

**No servant can
serve two masters; for either
he will hate the one and love
the other - or else he will be
devoted to one and despise
the other. You can not serve
God and money**

Luke 16:1

Knowing-Jesus.com

Luke 16:1-13

First Lutheran Church

September 21, 2025

The 15th Sunday after Pentecost

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. "Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all." Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God's gracious favor we have everything we need.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

RUSTINGTON

Rick Deasley

Trumpet Tune and Toccata on "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

GATHERING

(Please stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God,

C: **you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.**

**You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.**

**You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.**

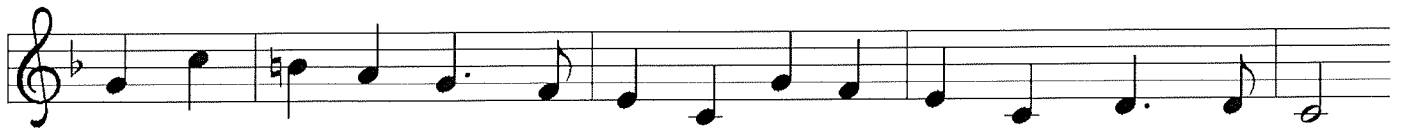
**In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life.
Amen.**

P: You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith.
In the cross of ☩ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

C: **Amen.**



- 1 God, whose giv-ing knows no end-ing, from your rich and end-less store:
- 2 Skills and time are ours for press-ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
- 3 Trea-sure, too, you have en-trust-ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con-ferred;



na-ture's won-der, Je-sus' wis-dom, cost-ly cross, grave's shat-tered door,
all at peace in health and free-dom, rac-es joined, the church made one.
ours to use for home and kin-dred, and to spread the gos-pel word.



gift-ed by you, we turn to you, of-f'ring up our-selves in praise;
Now di-rect our dai-ly la-bor, lest we strive for self a-lone;
O-pen wide our hands in shar-ing, as we heed Christ's age-less call,



thank-ful song shall rise for-ev-er, gra-cious do-nor of our days.
born with tal-ents, make us ser-vants fit to an-swer at your throne.
heal-ing, teach-ing, and re-claim-ing, serv-ing you by lov-ing all.

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

The Cantor will sing the verses.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING

AMOS 8:4-7

R: *A reading from Amos, the eighth chapter.*

⁴ Hear this, you who trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
⁵ 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 smaller and the shekel heavier and practice deceit with false balances, ⁶ buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and selling the sweepings of the wheat."
⁷ The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

R: *The word of the Lord.*

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-7

R: *A reading from Timothy, the second chapter.*

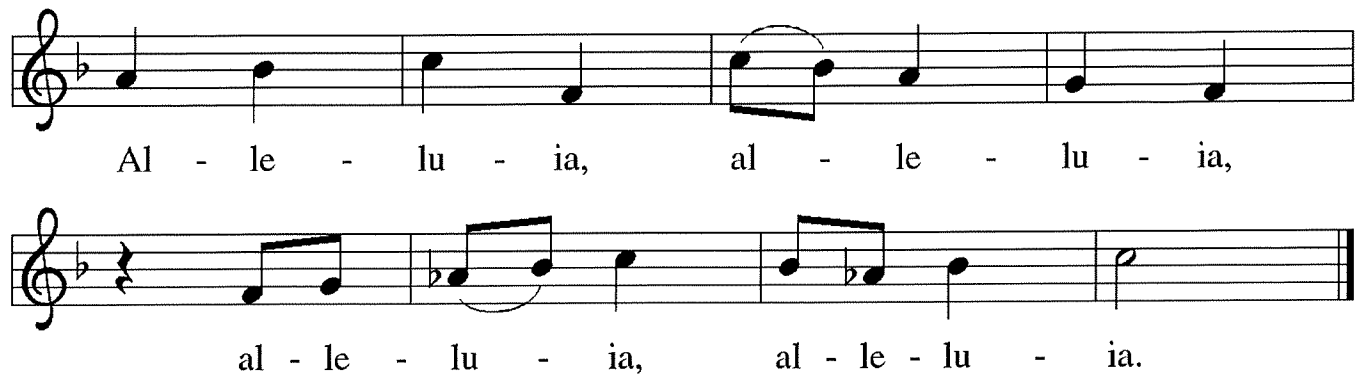
¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. ⁷ 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: *The word of the Lord.*

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

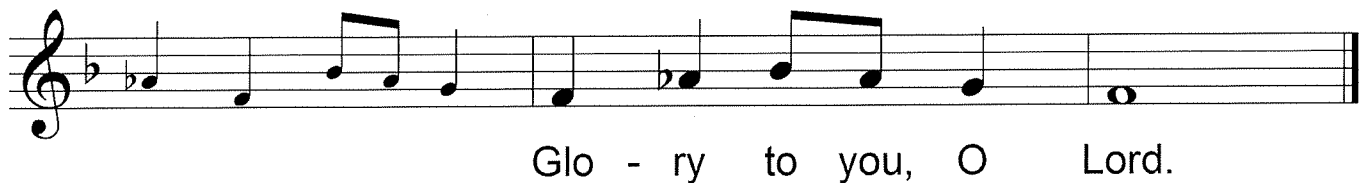


Cantor: Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ; strive side by side for the faith of the gospel. (Phil. 1:27)

GOSPEL

LUKE 16:1-13

P: The holy gospel according to Luke, the sixteenth chapter.



