

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Reverend Ronald Breight	Pastor
Douglas Skalka	Organist
Richard Mueller	Worship Assistant
Jim Sheets & Annette Bowen	Lectors
Julia Stoner	Acolyte
Missionaries: The Rev. Vincent Mroz, The Rev. Dr. Jonathan and Deaconess Cheryl Naumann	

Sunday bulletins, news, puzzles, and sermons are available on our website listed above. Services are live-streamed on our Facebook page.

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The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 21, 2025

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ORDER OF SERVICE

Prayer on entering church: Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord. Amen.

PRELUDE

Credo

Jane Marshall

RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

Lord of All Hopefulness

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, Your arms to embrace;
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm;
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

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CONGREGATIONAL GREETINGS

INVOCATION

The sign of the cross (+) may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism

P: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

CONFESSION¹

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: **who made Heaven and Earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

(We take a moment of silence before the Lord as we call to mind how we have not properly loved Him, ourselves, or other people.)

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: **I, a poor miserable sinner, confess to 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: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (†) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

KYRIE

Hymnal p. 186

P: Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

A: *(sung)* **Lord, have mercy upon us;
Christ, have mercy upon us;
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

P: Glory be to God on high,
C: and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.
We praise Thee, we bless Thee,
we worship Thee, we glorify Thee,
we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sung)* And with thy spirit.

P: Let us pray.

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: *(sung)* Amen.

FIRST READING

Amos 8:4–7

L: The first reading for the fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost is from chapter eight of Amos.

An exhortation to live justly

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Psalm 113

L: From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the Lord is to be praised!

**C: From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the Lord is to be praised!**

L: Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord,
praise the name of the Lord!
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
from this time forth and forevermore!
From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the Lord is to be praised!

**C: From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the Lord is to be praised!**

L: The Lord is high above all nations,
and His glory above the heavens!
Who is like the Lord our God,
who is seated on high,
who looks far down
on the heavens and the earth?

**C: From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the Lord is to be praised!**

L: He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes,

with the princes of His people.

He gives the barren woman a home,

making her the joyous mother of children. Praise the Lord!

**C: From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the Lord is to be praised!**

**A: 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.**

SECOND READING

1 Timothy 2:1–15

L: The second reading is from chapter two of 1 Timothy.

The Lord wants all people to be saved.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(please rise)*

Hymnal p. 190

P: Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the light of the world, says the Lord.

Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness

but will have the light of life.

cf John 8.12

A: (sung) Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 16:1–15

P: The Holy Gospel is according to St. Luke, chapter sixteen.

C: (sung) Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

Jesus calls His disciples to make serving Him the priority.

Following the reading...

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: (sung) Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED²

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and
Earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Seek Where You May

Hymnal p. 557

Seek where you may To find away
That leads to your salvation. My heart is stilled,
On Christ I build, He is the one foundation.
His Word is sure, His works endure;
He overthrows All evil foes; Through Him I more than conquer.

Seek whom you may To be your stay,
None can redeem his brother. All helpers failed;
This man prevailed, The God-man and none other
Our Servant King Of whom we sing. We're justified
Because He died, The guilty being guiltless.

Seek Him alone Who did atone,
Who did your souls deliver. O seek Him first,
All you who thirst For grace that fails you never.
In every need Seek Him indeed; To ev'ry heart He will impart
His blessings without measure.

**My heart's delight, My crown most bright,
O Christ, my joy forever. Not wealth nor pride
Nor fortune's tide Our bonds of love shall sever.
You are my Lord; Your precious Word Shall guide my way
And help me stay Forever in Your presence.**

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SERMON³

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

VOLUNTARY

Offertory on "Monkland"

David Lasky

OFFERING HYMN

Hymnal p. 192

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence,
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,
and uphold me with Thy free Spirit. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for ourselves, the church, and the world.

Following each petition:

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper (Holy Communion) is being celebrated in today's service. In preparation for that, please be reminded that the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper are not merely representations or symbols of Jesus' body and blood but Jesus' body and blood sacrificed on the cross are present in, with, and under the bread and wine (The Real Presence). How is this possible? This is beyond human understanding, but we remember that with God all things are possible. This truth is a divine mystery instituted by Jesus, taught by his Apostles, fervently held by the Christian church, and one in which we participate through faith. To be properly prepared to receive this sacrament, you must

1) Recognize that you have indeed sinned against God and other people and are accountable to God for those sins;

- 2) Be sorry (repentant) for those sins;
- 3) Believe that in this sacrament Jesus bestows forgiveness, life, and salvation; and
- 4) Sincerely desire to live a godly life from this point forward.

