



The Lutheran Church of Times Square
308 West 46th Street, New York, NY 10036

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  **September 13, 2020**
Evangelical Lutheran Worship Setting One

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together

PRELUDE

Partita on Detroit

David Hurd

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *stand*

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, **+** one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,

have mercy on us.

**We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.**

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
and turn us again to life in you
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
and through his death and resurrection,
Christ has made us his own.

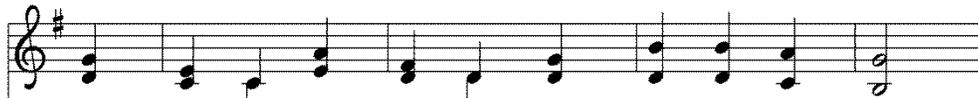
Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of **+** Jesus Christ.
Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
to do God's work in the world.

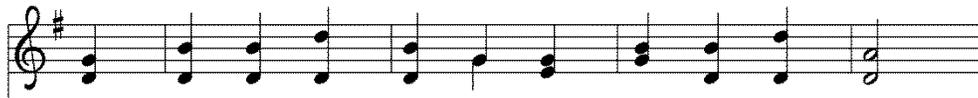
Amen.



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



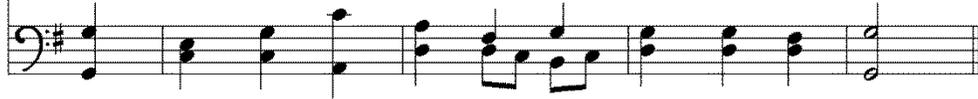
in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!



Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908, alt.
 Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional; arr. John Roberts, 1807-1876

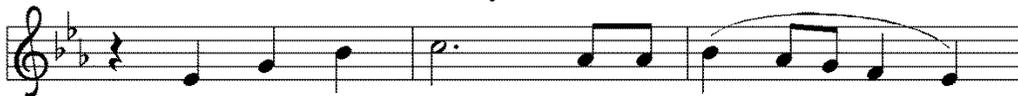
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GREETING

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory to God



Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

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

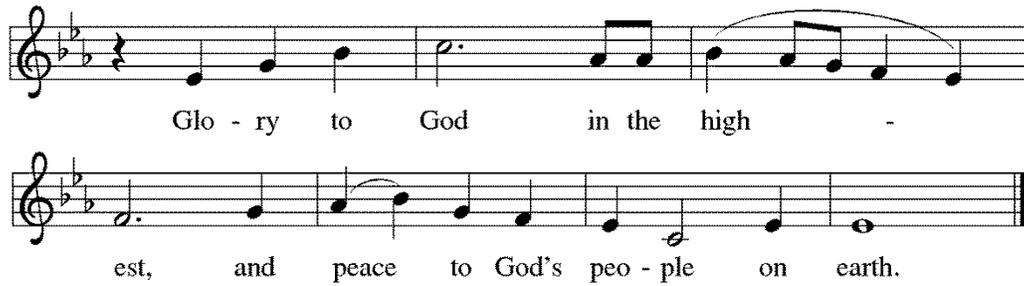
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

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

O Lord God, **merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.** *sit*

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

FIRST READING

Exodus 14:19-31

Having decided to let the Israelites go from Egypt, Pharaoh had second thoughts and sent his army after them (14:5-8). Though the passage through the Red Sea became a sign of salvation for the people of Israel, Pharaoh's forces drowned in the waters. As a result the Israelites believed in the Lord and in the Lord's servant Moses.

¹⁹The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²²The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

²⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 114



¹Hallelujah! When Israel came | out of Egypt,
the house of Jacob from a people | of strange speech,

²**Judah became God's | sanctuary
and Israel | God's dominion.**

³The sea beheld | it and fled;
Jordan turned | and went back.

⁴**The mountains | skipped like rams,
and the little hills | like young sheep. R**

⁵What ailed you, O sea, | that you fled,
O Jordan, that | you turned back,

⁶**you mountains, that you | skipped like rams,
you little hills | like young sheep?**

⁷Tremble, O earth, at the presence | of the Lord,
at the presence of the | God of Jacob,
⁸**who turned the hard rock into a | pool of water
and flint-stone into a | flowing spring. R**

SECOND READING

Romans 14:1-12

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

stand

Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia

We have an advocate, Jesus | Christ the righteous;* your sins are forgiven on account | of his name. (*1 John 2:1, 12*)

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

After the announcement: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on

you?’³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

After the reading: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON *sit*

Pastor Strasser

HYMN OF THE DAY *stand* Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive DETROIT

HYMN 605



1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,” you taught us, Lord, to pray;
2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew;
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
how tri - fling oth - ers’ debts to us; how great our debt to you!
then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–1987, alt.
Music: DETROIT, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844
Text © Oxford University Press 1969.