¹ 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. ² 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.'
³ 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.
⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.'
⁵ So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶ He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.'
⁷ 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.'
⁸ 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. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ "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. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ 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: The gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

REFLECTION

REVEREND MARK SCHURING

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW # 710

Let Streams of Living Justice



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



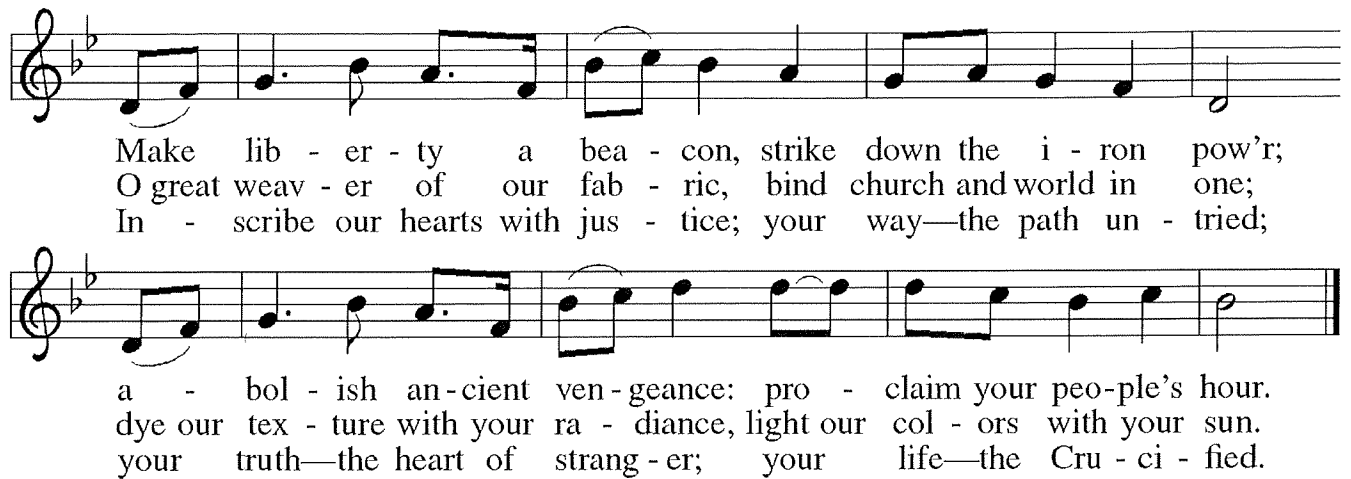
give free-dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn-ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home-land bright-ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
 O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;
 In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;
 a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.
 dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.
 your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

APOSTLES' 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.**

(Please kneel)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

L: Merciful God, pour out your grace upon your church. Forgive us for the times
 when we have been unfaithful, and renew our commitment to your gospel of
 love.

Each petition concludes:

P: God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

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

C: Amen.

(Please stand)

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

(Please be seated)

MEAL

OFFERING AND ORGAN MEDITATION

SLANE

Robert A. Hobby

Be Thou My Vision

(Please stand)

