

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST
September 6th, 2026 – 9:30 AM

WELCOME



Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

✝ Preacher – Brian Griswold

✝ Officiant – Pr. Rudy Schneider

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate God, **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN: ELW#864 – Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

Prayer of the Day - O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

GOD'S HOLY WORD

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel? The Word of the Lord... **Thanks be to God!**



Psalm 119:33-40

³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching; I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire.

³⁶ **Incline my heart to your decrees and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷ Turn my eyes from be holding falsehood; give me life in your way.

³⁸ **Fulfill your promise to your servant, which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹ Turn away the reproach that I dread, because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for your commandments; by your righteousness enliven me.**



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Musical notation for the Gospel Acclamation. It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written on a five-line staff. Below the first staff, the lyrics are: "Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word. Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred." The second staff continues the melody. Below the second staff, the lyrics are: "Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring." The music ends with a double bar line.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.
Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

HOLY GOSPEL

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Matthew 18: 15 - 20; **Glory to You, O Lord!**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ "If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

The Gospel of the Lord...**Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!**

CHILDRENS MESSAGE & SERMON – Brian Griswold

HYMN: ELW#715 – Christ Be Our Light

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

✠ *We recognize all joining us virtually and give voice to any greetings or prayer requests.*

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us. *A brief silence.*

Proclaiming God, empower your church throughout the world to announce the words you give us. Open us to receive your word in unexpected ways. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Forming God, renew the cycles of your creation that provide for the needs of all. Protect grasslands, marshes, swamps, and all places of transition. Heal communities crying out after disaster. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Governing God, turn all who create, enforce, or interpret legislation away from selfish gain and toward your promise of good for all, especially the good of all who labor. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Attending God, wake us up to any around us who are in need. Restore broken relationships, failing health, frayed emotions, and the hurts we carry with us. Grace those from our families and community that we now name silently in our hearts, or out loud, with our prayers and your blessings. *(Please name silently or out loud).* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gathering God, resolve conflicts in this community through your righteousness and grace. Reconcile us to each other, making your good news known even through our imperfections. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, all who die in faith have life with you. We give you thanks for the nearness of your salvation for all who have gone before us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, we seek Your divine wisdom and guidance in our search for a shepherd to lead us with humility, love, and grace. Lord, bless our search process, our call committee and open doors to reveal the right candidate to us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

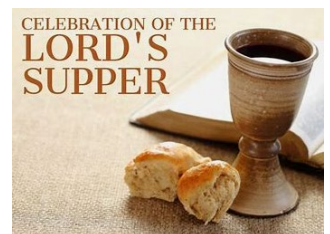
O God, our life, our strength, receive these gifts as a token of our thanksgiving for the blessings you provide for us daily. By your Holy Spirit, help us to be your body in the world, that more and more will give you praise and serve your people, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

And on 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.



For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest and pray unto you the prayer he taught us to pray -

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 – Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

OUR TIME OF COMMUNION WITH THE LORD!

COMMUNION HYMN 1: Change My Heart, O God

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.
You are the potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.
Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

COMMUNION HYMN 2: Lord, You are More Precious

Lord, you are more precious than silver,
Lord, you are more costly than gold,
Lord, you are more beautiful than diamonds,
And nothing I desire compares with you,
And nothing I desire compares with you.

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COMMUNION HYMN 3: Blessed Assurance

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|---|--|
| 1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.
Chorus | 3. Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with his goodness, lost in his love.
Chorus |
| 2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight,
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.
Chorus | Chorus:
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long,
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long. |

Closing Prayer - Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Blessing - The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: Shout to the Lord

CHORUS:

Shout to the Lord all the earth let us sing.
Power and majesty praise to the King
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar;
at the sound of Your name.
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands;
Forever I'll love You - forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.

My Jesus, my Savior, Lord, there is none like You
All of my days I want to praise
the wonders of Your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter, Tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath, All that I am,
Never cease to worship you
(CHORUS)

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Song of Blessing

May God's blessing surround you each day,
As you trust God and walk in God's way.
May God's presence within guard and keep you from sin,
Go in peace, go in joy, go in love.

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Dismissal: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

Notes:



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