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

People with long term prayer needs are: Girma, Jimmy, John, Bev, Katie, Jennifer, Henry

Sisters and Brothers, helped by the Holy Spirit, let’s pray for our shared world.

God of open arms, make us into signs of your gracious welcome, for all who are drawn to Saint Luke’s, both old and new, whether meeting in person or online. Bless our gatherings and studies, and nurture new ventures for spiritual growth.

Uphold all pastors in this unprecedented time.

A brief silence.

O God, you are full of compassion;
receive our prayer.

God of lands and seas, continue your care for your creation. Where our action has brought ruin and destruction, we ask you to heal and renew your earth. Preserve the lands and peoples of the West from fire.

We beseech you to send them rain.

A brief silence.

O God, you are full of compassion;
receive our prayer.

God of our homeland, visit the American cities that are addressing local injustice and racism. Stand with both protesters and police, that civil society may be preserved and improved.

Bring both healing and justice to our land.

A brief silence.

O God, you are full of compassion;
receive our prayer.

Giving Lord, all good things come from You. Open our hearts to be generous with the poor and to bring You the offerings You are due, that Your Church may serve Your purpose and suffer no lack of people or resources to do the work of Your Kingdom.

A brief silence.

O God, you are full of compassion;
receive our prayer.

God of the sufferers, visit prisons and care homes with health and hope. Deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger and provide safety to migrants. Protect firefighters and first responders.

Heal the sick, especially those we name now before you:

for Sandra and Tom Boyle, for Vincente Quirós recovering from a fall, for Tom White, Barb B., Don and Vicky Chambers, for Mike L. beginning treatment for liver cancer, for Rhianna mourning the death of her surrogate Mother, Karen ...and for those we hold up before you in our hearts.

A brief silence.

O God, you are full of compassion;
receive our prayer.

God of goodness, once more we beg for a way through the pandemic. Comfort the afflicted.

Support medical workers. Prepare a vaccine.

A brief silence.

O God, you are full of compassion;
receive our prayer.

Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have led us in the faith.

Hold us with them in your everlasting love.

A brief silence.

O God, you are full of compassion;
receive our prayer.

With the promise that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

All share the peace. Do not leave your pew.

sit

MEAL

God gives us a foretaste of the feast to come

OFFERING *for God's work through our church*

The offering plate is near the font for use before or after worship. You may also make your offering online (www.stlukesnyc.org "Offering" button on the right of the Home page) or mail to the church.

ANTHEM

The Enemy Said (from *Israel in Egypt* HWV 54)

George Frideric Handel

The enemy said, I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; my lust shall be satisfied upon them;

I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them. *Exodus 15:9*

The gifts are placed on the altar.

OFFERTORY PRAYER *stand*

Blessed are you, **O God, maker of all things.**

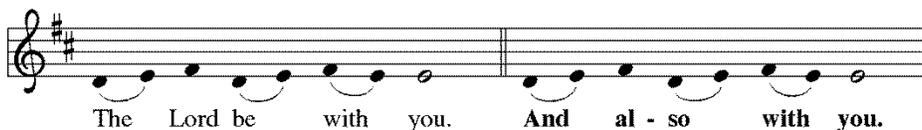
You have set before us these gifts of your good creation.

Nourish us with this rich food and drink,

and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world,

through Christ, our Lord. Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING



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.

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:

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. Blessed is he who comes in the