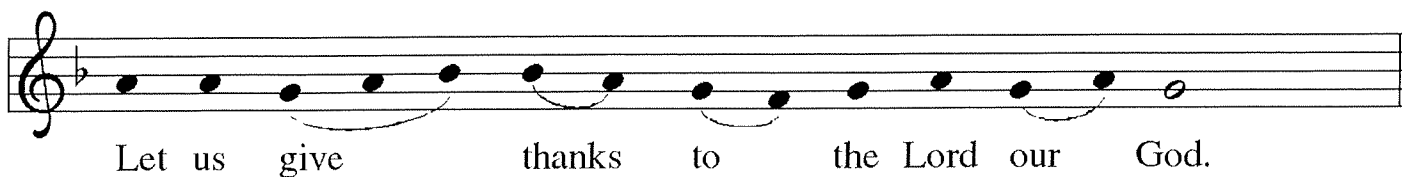
OFFERING PRAYER

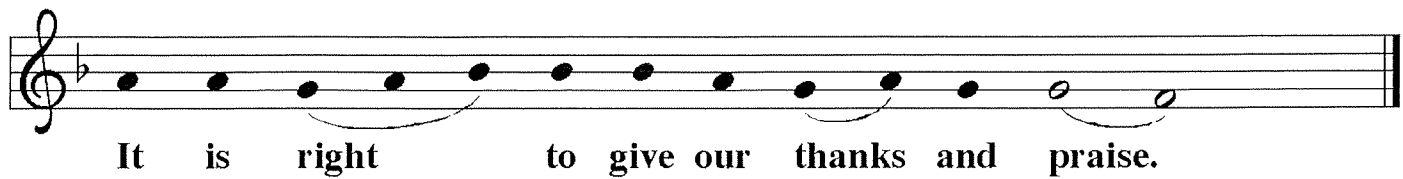
L: Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

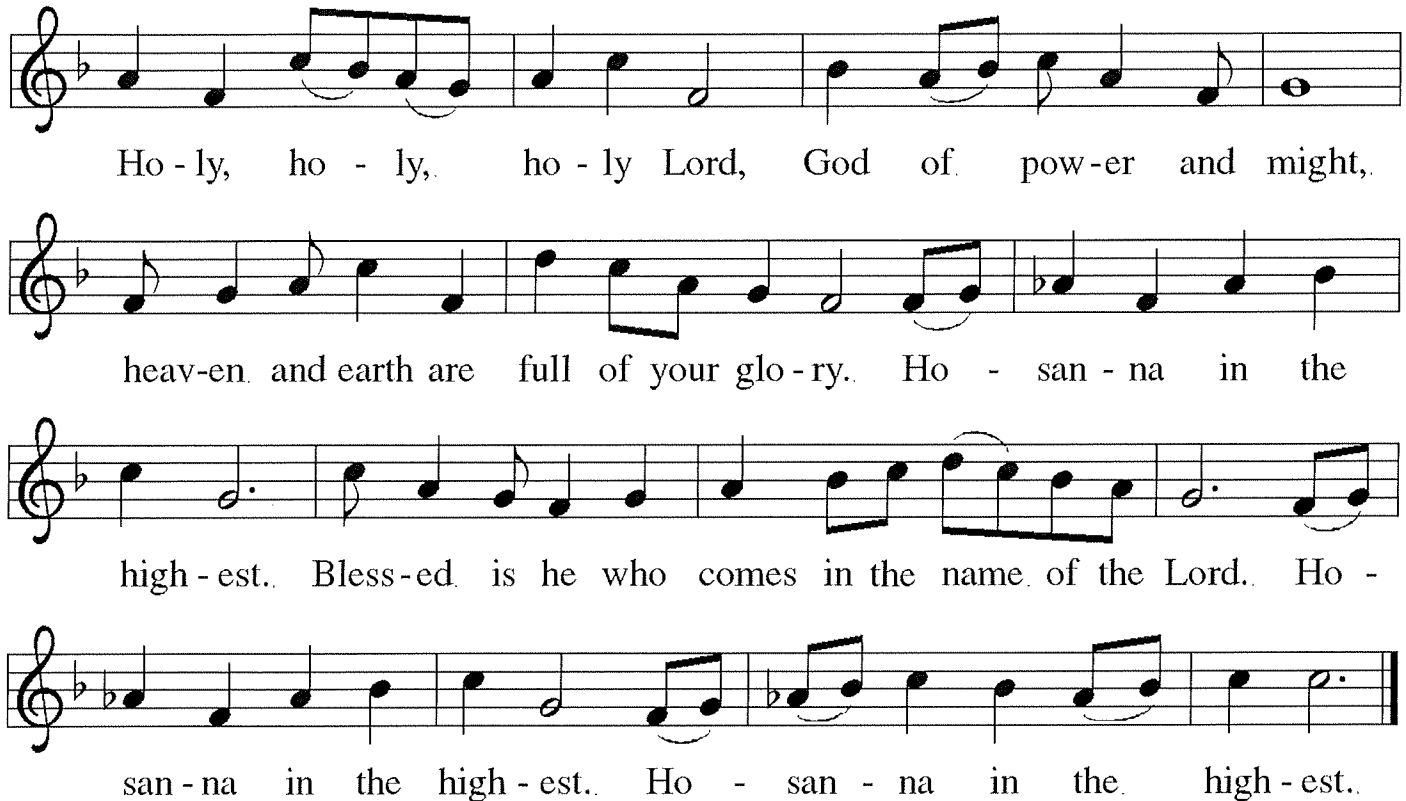




PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise . . . *the preface for the day, concluding:*
we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: 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: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

(Please be seated)

COMMUNION

Communion is distributed in two manners

† *You may commune in your pews.*

Individual communion kits are available at the Narthex doors.