If you are not a member of Christ Lutheran Church, please speak with the pastor before receiving communion here for the first time. If you choose to come forward to receive a blessing rather than the Lord's Supper, indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest.

PREFACE

Hymnal p. 194

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sung)* **And with thy spirit.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: *(sung)* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C: *(sung)* **It is meet and right so to do.**

PROPER PREFACE

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary...evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He,
Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

P: The peace of the Lord be with you in all ways.

C: *(sung)* Amen.

AGNUS DEI

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

Prayer before communing: Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit one God now and forever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

Form a line at the communion rail starting at the left side. When the line is half full, begin filling it in from the right side. When invited, approach the rail and kneel/stand. If you want to receive a gluten-free wafer at communion, let the worship assistant know as he comes by with the wafers. After communion, exit through the right doorway, place individual communion cups in the tray, and proceed down the stairs back to your seat.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table

Hymnal p. 618

**I come, O Savior, to Thy table,
For weak and weary is my soul;
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able
To satisfy and make me whole:**

Refrain: Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood Be for my soul the highest
good!

Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning
 That sinners may salvation see
 Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning;
 So I, a sinner, come to Thee. *Refrain:*
 Unworthy though I am, O Savior,
 Because I have a sinful heart,
 Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never,
 For Thou my faithful shepherd art: *Refrain:*
 Weary am I and heavy laden;
 With sin my soul is sore oppressed;
 Receive me graciously and gladden
 My heart, for I am now Thy guest. *Refrain:*
 What higher gift can we inherit?
 It is faith's bond and solid base;
 It is the strength of heart and spirit,
 The covenant of hope and grace. *Refrain:*

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Chief of Sinners

Hymnal p. 611

Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me,
 Died that I might live on high, Lives that I might never die.
 As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.

Oh, the height of Jesus' love, Higher than the heav'ns above,
 Deeper than the depths of sea, Lasting as eternity!
 Love that found me wondrous thought
 Found me when I sought Him not.

Only Jesus can impart Balm to heal the wounded heart,
 Peace that flows from sin forgiven, Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
 Faith and hope to walk with God In the way that Enoch trod.

**Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known, All my sorrows are His own.
He sustains the hidden life Safe with Him from earthly strife.**

**O my Savior, help afford By Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray, Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply While I live and when I die.**

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VOLUNTARY

Kyrie! God, Father

Philip Gehring

NUNC DIMITTIS

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace
according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast prepared
before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles
and the glory of Thy people Israel.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.**

THANKSGIVING

P: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C: (*sung*) and His mercy endureth forever.

COLLECT

P: Let us pray.

**We give thanks to You, almighty God, that you have refreshed us
through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You
would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent
love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who
lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever.**

C: (*sung*) Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: (*sung*) **And with thy spirit.**

P: Bless we the Lord.

C: (*sung*) **Thanks be to God.**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: (*sung*) **Amen, amen, amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Lord of Glory You Have Bought Us

Hymnal p. 851

**Lord of glory, You have bought us With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given Blessings countless as the sand
To the unthankful and the evil With Your own unsparing hand.**

**Grant our hearts, dear Lord, to give You gladly, freely of Your own.
With the sunshine of Your goodness Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures, warmed by You, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed 'Tis to give than to receive.**

**Wondrous honor You have given To our humblest charity
In Your own mysterious sentence, "You have done it all to Me."
Can it be, O gracious Master, That You deign for alms to sue,
Saying by Your poor and needy, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?**

**Lord of glory, You have brought us With Your life blood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust You boldly, Hope, to stay our souls on You;
But, oh, best of all Your graces, With Your love our love renew.**

Prayer after worship: Almighty and merciful God, I have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for my many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. I thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep me in faith until, with all Your saints, I inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

POSTLUDE

When in Our Music God Is Glorified

Mark Hayes

¹*The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." John 20:22-23.* We take heart that the absolution proclaimed by the pastor is as from the Lord Himself.

²*It is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Romans 10:10.* Our response to the Word of God that has just been read is our confession of faith in the one, true, triune God.

³Martin Luther teaches us about hearing the Word: "Know, therefore, that you must be concerned not only about hearing, but also about learning and retaining it in memory, and do not think that it is optional with you or of no great importance, but that it is God's commandment, who will require of you how you have heard, learned, and honored His Word." (Large Catechism) *Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it! Luke 11:28*

Christ Lutheran Church is a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.