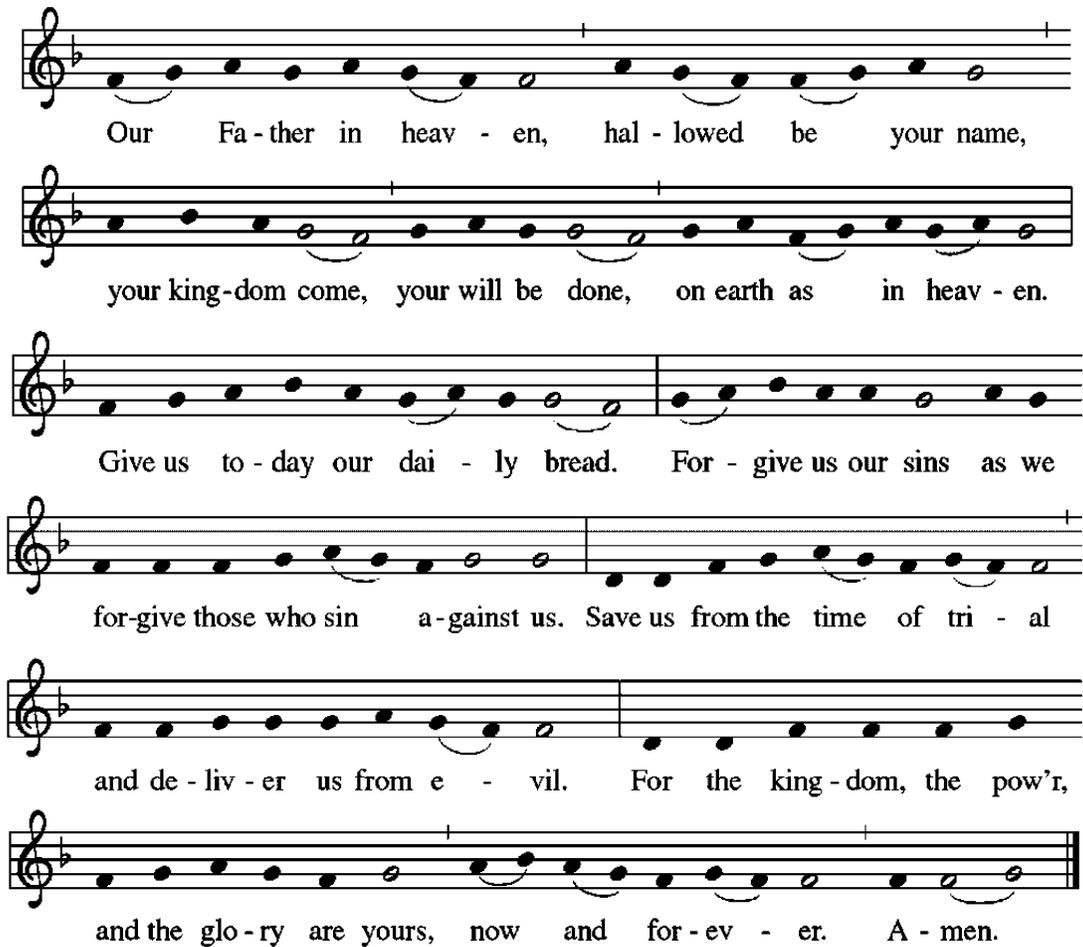
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

OUR FATHER

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



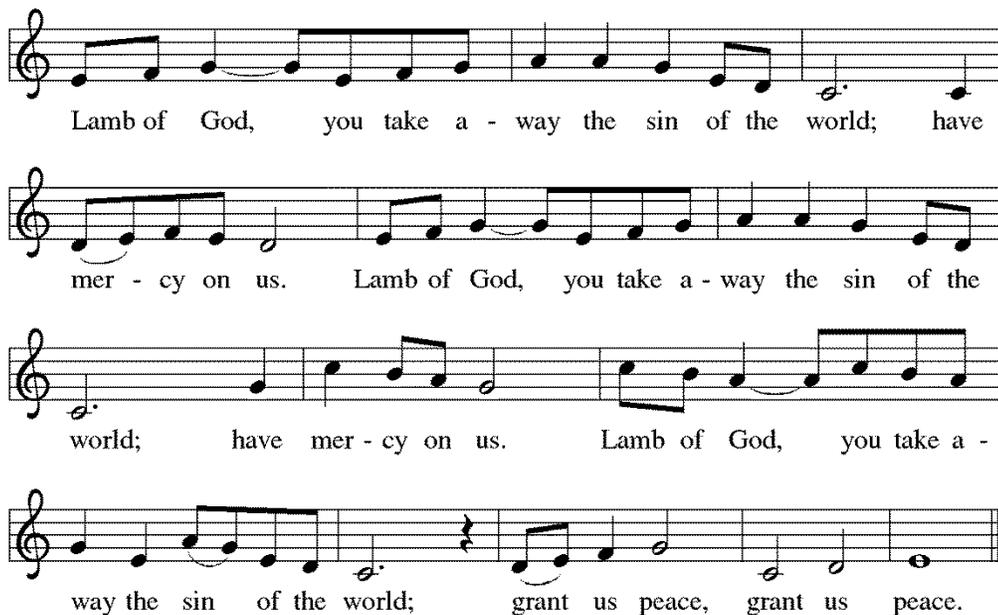
Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

sit

COMMUNION

We confess joyfully that the Body and Blood of Christ are truly present in the Sacrament under the forms of bread and wine. We invite all baptized and communing Christians to join us. Anyone not receiving communion is welcome to come and receive a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest when you reach the pastor. After receiving communion you may return to your seats by the side aisles.

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, grant us peace.