The presiding minister will share a blessing,

all communing in-place will commune together.

† *You may come to the Table, to receive the Body and Blood of Christ.*

A basket is available for disposal of your individual communion cups.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.

Come to this meal of mercy.

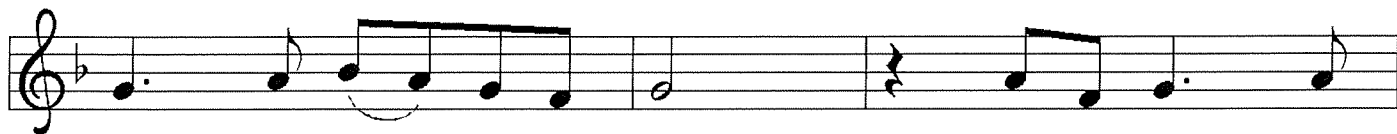
LAMB OF GOD



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.



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

(Please stand)

TABLE BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
 strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: 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.

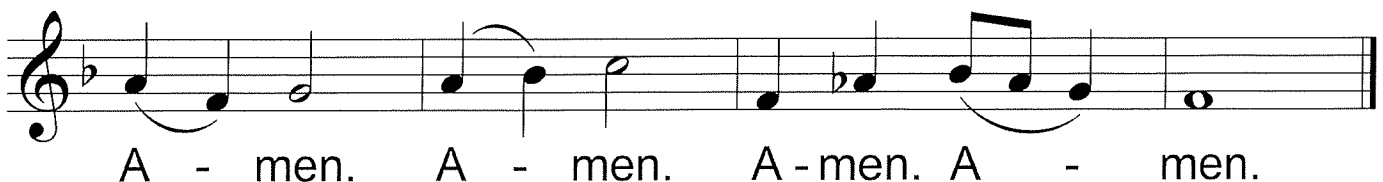
SENDING

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

C: Oh God,
your everlasting love for us is always trustworthy and sure.
We are grateful for the goodness
you have shown us through the years,
and we ask now for confidence to go forward into the future.
Bless our community of faith, bless our healing,
bless the changes that are before us,
bless our pastoral leaders
who will shepherd us through this time of transition.
We thank you now for the wisdom you will show us
as we align with your will, and servant or servants
you are already preparing to send us in your blessed time.
Help us to keep looking to you to define our ministry
and our future.
In his name and for the sake of Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

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.





1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
 2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
 3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
 4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
 Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.
 hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
 Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
 Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
 By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
 by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
 we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
 quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
 grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855–1932

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace.

P: Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

David N. Johnson

Trumpet Tune in C

Events in Review

<u>Sunday</u>	Sept 21
10:00AM	Church Service
<u>Monday</u>	Sept 22
10:00AM	Bible Study at Willows
5:15PM	Bell Choir Practice
<u>Tuesday</u>	Sept 23
<u>Wednesday</u>	Sept 24
9-5PM	Life Line Screening
<u>Thursday</u>	Sept 25
7:00PM	Community Prayer @ St. Francis
<u>Friday</u>	Sept 26
<u>Saturday</u>	Sept 27

Next Week

<u>Sunday</u>	Sept 28
10:00AM	Church Service
<u>Monday</u>	Sept 29
10:00AM	Bible Study at Willows
5:15PM	Bell Choir Practice
<u>Tuesday</u>	Sept 30
<u>Wednesday</u>	Oct 1
6:00PM	Worship & Music Meeting
<u>Thursday</u>	Oct 2
<u>Friday</u>	Oct 3

Food Pantry

We would like to welcome the **Food Pantry** to First Lutheran.

They are now occupying several rooms that used to be class rooms and providing help with food for those in need. They are open M-W-F from 1pm-3pm. They would love to have you stop by and learn what they do and even volunteer.

Monthly Scroll

The September Monthly Scroll is available on the table in the Lobby



Lawn Mower for the Week



Pete Myers

Contact Us



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firstlutherantiffin@gmail.com

Interim Pastor

Pastor Mark Schuring

(740) 360-2306

theskipster55@gmail.com

Our Worship Leaders

Altar Guild: Bonnie & Mike Oberlander

Cantor: Elijah Shiley

Facebook Camera

Host: Judy Kimmel

Reader: Beth Margraf

Worship Assistant Jonathan Nominee

Director of Music: Curtis L. King

Presiding Pastor Pastor Mark Schuring

Emergency Pastors

Pastor Mark Schuring

(740) 360-2306

Mike Porter

(585) 813-5009

Pastor Philip Scherr

(814) 756-9435

Our Mission Statement

“God is among us!”

**“We are called to go out, care for all, share the gospel,
forgive, reconcile and trust God for all that we need.”**

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September 21, 2025