

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 21, 2025
10:30 a.m.



Whoever is faithful
in a very little
is faithful also in much ...

Luke 16:10, NRSV



"Christ- Students- Community Coming Together"

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Early in the academic year may seem a strange time to think about the final exam, but on this day Jesus reminds us that each of us needs to give an accounting of all that is entrusted to us. In the new logic of God's reign, knowing the riches of grace we possess demands resolute action from us; we risk it all for possessing the lavish love of God offered to us.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

WORDS OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Stand

[P] In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

[C] Amen.

EXHORTATION

[P] Our help is in the name of the Lord,

[C] who made heaven and earth.

[P] If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

[C] But with You there is forgiveness.

Kneel/ Remain Standing

[P] O almighty God, merciful Father,

[C] I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

[P] Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **[C]** Amen.

Stand

GREETING OF PEACE *Share a greeting of peace with those around you.*

SERVICE OF THE WORD

HYMN "Rise, Shine, You People!"

1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
 2 See how He sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
 3 Come, cel - e - brate, your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent His Son to save us.

Our hu - man sto - ry; God in Him is cen - tered.
 He brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing.
 Your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing.
 Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us.

He comes to us, by death and by sin sur -
 All men and wom - en, who out by guilt are
 To all the world go and tell the
 Tell how the Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry

round - ed, With grace un - bound - ed.
 driv - en, Now are for - giv - en.
 sto - ry Of Je - sus' glo - ry.
 na - tion His new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.
 Music: Dale Wood, 1934-2003

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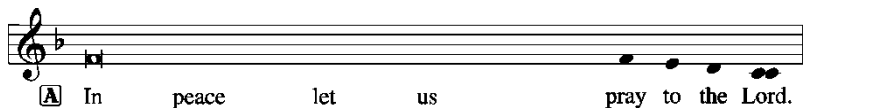
Text and music: © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House; admin. Augsburg Fortress

Eph. 5:14; Col. 2:13-15; Is. 60:1; Matt. 28:18-20

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



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

A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



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

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



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

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



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

A Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.



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

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



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 - shiped 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 AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

P Let us pray. **P** O Lord, keep Your church in Your perpetual mercy; and because without You we cannot but fall, preserve us from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C** Amen.

Sit

Children are invited to the Fireside Lounge for the Children's Lesson.

FIRST LESSON Amos 8:4-7

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom for a brief period of time. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corruption and an increased gap between rich and poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

R Hear this, you that trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
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 small and the shekel great,
and practice deceit with false balances,
buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals,
and selling the sweepings of the wheat."
The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

R This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND LESSON 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.

R First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

For

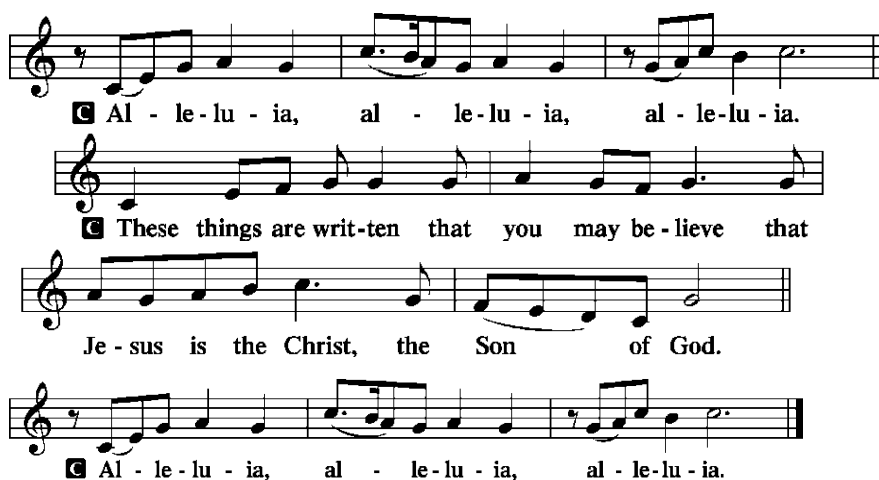
there is one God;
there is also one mediator between God and humankind,
Christ Jesus, himself human,
who gave himself a ransom for all

--this was attested at the right time. 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.

R This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

ALLELUIA AND VERSE



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff contains the lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The second staff contains 'These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that'. The third staff contains 'Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.' The fourth staff contains 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The music consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests.

HOLY GOSPEL [P] The Holy Gospel of Luke, chapter 16, beginning at verse 1.

[C] Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus tells the story of a dishonest man who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus reminds his listeners that God will not stand to be merely one of many commitments.

[P] 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. 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.' 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. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' 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.' 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. 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.

"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. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? 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."

[P] This is the Gospel of the Lord. **[C]** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator 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 again 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.**

Sit

MESSAGE

Stand

HYMN

"What is the World to Me"

1 What is the world to me With all its vaunt - ed plea - sure
 2 The world seeks to be praised And hon - ored by the might - y
 3 The world seeks af - ter wealth And all that mam - mon of - fers
 4 What is the world to me! My Je - sus is my trea - sure,

When You, and You a - lone, Lord Je - sus, are my trea - sure!
 Yet nev - er once re - flects That they are frail and flight - y.
 Yet nev - er is con - tent Though gold should fill its cof - fers.
 My life, my health, my wealth, My friend, my love, my plea - sure,

You on - ly, dear - est Lord, My soul's de - light shall be;
 But what I tru - ly prize A - bove all things is He,
 I have a high - er good, Con - tent with it I'll be:
 My joy, my crown, my all, My bliss e - ter - nal - ly.

