

Luke 14:25-33

First Lutheran Church

September 7, 2025

Pentecost 13

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

THAXTED

Jeffrey Blersch

Partita on "O God beyond All Praising"

I. Intrada

GATHERING

(Please stand)

CONFESSİON 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.

O God beyond All Praising

1 O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to - day
 2 The flow'r of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly die,
 3 Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we bring,

and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can-not re - pay;
 its frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der to you, the Lord most high;
 that we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;

for we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send,
 but hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is sown -
 and wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or ill,

at blessings with - out num - ber and mer-cies with - out end:
 though small in mor - tal stat - ure, to heav-en's gar - den grown:
 we'll tri - umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still:

we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word,
 for Christ, your gift from heav - en, from death has set us free,
 to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,

we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.
 and we through him are giv - en the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
 and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

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

Refrain



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: 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.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING

DEUTERONOMY 30:15-20

R: A reading from Deuteronomy, the thirtieth chapter.

¹⁵ "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶ If 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. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I 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. ¹⁹ I 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, ²⁰ loving 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."

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SOLO

They Shall Be Like the Trees, Psalm 1
Elijah Shiley, bass-baritone

Blanche Bowling

SECOND READING

PHILEMON 1:1-21

R: A reading from Philemon, the first chapter.

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To our beloved coworker Philemon, ² to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. ⁷ I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.⁸ For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, ⁹ yet 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. ¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³ I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, ¹⁶ no 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. ¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Cantor: *Let your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes.*

GOSPEL

LUKE 14:25-33

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



Glo - ry 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: *The gospel of the Lord.*



Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

REFLECTION

REVEREND CHRISTIAN DITTMAR

(Please stand)

ALL 1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 Cantor 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 Women 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 Men 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 ALL 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call

your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low

know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.

Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and

name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and

grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

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: We pray for the church to follow in your ways, that it may be a witness to your love for all people.

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.

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

THAXTED

Jeffrey Blersch

Partita on "O God beyond All Praising"

III. Trumpet Tune

(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



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.

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.. Ho - san - na in the high - est..

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

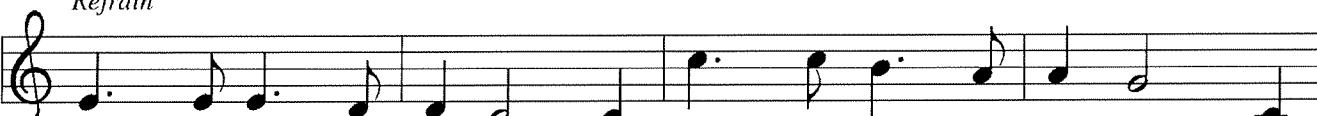


take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION SONG

Refrain

ELW # 474



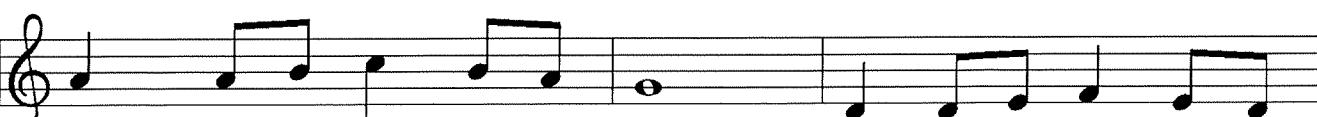
Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en, we



eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.



1 Break now the bread of Christ's sac - ri - fice; giv - ing
2 Seek not the food that will pass a - way; set your
3 Love as the one who, in love for you, gave him -
4 Dwell in the one who now dwells in you; make your
5 Drink of this cup and de - clare his death; eat this



thanks, hun - gry ones, gath - er round.
hearts on the food that en - dures.
self for the life of the world.
home in the life - giv - ing Word.
bread and be - lieve Eas - ter

Eat, all of you, and be
Come, learn the true and the
Come to the one who is
Know on - ly Christ, Ho - ly
trust his re - turn and, with



sat - is - fied; in Christ's pres - ence the loaves will a - bound.
liv - ing way, that the full - ness of life may be yours.
food for you, that your hun - ger and thirst be no more.
One of God, and be - lieve in the truth you have heard.
ev - 'ry breath, praise the one in whom you are re - born.

Text: Susan R. Breihl, b. 1952

Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, BREAK NOW THE BREAD; Argentine traditional, refrain; Marty Haugen, b. 1950, stanzas

(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.

A musical score for a single line of voices. It features a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The lyrics "A - men." are repeated four times. The first three repetitions are followed by a fermata over the "men." in the third measure. The fourth repetition ends with a fermata over the "A" in the first measure of the next line, indicating a pause or a continuation.

SENDING SONG

ELW # 772

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
2 Or - der my foot-steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
4 Make me to walk in your com-mands, 'tis a de - light - ful road;

A musical staff in G minor (indicated by a treble clef and two flats in the key signature) with a common time signature. The melody consists of the following notes from left to right: a quarter note (B-flat), an eighth note (A), an eighth note (G), a half note (F), a quarter note (E), an eighth note (D), a half note (C), a quarter note (B-flat), a half note (A), a quarter note (G), and a half note (F). The staff ends with a double bar line.

Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
let sin have no do-min-ion, Lord, but keep my con-science clear.
and should I e'er for-get your way, re-store your wan-d'ring sheep.
nor let my head or heart or hands of-fend a-gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace.

P: Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

THAXTED

Jeffrey Blersch

Partita on “O God beyond All Praising”

V. Finale

Events in Review

<u>Sunday</u>	Sept 7
10:00AM	Church Service
<u>Monday</u>	Sept 8
10:00AM	Bible Study at Willows
5:15PM	Bell Choir Practice
<u>Wednesday</u>	Sept 10
9:00AM	Piece Quilt
<u>Thursday</u>	Sept 11
8:00—5:00 PM	Rummage sale
<u>Friday</u>	Sept 12
8:00—5:00 PM	Rummage sale
<u>Saturday</u>	Sept 13
8:00—3:00 PM	Rummage sale

Next Week

<u>Sunday</u>	Sept 14
10:00AM	Church Service
	Blessing of the Backpacks
	Holy Cross Day
<u>Monday</u>	Sept 15
10:00AM	Bible Study at Willows
1:30PM	Bookworms Meeting
5:15PM	Bell Choir Practice
<u>Wednesday</u>	Sept 17
5:30PM	Council Meeting

Blessing of the Backpacks

September 14, 2025



Rummage & Bake Sale



Thursday Sept 11 & Friday Sept 12

8:00—5:00PM

Saturday Sept 13

8:00—3:00PM

Lawn Mower for the Week



Rick Nominee

Contact Us



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Our Worship Leaders

Altar Guild: Bonnie & Mike Oberlander

Cantor: Elijah Shiley

Facebook Camera

Host:

Reader: Shelley Ross

Worship Assistant Shelley Ross

Director of Music: Curtis L. King

Presiding Pastor: Pastor Dittmar

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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