

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 20 & 21, 2025

5:30PM & 8:00AM

AS WE GATHER

The Divine Service is unlike our other activities during the week—in the marketplace, our place of employment, or our school—where we struggle to be “the people of God” amid the temptations and confusing details of living in a world still disfigured by sin, tragedy, selfishness, and death. By our own fault, we daily fall short of our calling as Christians. We are reminded today of the judgment of God’s Law by the prophet Amos against our worry over money and our own needs that distract us from the often-greater needs of others and even our own true need of faith and reliance on God above all. Each day of the week, the demands of the Ten Commandments of God call us back to our need for forgiveness and God’s mercy, grace, help, and love. So, we gather here for Divine Service, that is, God attending to our real needs. We come to repent of our sin and failure, and to receive forgiveness and new life and hope. That forgiveness and hope comes solely from the God who “loved the world” so much “that He gave His only Son” to die for you (John 3:16). We do not have to wait and wonder until the Day of Judgment. By your Baptism into Christ, by His mighty and reliable Word of forgiveness spoken over and into you, and by your connection with the body and blood of your crucified and risen Lord Jesus, you are being delivered from all evil, redeemed, restored, and forgiven for everlasting life in the kingdom of God already here and now.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN “Seek Ye First” LSB 712, sts. 1-3

Please stand

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 43:4; 113:7*

Pastor: I will go to the altar of God,

People: to God my exceeding joy.

Pastor: The LORD raises the poor from the dust

People: and lifts the needy from the ash heap.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins in the light of God's holy Commandments.

Pastor: Thus says the Lord: "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy."

People: Lord God, we confess to You that we often forget Your Word by allowing other concerns of daily living and our own desires take priority over Your ways of mercy and love. Forgive us, O Lord.

Pastor: Thus says the Lord: "You shall not murder."

People: Lord God, we confess to You that we have hurt and harmed our neighbors, especially by our neglect of the needs of others. Forgive us, O Lord.

Pastor: Thus says the Lord: "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor."

People: Lord God, we confess to You our rash words, harsh judgments, and false accusations against our neighbor, but even more our failure to defend and help those who have been wrongfully shamed, abused, or accused. Forgive us, O Lord.

Pastor: God, our Savior, desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For the sake of the one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, and by His command, I proclaim to you His Word: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

INTROIT *Psalm 119:137–140, 142; antiphon: v. 144*

Pastor: Your testimonies are righteous forever; give me understanding that I may live.

People: Righteous are You, O LORD, and right are Your just decrees.

Pastor: You have appointed Your testimonies in righteousness and in all faithfulness.

People: My zeal consumes me, because my foes forget Your words.

Pastor: Your promise is well tried, and Your servant loves it.

People: Your righteousness is righteous forever, and Your law is true.

All: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son**
 and to the Holy Spirit;
 as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Pastor: Your testimonies are righteous forever; give me understanding that I may live.

KYRIE



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS (*Glory to God in the Highest*)



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shipped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, Your Word both condemns and heals, and Your judgments reveal our desperate need as well as Your gracious love for all. Give to Your church the clear vision of Your mercy and grace, that we may be instruments of Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

Please sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Amos 8:4–7* (The coming day of bitter mourning)

⁴Hear this, you who trample on the needy
and bring the poor of the land to an end,

⁵saying, “When will the new moon be over,
that we may sell grain?

And the Sabbath,

that we may offer wheat for sale,
that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great
and deal deceitfully with false balances,

⁶that we may buy the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals
and sell the chaff of the wheat?”

⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
“Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM *Psalms 113*

Pastor: ¹How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?

People: ²**How long must I take counsel in my soul
and have sorrow in my heart all the day?
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?**

Pastor: ³ Consider and answer me, O LORD my God;
light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,

People: ⁴ **lest my enemy say, “I have prevailed over him,”
lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.**

Pastor: ⁵ But I have trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

People: ⁶ **I will sing to the LORD,
because he has dealt bountifully with me.**

All: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

EPISTLE 1 Timothy 2:1–15 (Pray for all people.)

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. ⁷For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

⁸I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; ⁹likewise

also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, ¹⁰but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works. ¹¹Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. ¹²I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. ¹³For Adam was formed first, then Eve; ¹⁴and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. ¹⁵Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

VERSE *1 Timothy 2:5–6a*

Pastor: Alleluia, alleluia!

People: **For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all.**

Pastor: Alleluia, alleluia!

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 16:1–15* (The parable of the dishonest manager)

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

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹[Jesus] also said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. ²And he called him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.’ ³And the manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.’ ⁵So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶He said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’ ⁷Then he said to another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He said, ‘A hundred measures of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’ ⁸The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than

the sons of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

¹⁰“One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own?

¹³No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

¹⁴The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. ¹⁵And he said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Please sit

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**HYMN OF THE DAY** “The Church’s One Foundation” *LSB* 644, sts. 1-5**SERMON** “**ELDERS (PASTOR) IN EVERY CHURCH**” (*Acts 14:21-28*)
*The Rev. Peter Gueldner***CANTICLE** “I Love Your Kingdom, Lord” *LSB* 651, sts. 1-5
Please stand**CREED** *Apostles' Creed*

People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. 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

Please sit**TITHES AND OFFERING** (8:00 ONLY “God Is So Good” – Trinity Handbells)**Please stand****PRAYER OF THE CHURCH** *Psalm 119:160*

Pastor: Let us pray.
Almighty and merciful God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, “The sum of Your word is truth, and every one of Your just and righteous decrees endures forever.” With hearts renewed by Your gift of true repentance in the light of our sins and true faith in the redemption given through the sacrifice of Your own beloved Son for the life of the world, we give You thanks for Your Word and work of Law and Gospel. Help us to keep Your Word and bring forth its fruit in our daily lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We pray You so to rule and guide Your whole church, blessing all pastors with the spirit of unity in faith and confession. Grant Your blessing also of all here present whose faith is known to You, accepting their prayers and praises as from thankful hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We pray for the health and good will of all who serve in the authority of government in our nation that they may serve according to Your will that we may live in quietness and peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Comfort and attend to all who are in trouble; those suffering sickness, injury, or fear of death; and especially those who have requested our prayers. [*Pause for silent prayer.*] Grant them patience and healing of both mind and body. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Remembering Your holy ones of old, the patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, as well as our loved ones of most recent memory, we ask You to include us in their company not on account of any merit on our part but solely because of Your great mercy. Grant all who have died in faith a place of peace and rest. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

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.**

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.

People: **Amen.**

Please sit

HYMN **“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”** *LSB 649, sts. 1-5*

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