

Saint John Lutheran Church

We love because He first loved us

September 7, 2025

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Setting Three – Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW)

PRELUDE

Tessa Dorsett

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE GATHER

EXCHANGE OF PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

P Let us share God's peace with one another.

*All are invited to greet one another in the name of the Lord by saying
"Peace be with You."*

INVOCATION

*Please stand as you are able. All may make the sign of the cross, the
sign marked at Baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our maker, our helper, and
our keeper.

C Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Merciful and loving God,

C 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.

P 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!

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #660 "Lift High the Cross"

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

2 All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee.

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

- 4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory!

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

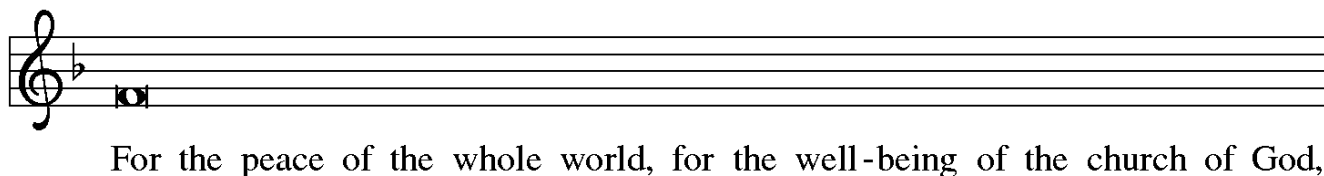
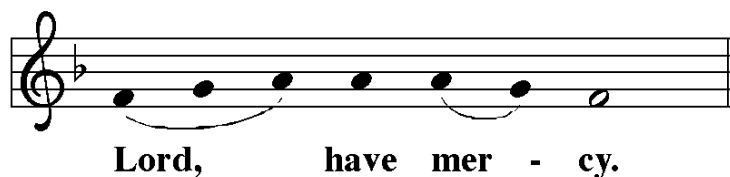
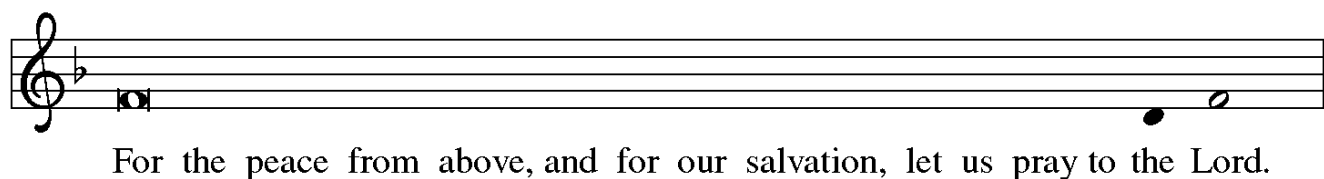
APOSTOLIC GREETING

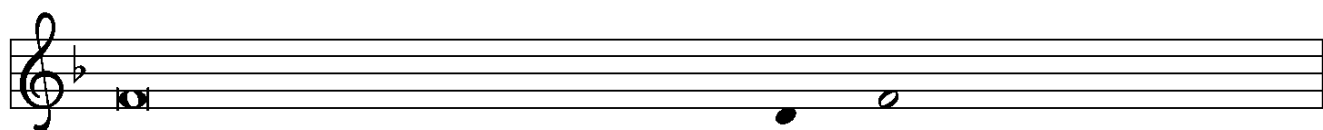
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE

Pg. 138-139

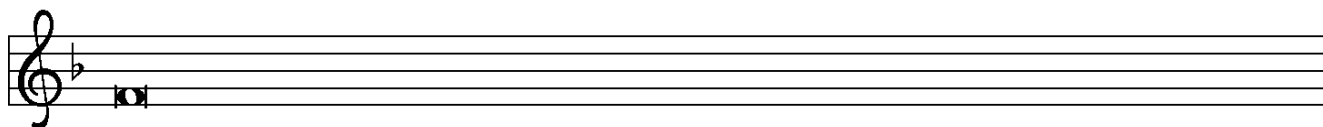




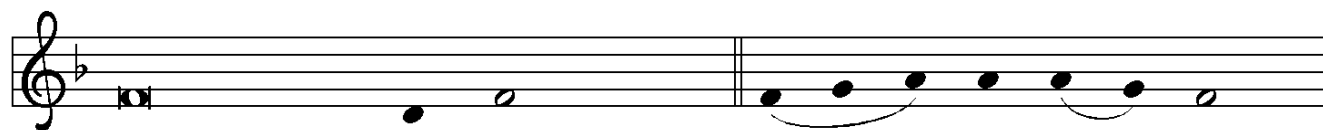
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

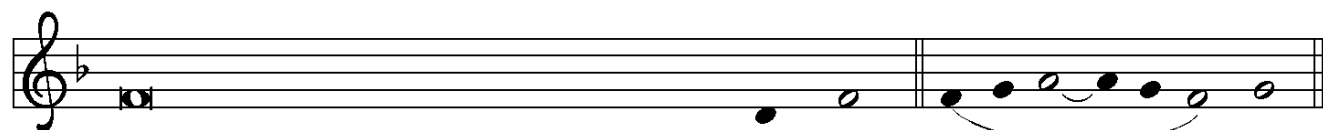


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE "Glory To God"

Pg. 139-140

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,
 you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;
 you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.
 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
 you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
 in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

You may be seated.