You are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!
 My Je - sus, He a - lone. What is the world to me!
 My Je - sus is my wealth. What is the world to me!
 Once more, then, I de - clare: What is the world to me!

Text: Georg Michael Pfefferkorn, 1645–1732; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
 Tune: Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701; setting: *Lutheran Service Book*, 2006

WAS FRAG ICH NACH DER WELT
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Text and music: Public domain

1 John 2:15–17, Phil. 3:7–9; Ps. 73:25; Rom. 12:2

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Other prayers are inserted here. Each petition ends with “Lord, in your mercy,” to which the congregation responds, “Hear our prayer.”

The prayers conclude:

[P] Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **[C] Amen.**

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

You may contribute online using the QR code or place a gift in the offering plate at the door along with the interest sheet.



OFFERTORY MUSIC

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Stand

[P] Let us pray. Merciful Father,

[C] we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

[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 God thanks and praise.

[P] It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS



G Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
 Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
 Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;
 Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P 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."

P 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."

LORD'S PRAYER

Recognizing that the church, and this congregation, are comprised of people from many cultures, languages, and backgrounds, please speak this prayer in the language or version closest to your heart.

G 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.

LAMB OF GOD

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true us, Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Sit

THE DISTRIBUTION *You are invited to approach the altar to receive communion elements along with an individual cup of wine or grape juice. Gluten-free available.*

HYMN

"Seek Ye First"

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God, And His
2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you, Seek and
3 Man does not live by bread a - lone, But by
righ - teous - ness. And all these things shall be
ye shall find, Knock and the door shall be
ev - 'ry word That pro - ceeds from the
add - ed un - to you! Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
o - pened un - to you, Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
mouth of the Lord, Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

HYMN “Fruitful Trees, the Spirit’s Sowing”



1 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's sow-ing, May we rip - en
2 Lad - en branch-es free - ly bear-ing Gifts the Giv - er
3 Root - ed deep in Christ our Mas-ter, Christ our pat - tern
4 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's tend-ing, May we grow till

and in - crease, Fruit to life e - ter - nal grow-ing,
loves to bless; Here is fruit that grows by shar-ing,
and our goal, Teach us, as the years fly fast - er,
har - vests cease; Till we taste, in life un - end - ing,

Rich in love and joy and peace.
Pa - tience, kind - ness, gen - tle - ness.
Good - ness, faith, and self - con - trol,
Heav - en's love and joy and peace.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926
Music: Ralph C. Schultz, b. 1932

DOROTHY
87 87

Text: © 1984 Hope Publishing Co.
Tune: © 1980 Concordia Publishing House; setting: © 1998 Concordia Publishing House

John 15:1-9; Gal. 5:22-23; Eph. 5:8-10; Luke 6:43-45

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace. **C** Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the be - Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- [P]** Let us pray.
- [P]** O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in the Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **[C] Amen.**

BENEDICTION

- [P]** 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. **C Amen.**

P Go in peace; serve the Lord. **C Thanks be to God!**

CLOSING HYMN "Before You, Lord We Bow"

1 Be - fore You, Lord, we bow, Our God who reigns a -
2 The na - tion You have blest May well Your love de -
3 May ev - 'ry moun - tain height, Each vale and for - est
4 Earth, hear your Mak - er's voice; Your great Re - deem - er
5 And when in pow'r He comes, Oh, may our na - tive

bove And rules the world be - low, Bound - less in
clare, From foes and fears at rest, Pro - tect - ed
green, Shine in Your Word's pure light, And its rich
own; Be - lieve, o - bey, re - joice, And wor - ship
land From all its rend - ing tombs Send forth a

pow'r and love. Our thanks we bring In joy and
by Your care. For this bright day, For this fair
fruits be seen! May ev - 'ry tongue Be tuned to
Him a - lone. Cast down your pride, Your sin de -
glo - rious band, A count - less throng, With joy to

praise, Our hearts we raise To You, our King!
land— Gifts of Your hand— To Our thanks we pay.
praise And join to raise A grate - ful song.
plore, And bow be - fore The Cru - ci - fied.
sing To heav'n's high King Sal - va - tion's song!

POSTLUDE

Our Confession about Communion

1. Holy Communion is a divinely instituted act in which Jesus Christ gives His true (real) body and blood under the forms of bread and wine. We thus hold that the bread and wine are not mere symbols of Jesus' body and blood. When we receive the bread and wine, we receive in fact the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

2. We believe that Communion is a celebration of this forgiveness which comes to us through faith as we eat and drink. In communion we remember our Lord's passion and death, His resurrection and ascension, and the promise of His coming again. Communion is truly the Gospel made visible and is offered for those who "hunger and thirst after righteousness."

3. We believe that as we eat and drink this Supper we are strengthened in our faith in Jesus Christ and in our love for one another.

Therefore, we invite to the Lord's Table all who:

a. has been instructed in the meaning of Communion; have been baptized in the name of the Triune God; have received Jesus Christ as their own personal and living Savior and Lord and concur in our confession.

b. is not living in open rebellion against the Word of God, and do not hold willful and persistent form of hatred, resentment or anger against any other person.

Those who have questions about communion are welcome to talk to one of the Pastors.