HYMN O Jesus, Blessed Lord TENDER THOUGHT

1 O Je - sus, bless - ed Lord, to you
 2 Break forth, my soul, in joy and say:
 my heart - felt thanks and praise are due;
 what wealth has come to me to - day!
 you have so lov - ing - ly be - stowed
 My Sav - ior dwells with - in my soul
 on me your bod - y and your blood.
 and makes my wound - ed spir - it whole!

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634-1703; tr. Arthur J. Mason, 1851-1928, alt.
 Music: TENDER THOUGHT, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *stand*

We give you thanks, **gracious God,**
that you have fed us with the body and blood of Christ.
Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven,
into your beloved vineyard guided by the example
of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit,
 bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *sit*

SENDING SONG *stand* Rise, Shine, You People! WOJTKIEWICZ

HYMN 665

1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
 3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.
 our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
 he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and
 your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the
 Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur-round-ed, with grace un-bound-ed.
wom-en, who by guilt are driv-en, now are for-giv-en.
world go out and tell the sto-ry of Je-sus' glo-ry.
Spir-it calls from ev-'ry na-tion God's new cre-a-tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.
Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ, Dale Wood, 1934–2003
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Rise, Shine, You People

David Cherwien

Please remain seated. Leave at the direction of the Ushers after the Postlude.

Presiding and Preaching:
The Rev. Dr. Arden Strasser, Pastor

Assisting Minister:
Bob Wechtenhiser

Organist: Cantor Pedro d'Aquino

Choir Soloist: Mark Hanke

Lector: Ernie Vickroy
Ushers: Joey Afanador, Richard Sterne
Video Camera: David Lally

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome, visitors! Saint Luke's pleased to welcome visitors from near and far. We pray that your worship with us will be a rich experience.

Restrooms:

Ladies: use the restroom outside the Narthex near the elevator.

Men: follow the signs to the Theatre Lobby restrooms.

Pastor will greet people outside after worship, weather permitting. The fellowship we enjoy occurs then in front of the church while wearing masks.

- ☒ **The flowers today are given by the Pastoral Care Committee in Thanksgiving for God's Blessing to Saint Luke's.**
- ☒ **Your gifts to the Flower Fund are always welcome.** Consider donating for a particular Sunday for the Memory or Honor of a loved one, to commemorate an important date in your life, or for the Glory of God's house and Blessings received. Email the office with the details and date in advance please. Your offering may be submitted through our website or mail your check to the church.
- ☒ **Birthdays and special Occasions this coming week:** Garrett Safalow (9/19), Eva Rodriguez (9/20)
- ☒ **"Care for the Soul" continues every Sunday and Wednesday evenings at 8:00 pm on ZOOM.** Our Sunday night group focuses on learning about racism. The Wednesday night group is a traditional Bible Study with insights and discussions. Each evening has time to check in with each other. Please see the Weekly Announcements or our Website calendar for the ZOOM information.
- ☒ **Our Soup Kitchen is open every Tuesday and Thursday.** Hot take out lunches are served from 1:00 to 2:00 pm.

Offerings Last Week: \$1,395.00

This Week at Saint Luke's

TODAY — September 13, 15th Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 am Outside Service of the Word
11:00 am In Person Worship with Holy Communion
8:00 pm 'Care for the Soul' on ZOOM

WEDNESDAY — September 16
OFFICE CLOSED
8:00 pm 'Care for the Soul' Bible Study on ZOOM

THURSDAY — September 17
1:00 to 2:00 pm Soup Kitchen

TUESDAY — September 15
1:00 to 2:00 pm Soup Kitchen
5:30 pm Pastoral Care Meeting on ZOOM

WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY, September 20, 2020 **SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Outside Worship in front of the Church at 9:30 a.m.

Sung Eucharist at 11:00 a.m.

Next Week's Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

The parable of the vineyard workers

Saint Luke's is a "Reconciling in Christ" congregation.



We welcome all who are seeking God's love, regardless of race or culture, economic or life situation, sexual orientation or gender identity, or your doubts about faith and church. Our unity is in Christ. Your family, children, spouses and partners are welcome. Your uniqueness enriches our community.

SAINT LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the Metropolitan New York Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Rev. Dr. Arden C. Strasser, Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Martha S. Jacobi, Pastoral Associate

The Rev. Paul D. Schmiede, Pastor Emeritus

Pedro d'Aquino, FAGO, ChM, Cantor

Robert Wechtenhiser, Parish Administrator

Council Members

Joey Afanador

Brett Hunter

Chuck Ragsdale

Judy Barnett

David Lally

Richard Sterne

Megan Cornelius

Richard Nesbit

Bob Wechtenhiser

e-mail: info@stlukesnyc.org

website: www.stlukesnyc.org

Saint Luke's Lutheran Church

is on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram! @StLukesNewYork