

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
September 18, 2022

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**TEMPLE TALK**

**Sami Pollack**

**CALL TO WORSHIP/FLC CHOIR**

*Be Thou My Vision*  
**Arr. Hudson**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
who is eager to forgive  
and who loves us beyond our days.

**Amen.**

Dear friends, together let us acknowledge  
our failure to love this world as Jesus does.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of mercy and forgiveness,  
**we confess that sin still has a hold on us.**  
**We have harmed your good creation.**  
**We have failed to do justice,**  
**love kindness,**  
**and walk humbly with you.**  
**Turn us in a new direction.**  
**Show us the path that leads to life.**  
**Be our refuge and strength on the journey,**  
**through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.**  
**Amen.**

Beloved of God:  
your sins are forgiven + and you are made whole.  
God points the way to new life in Christ,  
who meets us on the road.  
Journey now in God's abiding love  
through the power of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN**

*"Shine, Jesus Shine"* ELW #671

(Vs. 1 & 2)

**GREETING**

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

**And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray

**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.**

**BLESSING OF THE BACKPACK**

**GNH SINGS**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia* ELW page 151

The Holy Gospel according to the tenth chapter of Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL: Mark 10:13-16**

<sup>13</sup>People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. <sup>14</sup>But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. <sup>15</sup>Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." <sup>16</sup>And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ**

**MESSAGE**

Rev. Judy Thompson-Reitz

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**"Jesus Loves Me" ELW #595**

**DISTRIBUTION OF BIBLES**

**3 year olds**—Cameron Culbert, Nolan Haller, Rosabelle Okoneski, River Pagel, Reese Thelemann

**3rd Graders**—Lauren Novak, Tucker Vrklan

**THE APOSTLE'S CREED**

**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 the dead.  
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**

### **THE PRAYERS**

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation.

*A brief silence.*

God our Savior, you keep your church in faith and truth. Accompany those preparing for baptism or affirmation of baptism. Enlighten preachers, teachers, seminarians, and all those who share your good news with the world.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Divine teacher, you instruct your children to be responsible stewards of your creation. Show us how best to care for the earth and its resources, and guide those who work to develop sustainable practices.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Ruler of the nations, you direct those in authority. Give leaders wisdom and compassion so that all may live in peace. Inspire all public servants to engage in the work of pursuing justice, compassion and peace.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Helper of the needy, you lift up those who are oppressed. Breathe justice into economic and social systems that perpetuate poverty and hunger. Sustain food ministries, clothing banks, and emergency shelters .

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sustainer and giver of life, you bless this congregation with abundance. Instruct us in the proper and faithful use of wealth and resources, that we share generously.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of glory, you gather your saints around your throne. Keep us thankful for the witness of those who have gone before us, and bring us with them to the heavenly feast that has no end.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **WE OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TITHES**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray:

**Gracious God,  
in your great love you richly provide for our needs.  
Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing,  
and make us ready to share with all in need;  
through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all.  
Amen.**

## **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**ELW page 144**

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites you to this table.  
Come, taste and see.

*Holy Holy Holy* ELW page 153  
*Lamb of God* ELW page 154

## COMMUNION HYMN

*Lord, Be Glorified* ELW #744

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of the abundant table,  
you have refreshed our hearts in this meal  
with bread for the journey.  
Give us your grace on the road  
that we might serve our neighbors with joy;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## INTERIM PASTOR LITANY OF FAREWELL

**Congregational Leader:** Dear Christian Friends; A church family is constantly changing. It is right and important that we recognize these times of passage...of endings and beginnings. Today we share the time of farewell with Pastor Judy whose term as our Interim Pastor is coming to an end.

**All: Gracious God, You have blessed and sustained us for many years and have given us life together in the Christian community of this congregation. Be with us now, we pray, as we enter into this new beginning at First Lutheran Church. Bless us with hope and excitement as we prepare to welcome Pr. Sam and his family. Bless us and guide us as we reflect upon our history and dream dreams about our future, so that we can prepare our hearts and minds to support our new pastor. Give us courage, patience, joy and vision; and strengthen us in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and service to others, through Jesus the Christ. Amen**

**Interim Pastor:** Today I want to thank First Lutheran Church, for the love, kindness and support you have all shown to me. I especially want to thank all the staff at First Lutheran Church for their guidance and support.

**Congregation: We extend our heartfelt thanks during this time of transition we now acknowledge your departure from this ministry and we accept that you now leave us as our interim pastor. Your influence in our lives will not leave us, even though you depart from us as our interim pastor.**

**Interim Pastor:** I gratefully accept your gratitude, and give thanks for our time together, serving Christ and our parting, are pleasing to our forgiving God and to the Christ we are called to serve.

**Congregational Leader:** Do you, the members and friends of First Lutheran Church, now release Pastor Judy as interim minister? Will you offer your encouragement and support to Pastor Judy in the next step in her journey?

**Congregation: We do, and we ask God to help us.**

**Congregational Leader:** Do you Pastor Judy, release First Lutheran Church from turning to you and depending on you.

**Interim Pastor:** I do, and I ask God to help me.

**Congregational Leader:** Let us pray.

**All: O God, whose everlasting love for us all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. The time when we were together here in your name saw our laughter, our tears, our hopes and disappointments. Guide us as we hold close these cherished memories, but now move in new directions, until that time to come when we are completely on with you, and with each other. In the name of Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

God, who gives life to all things  
and frees us from despair,  
bless you with truth and peace.  
And may the holy Trinity, + one God,  
guide you always in faith, hope, and love.  
**Amen.**

### **CLOSING HYMN**

*“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”* ELW #543  
(Vs. 1, 2 & 3)

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, with Christ beside you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

### **POSTLUDE**

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UNITED by Christ, God call us to LOVE one another  
As we RECEIVE, DISCOVER and PROCLAIM God's Word.

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