THE HOLY WORD

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵“See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 1



- ¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel [|] of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats [|] of the
scornful!
- ² **Their delight is in the law [|] of the Lord,
and they meditate on God's teaching [|] day and night.**
- ³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due
season, with leaves that [|] do not wither;
everything they [|] do shall prosper.
- ⁴ **It is not so [|] with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind [|] blows away.**
- ⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when [|] judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council [|] of the righteous.
- ⁶ **For the Lord knows the way [|] of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall [|] be destroyed.**

SECOND READING

Philemon 1-21

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To our
beloved coworker Philemon, ²to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier
Archippus, and to the church in your house: ³Grace to you and peace
from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I thank my God always when I mention you in my
prayers, ⁵because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith
toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶I pray that the partnership of your faith may
become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in
Christ. ⁷I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from
your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed
through you, my brother.

⁸For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, ⁹yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹²I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, ¹⁶no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

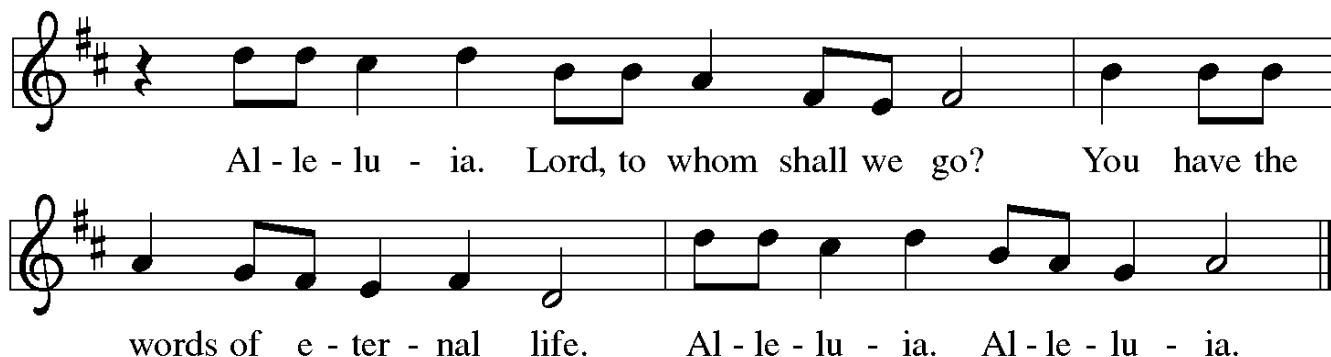
A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able to greet the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Pg. 142



GOSPEL

Luke 14:25-33

P The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke, the 14th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

P This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ!

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Pete

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #583 "Take My Life, That I May Be"

Refrain

Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

- 1 Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.

Refrain

Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

- 2 Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use
ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

Refrain

Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

- 3 Take my voice and let me sing
always, only for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee.

Refrain

Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

- 4 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

Refrain

Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

APOSTLE'S CREED

Pg. 105

C 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 hell. 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 THE CHURCH

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

A brief silence.

We pray for the church to follow in your ways, that it may be a witness to your love for all people. Help us choose all that is life-giving and confront the forces of death. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for creation, that it may be cherished and nurtured. Sustain farmlands, animals, and waters; restore places affected by calamities; and shield coastlands from rising seas. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for those in authority. Grant them wisdom to govern justly and compassion to care for the marginalized. Equip them for actions that further the common good. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for those who are sick, hungry, unhoused, or lonely (*especially*). May they find healing through your love and the care of those around them. Lead us to be your hands and feet in the world. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for this congregation, that we may be united in love and faith. Refresh our hearts in Christ, and deepen our support of one another. We pray that our sharing of faith may transform lives. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We thank you for those who have died and now dwell with the saints. Surround them with your divine mercy, that they find peace and rest in your loving embrace. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

WORSHIP OF GOD WITH TITHES & OFFERING

OFFERTORY CANTICLE *ELW #186 "Create in Me"*



The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.'

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

OFFERING PRAYER

A 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.

C Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pg. 144

The image displays four staves of musical notation for a hymn. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are primarily quarter and eighth notes, often beamed together. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined. The first staff has a double bar line after the first phrase. The second staff also has a double bar line. The third and fourth staves end with double bar lines.

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

THE PROPER PREFACE

P 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"

Pg. 144

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are 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 in the high - est.

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C 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

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

LAMB OF GOD

Pg. 146

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.

HOLY COMMUNION OF GOD'S HOLY PEOPLE

We are celebrating Holy Communion during the service this morning. We believe that Christ is truly present in this meal of bread and wine. All are welcome at table. Small children who have not yet received communion instruction are welcome at the table to receive a blessing. Those who prefer not to receive wine may take white grape juice supplied in the inner circle of the communion tray, gluten free wafers are available, just let your server know you wish to receive gluten free.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

Instrumental

TABLE DISMISSAL

P Now may the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P 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.

C Amen.

SENDING

THE BENEDICTION

P 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.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

ELW #802 "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus" vs. 1 & 4

1 Let us ever walk with Jesus,
follow his example pure,
through a world that would deceive us
and to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in his footsteps treading,
trav'lers here, our home above,
full of faith and hope and love,
let us do our Savior's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide;
I shall follow where you guide.

4 Let us also live with Jesus.
He has risen from the dead
that to life we may awaken.
Jesus, you are now our head,
we are your own living members;
where you live, there we shall be
in your presence constantly,
living there with you forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be;
life eternal grant to me.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Tessa Dorsett

Thank you to those serving today:

READER

Charles Schulze

ASSISTING MINISTER

Matt Hughes

CANTOR

Tessa Dorsett

USHERS

Charles Schulze & Richard Kolonko

ACOLYTE

Lila Boykin

COUNTERS

Pat Hines & JoAnn Fuchs

SUNDAY SUPERVISOR

Carol Sebesta

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Abigail Boykin

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

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