September 6/7.

We will have a 5:30 Saturday service and a 9:00 Sunday service.

Congregational members and youth are encouraged to explore various volunteer positions within our church by visiting the tables in the Fellowship Hall.

Following the 9 a.m. Sunday service, after exploring the volunteer opportunities, parents of Sunday School students are invited to meet in the gym for registration and activities.

Hope you can join us!